

Environmental Report

Report for:

Ross on Wye Neighbourhood Area

July 2019



Ross on Wye Parish Environmental 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.

Ross on Wye Town Council has undertaken to prepare an NDP and this process has been subject to environmental appraisal pursuant to the SEA Directive. Ross on Wye is a market town in the south of Herefordshire and is located 16 miles south of Hereford and 12 miles north east of Monmouth. The town is connected to the West Midland and South West by the M50. The town has a large conservation area and is partly within the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The River Wye SAC also runs along the western boundary of the town.

The submission Ross on Wye NDP includes 5 objectives and a number of sub-objectives. It is intended that these objectives will be delivered by 37 criteria based planning policies; including 4 site allocations and a designated settlement boundary.

The environmental appraisal of the Ross on Wye 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 submission Plan itself.

Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening has been carried out on the NDP and have shown it falls within the catchment for the River Wye (including River Lugg) and within 5km of the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean bats sites SAC and the Wye Valley Woodlands SAC. The HRA assesses the potential effects of the NDP on these three European sites (Special Area of Conservation).

On the whole, it is considered that the Ross on Wye NDP is in general conformity with both national planning policy contained in the National Planning Policy Framework and strategic policies set within the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy). Nor does it propose any growth that would be over and above that prescribed by strategic policies.

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

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report forms the draft Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of Ross on Wye Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP).
- 1.2 The Ross on Wye NDP contains site allocations and settlement boundary for the town of Ross.). Policy RW1 of the Herefordshire Core Strategy indicated the growth requirements for the town until 2031 and the site allocations and housing policies of the NDP are seeking to achieve this. The NDP also provides general criteria based policies for guiding future development across the neighbourhood area as a whole.

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 Ross on Wye 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.

Ross on Wye Neighbourhood Plan Context

- 1.6 Ross on Wye is a market town in the south of Herefordshire and is located 16 miles south of Hereford and 12 miles north east of Monmouth. The town is connected to the West Midland and South West by the M50. The town has a large conservation area and is partly within the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The River Wye SAC also runs along the western boundary of the town
- 1.7 The population is just over 11,000 with almost 5,000 households.
- 1.8 The parish has a number of environmental assets including three European sites in close proximity, 2 ancient woodlands; 2 Sites Special Scientific Interest; 4 Special Wildlife Sites; 9 unregistered park and gardens. 1 Mineral reserves also exist within the parish. There are 8 ancient monuments and numerous listed buildings within the Ross area.
- 1.9 The vision for Ross on Wye by 2031 is to be a more attractive place for families to live and visit. Houses with distinctive character and a vibrant town centre. Better links between the riverside and the town centre created and walking and cycling opportunities improved
- 1.10 The NDP objectives are as follows:
1. To protect and enhance all aspects of the environment
 2. To deliver more housing, in particular to meet local needs
 3. To protect, enhance and diversify the local economy
 4. To ensure an accessible and well connected town for all
 5. To protect, enhance and diversify the town's social and cultural assets

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 Ross on Wye 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 on the 16th October 2015.
- 1.14 Paragraph 48 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 stage.
- 1.16 Policy RW1 of the Herefordshire Core Strategy highlights that Ross will accommodate a minimum of 900 new homes and approximately 10 hectares of employment land during the plan period. This includes a strategic site of 200 new homes to the south east of the town.
- 1.17 Once made (adopted) by Herefordshire Council, the Ross on Wye NDP will have a role in guiding future development proposals within the town, 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
 - Section 3 - Introduces the Ross on Wye Neighbourhood Plan objectives and the SEA framework
 - Section 4 - Appraises the objectives contained within the Neighbourhood Plan against the SEA framework
 - Section 5 - Appraises the options considered within the Neighbourhood Plan against the SEA framework
 - Section 6 – Appraises the policies contained within the Neighbourhood Plan against the SEA framework
 - Section 7 – Discusses the implementation and monitoring of the Neighbourhood Plan
 - Section 8 - Concludes the SEA report by outlining next steps

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 Ross on Wye 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 options and 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 Ross on Wye SEA Scoping Report was available to four¹ statutory bodies for consultation from 3 October to 7 November 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: Additional plans and programmes should be included. Additional information regarding priority habitats and species

Historic England: no substantive comments to make.

Environment Agency: No comments received

Natural Resources Wales: No comments received

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 Ross on Wye 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 Ross on Wye NDP will deliver the Local Plan (Core Strategy) at local 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 strategies and plans have been reviewed and, where appropriate, incorporated within the SA 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 the required levels and growth should be supported by sustainable transport measures.
 - *Malvern Hills AONB Management Plan 2014-2018 (2014)* - 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 2014-2018 (2014)* - 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 snap shot 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 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (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 Ross on Wye NDP 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.
- 3.10 Following the completion of Task B2 of SEA it was apparent that the largest environmental issue within the neighbourhood area is flooding and landscape; the River Wye (including the River Lugg) flows through the neighbourhood area and the Wye Valley AONB covers part of the town itself.
- 3.11 Although located adjacent to the River Wye SAC the levels of phosphate are not an issue which causes concern in Ross-on-Wye and no particular actions are required.
- 3.12 Baseline characteristics within the SEA detail the current environmental status of environmental characteristics in the neighbourhood plan area from different sources. The source of Baseline Information used in Table A2 in Appendix 2, and analysed in Table B2 can be found in Appendix 4 Baseline characteristics in relation to the Ross on Wye NDP SEA objectives can be found in stage A SEA assessments.

- 3.13 There are three objectives for which there is no local baseline data available and therefore this provides a limitation on the baseline data and whether the NDP policies are able to move towards or away from this data, this also means that there are no future trends to link the SEA objective too.

4.0 Assessing the NDP Objectives

- 4.1 The following are primary objectives listed in the NDP that aim to realise the vision for Ross on Wye in 2031:

1. To protect and enhance all aspects of the environment
2. To deliver more housing, in particular to meet local needs
3. To protect, enhance and diversify the local economy
4. To ensure an accessible and well connected town for all
5. To protect, enhance and diversify the town's social and cultural assets

- 4.2 The table below tests these NDP objectives against the SEA objectives, providing a summary of the results of Task B1 of SEA. The full results are available at Appendix 4 of this report.

- 4.3 The majority of the NDP objectives which have a relationship with the SEA framework are positively compatible with it or have a neutral or unknown effect or were not relevant.

- 4.4 Task B1 of the SEA didn't identify any major conflicts between the NDP objectives and the SEA framework, however some impacts are unknown due to the overarching nature of the policy and will have to be addressed on a case by case basis at planning stages:

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	++	++	++	++	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	+				++
Objective 2	?	?	+	?	?	+	?	?	+	+	+	+				+
Objective 3	?	?	+	?	?	?	?	?	+	+	+	+				+
Objective 4	X	++	++	++	+	+	+	X	X	X	X	X				+
Objective 5	+	++	++	++	X	+	X	X	X	X	X	X				++

5.0 Assessing the NDP Options

- 5.1 All options that were considered by Ross On Wye Town Council during the development of their Plan have been assessed as part of the SEA, the summary matrix of the assessment can be found in Table B2 options these tables are in Appendix 4.

- 5.2 The options covered were are followed;
- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Option 1 | Do nothing |
| Option 2a | Allocate major sites deemed suitable and deliverable |
| Option 2b | Option 2A with the additional of Broadmeadows / Tanyard |
| Option 3 | Reconsider allocated land currently assessed as unsuitable |
- 5.3 These options were formulated at public consultation events across the Parish. The results of which will feed into the identification of the preferred options and ultimately the draft policies.
- 5.4 Option 1 is essential a do nothing and not allocate any housing within the NDP. At April 2018, the indicative housing target for Ross on Wye had been met via strategic allocations and existing planning permissions. But this only allows for a 3% contingency and it is considered that to plan positively additional allocations should be provided within the plan.
- 5.5 The second option looked at housing delivery. 2A was to allocate further sites for housing other than what is on commitment sites or 2B was to deliver additional housing on a mixed use site. An additional 5 sites would yield a 19% contingency over the indicative target and be seen as positive planning. These would be sites which had been assessed via a site assessment process and deemed to be the most suitable and deliverable.
- 5.6 There remains some uncertainty over the delivery of the Broadmeadows /Tanyard Lane site which means that it would be difficult to allocate the site at this time. The baseline is also showing some uncertainty as some technical information is still to be resolved.
- 5.7 Option 4 was to consider the sites which had been discounted during the site assessment work undertaken by Herefordshire Council as part of the SHLAA process. Some of these sites raised environmental concerns. This option was considered to have a mixed outcome on the baseline.
- 5.8 Therefore option 2A is the preferred option based on the SEA baseline assessment, this is due to the current unknown with regards to the Broadmeadows / Tanyard Lane site.

NDP Options	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				x
Option 2a	++	++	++	++	+	+	+	+	+	++	++	++				++
Option 2b	?	++	++	++	+	+	+	?	+	++	?	++				++
Option 3	?	-	-	-	?	?	?	?	-	+	?	-				-

6.0 Appraisal of the policies

- 6.1 A key part of developing a plan such as the Ross on Wye NDP is developing a range of options and testing these, so that a preferred way forward can be selected.
- 6.2 The following, emerging set of draft policies can be appraised for the purposes of Stage B of the SEA:

Policy EN1	Ross Design Policy
Policy EN2	Shopfronts and signage
Policy EN3	Settlement boundary
Policy EN4	Infill and backland development
Policy EN5	Eco-building
Policy EN6	Solar photovoltaic energy
Policy EN7	Landscape setting
Policy EN8	Key views

Policy EN9	Green infrastructure
Policy EN10	Hard surfacing of drives and parking areas
Policy EN11	Pre-application community engagement
Policy H1	Self and custom build
Policy H2	Home working
Policy H3	Town centre housing
Policy H4	Living and working over shops
Policy E1	New employment development
Policy E2	Resisting out of town retail
Policy E3	Town centre uses
Policy A1	Sustainable transport
Policy A2	Walking and cycling
Policy A3	Walking and cycling signs
Policy A4	Changes to car parks
Policy A5	Provision of electric charging points
Policy SC1	Retaining community facilities
Policy SC2	New community facilities
Policy SC3	Allotments
Policy SC4	Play areas
Policy SC5	Local Green Spaces
Policy SC6	Telecommunications infrastructure

Site allocations

- Cleeve Field
- Merrivale Lane
- Stoney Stile
- The Chase Hotel
- Ryefield Centre

Stage B of SEA

- 6.3 In the context of Task B1 of SEA, the previous section of this report identified that three of the NDP objectives are compatible with the SEA framework, while others needed further information such as location of development. Additional policy safeguards within the NDP and Local Plan (Core Strategy) would help mitigate any possible conflicts.
- 6.4 With regard to Task B2 of SEA, the 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 3 and 9. Full details of this appraisal are attached at Appendix 4.
- 6.5 The policies largely score as positive against the SEA objectives and will not have an adverse impact on the baseline characteristics or immediate environmental impacts. This is 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.
- 6.6 There are some unknown factors with regards to the location of employment provisions particularly as the location of specific development could have specific effects but these will be mitigated by other policies within the plan and judged at planning application stage.
- 6.7 The site allocations scored positively against the baseline noting the environmental assets within the town, many sites are either within or close to either the Wye Valley AONB or the conservation area. There are some additional constraints concerning The Chase Hotel sites as they are within an unregistered park and garden and there are a number of Tree Preservation Orders.

NDP Policies	SEA Objectives															
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Policy EN1 Ross Design policy	x	++	++	++	x	x	+	+	x	x	+	x				+
Policy EN2 Shopfront and signage	x	++	++	++	x	x	x	x	x	xx	x	x				x
Policy EN3 Settlement boundary	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
Policy EN4 Infill and backland development	+	++	++	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+				+
Policy EN5 Eco-building	?	+	+	+	+	x	+	+	+	+	+	+				++
Policy EN6 Solar photovoltaic energy	x	+	+	+	x	x	+	x	x	x	x	x				++
Policy EN7 Landscape setting	+	++	++	++	+	x	x	x	x	x	x	+				++
Policy EN8 Key views	x	++	++	++	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				+
Policy EN9 Green infrastructure	++	++	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	x	+	+				++
Policy EN10 Hard surfacing of drives and parking areas	x	+	+	+	x	x	x	+	+	x	++	x				+
Policy EN11 Pre-application community engagement	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x
Policy H1 Self and custom build	x	+	+	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x
Policy H2 Home working	x	x	x	x	+	+	x	x	x	x	x	+				+
Policy H3 Town centre housing	x	+	+	+	+	+	x	+	x	x	x	+				+
Policy H4 Living and working over shops	x	+	+	+	+	+	x	+	x	x	x	+				+
Policy E1 New employment development	?	?	?	?	x	+	x	x	x	x	?	+				+
Policy E2 Resisting out of town retail	x	+	+	+	x	+	x	x	x	x	x	x				x
Policy E3 Town centre uses	x	+	+	+	x	+	x	x	x	x	x	x				+

NDP Policies	SEA Objectives															
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Policy A1 Sustainable transport	x	+	+	+	+	+	+	x	x	x	x	x				x
Policy A2 Walking and cycling	x	+	+	+	+	+	+	x	x	x	x	x				x
Policy A3 Walking and cycling signage	x	+	+	+	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x
Policy A4 Changes to car parks	x	o	o	o	x	+	x	x	x	x	x	x				x
Policy A5 Provision of electric charging points	x	x	x	x	+	+	+	+	x	x	x	x				x
Policy SC1 Retaining community facilities	x	+	++	+	+	+	x	x	x	x	x	+				+
Policy SC2 New community facilities	x	+	+	x	+	+	x	x	x	x	x	x				x
Policy SC3 Allotments	+	+	+	+	+	x	x	x	x	x	x	+				+
Policy SC4 Play areas	+	+	+	+	+	+	x	+	x	x	+	+				+
Policy SC5 Local Green Spaces	+	+	+	+	+	+	x	+	x	x	+	+				+
Policy SC6 Telecommunications infrastructure	x	x	x	?	+	+	x	x	x	x	x	x				x
<i>Site allocations</i>																
Cleeve Field	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
Merrivale Lane	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+				+
Stoney Stile	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
The Chase Hotel	?	?	?	?	+	+	+	x	+	+	x	+				?
Ryefield Centre	+	+	+	+	+	?	x	x	+	+	+	+				++

6.7 The results of Task B3, as shown at Appendix 4, demonstrates 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.

6.8 Task B4 of SEA brings together the results of earlier tasks and identifies the cumulative impact of the entire of the NDP. This task, which is also attached at Appendix 4, reveals that the objectives and policies contained in the Ross on Wye NDP are by and large in general

conformity with the Local Plan (Core Strategy), which means that the cumulative effect of the plan will contribute to the achievement of the SEA objectives.

- 6.9 The policies in the Ross on Wye NDP are not 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.

Stage D of the SEA (Reg16 policies)

- 6.10 The submission Ross on Wye NDP has been revised following the consultation. No additional objectives have been added or amended. 11 policies have been amended and two have been deleted including the site allocation at The Chase which has now been included within 'other sites' selection of the plan and not a formal site allocation. These changes have been minor in nature but they have been reassessed.

NDP Policies	SEA Objectives															
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Policy EN7	+	++	++	++	+	X	X	X	X	X	X	+				++
Policy EN9	++	++	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	+	+				++
Policy EN10	X	+	+	+	X	X	X	+	+	X	++	X				+
Policy H2	X	X	X	X	+	+	X	X	X	X	X	+				+
Policy H4	X	+	+	+	+	+	X	+	X	X	X	+				+
Policy E2	X	+	+	+	X	+	X	X	X	X	X	X				X
Policy A3	X	+	+	+	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X
Policy A4	X	o	o	o	X	+	X	X	X	X	X	X				X
Policy SC1	X	+	++	+	+	+	X	X	X	X	X	+				+
Policy SC2	X	+	+	X	+	+	X	X	X	X	X	X				X
Policy SC4	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	+	X	X	+	+				+

- 6.11 Many of the minor amendments made to the policies are to remove text which is unnecessary or repeating national policy guidance. Therefore the sense of the policy has not been changed by any of the amendments. This means that the assessment has very little difference from that undertaken upon the Reg14 policies.

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 Indeed, 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 Annual 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.

8.0 Next steps

8.1 This report will be subject to a formal public consultation of 6 weeks duration alongside the submission Ross on Wye NDP.

8.2 Responses on the Draft NDP will be reviewed and the plan amended where appropriate.

8.3 Any changes made to the NDP as a consequence of the Regulation 16 consultation with those who live, work or carry out business in the neighbourhood area, as well as statutory consultation bodies, will trigger a review of the SEA, unless they do not materially affect the outcomes of Stage B of the SEA process.

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)**

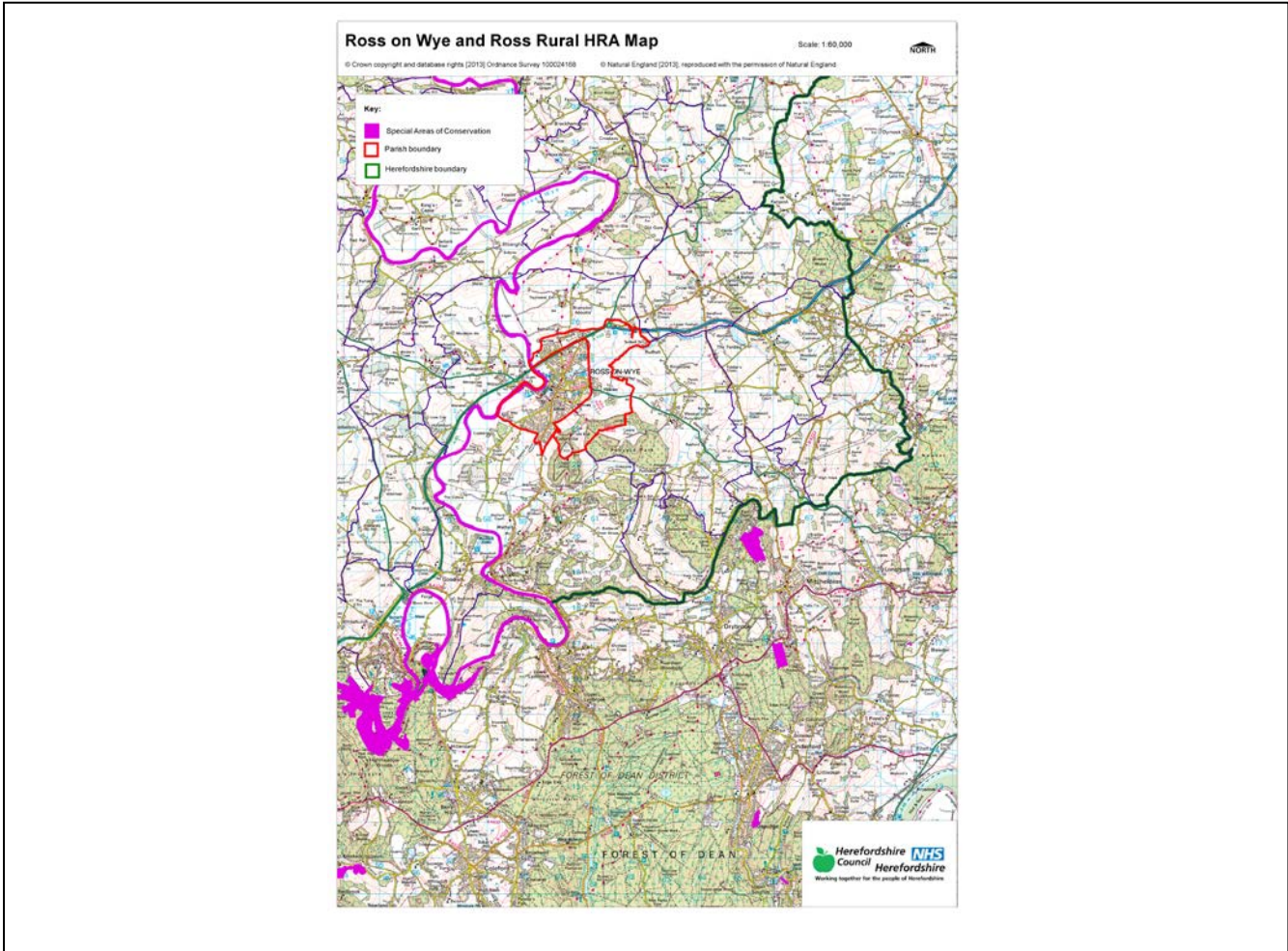
Neighbourhood Area:	Ross on Wye & Ross Rural Neighbourhood Area
Parish Council:	Ross on Wye Town Council and Ross Rural Parish Council
Neighbourhood Area Designation Date:	12 th September 2013

Introduction

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

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

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



Initial HRA Screening

River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC:

Does the Neighbourhood Area have the River Wye (including the River Lugg) in or next to its boundary?	Y	The River Wye runs along the western border of the Parishes
Is the Neighbourhood Area in the hydrological catchment of the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC?	Y	The Parishes are within the River Wye hydrological catchment area
If yes above, does the Neighbourhood Area have mains drainage to deal with foul sewage?	Y	There is mains drainage at Ross on Wye

Downton Gorge SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of Downton Gorge SAC?	N	Downton Gorge is 50.3km away from the Parishes
---	---	--

River Clun SAC:

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

Usk Bat Sites SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of the SAC boundary?	N	Usk Bat Sites are 40.2km away from the Parishes
--	---	---

Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of any of the individual sites that make up the Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites?	Y	The Parishes are 5km away from Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites
--	---	--

Wye Valley Woodlands SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of any of the individual sites that make up the Wye Valley Woodlands Site?	Y	The Parishes are 7.1km away from the Wye Valley Woodlands
--	---	---

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 Ross on Wye and Ross Rural Neighbourhood Area and a Full HRA Screening will be required.

European Site

(List only those which are relevant from above)

River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC

Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC

Wye Valley Woodlands SAC

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

The following environmental features are within or in general proximity to the Ross on Wye & Ross Rural Neighbourhood Area and would need to be taken into account within a Strategic Environmental Assessment. In addition, the NDP will also need to consider the other SEA topics set out in Guidance Note 9a to ensure that the plan does not cause adverse impacts.

SEA features	Total	Explanation	SEA required
Air Quality Management Areas	0	There are no AQMAs within the Parishes	N
Ancient Woodland	2	Chase Wood; Penyard Park	Y
Areas of Archaeological Interest	0	There are no AAls within the Parishes	N
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	1	Wye Valley AONB covers the whole of Ross on Wye Parish except the north east corner of the Parish	Y
Conservation Areas	1	Ross on Wye	Y
European Sites	1	River Wye runs along the western borders of the Ross on Wye Parish	Y
Flood Areas		Flood Zones 2 and 3 follow the River Wye and Rudhall Brook	Y
Listed Buildings	Numerous	There are numerous Listed Buildings throughout the Parishes	Y
Local Sites (SWS/SINCS/RIGS)	1 (RIGS) 4 (SWS)	RIGS: M50 Section 1 (border) SWS: River Wye; Wilton Bluff; Chase & Merrivale Woods; Disused Railway Line Ross to Kerne Bridge	Y
Long distance footpaths/trails	4	Wye Valley Walk; Ross Buggy Route; Ross Round; Herefordshire Trail	Y
Mineral Reserves	1	Blackfields (border)	Y
National Nature Reserve	0	There are no NNRs within the Parishes	N
Registered & Unregistered parks and gardens	9 Unregistered	Lincoln Hill House; John Kyrles Walk; The Prospect; John Kyrles Garden; Merton House; The Chase; Penyard Park; Rudhall House; Weston Hall (border)	Y
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	8	Wilton Bridge; Wilton Castle (border); The Market Hall; Churchyard cross in St Mary the Virgin Churchyard; Camp in Chase Wood; Churchyard cross at St Bridget's churchyard (border); Penyard Castle (border); Churchyard cross at St Michael and All Saints churchyard	Y
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	2	River Wye (Unfavourable Recovering); Wilton Bluff (Favourable)	Y

Decision Notification:

The initial screening highlights that the Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Ross on Wye and Ross Rural Neighbourhood Area:

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

Assessment date: 06/08/2013

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.

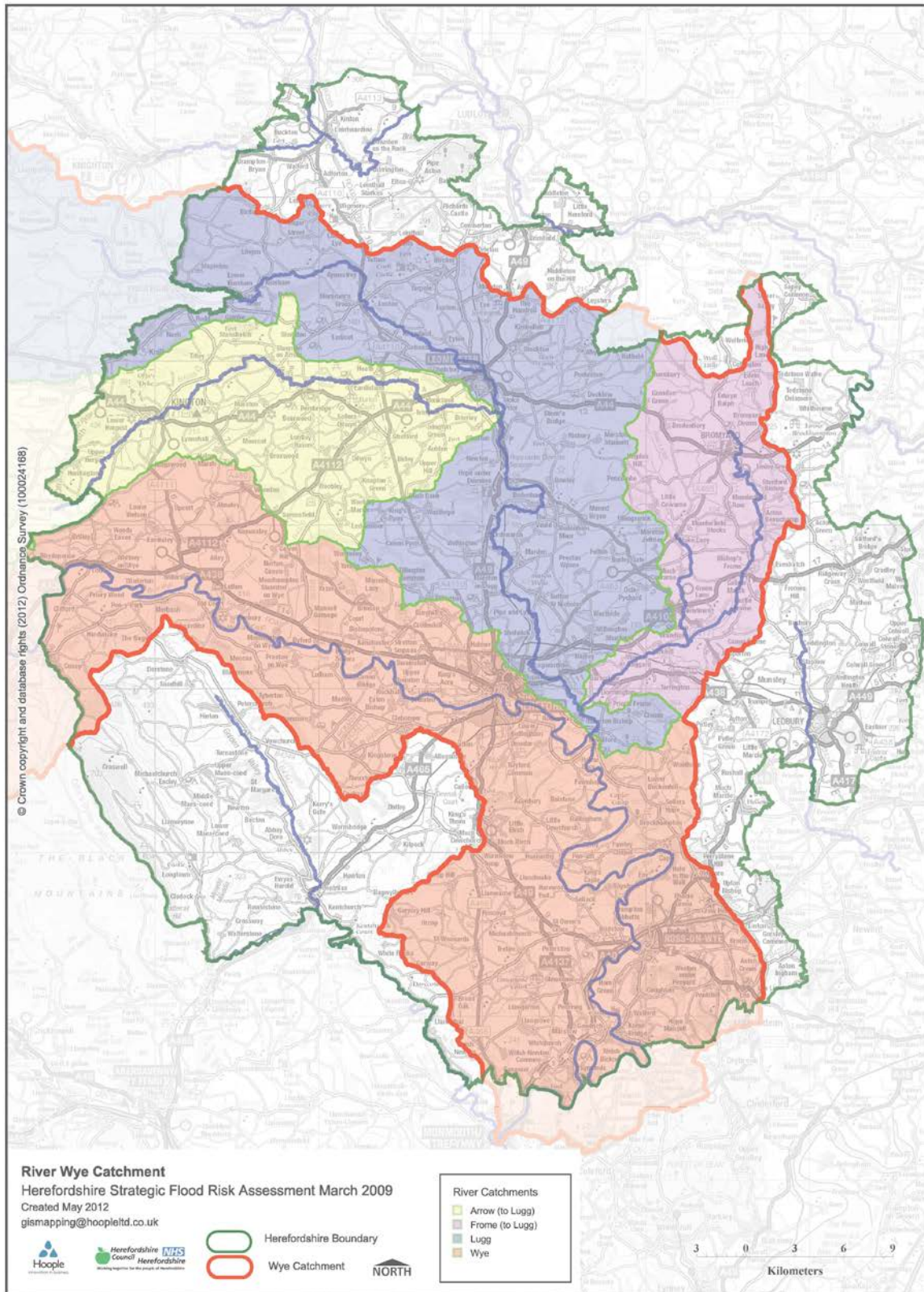
Greater Horseshoe Bat: Large buildings, pasture, edge of mixed deciduous woodland and hedgerows. Mixed land-use especially south-facing slopes, favours beetles, moths and insects they feed on. During the winter they depend on caves, abandoned mines and other underground sites for undisturbed hibernation.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

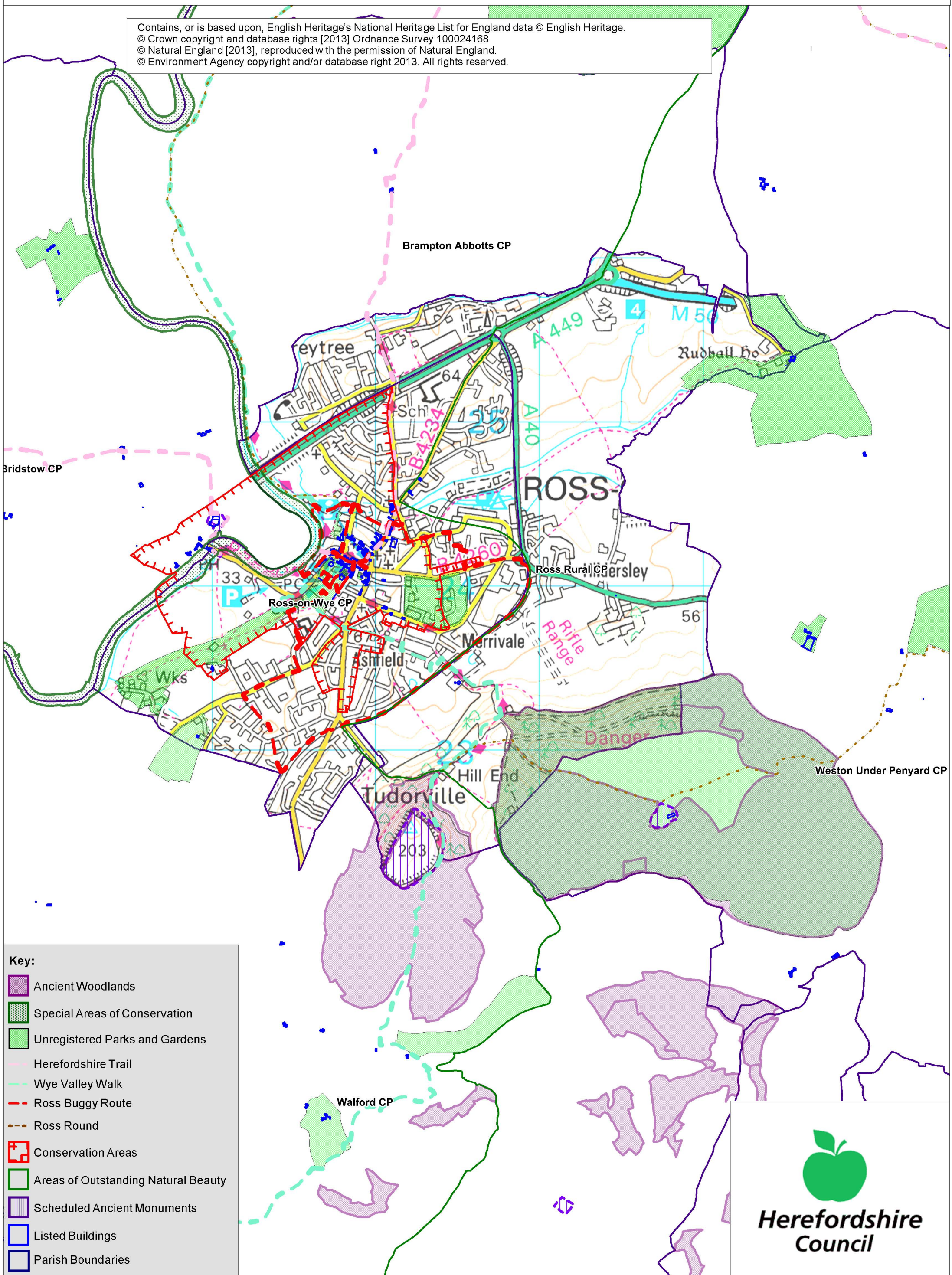


Ross on Wye and Ross Rural SEA Map 1

Scale: 1:20,000



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Key:

- Ancient Woodlands
- Special Areas of Conservation
- Unregistered Parks and Gardens
- Herefordshire Trail
- Wye Valley Walk
- Ross Buggy Route
- Ross Round
- Conservation Areas
- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Scheduled Ancient Monuments
- Listed Buildings
- Parish Boundaries

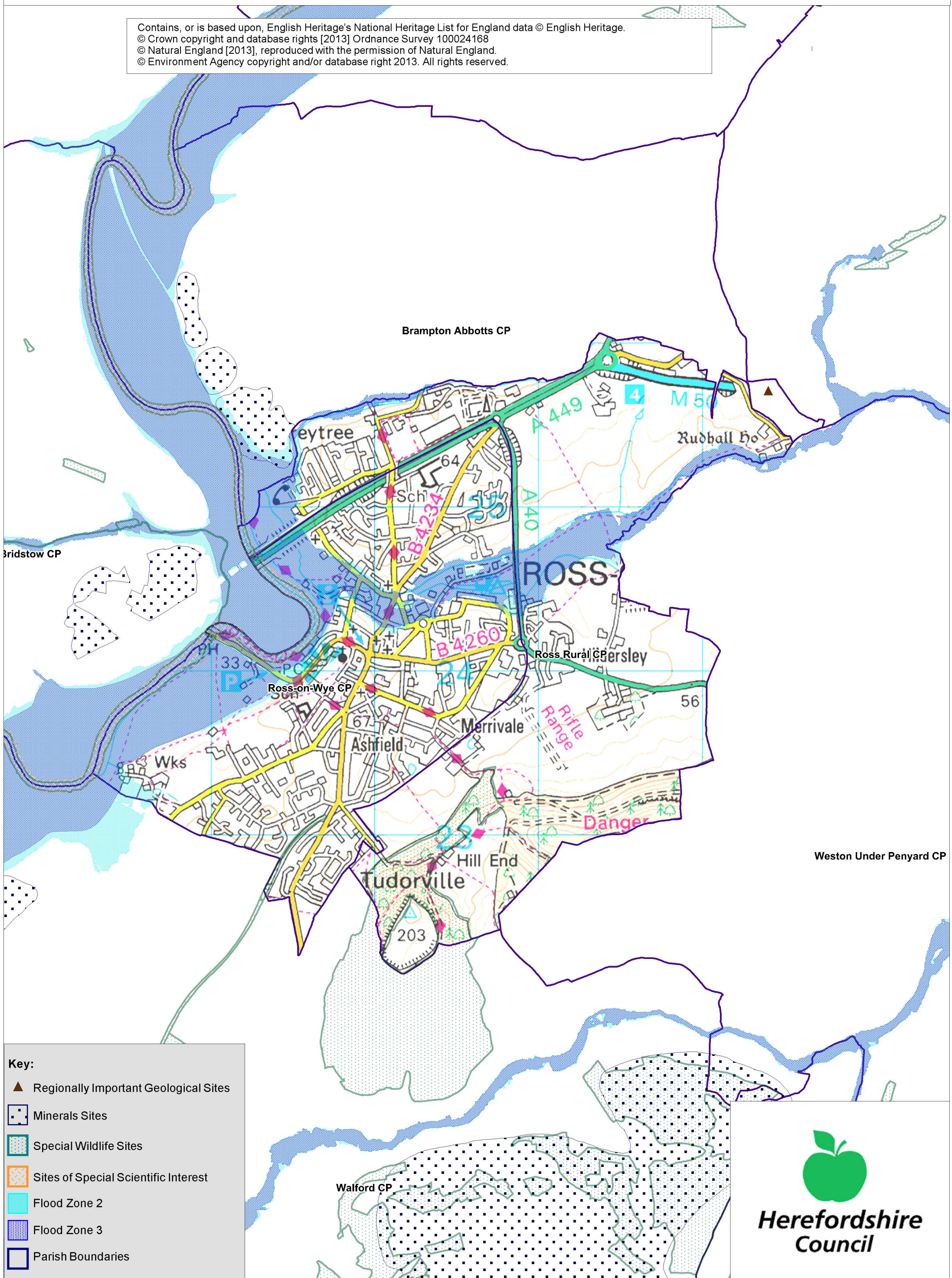


Ross on Wye and Ross Rural SEA Map 2

Scale: 1:20,000



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- Key:**
- ▲ Regionally Important Geological Sites
 - Minerals Sites
 - Special Wildlife Sites
 - Sites of Special Scientific Interest
 - Flood Zone 2
 - Flood Zone 3
 - Parish Boundaries



Appendix 2

Strategic Environmental Assessment



Ross on Wye & Ross Rural Neighbourhood Area

Scoping Report

October 2014

Consultation on the Scoping Report

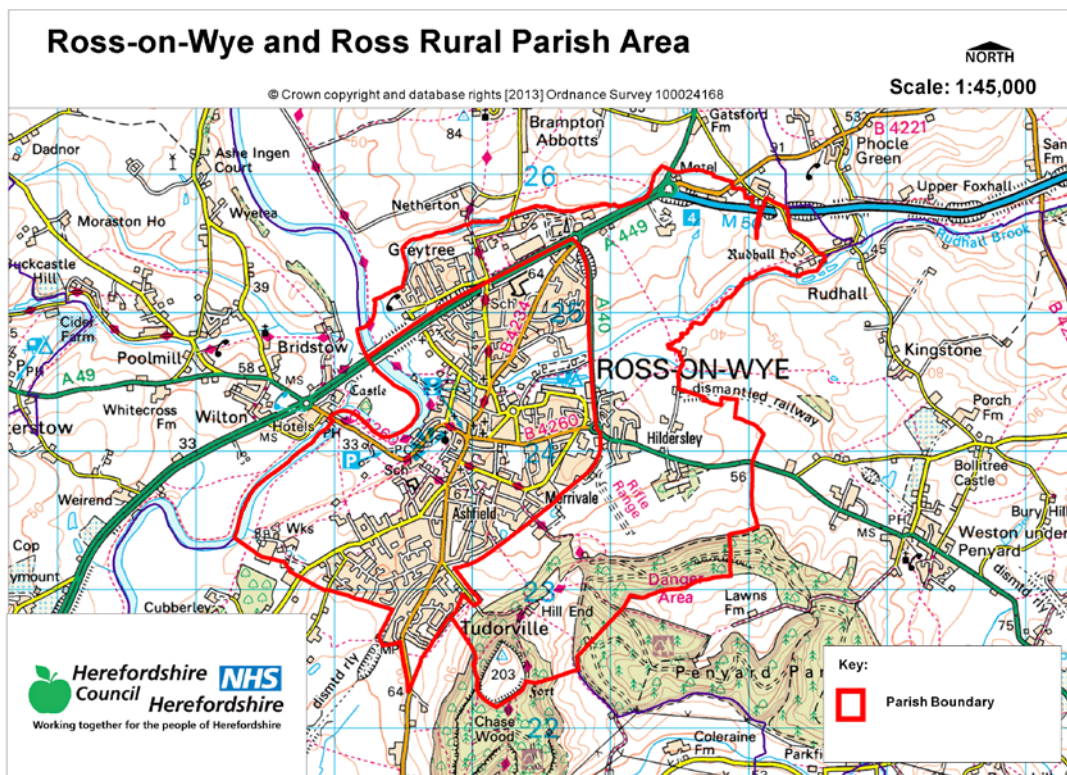
The aim of the consultation process is to involve and engage with statutory consultees and other relevant bodies on the scope of the appraisal. In particular, it seeks to:

- 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
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	National Planning Policy.	2012	Consolidates the suite of PPG/PPS into one succinct planning policy document.	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 guidance contained within the section on Neighbourhood Planning should be borne in mind during the preparation of the NDP.
Planning Practice Guidance	Government Guidance	2014	Provides guidance to local planning authorities and others on the operation of the planning system.	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 NPD must be pro-growth and facilitate the provision of sustainable development.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Model Farm Supplementary Planning Document	Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)	2008	Outlines the approach that should be taken to the development of the employment allocation at Model Farm	This SPD is designed to support the delivery of the designated employment allocation within Policy E3 of the UDP, a document which will be replaced by the Core Strategy in 2014. Therefore its contents are of little worth for the purposes of the Ross NPD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Material assets • Population 	None of merit.
Herefordshire Pre Submission Core Strategy 2011-2031	Development Plan Document (DPD)	2014	Sets out the vision, objectives and policies for the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy), which will guide development across the county up to 2031.	<p>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.</p> <p>The Pre Submission Core Strategy includes the following objectives:</p>	<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 accessible to both local and neighbouring communities.</p> <p>¹Approximately 900 dwellings will need to be delivered within Ross.</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
				<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>The Core Strategy is clear that Ross should continue to fulfil a diverse range of important roles as a town, not least providing a service centre to its rural hinterland.</p>		<p>The NDP should consider the potential locations for 200 dwellings at Hildersley and 700 homes across the remainder of the neighbourhood area.</p>

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
				<p>None of the rural settlements which are listed in the Core Strategy as being sustainable locations for growth fall within the neighbourhood area.</p> <p>The Core Strategy envisages that 900 new homes will be provided in Ross subject to EiP outcome, of which 200 will form an urban extension to the south east of the town (Land at Hildersley). Also of importance is the proposal for 10 hectares of employment land at Model Farm.</p>		

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Wye Valley AONB management Plan 2009-2014	Corporate	2009	The Management Plan is the prime document which sets out the vision for the area and the priorities for its management.	Sets out a range of objectives which seek to reconcile the competing interests of the environment, the ecology and the social and economic well-being of the AONB.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	The Ross neighbourhood area is within the Wye Valley AONB.
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 Ross neighbourhood area.

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.

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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>In the context of the UDP, there are employment land allocations at the following locations, all of which are assessed in some detail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alton Road • Ashburton Industrial Estate • Haigh Industrial Estate (incl. Chase Industrial Estate) • Somerfield Site (Netherton Road) • Oveross <p>Also assessed is the 10 hectares of safeguarded employment land at Model Farm; this allocation is to be rolled over to the Core Strategy, subject to EiP outcome.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Material assets • Population 	<p>The demand for employment land and premises up to 2031 should be achieved through this policy RW1 of the Core Strategy.</p> <p>However, the Ross NDP can support the delivery of employment land at Model Farm through the inclusion of a detailed, site specific policy, which sets out the criteria against which future planning applications will be decided.</p> <p>The evidence base recommends that the Ross NDP protect the employment sites alongside from alternative uses.</p>

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
				<p>Each of the employment sites above are classified as being 'good' in terms of both land and premises, though parts of Ashburton are reported to be of lower quality.</p> <p>The majority of employment floorspace in Ross is dedicated to industrial activities (86%), followed by office use (8%) and warehousing (6%).</p> <p>A survey of employers found that the demand for industrial floorspace up to 2031 is high (41,790.6 m² required).</p> <p>In terms of the future supply of employment land, there is a reasonable amount of provision at present and so when it comes to meeting demand; the land and premises at Model Farm should suffice.</p>		<p>It would also be appropriate for NDP to examine employment need for small businesses and determine whether there is any scope for providing employment land and premises.</p>

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 Ross, previous SHLAA identifies that over 2,000 dwellings could be accommodated on various sites in and around the existing settlement, including land at Hildersley. However it is unlikely that this number would materialise due to significant constraints.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air Biodiversity Climatic factors Cultural heritage Flora and fauna Population Soil Water 	<p>The NDP will need to consider allocating a site for 900 homes at Hildersley, in line with Policy RW1 of the Core Strategy.</p> <p>If further site allocations are pursued then the Ross 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
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.	Provides documentary and photographic evidence of the condition of the neighbourhood's finest landscapes. Each of these landscapes are categorised into different groups, with some identified as being worthy of protection or enhancement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural heritage • Flora and fauna 	The study provides evidence that could be taken into account when preparing policies for the Ross NDP.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Rapid Townscape Assessment	Evidence	2010	Assesses the potential of the Ross-on-Wye settlement area to accommodate growth outline in the Core Strategy and subsequent, detailed planning documents. It therefore forms the basis of a design framework for areas of development potential.	Identifies areas of significant or local interest, sites of development and/or enhancement potential and issues relating to townscape quality and loss of character across nine areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ross Historic Centre 2. East Central Ross-Gloucester Road 3. Ashfield 4. South Ross 5. East Ross 6. North Ross 7. Hildersley 8. Oveross 9. Ashburton-Alton Industrial/Commercial Area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural heritage 	The study provides evidence that could be taken into account when preparing policies for the Ross NDP.

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. Within the Ross HMA, the study reveals that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 55% of households are unable to afford market housing. • There is an annual requirement for 58 affordable dwellings between 2012 and 2017. <p>The study identifies that, in rural parts of the Ross on Wye HMA between 2011-2031, there is a need for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 690 market houses • 490 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 Ross 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 900 homes in Ross would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support growth in the rural population by 13.8% • Increase the number of households by 18.6% <p>Forecasts also predict that growth in the population of Ross is likely to be primarily through an increase in those aged over 60, with the strongest growth in those aged 75+.</p> <p>Growth is expected in the 30-44 and under 15 age brackets, in contrast to the 15-29 age bracket, which is expected to fall.</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 Ross HMA.</p> <p>This evidence can be used to inform the content of the Ross NDP, though it would appear that there will be a need for family sized homes and homes for the elderly.</p>

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Herefordshire Rural Housing Background Report	Evidence	2013	Provides the background for the proportional housing growth targets outlined in the Core Strategy	There are no villages within the designated neighbourhood area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climatic factors • Cultural heritage • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population • Soil • Water 	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 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 Ross 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 Ross NDP can help to achieve the priorities set within the LBAP.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
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.	<p>The study is focused on those parts of the county which are most likely to be subject to development pressures, including Ross.</p> <p>The habitat maps identify that the majority of land to the north, east and southwest of the town is arable.</p> <p>The River Wye, which flows to the north, is a Special Area of Conservation and SSSI, and there are several locally designated sites (SWS) to the southeast, including the woodlands at Penyard Hill.</p> <p>The study also identifies a range of artificial and semi-natural habitats adjoining much of the existing settlement boundary, including disused railway lines and other linear features.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climatic factors • Cultural heritage • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population • Soil • Water 	The evidence presented here includes a wealth of biodiversity and geodiversity data, which will help to ensure that the Ross 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
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.	<p>Establishes policies and principles for the protection or enhancement of those features and functions that contributes to the environment of Herefordshire across a range of scales.</p> <p>At a county level, the neighbourhood area is part of District Strategic Corridor 4 (DSC1: Hereford to Ross), and the River Wye is identified as a County Strategic Corridor.</p> <p>In terms of Ross itself, the study identifies 3 Local Strategic Corridors, 3 Local Enhancement Zones and 6 Fringe Zones. These identify a range of opportunities in which future development proposals can contribute to a green infrastructure network and be the catalyst for the creation of a multifunctional environment.</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 Ross NDP.
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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 Ross 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 Ross itself, the study reveals that there is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31.43 hectares of playing pitch area • 14.89 (47%) hectares of playing pitch area with secured community access; Ashfield Park Primary School, Ross Football Club, Ross Sports Centre, Greytree Rugby Pitches. 	<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 Ross NDP.

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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 Ross neighbourhood area, 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 • Extensive under provision of amenity green space and outdoor sport • Average provision for children and young people. • Extensive under provision of outdoor sports facilities. <p>No specific sites are identified.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Climatic factors • Cultural heritage • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population 	The open space audit and assessment does not give a specific indication of open space shortfalls and surpluses in the Ross neighbourhood area. However, there may be a need to include a policy which encourages and facilitates the provision of outdoor recreational facilities.

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.	<p>In terms of Ross, 12 sites are identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tudorville • Beech Close/Roman Way • Oak Tree Rise • Dean Hill • Ross Childs/Roman Way • Berryfields • Mayhill • Rope Walk • Ross Skate Park • The Prospect • Falaise Close <p>The vast majority are owned by Herefordshire Council, with some in the ownership of Ross Town Council and Herefordshire Housing.</p> <p>The study highlights the potential improvements and investments required in these facilities during the plan period.</p>	<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 Ross 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 (WCS) 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 Wye catchment and certain locations are at a higher risk of flooding.</p> <p>Sub-catchments within this zone, are one of the least rapid response flood warning systems in the SFRA area.</p> <p>They do, however, record a standard percentage run off of 20-25%, which is potentially moderately suitable for infiltration source control.</p> <p>The area has a very slow flood response (Tp-time to peak) time at around 11 hours.</p> <p>The WCS identifies 30 sites in the River Wye catchment where current discharge consent licences cannot be shown to have no adverse effect.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Climatic factors • Material assets • Population • Water 	<p>New development proposed through the Ross 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 Ross NDP.</p>

Appendix A2 – Baseline information for Ross

N.B. This is based on countywide baseline information with some additions relevant to Ross (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.	Condition of SSSIs within Ross: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> River Wye (Unfavourable but recovering) Wilton Bluff (Favourable) 	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%.	-

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>	-	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
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.	The existing status of the Wye SAC between the Hay and Lugg confluence is currently meeting its phosphate and conservation targets.	The River Wye SAC was subject to a review of consents in 2010, as a number of sections of the river were found to have greater phosphate levels than those identified in Natural England's favourable condition tables.	The roll out of the Nutrient Management Plan will determine future targets.	New development within the area could lead to the water quality failing the phosphate levels and conservation objectives.	Nutrient Management Plan (2014)

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.	No specific targets identified.	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.	<p>Ross has:</p> <p>SWS: 4² SAC: 1 SSSI: 2 RIGS: 1</p> <p>There are no NNRs and LNRs within the parish.</p>	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 protect or enhance areas of value to nature conservation.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	NDP SEA/HRA Screening Notification Report (July 2014)
13. Value, maintain, restore or expand county biodiversity.	Natural environment	Proportion of local sites where positive conservation management has or is being implemented.	<p><i>There is no countywide data available at present.</i></p> <p>Sites which may benefit from positive conservation management are Penyard Wood and Chase Wood.</p>	-	No specific targets identified.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	-

² View SEA/HRA Screening Notification Report for further details.

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 scheduled monuments in Ross 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 (searched July 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.	Condition of highly sensitive local landscapes and areas of significant or local historical interest are reported in the Urban Fringe Sensitivity Analysis and Ross Rapid Townscape Assessment respectively.	-	No specific targets identified.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations	Urban Fringe Sensitivity Analysis (2010). Ross Rapid Townscape Assessment (2010).
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 Ross Conservation Area at present.	No historic records of any planning enforcement action or appeals concerning locally important buildings within Ross Conservation Area.	To maintain or enhance current status.	Current status must be verified by Dvt Mgt and Enforcement Officers.	Council Dvt Mgt records (searched July 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.	<p>% of Herefordshire residents who travel to work by:</p> <p>Car: 70.1% Foot: 14.7% Bicycle: 4.3% Bus: 2% Train: 0.8% Motorbike: 0.8% Taxi: 0.3% Other: 7%</p> <p><i>There is no locally specific data available at present</i></p>	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 encourage 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	<p>Latest figure dates back to 2010: 1.61 million tonnes (mtCO₂)</p> <p><i>There is no locally specific data available at present.</i></p>	<p>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%).</p>	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 data available at present.</i> 2011: Land predominantly in urban use (Ross Town Council administrative area). Land within Ross Rural is predominantly in non-agricultural use.	-	No specific targets identified.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	West Midland ALC Map (Natural England 2011).

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.	<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.	-
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 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 over 150 listed buildings within the parish and 8 SAMs, none of which are currently recorded in the Buildings at Risk Register.</p> <p>The Ross Conservation Area is currently at risk according to the Heritage 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 promote opportunities to achieve the removal of the Conservation Area from the At Risk Register.	None identified.	Buildings at Risk Register (English Heritage; searched September 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 Ross Conservation Area at present.	No historic records of any planning enforcement action or appeals concerning locally important buildings within Ross Conservation Area.	To maintain or enhance current status.	Current status must be verified by Dvt Mgt and Enforcement Officers.	Council Dvt Mgt records (searched July 2014)

Appendix A3 – Environmental issues identified from the Ross 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
		Habitats and species of national, regional and local importance are under pressure from development	
		Minimise loss of biodiversity and expand opportunities for wildlife everywhere.	
3	Climatic factors	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through planning, design and build.	Objective 16
4	Cultural heritage	Ross 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 or 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
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

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

	Steady decline in the chemical quality of rivers over the last 10 years.	
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Appendix A4 – SEA framework (objectives, indicators and targets)

SEA Topic(s)	SA Objective(s)	Sub-objectives/Appraisal Questions	Indicators	Targets
Air	<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 encourage the take up of less polluting forms of transport.
Biodiversity, Flora and fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Value, maintain, restore or expand county biodiversity. Value, protect, enhance or restore 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.	% 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.	No specific targets identified.

SEA Topic(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>The roll out of the Nutrient Management Plan will determine future targets.</p> <p>No specific targets identified.</p> <p>To capitalise on opportunities to enhance the areas of value to nature conservation.</p> <p>The number of local sites under positive conservation management (Increase).</p>

SEA Topic(s)	SA Objective(s)	Sub-objectives/Appraisal Questions	Indicators	Targets
Climatic factors	<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.
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 	Number and percentage of listed buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments on Buildings at Risk Register (English Heritage).	To To promote opportunities to achieve the removal of the Conservation Area from the At Risk Register.

SEA Topic(s)	SA Objective(s)	Sub-objectives/Appraisal Questions	Indicators	Targets
		<p>or local area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	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 Ross.
Material assets	<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. 	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.

SEA Topic(s)	SA Objective(s)	Sub-objectives/Appraisal Questions	Indicators	Targets
		<p>through integrated transport, sustainable resource-efficient design, local sourcing of food, goods, materials.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	Agricultural land usage by quality	No specific targets identified.

SEA Topic(s)	SA Objective(s)	Sub-objectives/Appraisal Questions	Indicators	Targets
Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Value, protect, enhance or restore 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 Ross.

SEA Topic(s)	SA Objective(s)	Sub-objectives/Appraisal Questions	Indicators	Targets
Soil	<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.
			Amount of land identified as best and most versatile agricultural land lost to development.	No specific targets identified.

SEA Topic(s)	SA Objective(s)	Sub-objectives/Appraisal Questions	Indicators	Targets
Water	<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.
			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



ENGLISH HERITAGE

WEST MIDLANDS REGION

Neighbourhood Planning Team
Herefordshire Council
Planning Services
PO Box 230
Blueschool House
Blueschool Street
Hereford
HR1 2ZB.

Our ref:
Your ref:

Telephone 0121 625 6887
Fax 0121 625 6820

27 October 2014

Dear Sir or Madam

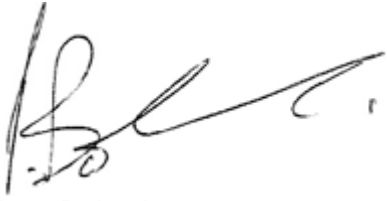
CONSULTATION ON SEA SCOPING REPORTS FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS IN: Abbeydore & Bacton, Ewyas Harold Group & Kentchurch; Bodenham; Colwall; Cusop; Dinedor; Llangarron; Lower Bullingham; Much Marcle; Ross on Wye and Ross Rural.

Thank you for your e-mails and the invitation to comment on the SEA Scoping Reports for the Neighbourhood Plans listed above. We have no substantive objection to the contents of the documents. However, having considered the above Neighbourhood Plans please note that overall our comments and recommendations to you in relation to these remain substantively the same as those which we communicated to you in our letter of the 15th August 2014 in response to the first tranche of SEA Scoping Reports. We urge you to refer back to and consider these representations before finalizing the reports in relation to the above Neighbourhood Plans also.

Specifically in relation to the fifth tranche of consultations we note that all of the SEA Scoping Reports appear to have anomalous references to SAM's, the Herefordshire SMR, monitoring changes to historic landscapes and historic landscape character assessments in relation to SA Objective 14 "Use natural resources and energy more effectively". Presumably this is unintentional? Is there some confusion as between the Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Register and the Herefordshire Environmental Records Register? Would these elements in fact be more relevant under SA Objectives 15 and 20?

I hope this is helpful.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pete Boland', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Pete Boland

Historic Places Adviser

E-mail: peter.boland@english-heritage.org.uk

Date: 21 November 2014
Our ref: Various
Your ref: Neighbourhood Area SEA Scoping



Mr J. Latham
Technical Support Officer
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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Mr Latham

Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening for:

Abbeydore and Bacton, Ewyas Harold Group and Kentchurch (NE ref:133596)
Bodenham (NE Ref:133598)
Colwall (NE Ref: 133599)
Cusop (NE Ref: 133600)
Dinedor (NE Ref:133602)
Llangarron (NE Ref: 133603)
Lower Bullingham (NE Ref:133604)
Much Marcle (NE Ref:133605)
Ross on Wye & Ross Rural (NE Ref:133606)

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 03 October 2014.

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.

We welcome the production of this SEA Scoping report. With respect to the natural environment Natural England wishes to make the following comments which 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:

All

- [Natural Environment White Paper](#)
- [Biodiversity 2020](#)



Bodenham

Colwall

Cusop

- The EC Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations
- The EC Water Framework Directive
- The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)
- The Countryside and Right of Ways Act (2000)
- The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)
- Understanding Herefordshire Report
- Herefordshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan

Dinedor

Lower Bullingham

Much Marcle

- Wye Valley AONB Management Plan 2009-2014

We also note the following:

Abbeydore and Bacton, Ewyas Harold Group and Kentchurch

Bodenham

Llangarron

- The date for Herefordshire Core Strategy, Presubmission document 2011-2031, is 2013. The presubmission document has been updated since.

Bodenham,

- In the key messages, target/ objective/indicator of Herefordshire Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) it needs to be clearer how many sites are affected rather than stating ??.

Appendix A2 – Baseline information

Biodiversity, flora and fauna

Abbeydore and Bacton, Ewyas Harold Group and Kentchurch

Under 13. Value, maintain, restore and expand county biodiversity- Net change in condition of SSSIs across Herefordshire, it states that Wormbridge Common SSSI and Chanstone Wood SSSI are within the Abbeydore and Bacton but they are not within these parish boundaries though they are within 1km of the Neighbourhood plan area.

Bodenham

Colwall

Cusop

Llangarron

Lower Bullingham

Ross on Wye and Ross Rural

Under the proposed indicator “*Changes to protected habitats and impacts of species within the Herefordshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan*”, we advise an additional baseline information source - Maps of priority habitats and species are available on *Magic*, Defra’s GIS package for environmental assets (www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk).

Lower Bullingham

Lower Marcle

Ross on Wye and Ross Rural

Baseline information on the proposed indicator Changes to Protected habitats and impacts of species within the Herefordshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan needs to be included and we advise you could refer to the Herefordshire Council AMR (2010/11).

All

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”*. We would welcome a reference to the Historic Landscape Characterisation for Hereford and also reference could also be made to the county Landscape Character Assessment.

Water, air, soil and material assets

All

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.

Dinedor

Llangarron

Lower Bullingham

In topic “Water, air, soil, material assets”- 18. Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources, a distinction should be made between soil Grade 3a and 3b. The best and most versatile land is defined as Grades 1, 2 and 3a by policy guidance (see Annex 2 of NPPF).

Soil

All

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.

To assist in understanding agricultural land quality within the plan area and to safeguard ‘best and most versatile’ agricultural land in line with paragraph 112 of the National Planning Policy Framework, strategic scale Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Maps are available. Natural England also has an archive of more detailed ALC surveys for selected locations. Both these types of data can be supplied digitally free of charge by contacting Natural England. Some of this data is also available on the www.magic.gov.uk website. The planning authority should ensure that sufficient site specific ALC survey data is available to inform decision making.

Appendix A3 – Environmental issues identified from the baseline

All

Natural England welcomes the environmental issues identified.

Appendix A4 – SEA Framework

All

Under the SEA topic “ Nature Conservation” we would 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 utilise Historic Landscape Characterisation studies and monitor the number of applications permitted despite a significant impact on the landscape having been identified.

Dinedor

Lower Bullingham

Ross on Wye and Ross Rural

Under the SEA topic “*Nature Conservation*” we would welcome the inclusion of sub objective “*value, enhance and protect natural environmental assets including AONB’s, historic landscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings*” but note that no indicators or targets have been identified.

Abbeydore & Bacton, Ewyas Harold Group & Kentchurch

Bodenham

Colwall

Cusop

Under the SEA topic “*Landscape*” reference could be made to the county Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Characterisation studies including Historic Landscape Characterisation if this has been carried out.

Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening

We would remind you of one of the basic conditions that a draft neighbourhood plan or Order must meet, as set out in the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012, which states that ‘The making of the neighbourhood development plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site’.

Abbeydore and Bacton, Ewyas Harold Group and Kentchurch

Colwall

We welcome this initial assessment and agree that a full Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening is not required.

Bodenham

Cusop

Dinedor

Lower Bullingham

We welcome this initial assessment and agree that a full screening exercise will be required to assess the impacts on the River Wye Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

Llangorran

We welcome this initial assessment and agree that a full screening exercise will be required to assess the impacts on the River Wye SAC and Wye Valleys Woodlands SAC

Much Marcle

We welcome this initial assessment and agree that a full screening exercise will be required to assess the impacts on the Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC).

Ross on Wye and Ross Rural

We welcome this initial assessment and agree that a full screening exercise will be required to assess the impacts on the River Wye SAC, Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC and Wye Valleys Woodlands 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 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

Gillian Driver

Miss Gillian Driver
Planning Adviser
South Mercia Team

Appendix 4

Objectives verses SEA Objectives (SMART and Compatibility Test)			
SEA Stage B1	Key:	SMART criteria:	
+ =/++	Compatible/ Very comp	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 Ross on Wye NDP Objectives in terms of their SMART criteria and their compatibility with the SEA Objectives. These have been developed from Government guidance on SEA and from the local evidence base gathered for identifying the NDP issues.

SEA Objectives
1- To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)
2- To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes
3- To improve quality of surroundings
4- To conserve and 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 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 objectives
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16				
1. To protect and enhance all aspects of the environment	++	++	++	++	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	+				++	This objective is compatible with the SEA objectives. This objective ensures all aspects of the local environment are maintained in proposals	None	This objective meets all of the SMART criteria. This objective is specific and measurable via the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR). It will be attainable, achievable and realistic.	
2. To deliver more housing, in particular to meet local needs	?	?	+	?	?	+	?	?	+	+	+	+				+	This objective is generally compatible with the SEA objectives. Some of the impact will be locational dependant and additional policies and site allocations will ensure compatibility	None	This objective meets all of the SMART criteria. This objective is specific and measurable via the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR). It will be attainable, achievable and realistic.	
3. To protect, enhance and diversity the local economy	?	?	+	?	?	?	?	?	+	+	+	+				+	This objective is generally compatible with the SEA objectives. The provision of local employment reduce the need to travel. Some of the impact will be locational dependant and additional policies and site allocations will ensure compatibility	None	This objective meets all of the SMART criteria. It is specific and measurable via the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) and it is attainable, achievable and realistic.	
4. To ensure an accessible and well connected town for all	X	++	++	++	++	++	++	X	X	X	X	X				+	This objective is compatible with the SEA objective. Finding additional connectivity within the town for cycling and walking with improve the surroundings and the wider environment	None	This objective meets all of the SMART criteria. It is specific and measurable via the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) and it is attainable, achievable and realistic.	
5. To protect, enhance and diversity the town's social and cultural assets	+	++	++	++	X	+	X	X	X	X	X	X				++	This objective is compliable with the SEA objectives. Increasing the town's social and cultural assets will have a positive effect on the surroundings and this historic environment. It could also reduce the need to travel to other destinations.	None	This objective meets all of the SMART criteria. It is specific and measurable via the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) and it is attainable, achievable and realistic	

Objectives verses SEA Objectives (SMART and Compatibility Test)				
SEA Stage B1	Key:	SMART criteria:		
+ =/++	Compatible/very comp	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 Ross-on-Wye Neighbourhood Plan options and alternatives in terms of their SMART criteria and their compatibility with the SEA Objectives.

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

NDP Options and alternatives	SEA objectives																Summary in relation to baseline	Overall commentary and any initial cumulative effects/ Recommendations	Conformity with Core Strategy in terms of SEA
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
Baseline	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	NA	NA	NA	16			
Option 1 Do nothing	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x	Do nothing option is essential not to produce a neighbourhood plan and rely 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
Option 2a Allocate major sites deemed suitable and deliverable	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++				++	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. 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.
Option 2b Option 2A with the addition of Broadmeadow / Tanyard	?	++	++	++	++	++	++	?	++	++	?	++				++	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	Pursuing this option would give greater certainty over future development within the area. If required mitigation criteria can be added to site allocations policies to	This option would meet the Core Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA.

																		baseline.	ensure all SEA objectives are achieved.	
Option 3 Reconsider allocated land currently assessed as unsuitable	?	-	-	-	?	?	?	?	-	+	?	-						The allocation of sites on land which is deemed unsuitable could have a detrimental effect on the baseline depending on location. Specific environmental issues would need to be addressed prior to allocation as a suitable site.	Pursuing this option could have negative effects on the baseline especially if there are more suitable sites available.	This option would not meet the Core Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA

NDP Policies	SEA objectives																Summary in relation to baseline	Overall commentary and any initial cumulative effects/ Recommendations	Conformity with Core Strategy in terms of SEA
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
Baseline	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
Policy EN1 Ross Design policy	x	++	++	++	x	x	+	+	x	x	+	x				+	The policy is positive in relation to the baseline. It is seeking to balance new designs with the historic character of Ross on Wye	none	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in term of the SEA
Policy EN2 Shopfront and signage	x	++	++	++	x	x	x	x	x	xx	x	x				x	Where relevant the policy has a positive effect on the baseline as it is aiming to ensure that new shopfronts respect the local character	None	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA
Policy EN3 Settlement boundary	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	The inclusion of a settlement boundary will focus the growth requirements and therefore have a positive effect on the baseline in the wider area. Other policies of the plan will contain locational details with regards to specific impacts on the baseline	None	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA

Policy EN4 Infill and backland development	+	++	++	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+					+	The policy has a positive effect on the baseline as it is seeking to development small gaps within the built form where it respects the character.	None	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA
Policy EN5 Eco-building	?	+	+	+	++	x	++	++	+	+	+	+	+					++	The policy is seeking to promote eco-building methods	None	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA
Policy EN6 Solar photovoltaic energy	x	+	+	+	x	x	++	x	x	x	x	x	x					++	The policy is seeking to ensure that renewable energy sources respect the visual amenity and character of the area	None	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA
Policy EN7 Landscape setting	+	++	++	++	+	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	+					++	The policy has a positive effect on the baseline as it is seeking to protect and enhance the Wye Valley AONB which cover a substantial part of the neighbourhood area	None	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA
Policy EN8 Key views	x	++	++	++	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x					+	The policy seeks to safeguard views of the town. This will have a positive effect on the landscape, townscape and historic environment	None	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA
Policy EN9 Green infrastructure	++	++	++	+	+	+	+	+	++	x	+	+						++	The policy will have a positive effect on the baseline as it is seeking to establish a network of green infrastructure which will have a positive effect on surrounding wildlife, townscapes and the wider landscape.	None	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA
Policy EN10 Hard surfacing of drives and parking areas	x	+	+	+	x	x	x	++	+	x	++	x						+	This policy has a positive effect on the baseline as it is seeking to remove the potential for surface water flooding	None	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA

Policy EN11 Pre-application community engagement	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x	This is not a land use policy		
Policy H1 Self and custom build	x	+	+	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x	The policy will not lead to development itself, it is supporting self and custom building	None	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA
Policy H2 Home working	x	x	x	x	+	+	x	x	x	x	x	+				+	The policy has a positive effect on the baseline as it is seeking to encourage homeworking, which could reduce the need to travel	none	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA
Policy H3 Town centre housing	x	+	+	+	+	+	x	+	x	x	x	+				+	The policy is seeking to promote the multi-use of the town centre for housing which will improve the overall vitality of the town centre and reduce the need to travel. It will also reduce the need for additional edge of town sites for new housing opportunities.	none	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA
Policy H4 Living and working over shops	x	+	+	+	+	+	x	+	x	x	x	+				+	The policy is seeking to promote the multi-use of the town centre for housing which will improve the overall vitality of the town centre and reduce the need to travel. It will also reduce the need for additional edge of town sites for new housing opportunities.	None	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA
Policy E1 New employment development	?	?	?	?	x	+	x	x	x	x	?	+				+	The policy has some uncertain elements as it will be locational dependant. However there are other policies within the plan which will ensure the baseline is safeguarded.	none	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA

Policy E2 Resisting out of town retail	x	+	+	+	x	+	x	x	x	x	x	x				x	The policy is seeking to safeguard the vitality and viability of the town centre which will have a positive effect on the townscape and the surroundings.	none	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA
Policy E3 Town centre uses	x	+	+	+	x	+	x	x	x	x	x	x				+	The policy is seeking to safeguard the vitality and viability of the town centre which will have a positive effect on the townscape and the surroundings.	None	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA
Policy A1 Sustainable transport	x	+	+	+	+	++	+	x	x	x	x	x				x	The policy is seeking to provide sustainable transport routes across the town. This could have a positive effect on short trips and improve air quality and the townscape	None	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA
Policy A2 Walking and cycling	x	+	+	+	+	++	+	x	x	x	x	x				x	The policy is seeking to provide sustainable transport routes across the town. This could have a positive effect on short trips and improve air quality and the townscape	None	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA
Policy A3 Walking and cycling signage	x	+	+	+	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x	The policy is seeking to standardise sustainable transport sign across the town. This will have a positive effect on the surroundings and the townscape	None	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA
Policy A4 Changes to car parks	x	o	o	o	x	+	x	x	x	x	x	x				x	This policy is seeking to safeguard any potential used and needed car parks from redevelopment. This could have a neutral effect on the baseline as some redevelopment could enhance the townscape	None	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA

Policy A5 Provision of electric charging points	x	x	x	x	+	+	+	+	x	x	x	x				x	The policy will have a positive effect on air quality and climate change indicators as it is encouraging the provision of electricity charging points within developments	None	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA
Policy SC1 Retaining community facilities	x	+	++	+	+	++	x	x	x	x	x	+				+	The policy will have a positive effect on the baseline as it is seeking to retain community facilities locally and thus reducing the need to travel and adding to the vitality of the town.	None	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA
Policy SC2 New community facilities	x	+	+	x	+	+	x	x	x	x	x	x				x	The policy will have a positive effect on the baseline as it is seeking to support further community facilities locally and thus reducing the need to travel and adding to the vitality of the town.	None	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA
Policy SC3 Allotments	+	+	+	+	+	x	x	x	x	x	x	+				+	The policy has a positive effect on the baseline as it is seeking to protect existing allotments and support new ones. This will help to enhance the landscape and townscape and biodiversity	None	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA
Policy SC4 Play areas	+	+	+	+	+	+	x	+	x	x	+	+				+	The policy has a positive effect on the baseline as it is seeking to protect existing open space and play areas. These add value to the townscape and surrounding and also provide a habitat for wildlife.	None	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA
Policy SC5 Local Green Spaces	+	+	+	+	+	+	x	+	x	x	+	+				+	The policy has a positive effect on the baseline as it is seeking to designate local green spaces. These add value to the townscape and surrounding and also	None	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA

																			provide a habitat for wildlife.			
Policy SC6 Telecommunications infrastructure	x	x	x	?	+	+	x	x	x	x	x	x						x	The policy is seeking to provide additional broadband and telecommunications infrastructure. This will help to reduce the need to travel and enable more home working	None	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA	
Site allocations																						
Cleeve Field Approx. 16-18 dwellings	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	+						+	<p>The site is greenfield and allocated for 20 houses. It is bound by Cleeve Lane and Archenfield Road. It is within the AONB and adjacent to the Conservation Area.</p> <p>The site is also close to the River Wye SAC and there are intensive livestock units close by.</p> <p>The site was assessed within SHLAA (HLAA/177/001) as being suitable, achievable and available.</p>	<p>The policy criteria is seeking to maintain existing hedgerows and provide a strong landscape edge to the development which will provide habitats for any bats or wildlife associated within the site.</p> <p>Water quality is not an issue within the River Wye at this point in the river.</p> <p>Landscape consideration have been considered within the policy and design code given the location of the site within the AONB</p>	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA	
Merrivale Lane Approx. 25-30 dwellings	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+						+	<p>This site is greenfield and adjacent to the conservation area and within the built form of the town.</p> <p>The site was assessed within SHLAA (HLAA/324/001)</p> <p>No heritage or ecological issues where highlighted on the site.</p> <p>There may be some surface water issues</p>	None	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA	

<p>Stoney Stile Approx. 15 dwellings</p>	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	<p>Site is greenfield and is seeking to allocate housing, open space and allotments on site. The site was judged within SHLAA to be a natural extension of the town</p>	None	<p>The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA</p>
<p>The Chase Hotel Two sites: North – approx. 5 to 6 dwellings South – approx. 12-15 dwellings</p>	?	?	?	?	+	+	+	x	+	+	x	+				?	<p>The site is currently within the grounds of a hotel. It is an 'unregistered park and garden' and within the Conservation Area. There are a number of Tree Preservation Orders on the site and it is within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The hotel building has been highlighted as being of potential local interest.</p>	<p>Given the historic landscape sensitivities of the site, additional guidance from Conservation officers should be sought to ensure that the criteria adequately cover the issues.</p>	<p>The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA</p>
<p>Ryefield Centre Approx. 10-12 dwellings</p>	+	+	+	+	+	?	x	x	+	+	+	+				++	<p>Former Children's Centre and part of the Old Ross Grammar School. This policy is seeking to potential reuse the existing building. This has a positive effect on the baseline as it is seeking to reuse an existing resource.</p>	none	<p>The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA</p>

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

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 EN1

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 (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 townscapes	++	++	++	The policy is seeking to balance the design of new developments with then historic character of Ross-on-Wye and therefore will over time enhance the quality of the	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

				townscape and the landscape	
To improve quality of surroundings	++	++	++	The policy is seeking to balance the design of new developments with then historic character of Ross-on-Wye and therefore will over time enhance the quality of the townscape and the landscape	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	++	++	++	The policy is seeking to balance the design of new developments with then historic character of Ross-on-Wye and therefore will over time enhance the quality of the townscape and the landscape	
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	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to encourage design to be considered in more detail within any new schemes. This could include climate change measures within the design.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to encourage design to be considered in more detail within any new schemes. This could include climate change measures within the design.	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

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	+	+	+		
To conserve soil resources and quality	x	x	x	No relationship	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to balance the design of new developments with then historic character of Ross-on-Wye and therefore will over time enhance the quality of the townscape and the landscape	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	Overall the policy has a positive effect on the baseline and this will improve over time as designs are more responsive to the surrounding historic character of the town.				

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

Policy EN2

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 (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 townscapes	++	++	++	The policy is seeking to enhance the visual appearance of shop fronts and signage around the town. This will enhance the townscape over time.	
To improve quality of surroundings	++	++	++	The policy is seeking to enhance the visual appearance of shop fronts and signage around the town. This will enhance the townscape over time.	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	++	++	++	The policy is seeking to enhance the visual appearance of shop fronts and signage around the town. This will enhance the townscape over time.	
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	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	x	x	x	No relationship	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	Overall the policy has a positive on the baseline. It is seeking to ensure that any shopfront and signage reflects the historic character of the town and the conservation area.				

Policy EN3

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 (11 years +)		

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

<p>To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)</p>	+	+	+	<p>The delineation of a settlement boundary for the town will help to define whether future development can take place and areas that will be defined as open countryside.</p> <p>This will have a positive effect on safeguarding the natural environment in areas outside the boundary.</p>	
<p>To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes</p>	+	+	+	<p>The delineation of a settlement boundary for the town will help to define whether future development can take place and areas that will be defined as open countryside.</p> <p>This will assist in safeguard areas of the landscape outside of the boundary which is classified as open countryside</p>	
<p>To improve quality of surroundings</p>	+	+	+	<p>The delineation of a settlement boundary for the town will help to define whether future development can take place and areas that will be defined as open countryside.</p> <p>This will assist in safeguard areas of the landscape outside of the boundary which is classified as open countryside</p>	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	The delineation of a settlement boundary for the town will help to define whether future development can take place.	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	The settlement boundary will focus new housing and employment development to areas close to the current built form and therefore enable opportunities for cycling and walking.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	The settlement boundary will focus new housing and employment development to areas close to the current built form and therefore enable opportunities for cycling and walking thus reducing traffic.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	The settlement boundary will focus new housing and employment development to areas close to the current built form	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	The settlement boundary will focus new housing and employment development to areas close to the current built form	
To improve water quality	+	+	+	Developments will be subject to the required Habitat Regulation Assessment to ensure that there	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

				are no likely significant effects on the water quality of the River Wye SAC	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	+	+	+	The settlement boundary will focus new housing and employment development to areas close to the current built form	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	The settlement boundary will focus new housing and employment development to areas close to the current built form, thus avoid areas of flood risk	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	The settlement boundary will focus new housing and employment development to areas close to the current built form thus preserving soils in outside of the boundary.	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	The settlement boundary will focus new housing and employment development to areas close to the current built form	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The settlement boundary will focus new housing and employment development to areas close to the current built form and therefore will have a positive effect on many of the baseline indicators.
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Policy EN4

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 (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to development small gaps and infill plots within the town which will conserve areas of greenfield on the outskirts of the built form. The policy includes criteria to ensure that any nature conservation issues are taken into account	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and	++	++	++	The policy includes criteria which seeks to ensure that any development reflects the character of the current built form	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

townscapes					
To improve quality of surroundings	++	++	++	The policy includes criteria which seeks to ensure that any development reflects the character of the current built form	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	The policy includes criteria which seeks to ensure that any development reflects the character of the current built form and historic heritage of the town.	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to development small gaps and infill plots within the town. This may provide additional opportunities within the town which could result in reducing the need to travel by private car and thus improve air quality.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to development small gaps and infill plots within the town. This may provide additional opportunities within the town which could result in reducing the need to travel by private car.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to development small gaps and infill plots within the town. This may	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

				provide additional opportunities within the town which could result in reducing the need to travel by private car	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to development small gaps and infill plots within the town. This may provide additional opportunities within the town which could result in reducing the need to travel by private car	
To improve water quality	+	+	+	Developments will be subject to the required Habitat Regulation Assessment to ensure that there are no likely significant effects on the water quality of the River Wye SAC	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	+	+	+	Development within the town centre will be provided will as sustainable source of water	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	?	?	+	Developments within the town will need to ensure that there are avoiding areas of flood risk.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	The concentration of developments within the town will have to preserve the soil resources within the open countryside areas surrounding the town.	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to reuse or develop small gaps within the town centre with a number of criteria which will seek to protect and enhance baseline features	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	Overall the policy will have a positive effect on the baseline and protect other areas outside the settlement boundary.				

Policy EN5

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 (11 years +)		

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	?	+	+	The policy is seeking to encourage eco-building which included criteria to protect and enhance the nature environment	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to encourage eco-building which will add vitality to the landscape and townscape as well as protecting the environment.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to encourage eco-building which will add vitality to the landscape and townscape as well as protecting the environment.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to encourage eco-building which will add vitality to the landscape and townscape as well as containing criteria to protect and enhance the historic environment.	
To improve air quality	++	++	++	The purpose of the policy is to encourage eco-friendly buildings within the town which will make a contribution to reducing climate change effects	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	x	x	x	No relationship	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

To reduce contributions to climate change	++	++	++	The purpose of the policy is to encourage eco-friendly buildings within the town which will make a contribution to reducing climate change effects	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	++	++	++	The purpose of the policy is to encourage eco-friendly buildings within the town which include criteria to reduce the vulnerability of the building and surroundings to climate change.	
To improve water quality	+	+	+	Developments will be subject to the required Habitat Regulation Assessment to ensure that there are no likely significant effects on the water quality of the River Wye SAC	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	+	+	+	Development within the town centre will have access to a sustainable water supply	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	The purpose of the policy is to encourage eco-friendly buildings within the town which will make a contribution to reducing climate change effects	
To conserve soil resources and quality	x	x	x	No relationship	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	++	++	++	The purpose of the policy is to encourage eco-friendly buildings within the town which will seek to conserve natural resources.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The purpose of the policy is to encourage eco-friendly buildings within the town, this will have a positive effect on the many of the baseline indicates.				

Policy EN6

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 (11 years +)		

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	x	x	x	No relationship	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to ensure that any renewable energy schemes respect the visual amenity and character of the area	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to ensure that any renewable energy schemes respect the visual amenity and character of the area	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to ensure that any renewable energy schemes respect the visual amenity and character of the area	
To improve air quality	++	++	++	The policy is seeking to reduce the use of fossil fuels within the town which will have a positive impact on air quality	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	x	x	x	No relationship	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

To reduce contributions to climate change	++	++	++	The policy is seeking to reduce the use of fossil fuels within the town	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	++	++	++	The policy is seeking to reduce the use of fossil fuels within the town	
To improve water quality	+	+	+	Developments will be subject to the required Habitat Regulation Assessment to ensure that there are no likely significant effects on the water quality of the River Wye SAC	
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					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade	++	++	++	The policy seeks to encourage solar energy and thus using a	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

resources				renewable energy form.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The policy is having a positive effect on the baseline as it is encouraging the use of renewable energy and reducing the use of fossil fuels within the town. A number of criteria are seeking to ensure that any developments respect the historic nature of the town.				

Policy EN7

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 (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to enhance the setting of the Wye Valley AONB and the surrounding landscape. This will have a positive effect on the biodiversity.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	++	++	++	The policy is specifically aimed at enhancing and protecting the quality of the landscape round the town	

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To improve quality of surroundings	++	++	++	The policy is specifically aimed at enhancing and protecting the quality of the landscape round the town	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	++	++	++	The policy is specifically aimed at enhancing and protecting the quality of the landscape round the town, which will have a positive effect on the cultural heritage of the town.	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	The policy is specifically aimed at enhancing and protecting the quality of the landscape round the town, which will have a positive effect on air quality	
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	x	x	x	No relationship	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

water supply					
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	x	x	x	No relationship	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	The policy is specifically aimed at enhancing and protecting the quality of the landscape round the town	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	x	++	++	The policy is specifically aimed at enhancing and protecting the quality of the landscape round the town	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	Overall the policy will have a positive effect on the baseline as it is specifically aimed at enhancing and protecting the quality of the landscape round the town				

Policy EN8

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in	Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
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B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

	terms of the three time periods)				
	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 townscapes	++	++	++	The policy is seeking to safeguard views of the town, this will have a positive effect on the surrounding landscape and historic environment	
To improve quality of surroundings	++	++	++	The policy is seeking to safeguard views of the town, this will have a positive effect on the surrounding landscape and historic environment	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	++	++	++	The policy is seeking to safeguard views of the town, this will have a positive effect on the surrounding landscape and historic environment	
To improve air quality	x	x	X	No relationship	

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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					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to safeguard	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

and manmade resources				views of the town, this will have a positive effect on the surrounding landscape and historic environment	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	Overall the policy will have a positive effect on the baseline.				

Policy EN9

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 (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	++	++	++	The policy is seeking to establish a network of green infrastructure. This will have a positive effect on biodiversity providing potential habitat networks.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and	++	++	++	A network of additional green infrastructure will have a positive effect to enhance the surrounding	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

townscapes				townscape and landscape.	
To improve quality of surroundings	++	++	++	Green infrastructure will have a positive effect on the overall quality of the surroundings.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	Green infrastructure can have a positive effect on the quality of the historic environment	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	Green infrastructure can have been multi-functional therefore could give rise to some additional walking and cycling opportunities. Thus reducing the need to travel by private car.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	Green infrastructure can have been multi-functional therefore could give rise to some additional walking and cycling opportunities. Thus reducing the need to travel by private car.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	Green infrastructure can provide additional flood storage areas	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	Green infrastructure can provide additional flood storage areas	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

To improve water quality	++	++	++	Green infrastructure can provide additional areas water storage areas	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	x	x	x	No relationship	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	Green infrastructure can provide additional flood storage areas	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	The establishment of a network of green infrastructure will also have ensure that some areas of land is retained.	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	++	++	++	A network work of green infrastructure will conserve natural resources.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The policy is seeking to establish a network of green infrastructure which will have a positive effect on the surrounding townscape, wildlife and landscape.				

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

Policy EN10

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 (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 townscapes	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to enhance both the character and appearance of the local townscape and ensure that surfaces are responsive to surface water issues.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to enhance both the character and appearance of the local townscape and ensure that surfaces are responsive to surface water issues	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to enhance both the character and appearance of the local townscape and ensure that surfaces are responsive to surface water issues	
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	++	++	++	The aim of the policy is to reduce the potential for surface water flooding by encouraging permeable surfaces	
To improve water quality	+	+	+	The aim of the policy is to reduce the potential for surface water flooding by encouraging permeable surfaces	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	x	x	X	No relationship	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	++	++	++	The aim of the policy is to reduce the potential for surface water flooding by encouraging permeable	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

				surfaces	
To conserve soil resources and quality	x	x	X	No relationship	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	x	x	x	No relationship	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The policy is seeking to both enhance the visual appearance of the town and to improve surface water flooding potential by encouraging permeable surfaces on driveways				

Policy EN11

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 –	Medium term	Long term (11 years +)		

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

	5 years)	(6 – 10 years)			
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	x	x	X	No relationship, not a land use policy	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	x	x	x	No relationship, not a land use policy	
To improve quality of surroundings	x	x	X	No relationship, not a land use policy	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	x	x	X	No relationship, not a land use policy	
To improve air quality	x	x	X	No relationship, not a land use policy	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	x	x	x	No relationship, not a land use policy	
To reduce contributions	x	x	X	No relationship, not a land use	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

to climate change				policy	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	x	x	X	No relationship, not a land use policy	
To improve water quality	x	x	X	No relationship, not a land use policy	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	x	x	X	No relationship, not a land use policy	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	x	x	X	No relationship, not a land use policy	
To conserve soil resources and quality	x	x	x	No relationship, not a land use policy	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	x	x	x	No relationship, not a land use policy	
Overall commentary and any cumulative	This policy is not a land use policy but is seeking to encourage pre-application engagement				

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

effects	
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Policy H1

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 (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 townscapes	+	+	+	The policy will not lead to development itself but will encourage a variety of smaller buildings and self-builders which will add to the character of the townscape and landscape	
To improve quality of	+	+	+	The policy will not lead to development itself but will	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

surroundings				encourage a variety of smaller buildings and self-builders which will add to the character of the townscape and landscape	
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	x	x	X	No relationship	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

manage flood risk					
To conserve soil resources and quality	x	x	x	No relationship	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	x	x	x	No relationship	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The policy will not lead to development itself but encourages a range of self-builders and smaller builders which could make a positive contribution to the vitality of the surroundings				

Policy H2

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 –	Medium term	Long term (11 years +)		

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

	5 years)	(6 – 10 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 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	x	x	x	No relationship	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	Increasing the ability to work for home will help to reduce the need to travel by private car and thus potentially reducing any air quality issues.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the	+	+	+	Increasing the ability to work for home will help to reduce the need	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

environment				to travel by private car	
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	+	+	+	Increasing opportunities for businesses and employees to work from home will reduce the requirement for business premises on greenfield sites elsewhere.	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	Increasing opportunities for businesses and employees to work from home will reduce the requirement for business premises on greenfield sites elsewhere.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The policy is seeking to provide a wide variety of opportunities for people to work locally. This will reduce the need to travel and potential reduce the amount of greenfield land requirement.				

Policy H3

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 (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	x	x	x	No relationship	
To maintain and	+	+	+	This policy is to promote the use of	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes				town centre housing which will improve the overall vitality of the town centre and have a positive effect on the townscape	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	This policy is to promote the use of town centre housing which will improve the overall vitality of the town centre and have a positive effect on the townscape	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	This policy is to promote the use of town centre housing which will improve the overall vitality of the town centre and have a positive effect on the townscape	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	This policy is to promote the use of town centre housing which will improve the overall vitality of the town centre and potentially reduce the need to travel. This would have a positive impact on air quality around the town.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	This policy is to promote the use of town centre housing which will improve the overall vitality of the town centre and potentially reduce the need to travel.	
To reduce contributions	x	x	x	No relationship	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

to climate change					
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	Encouragement of housing within the town centre will reduce the need to development on other sites around the town.	
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	+	+	+	Encouragement of housing within the town centre will reduce the need to development on other sites around the town.	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade	+	+	+	Encouragement of housing within the town centre will reduce the need to development on other sites	

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resources				around the town.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	Overall, the policy will have a positive effect on the baseline as it is seeking to encourage the vitality of the town centre but encouraging housing within the central areas. This will reduce the need to travel and the requirements for additional greenfield sites.				

Policy H4

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 (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	+	+	+	This policy is to promote the use of town centre housing which will improve the overall vitality of the town centre and potentially reduce	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

townscapes				the need to travel. This would have a positive impact on air quality around the town.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	This policy is to promote the use of town centre housing which will improve the overall vitality of the town centre and potentially reduce the need to travel. This would have a positive impact on air quality around the town.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	The reuse of the upper floors of historic buildings can bring them back into use and ensure the vitality of the building	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	This policy is to promote the use of town centre housing which will improve the overall vitality of the town centre and potentially reduce the need to travel. This would have a positive impact on air quality around the town.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	This policy is to promote the use of town centre housing which will improve the overall vitality of the town centre and potentially reduce the need to travel.	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

To reduce contributions to climate change	x	x	x	No relationship	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	This policy is to promote the use of town centre housing which will improve the overall vitality of the town centre and potentially reduce the need to travel. This would have a positive impact on air quality around the town.	
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	+	+	+	Encouragement of housing within the town centre will reduce the need to development on other sites around the town.	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and					

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	Encouragement of housing within the town centre will reduce the need to development on other sites around the town.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	Overall, the policy will have a positive effect on the baseline as it is seeking to encourage the vitality of the town centre but encouraging housing within the central areas. This will reduce the need to travel and the requirements for additional greenfield sites.				

Policy E1

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 (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	?	?	+	As there is no current site allocation, then the impact will be dependent on location. There are a number of policies within the plan which will ensure the baseline is	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

				taken into account	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	?	?	+	As there is no current site allocation, then the impact will be dependent on location. There are a number of policies within the plan which will ensure the baseline is taken into account	
To improve quality of surroundings	?	?	+	As there is no current site allocation, then the impact will be dependent on location. There are a number of policies within the plan which will ensure the baseline is taken into account	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	?	?	+	As there is no current site allocation, then the impact will be dependent on location. There are a number of policies within the plan which will ensure the baseline is taken into account	
To improve air quality	x	x	x	No relationship	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	o	+	+	The provision of employment opportunities within the town will provide enable locally working opportunities which could reduce	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

				the need to travel. Some additional employment may also increase traffic within the area	
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	?	?	+	As there is no current site allocation, then the impact will be dependent on location. There are a number of policies within the plan which will ensure the baseline is taken into account	
To conserve soil resources and quality	?	+	+	As there is no current site allocation, then the impact will be dependent on location. There are a number of policies within the plan which will ensure the baseline is taken into account	
To minimise the production of waste					

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	As there is no current site allocation, then the impact will be dependent on location. There are a number of policies within the plan which will ensure the baseline is taken into account	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The effect on the baseline is positive over the plan period as currently the location of the additional employment land is not known but there are a number of policies within the plan which will ensure the baseline is protected in the long term.				

Policy E2

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 (11 years +)		

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	x	x	x	No relationship	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to maintain the vitality and viability of the town centre which will have a positive effect on the townscape and the landscape on the edge of town.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to maintain the vitality and viability of the town centre which will have a positive effect on the townscape and the landscape on the edge of town.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to maintain the vitality and viability of the town centre which will have a positive effect on the townscape and the landscape on the edge of town.	
To improve air quality	x	x	x	No relationship	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to reduce the out of town retail units thus reducing the need to travel outside of the town centre for retail items and services.	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

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					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	Retaining retail units within the town centre and resisting out of town retail will help the vitality of the town centre and the potentially reduce the requirement for	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

				additional greenfield development	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The policy is largely positive on the baseline as it is seeking to retain the vitality of the town centre and resist any further out of town retail facilities				

Policy E3

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 (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 townscapes	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to enhance the viability and vitality of the town centre. This will help to enhance the townscape.	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to enhance the viability and vitality of the town centre. This will help to enhance the townscape.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to enhance the viability and vitality of the town centre. This will help to enhance the townscape.	
To improve air quality	x	x	x	No relationship	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	Ensuring that the town centre remains vibrant with a range of uses will help to reduce the need to travel for local residents, enabling them to reach facilities locally without the need for a private vehicle	
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	x	x	x	No relationship	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

water supply					
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					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to ensure that buildings within the town centre are in use and remain vibrant.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The policy is seeking to ensure that the town centre remains vibrant with a range of uses and facilities. This has a positive effect on many of the baseline indicators.				

Policy A1

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

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	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 townscapes	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to provide a range of sustainable transport options in and around the town. This will hence the local townscape as will assist in reducing the traffic and cars within the town centre.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to provide a range of sustainable transport options in and around the town. This will hence the local townscape as will assist in reducing the traffic and cars within the town centre.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to provide a range of sustainable transport options in and around the town. This will hence the local townscape as will assist in reducing the traffic and cars	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

				within the town centre.	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to provide a range of sustainable transport options in and around the town. This will hence the local townscape as will assist in reducing the traffic and cars within the town centre.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	++	++	++	The policy is seeking to provide a range of sustainable transport options in and around the town. This will hence the local townscape as will assist in reducing the traffic and cars within the town centre.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to provide a range of sustainable transport options in and around the town. This will hence the local townscape as will assist in reducing the traffic and cars within the town centre.	
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	x	x	x	No relationship	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

water supply					
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					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	The reduction of traffic within the centre will help to enhance and conserve the fabric of the historic core of the town.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The policy is seeking to increase the potential of alternative transport within the city centre. This will have a number of positive effects on the baseline.				

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

Policy A2

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 (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	x	x	x	No relationship	No relationship
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to provide a range of sustainable transport options in and around the town. This will hence the local townscape as will assist in reducing the traffic and cars within the town centre.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to provide a range of sustainable transport options in and around the town. This will hence the local townscape as will assist in reducing the traffic and cars	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

				within the town centre.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to provide a range of sustainable transport options in and around the town. This will hence the local townscape as will assist in reducing the traffic and cars within the town centre.	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to provide a range of sustainable transport options in and around the town. This will hence the local townscape as will assist in reducing the traffic and cars within the town centre.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	++	++	++	The policy is seeking to provide a range of sustainable transport options in and around the town. This will hence the local townscape as will assist in reducing the traffic and cars within the town centre.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to provide a range of sustainable transport options in and around the town. This will hence the local townscape as will assist in reducing the traffic and cars within the town centre.	
To reduce vulnerability	x	x	x	No relationship	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

to climate change					
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					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	x	x	x	No relationship	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The policy is seeking to provide a range of sustainable transport options in and around the town. This will hence the local townscape as will assist in reducing the traffic and cars within the town centre.				

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

Policy A3

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 (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 townscapes	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to standardise signage across the town. this will have a positive effect on the quality of the townscape	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to standardise signage across the town. this will have a positive effect on the quality of the townscape	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to standardise signage across the town. this will have a positive effect on the quality of the townscape	
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	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	x	x	x	No relationship	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The policy is seeking to standardise signage across the town. This will have a positive effect on the quality of the townscape.				

Policy A4

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 (11 years +)		

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	x	x	x	No relationship	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	o	o	+	The policy is seeking to safeguard car parks from redevelopment if they are considered to be used or required. This could have a neutral effect on the townscape as some redevelopment could be advantageous to the built form.	
To improve quality of surroundings	o	o	+	The policy is seeking to safeguard car parks from redevelopment if they are considered to be used or required. This could have a neutral effect on the townscape as some redevelopment could be advantageous to the built form.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	o	o	+	The policy is seeking to safeguard car parks from redevelopment if they are considered to be used or required. This could have a neutral effect on the townscape as some redevelopment could be advantageous to the built form.	
To improve air quality	x	x	x	No relationship	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	Removing car parks from the town centre could have a positive effect on reducing the traffic within the town centre and encouraging alternative travel methods	
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				No relationship	
To improve health of the population				No relationship	
To reduce crime and nuisance				No relationship	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

To conserve natural and manmade resources	x	x	x	No relationship	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The policy is seeking to safeguard used and required car parks, this has a neutral effect on the baseline as some redevelopment may have a positive impact on the townscape				

Policy A5

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 (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	x	x	x	No relationship	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

townscapes					
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	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to encourage electric charging points which will have a positive impact on air quality for fossil fuel run vehicles	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to encourage electric charging points which will have a positive impact on air quality for fossil fuel run vehicles	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to encourage electric charging points which will have a positive impact on air quality for fossil fuel run vehicles	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to encourage electric charging points which will have a positive impact on air quality for fossil fuel run vehicles	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

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					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	x	x	x	No relationship	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The policy is seeking to encourage the ability for residents to own electric vehicles and reduce the reliance on fossil fuel transport. This will have a positive effect on many of the baselines				

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

Policy SC1

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 (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 townscapes	+	+	+	The retention of community facilities will have a positive effect on the baseline	
To improve quality of surroundings	++	++	++	The retention of community facilities will have a positive effect on the surroundings and residents ability to enhance their quality of life locally	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance	+	+	+	The retention of local community facilities will help to safeguard some of	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

the historic environment and cultural heritage				the cultural heritage of the town and provide facilities for cultural events.	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	The provision of community facilities locally means that this could reduce the need to travel to other locations for cultural events or meeting places.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	++	++	++	The provision of community facilities locally means that this could reduce the need to travel to other locations for cultural events or meeting places.	
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	+	+	+	The safeguarding of existing facilities can reduce the need for	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

resources and quality				additional new sites on greenfield sites	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	x	x	x	No relationship	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The retention and provision of community will have a positive effect on the baseline as it will provide for facilities locally helping to reduce the need to travel and enhance the vitality and viability of the area.				

Policy SC2

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 (11 years +)		

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

		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 townscapes	+	+	+	Additional community facilities will help to enhance the vibrancy of the townscape and surrounding area.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	Additional community facilities will help to enhance the vibrancy of the townscape and surrounding area.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	x	x	x	No relationship	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	The provision of local community facilities will help to reduce the need to travel to facilities elsewhere and consequently help to reduce any air quality issues.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the	+	+	+	The provision of local community facilities will help to reduce the need	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

environment				to travel to facilities elsewhere	
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					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	x	x	x	No relationship	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The provision of additional local community facilities will have a positive effect on a number of the baseline indicators.
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Policy SC3

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 (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	+	The provision of allotments could also additional in providing wildlife corridors and habitats locally	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and	+	+	+	Allotments will provision open spaces and richness to the townscape	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

townscapes					
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	Allotments will provision open spaces and richness to the townscape	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	Allotments will provision open spaces and richness to the townscape	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	Allotments will provision open spaces and richness to the townscape	
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	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	X	x	x	No relationship	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	The provision of allotments will preserve some areas within the townscape for the production of food	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	The provision of allotments will preserve some areas within the townscape for the production of food	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The provision of allotments have a positive effect on many of the baseline indicators				

Policy SC4

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in	Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation
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B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

	terms of the three time periods)				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 provision of additional open spaces and play areas will provide an opportunity for wildlife habitats and corridors	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to retain open spaces and play areas, which add richness and vitality to the landscape and townscape.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to retain open spaces and play areas, which add richness and vitality to the landscape and townscape.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to retain open spaces and play areas, which add richness and vitality to the landscape and townscape.	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	The provision of green lungs within the town will allow the potential to	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

				improve air quality	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	x	x	x	No relationship	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	Maintaining open spaces will help to provide potential for surface water drainage and permeable areas.	
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	+	+	+	Maintaining open spaces will help to provide potential for surface water drainage and permeable areas.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to retain open spaces and play areas, which add richness and vitality to the landscape and townscape.	
To minimise the production of waste					

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to retain open spaces and play areas, which add richness and vitality to the landscape and townscape.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The retention and provision of open spaces and play areas within the townscape has many positive benefit on the baseline indicators.				

Policy SC5

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 (11 years +)		

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	+	The provision of additional local green spaces will provide an opportunity for wildlife habitats and corridors	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	The provision of local green spaces add to the richness and diversity of the landscape and townscape.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	The provision of local green spaces add to the richness and diversity of the landscape and townscape.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	The provision of some local green spaces is based on their historical significance. The designation of local green spaces will add to the cultural heritage.	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	The provision of green lungs within the town will allow the potential to improve air quality	
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	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	The provision of open spaces can have a dual purpose to provide areas of permeable surface to reduce surface run off	
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	+	+	+	The provision of open spaces can have a dual purpose to provide areas of permeable surface to reduce surface run off	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to preserve areas of open land which will retain areas of land and soils	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to preserve natural resources in preserving Local Green Spaces	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The provision of Local Green Spaces has many positive effects on the baseline. This is due to the nature of the reason for protecting the spaces is based on beauty, historic value, tranquillity and wildlife.
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Policy SC6

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 (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 townscapes	x	x	x	No relationship	
To improve quality of	x	x	x	No relationship	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

surroundings					
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	?	?	?	Depending on the location of the equipment with have an impact on the historic environment.	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	The provision of telecommunications will enable additional working for home opportunities which will also help reduce the need to travel.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	The provision of telecommunications will enable additional working for home opportunities which will also help reduce the need to travel.	
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	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

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					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	x	x	x	No relationship	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The policy is aiming to improve the telecommunications within the town which will have a positive effect on the baseline				

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

Site allocation – Cleeve Field

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 (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	+	The criteria contained within the policy is seeking to ensure the issues regarding nature conservation are taken into account in any development.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	The criteria contained within the policy is seeking to ensure the issues regarding landscape are taken into account in any development.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	The criteria contained within the policy is seeking to ensure the issues regarding landscape are taken into account in any development.	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	The site is within a conservation area and the criteria recognises that the design code will be important.	
To improve air quality	x	x	x	No relationship	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	The site is on the edge of the town and the policy is seeking to ensure that that alternative access and footpaths can be provided.	
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	+	+	+	Although the town is in close proximity to the River Wye SAC, the levels of phosphate are not an issues within this area.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	+	+	+	Water supply has not been highlighted as a potential issue in this area	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	The site is not within a flood risk area	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to on the edge and close to the built form. The criteria is seeking to protect and form a boundary between the edge of the site and the remaining open countryside	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	The issues regarding the natural environment and the conservation area have been acknowledged within the criteria of the policy	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The policy criteria is seeking to ensure that the baseline is protected.				

Site allocation – Merrivale Lane

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in	Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation
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B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

	terms of the three time periods)				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 site has been assessed as having no particular ecological assets, however the policy does contain criteria to protect existing hedgerows and trees.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	The policy contains criteria which seek to retain particular trees on the site, this will have a positive effect on the baseline.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	The site criteria is seeking to ensure that the surroundings are taken into account and the design and layout are respectful of this position within the conservation area.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	The site criteria is seeking to ensure that the surroundings are taken into account and the design and layout are respectful of this position within the conservation area.	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

To improve air quality	+	+	+	The site is within the town centre and therefore able alternative sustainable forms of transportation to be used instead of the private car. This could have a positive effect on the air quality of the surroundings	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	The site is within the built form of the town and the criteria is seeking to include additional pedestrian access	
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	+	+	+	Although the town is in close proximity to the River Wye SAC, the levels of phosphate are not an issues within this area.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	+	+	+	Water supply has not been highlighted as a potential issue in this area	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	?	?	?	Although the site is not within a flood risk area, some surface water flooding has been highlighted as an issue which will need to be addressed	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	The site is within the existing built form and this will reduce the amount of development which may need to take place on greenfield sites on the edge of the town.	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	There are a number of criteria included within the policy which is seeking to preserve and take account of the historic and landscape issues around the site.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The site is adjacent and partly within the conservation area with a number of on-site trees and hedgerows. The policy criteria is seeking to ensure that these elements are taken into account. Therefore the effect on the baseline is positive.				

Site allocation – Stoney Stile

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the	Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation
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B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

	effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)				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 policy criteria is seeking to ensure that allotments are taken into consideration and the landscape features which will enable additional wildlife habitats	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	The policy criteria is seeking to ensure that allotments are taken into consideration and the landscape features	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	The policy criteria is seeking to ensure that allotments are taken into consideration and the landscape features	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	The site is outside of the conservation area and therefore will ensure that the conservation area is conserved.	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

To improve air quality	+	+	+	The site is adjacent to the existing built form and will enable sustainable means of travel to local facilities.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	?	?	?	The policy indicates that there could be an issues around the access arrangements of the site. This can be addressed within the policy criteria.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+		
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+		
To improve water quality	+	+	+	Although the town is in close proximity to the River Wye SAC, the levels of phosphate are not an issues within this area.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	+	+	+	Water supply has not been highlighted as a potential issue in this area	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	This site is not highlighted as an area of flood risk	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+		
To minimise the production of waste					

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+		
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects					

Site allocation – The Chase Hotel

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 (11 years +)		

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	?	?	?	The sites are within the grounds of a hotel and an unregistered park and garden with a number of Tree Preservation Orders. These will need to be taken into in any proposals	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	?	?	?	The sites are within the grounds of a hotel and an unregistered park and garden with a number of Tree Preservation Orders. These will need to be taken into in any proposals	
To improve quality of surroundings	?	?	?	The sites are within the grounds of a hotel and an unregistered park and garden with a number of Tree Preservation Orders. These will need to be taken into in any proposals	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	?	?	?	The sites are within the grounds of a hotel and an unregistered park and garden with a number of Tree Preservation Orders. These will need to be taken into in any proposals	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	The site is close to the town centre	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

				and will help to reduce the need to travel which will have an effect on potential air quality.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	The site is close to the town centre and will help to reduce the need to travel	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+		
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	x	x	x	No relationship	
To improve water quality	+	+	+	Although the town is in close proximity to the River Wye SAC, the levels of phosphate are not an issues within this area.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	+	+	+	Water supply has not been highlighted as a potential issue in this area	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	x	x	x	No relationship	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	The reuse of a site within the town centre ensures that additional sites on the edge of the town are not required.	
To minimise the production of waste					

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	?	?	?	As the site is within an unregistered park and garden, within a conservation area with a number of Tree Preservation Orders this could have a mixed impact on the baseline.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	Given the environmental assets connected within this site there are mixed impacts on the baseline. the policy includes criteria which seeks to retain some of these features.				

Site allocation – Ryefield Centre

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 (11 years +)		

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to reuse the existing buildings and area of the former Grammar school.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to reuse an existing building and site which has become surplus to use. This will have a positive effect on the baseline	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to reuse an existing building and site which has become surplus to use. This will have a positive effect on the baseline	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to conserve the building if possible and respect the character of the area. This will have a positive effect on the historic heritage of the location	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	The site is within the town and would allow for walking into the centre, this will help to reduce potential impact on air quality	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	?	?	?	The site is within the town centre and therefore would reduce the need to travel, however, there may be some restrictions with parking within the	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

				local area which could add to congestion.	
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	+	+	+	Although the town is in close proximity to the River Wye SAC, the levels of phosphate are not an issues within this area.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	+	+	+	Water supply has not been highlighted as a potential issue in this area	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	The site is not at risk of flooding	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to reuse as existing site within the town, this will safeguard the need for further greenfield sites	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and					

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	++	++	++	The policy is seeking to reuse an existing site and where possible the existing building.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	This policy will have a positive effect on the baseline and will assist in the reuse of an existing site and building within the local area.				

Key:

++ Move towards significantly	+ Move towards marginally	-- Move away Significantly	- Move away marginally	0 Neutral	? Uncertain	X No relationship
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SEA Objective / Policy	1. To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	2. To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	3. To improve quality of surroundings	4. To conserve and 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	14. To improve health of the population	15. To reduce crime and nuisance	16. To conserve natural and manmade resources
Objective 1	++	++	++	++	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	+				++
Objective 2	?	?	+	?	?	+	?	?	+	+	+	+				+
Objective 3	?	?	+	?	?	?	?	?	+	+	+	+				+
Objective 4	X	++	++	++	++	++	++	X	X	X	X	X				+
Objective 5	+	++	++	++	X	+	X	X	X	X	X	X				++
Policy EN1 Ross Design policy	X	++	++	++	X	X	+	+	X	X	+	X				+
Policy EN2 Shopfront and signage	X	++	++	++	X	X	X	X	X	XX	X	X				X
Policy EN3 Settlement boundary	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
Policy EN4 Infill and backland development	+	++	++	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+				+
Policy EN5 Eco-building	?	+	+	+	++	X	++	++	+	+	+	+				++
Policy EN6 Solar photovoltaic energy	X	+	+	+	X	X	++	X	X	X	X	X				++

Policy EN7 Landscape setting	+	++	++	++	+	x	x	x	x	x	x	+				++
Policy EN8 Key views	x	++	++	++	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				+
Policy EN9 Green infrastructure	++	++	++	+	+	+	+	+	++	x	+	+				++
Policy EN10 Hard surfacing of drives and parking areas	x	+	+	+	x	x	x	++	+	x	++	x				+
Policy EN11 Pre-application community engagement	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x
Policy H1 Self and custom build	x	+	+	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x
Policy H2 Home working	x	x	x	x	+	+	x	x	x	x	x	+				+
Policy H3 Town centre housing	x	+	+	+	+	+	x	+	x	x	x	+				+
Policy H4 Living and working over shops	x	+	+	+	+	+	x	+	x	x	x	+				+
Policy E1 New employment development	?	?	?	?	x	+	x	x	x	x	x	?				+
Policy E2 Resisting out of town retail	x	+	+	+	x	+	x	x	x	x	x	x				x
Policy E3 Town centre uses	x	+	+	+	x	+	x	x	x	x	x	x				+

Policy A1 Sustainable transport	x	+	+	+	+	++	+	x	x	x	x	x				x
Policy A2 Walking and cycling	x	+	+	+	+	++	+	x	x	x	x	x				x
Policy A3 Walking and cycling signage	x	+	+	+	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x
Policy A4 Changes to car parks	x	o	o	o	x	+	x	x	x	x	x	x				x
Policy A5 Provision of electric charging points	x	x	x	x	+	+	+	+	x	x	x	x				x
Policy SC1 Retaining community facilities	x	+	++	+	+	++	x	x	x	x	x	+				+
Policy SC2 New community facilities	x	+	+	x	+	+	x	x	x	x	x	x				x
Policy SC3 Allotments	+	+	+	+	+	x	x	x	x	x	x	+				+
Policy SC4 Play areas	+	+	+	+	+	+	x	+	x	x	+	+				+
Policy SC5 Local Green Spaces	+	+	+	+	+	+	x	+	x	x	+	+				+
Policy SC6 Telecommunications infrastructure	x	x	x	?	+	+	x	x	x	x	x	x				x
Site allocations																
Cleeve Field	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
Merrivale Lane	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+			+

Stoney Stile	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	
The Chase Hotel	?	?	?	?	+	+	+	x	+	+	x	+				?	
Ryefield Centre	+	+	+	+	+	?	x	x	+	+	+	+				++	
Summary of effects of whole plan on each SEA Objective	+	++	++	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	
	The plan positively and actively addresses the main purpose of the SEA objective. Policies surrounding landscape and green infrastructure highlight the importance of maintaining and enhancing biodiversity.	The plan policies include the importance of the quality of the existing landscapes and it is clear though the majority of policies that they are positively addressing the maintaining and enhancement of these key features covered in the SEA objective.	The plan looks favourably to improving quality of surroundings with any new developments, a key SEA objective.	The plan positively addresses SEA objectives relating to the historic environment and culture heritage.	There are no policies specifically addressing air quality, however some of the measures outlined in some policies relating to biodiversity and landscaping could be seen as enhancing through planting and seeking to reduce the need to travel	The plan seeks to address issues regarding car parking and alternative means of travel.	The plan does not specifically aim any policies at reducing contributions to climate change however some policies have positive moves towards the environment and sustainability which in term could work towards reducing contributions to climate change.	The plan does not specifically aim any policies at reducing vulnerability to climate change however some policies have positive moves towards the environment and sustainability which in term could be targeted at reduction of vulnerability	The plan does not specifically aim any policies to improve water quality directly, however some policies make reference to water management and other policies of the development plan ensure water quality is addressed	The plan makes direct reference to sustainable sources of water supply in a policy which does address a key SEA objective therefore overall it is positive	The plan actively and positively addresses the issue of flooding in a number of its policies which is a key SEA objective	There are no direct policies to address this issue however many of the policies regarding the reuse of existing buildings and land will have a positive impact on to protecting soils on the edge of the town.					The plan makes effort to look at sustainability and biodiversity and the natural resources in the area and overall makes positive contributions towards the SEA objective
Cumulative effects of whole plan (1 + 2 + 3...)	Overall, the Ross On Wye NDP policies positively address the majority of SEA objectives and if implemented correctly will cumulatively have a positive impact in the short and long term on environmental assets in the designated area.																
Commentary for significant cumulative effects	The plan overall is a positive answer to the objectives of the SEA.																

Appendix 5

Option 1	Do nothing
Option 2a	Allocate major sites deemed suitable and deliverable
Option 2b	Option 2A with the additional of Broadmeadows / Tanyard
Option 3	Reconsider allocated land currently assessed as unsuitable

Appendix 6

Consultation date: 9 November to 21 December 2018

Consultation title: Ross on Wye Neighbourhood Plan **revised** Regulation 14

*N.B. This consultation feedback is **only** for comments received on the SEA of the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan*

Consultee	Summary of Comments	Response to Comments
Natural England	No comments received	Noted
Historic England	Comments received but not to the SEA	Noted
Environment Agency	Comments received specific to the SEA	Noted
Natural Resources Wales	No comments received	Noted

Appendix 7

Objectives verses SEA Objectives (SMART and Compatibility Test)				
SEA Stage B1	Key:	SMART criteria:		
+ =/++	Compatible/very comp	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	<p>The following matrix appraises the emerging Ross-on-Wye Neighbourhood Plan policies in terms of their SMART criteria and their compatibility with the SEA Objectives.</p> <p>These have been developed from Government guidance on SEA and from the local evidence base gathered for identifying the NDP issues.</p>
- =	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.	

NDP Policies	SEA objectives																Summary in relation to baseline	Overall commentary and any initial cumulative effects/ Recommendations	Conformity with Core Strategy in terms of SEA
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
Baseline	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
Policy EN7 Landscape setting	+	++	++	++	+	x	x	x	x	x	x	+				++	The policy has a positive effect on the baseline as it is seeking to protect and enhance the Wye Valley AONB which cover a substantial part of the neighbourhood area	None	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA
Policy EN9 Green infrastructure	++	++	++	+	+	+	+	+	++	x	+	+				++	The policy will have a positive effect on the baseline as it is seeking to establish a network of green infrastructure which will have a positive effect on surrounding wildlife, townscapes and the wider landscape.	None	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA

Policy EN10 Hard surfacing of drives and parking areas	x	+	+	+	x	x	x	++	+	x	++	x				+	This policy has a positive effect on the baseline as it is seeking to remove the potential for surface water flooding	None	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA
Policy H2 Home working	x	x	x	x	+	+	x	x	x	x	x	+				+	The policy has a positive effect on the baseline as it is seeking to encourage homeworking, which could reduce the need to travel	none	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA
Policy H4 Living and working over shops	x	+	+	+	+	+	x	+	x	x	x	+				+	The policy is seeking to promote the multi-use of the town centre for housing which will improve the overall vitality of the town centre and reduce the need to travel. It will also reduce the need for additional edge of town sites for new housing opportunities.	None	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA
Policy E2 Resisting out of town retail	x	+	+	+	x	+	x	x	x	x	x	x				x	The policy is seeking to safeguard the vitality and viability of the town centre which will have a positive effect on the townscape and the surroundings.	none	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA
Policy A1 Sustainable transport	x	+	+	+	+	++	+	x	x	x	x	x				x	The policy is seeking to provide sustainable transport routes across the town. This could have a positive effect on short trips and improve air quality and the townscape	None	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA
Policy SC1 Retaining community facilities	x	+	++	+	+	++	x	x	x	x	x	+				+	The policy will have a positive effect on the baseline as it is seeking to retain community facilities locally and thus reducing the need to travel and adding to the vitality of the town.	None	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA

Policy SC2 New community facilities	x	+	+	x	+	+	x	x	x	x	x	x				x	The policy will have a positive effect on the baseline as it is seeking to support further community facilities locally and thus reducing the need to travel and adding to the vitality of the town.	None	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA
Policy SC4 Play areas	+	+	+	+	+	+	x	+	x	x	+	+				+	The policy has a positive effect on the baseline as it is seeking to protect existing open space and play areas. These add value to the townscape and surrounding and also provide a habitat for wildlife.	None	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA
Site allocations																			
Stoney Stile Approx. 15 dwellings	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	Site is greenfield and is seeking to allocate housing, open space and allotments on site. The site was judged within SHLAA to be a natural extension of the town	None	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

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 EN7

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 (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to enhance the setting of the Wye Valley AONB and the surrounding landscape. This will have a positive effect on the biodiversity.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	++	++	++	The policy is specifically aimed at enhancing and protecting the quality of the landscape round the town	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

To improve quality of surroundings	++	++	++	The policy is specifically aimed at enhancing and protecting the quality of the landscape round the town	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	++	++	++	The policy is specifically aimed at enhancing and protecting the quality of the landscape round the town, which will have a positive effect on the cultural heritage of the town.	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	The policy is specifically aimed at enhancing and protecting the quality of the landscape round the town, which will have a positive effect on air quality	
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	x	x	x	No relationship	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

water supply					
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	x	x	x	No relationship	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	The policy is specifically aimed at enhancing and protecting the quality of the landscape round the town	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	x	++	++	The policy is specifically aimed at enhancing and protecting the quality of the landscape round the town	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	Overall the policy will have a positive effect on the baseline as it is specifically aimed at enhancing and protecting the quality of the landscape round the town				

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

Policy EN9

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 (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	++	++	++	The policy is seeking to establish a network of green infrastructure. This will have a positive effect on biodiversity providing potential habitat networks.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	++	++	++	A network of additional green infrastructure will have a positive effect to enhance the surrounding townscape and landscape.	
To improve quality of surroundings	++	++	++	Green infrastructure will have a positive effect on the overall quality of the surroundings.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance	+	+	+	Green infrastructure can have a positive effect on the quality of the	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

the historic environment and cultural heritage				historic environment	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	Green infrastructure can have been multi-functional therefore could give rise to some additional walking and cycling opportunities. Thus reducing the need to travel by private car.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	Green infrastructure can have been multi-functional therefore could give rise to some additional walking and cycling opportunities. Thus reducing the need to travel by private car.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	Green infrastructure can provide additional flood storage areas	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	Green infrastructure can provide additional flood storage areas	
To improve water quality	++	++	++	Green infrastructure can provide additional areas water storage areas	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	x	x	x	No relationship	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	Green infrastructure can provide additional flood storage areas	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	The establishment of a network of green infrastructure will also have ensure that some areas of land is retained.	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	++	++	++	A network work of green infrastructure will conserve natural resources.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The policy is seeking to establish a network of green infrastructure which will have a positive effect on the surrounding townscape, wildlife and landscape.				

Policy EN10

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
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B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

	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 townscapes	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to enhance both the character and appearance of the local townscape and ensure that surfaces are responsive to surface water issues.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to enhance both the character and appearance of the local townscape and ensure that surfaces are responsive to surface water issues	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to enhance both the character and appearance of the local townscape and ensure that surfaces are responsive to surface water issues	
To improve air quality	x	x	X	No relationship	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

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	++	++	++	The aim of the policy is to reduce the potential for surface water flooding by encouraging permeable surfaces	
To improve water quality	+	+	+	The aim of the policy is to reduce the potential for surface water flooding by encouraging permeable surfaces	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	x	x	X	No relationship	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	++	++	++	The aim of the policy is to reduce the potential for surface water flooding by encouraging permeable surfaces	
To conserve soil resources and quality	x	x	X	No relationship	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of					

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	x	x	x	No relationship	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The policy is seeking to both enhance the visual appearance of the town and to improve surface water flooding potential by encouraging permeable surfaces on driveways				

Policy H2

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 (11 years +)		

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	x	x	X	No relationship	
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	x	x	x	No relationship	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	Increasing the ability to work for home will help to reduce the need to travel by private car and thus potentially reducing any air quality issues.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	Increasing the ability to work for home will help to reduce the need to travel by private car	
To reduce contributions	X	x	x	No relationship	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

to climate change					
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	+	+	+	Increasing opportunities for businesses and employees to work from home will reduce the requirement for business premises on greenfield sites elsewhere.	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	Increasing opportunities for businesses and employees to work from home will reduce the requirement for business premises	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

				on greenfield sites elsewhere.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The policy is seeking to provide a wide variety of opportunities for people to work locally. This will reduce the need to travel and potential reduce the amount of greenfield land requirement.				

Policy H4

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 (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	+	+	+	This policy is to promote the use of town centre housing which will improve the overall vitality of the town centre and potentially reduce	

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townscapes				the need to travel. This would have a positive impact on air quality around the town.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	This policy is to promote the use of town centre housing which will improve the overall vitality of the town centre and potentially reduce the need to travel. This would have a positive impact on air quality around the town.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	The reuse of the upper floors of historic buildings can bring them back into use and ensure the vitality of the building	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	This policy is to promote the use of town centre housing which will improve the overall vitality of the town centre and potentially reduce the need to travel. This would have a positive impact on air quality around the town.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	This policy is to promote the use of town centre housing which will improve the overall vitality of the town centre and potentially reduce the need to travel.	

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To reduce contributions to climate change	x	x	x	No relationship	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	This policy is to promote the use of town centre housing which will improve the overall vitality of the town centre and potentially reduce the need to travel. This would have a positive impact on air quality around the town.	
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	+	+	+	Encouragement of housing within the town centre will reduce the need to development on other sites around the town.	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and					

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nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	Encouragement of housing within the town centre will reduce the need to development on other sites around the town.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	Overall, the policy will have a positive effect on the baseline as it is seeking to encourage the vitality of the town centre but encouraging housing within the central areas. This will reduce the need to travel and the requirements for additional greenfield sites.				

Policy E2

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 (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	x	x	x	No relationship	

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To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to maintain the vitality and viability of the town centre which will have a positive effect on the townscape and the landscape on the edge of town.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to maintain the vitality and viability of the town centre which will have a positive effect on the townscape and the landscape on the edge of town.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to maintain the vitality and viability of the town centre which will have a positive effect on the townscape and the landscape on the edge of town.	
To improve air quality	x	x	x	No relationship	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to reduce the out of town retail units thus reducing the need to travel outside of the town centre for retail items and services.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	x	x	x	No relationship	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	x	x	x	No relationship	

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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					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	Retaining retail units within the town centre and resisting out of town retail will help the vitality of the town centre and the potentially reduce the requirement for additional greenfield development	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The policy is largely positive on the baseline as it is seeking to retain the vitality of the town centre and resist any further out of town retail facilitates				

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Policy A1

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 (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 townscapes	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to provide a range of sustainable transport options in and around the town. This will hence the local townscape as will assist in reducing the traffic and cars within the town centre.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to provide a range of sustainable transport options in and around the town. This will	

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				hence the local townscape as will assist in reducing the traffic and cars within the town centre.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to provide a range of sustainable transport options in and around the town. This will hence the local townscape as will assist in reducing the traffic and cars within the town centre.	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to provide a range of sustainable transport options in and around the town. This will hence the local townscape as will assist in reducing the traffic and cars within the town centre.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	++	++	++	The policy is seeking to provide a range of sustainable transport options in and around the town. This will hence the local townscape as will assist in reducing the traffic and cars within the town centre.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to provide a range of sustainable transport options in and around the town. This will hence the local townscape as will assist in reducing the traffic and cars within the town centre.	

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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					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	The reduction of traffic within the centre will help to enhance and conserve the fabric of the historic core of the town.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative	The policy is seeking to increase the potential of alternative transport within the city centre. This will have a number of positive effects on the baseline.				

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effects	
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Policy A4

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 (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 townscapes	o	o	+	The policy is seeking to safeguard car parks from redevelopment if they are considered to be used or required. This could have a neutral effect on the townscape as some redevelopment could be advantageous to the built form.	

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To improve quality of surroundings	o	o	+	The policy is seeking to safeguard car parks from redevelopment if they are considered to be used or required. This could have a neutral effect on the townscape as some redevelopment could be advantageous to the built form.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	o	o	+	The policy is seeking to safeguard car parks from redevelopment if they are considered to be used or required. This could have a neutral effect on the townscape as some redevelopment could be advantageous to the built form.	
To improve air quality	x	x	x	No relationship	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	Removing car parks from the town centre could have a positive effect on reducing the traffic within the town centre and encouraging alternative travel methods	
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	

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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				No relationship	
To improve health of the population				No relationship	
To reduce crime and nuisance				No relationship	
To conserve natural and manmade resources	x	x	x	No relationship	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The policy is seeking to safeguard used and required car parks, this has a neutral effect on the baseline as some redevelopment may have a positive impact on the townscape				

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Policy SC1

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 (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 townscapes	+	+	+	The retention of community facilities will have a positive effect on the baseline	
To improve quality of surroundings	++	++	++	The retention of community facilities will have a positive effect on the surroundings and residents ability to enhance their quality of life locally	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic	+	+	+	The retention of local community facilities will help to safeguard some of the cultural heritage of the town and	

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environment and cultural heritage				provide facilities for cultural events.	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	The provision of community facilities locally means that this could reduce the need to travel to other locations for cultural events or meeting places.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	++	++	++	The provision of community facilities locally means that this could reduce the need to travel to other locations for cultural events or meeting places.	
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	+	+	+	The safeguarding of existing facilities can reduce the need for additional new sites on greenfield	

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				sites	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	x	x	x	No relationship	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The retention and provision of community will have a positive effect on the baseline as it will provide for facilities locally helping to reduce the need to travel and enhance the vitality and viability of the area.				

Policy SC2

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 (11 years +)		

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To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	x	x	x	No relationship	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	Additional community facilities will help to enhance the vibrancy of the townscape and surrounding area.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	Additional community facilities will help to enhance the vibrancy of the townscape and surrounding area.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	x	x	x	No relationship	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	The provision of local community facilities will help to reduce the need to travel to facilities elsewhere and consequently help to reduce any air quality issues.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	The provision of local community facilities will help to reduce the need to travel to facilities elsewhere	

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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					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	x	x	x	No relationship	
Overall commentary	The provision of additional local community facilities will have a positive effect on a number of the baseline				

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and any cumulative effects	indicators.
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Policy SC4

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 (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	+	The provision of additional open spaces and play areas will provide an opportunity for wildlife habitats and corridors	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to retain open spaces and play areas, which add richness and vitality to the landscape and townscape.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to retain open spaces and play areas, which add richness and vitality to the landscape	

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				and townscape.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to retain open spaces and play areas, which add richness and vitality to the landscape and townscape.	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	The provision of green lungs within the town will allow the potential to improve air quality	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	x	x	x	No relationship	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	Maintaining open spaces will help to provide potential for surface water drainage and permeable areas.	
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	+	+	+	Maintaining open spaces will help to provide potential for surface	

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manage flood risk				water drainage and permeable areas.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to retain open spaces and play areas, which add richness and vitality to the landscape and townscape.	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to retain open spaces and play areas, which add richness and vitality to the landscape and townscape.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The retention and provision of open spaces and play areas within the townscape has many positive benefit on the baseline indicators.				

Appendix 8

Objectives and context	Where are the points covered in Neighbourhood Development Plan SEA (insert chapter, section, page references, as necessary)
<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 objectives; between SEA and Neighbourhood Development Plan objectives; and between SEA objectives and other local plan objectives are identified and described. 	<p>Chapter 1.6 – 1.10</p> <p>Chapter 2 methodology, chapter 3 and tables A2 and A3</p> <p>Chapter 3 paragraph 3.5 and 3.7</p> <p>Chapter 3, paragraph 3.1</p> <p>Chapter 3</p>
<p>Scoping</p> <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. • Reasons are given for eliminating issues from further consideration. 	<p>Chapter 2, paragraphs 2.6-2.9</p> <p>Chapter 2 and chapter 4</p> <p>Chapter 2</p> <p>Chapter 2, chapter 4 and chapter 5</p>
<p>Alternatives</p> <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. 	<p>Chapter 4 and chapter 5</p> <p>Paragraph 5.4</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>Chapter 5</p> <p>Chapter 5, chapter 3,</p> <p>Chapter 5</p>
<p>Baseline information</p> <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. 	<p>Chapter 1, Chapter 3</p> <p>Initial screening report and Chapter 1</p> <p>Chapter 2</p>
<p>Prediction and evaluation of likely significant environmental effects</p> <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. 	<p>Tables A2, A3 and A4</p> <p>Tables B2 and B3, D2 and D3</p> <p>Table B4</p> <p>Chapter 5, chapter 6</p> <p>Chapter 5, chapter 6</p> <p>Chapter 2</p>

<p>Mitigation measures</p> <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. 	<p>Chapter 6, paragraph 6.6 – 6.9</p> <p>Chapter 6</p>
<p>The Environmental Report</p> <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. 	<p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>Chapter 2</p> <p>Paragraph 2.6-2.9</p> <p>Paragraph 2.8-2.9</p> <p>Page 1 / Paragraph 1.8 / Chapter 6</p>
<p>Consultation</p> <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. 	<p>Paragraph 2.6-2.9</p> <p>Chapter 8</p>
<p>Decision-making and information on the decision</p> <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. 	<p>Chapter 8</p> <p>Following draft consultation</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasons are given for choosing the Neighbourhood Development Plan as adopted, in the light of other reasonable alternatives considered. 	Following draft consultation
<p>Monitoring measures</p> <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.) And that • Proposals are made for action in response to significant adverse effects arising from the monitoring of the Neighbourhood Development Plan. 	<p>Chapter 7</p> <p>Chapter 7</p> <p>Chapter 7</p> <p>Chapter 7</p>