

Habitats Regulations Assessment



Welsh Newton & Llanrothal Group Neighbourhood Area

October 2015

Welsh Newton and Llanrothal HRA

HRA Screening Assessment

Contents

1.0	Introduction	p 2
2.0	The requirement to undertake HRA of NDPs	p 3
3.0	Methodology	p 4
4.0	Results of the initial Screening Report	p 5
5.0	Description of the Welsh Newton and Llanrothal NDP	p 6
6.0	Identification of other plans and policies which may have in-combination effects	p 8
7.0	Assessment of the likely significant effects of the Welsh Newton and Llanrothal NDP	p 8
8.0	Timescales for adoption	p 9
9.0	Conclusions from the screening matrix	p 9

Appendix 1 – List of options assessed

Appendix 2 – Options assessment matrix

Appendix 3 – Full Screening Matrix

Appendix 4 – Initial Screening Report (May 2013)

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This Screening Assessment relates to a Neighbourhood Development Plan that is considered to be in general conformity with higher level strategic plans, such as the Herefordshire Core Strategy and the National planning Policy Framework. The screening stage involves assessing broadly whether the Draft Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have a significant effect on any European site(s).
- 1.2 Welsh Newton and Llanrothal Parish Council is producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Welsh Newton and Llanrothal group Parish, in order to set out the vision, objectives and policies for the development of the Parish up to 2031. This HRA reviews the Draft Welsh Newton and Llanrothal Plan (October 2015, being assessed).
- 1.3 The NDP has identified settlement boundaries within Welsh Newton and Llanrothal to provide up houses in sites within the settlement boundaries. It provides general policies that clarify and provide detail to the policies within the Herefordshire Core Strategy therefore it requires a high level screening assessment to build upon the HRA Screening Assessment Report for the Herefordshire Core Strategy. Therefore this high level screening assessment should be read in combination with the Herefordshire Pre-submission publication of the Local Plan-Core Strategy Habitat Regulations Assessment Report (April 2014) and ensures that there will not be any significant impacts upon Natura 2000 sites.
- 1.4 This high level screening assessment, which should be read in conjunction with the Pre submission publication of the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy), together Adopted Core Strategy (October 2015) and Habitat Regulations Assessment Report (published in April 2015), ensures that there will not be any significant impacts upon Natura 2000 sites.
- 1.5 The map below shows Welsh Newton and Llanrothal Area with the European Site highlighted.

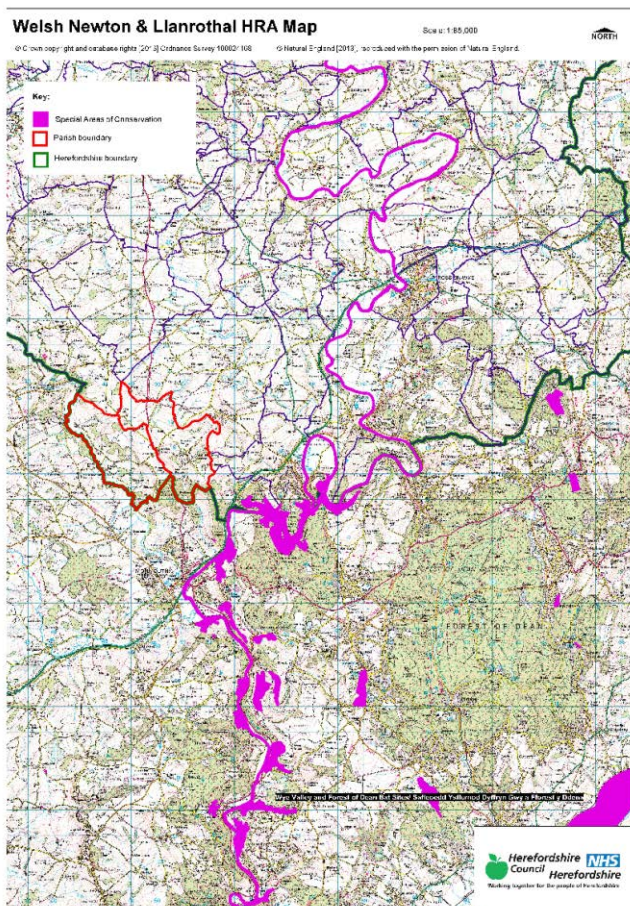


Figure 1- Welsh Newton and Llanrothal HRA Map

2.0 The requirement to undertake Habitats Regulations Assessment of neighbourhood plans

- 2.1 The requirement to undertake HRA of development plans was confirmed by the amendments to the “Habitats Regulations” published for England and Wales in July 2007 and updated in 2013. Therefore, when preparing its NDP, Welsh Newton and Llanrothal Parish Council is required by law to carry out an assessment known as “Habitats Regulations Assessment”. It is also a requirement in Regulation 32 schedule 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012.
- 2.2 Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive provides that:
Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the [European] site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.
- 2.3 HRA is an impact-led assessment and refers to the assessment of the potential effects of a neighbourhood plan on one or more European sites, including Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs):
- **SPAs** are classified under the European Council Directive ‘on the conservation of wild birds’ (79/409/EEC; ‘Birds Directive’) for the protection of **wild birds and their habitats** (including particularly rare and vulnerable species listed in Annex 1 of the Birds Directive, and migratory species).
 - **SACs** are designated under the Habitats Directive and target **particular habitats** (Annex 1) and/or species (Annex II) identified as being of European importance.
- 2.4 For ease of reference during HRA, general practice has been that these three designations are collectively referred to as either **Natura 2000** or **European sites**. This means that a Screening Assessment is carried out with regard to the Conservation Objectives of the European Sites and with reference to other plans or projects to identify if any significant effect is likely for any European Site.

3.0 Methodology

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

4.0 Results of the Initial Screening Report and options

- 4.1 The initial Screening report (May 2013) found that the River Wye SAC is located to the south east of the parish and is 1.3km away from the parish Neighbourhood Area and therefore a full screening assessment is required.
- 4.2 For full details of the River Wye's attributes which contribute to and define their integrity and vulnerable data see Appendix 1 of the Welsh Newton and Llanrothal Plan Initial Screening Report. The Initial Screening Report, June 2013, can be found in Appendix 4 of this HRA report. This information made it possible to identify the features of each site which determine site integrity, as well as the specific sensitivities of each site, therefore enabling later analysis of how the potential impacts of the Welsh Newton and Llanrothal Prior Neighbourhood Plan may affect site integrity.
- 4.3 The initial options for the NDP were assessed to determine their environmental impact that could affect the River Wye SAC. Overall the majority of the options proposing any growth appear to depend on location and scale in relation to environmental impact. The options are listed in appendix 2 and are unlikely to have a significant impact on the SAC.
- 4.4 As Welsh Newton and Llanrothal progresses from options onto their NDP policies, the Plan will need to identify ways in which the least effect on the River Wye SAC could be achieved, alongside taking forward the preferred options from the consultation from the community. If a majority of these options are taken forward either as standalone policies or in combination with other policies then the mitigation from these options will help to counter balance the effect of all new development within the Parish. A list of the options assessed can be found in Appendix 1, and the Assessment matrix for the options can be found Appendix 2.

5.0 Description of the Welsh Newton and Llanrothal Neighbourhood Plan

- 5.1 The Draft Welsh Newton and Llanrothal Plan present detailed policies for development in the Neighbourhood Area, which is equivalent to the group parish boundary, up to 2031. The first part of the Plan introduces the Plan and its preparation and discusses the background to each of the villages.
- 5.2 The NDP then details the vision for the Parish over the Plan period and twenty objectives of how this will be achieved. The objectives cover the following six themes:
- The Environment
 - Housing
 - Roads, Road Safety and Public Transport
 - Children and Young People
 - Community Assets, Local Resources and Energy
- 5.3 : The Neighbourhood Plan also sets out 15 policies on themes based on the twenty objectives Listed below.

Overall Objectives

- G01-To support appropriate business and rural economic development.
 G02- To promote access to the open countryside.
 G03- To protect and enhance the natural and built environment to benefit local wildlife.

Welsh Newton Common Objectives

- WNC1-To meet the need for affordable, local needs housing.
 WNC2-To ensure development is appropriate in scale to rural setting.
 WNC3- To promote development which is sustainably designed and uses local materials.
 WNC4-To support temporary workers accommodation.
 WNC5- To support sensitive conversions of existing rural buildings.
 WNC6-To protect and enhance the natural environment.
 WNC7-To promote local sustainability and community energy schemes.
 WNC8-To protect and enhance local distinctiveness and the special characteristics of the area.

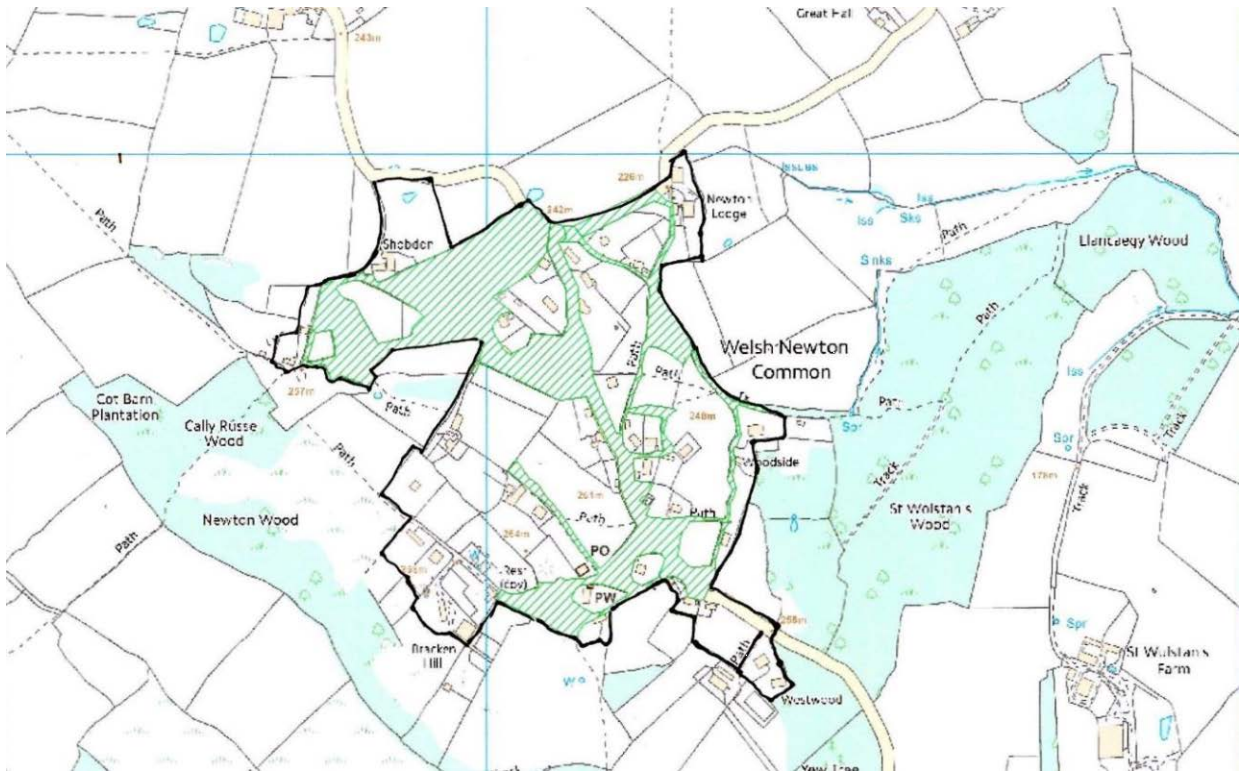
Welsh Newton Objectives

- WN1-To limit housing to exception housing in line with emerging core strategy policy RA3.
 WN2-To promote sustainable design and local materials.
 WN3-To support accessibility and promote local facilities.
 WN4-To protect and enhance local distinctiveness and the special characteristics of the area.

Llanrothal Objectives

- L1-To limit housing to "Exception Housing" in line with Emerging Core Strategy Policy RA3.
 L2-To promote sustainable design and local materials.
 L3-To protect and enhance local distinctiveness and the special characteristics in the area.
 L4- To improve traffic management on local roads.
 L5-To protect the historic environment.

- 5.4 The NDP proposes that the sites can be found for housing in the vacant sites within the settlement boundaries of Welsh Newton and Llanrothal in order to facilitate the proportional growth envisaged by Policy RA1 and RA2 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) this can be found on the maps below.



Welsh Newton and Llanrothal Group Parish (Licensee) License Number: 0100056031

Settlement Boundary for Welsh Newton and Llanrothal.

5.5 As an 4.16 identified settlement Welsh Newton Common has been allocated a settlement boundary, Welsh Newton and Llanrothal have not been allocated a settlement boundary. The HRA screening assessment has found the settlement boundary proposed to have no significant impact on the SAC.

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

- 6.1 Regulation 102 of the Habitats Regulations 2010 requires an appropriate assessment where a land use plan (not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site) is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. In addition, in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulation 2012 a NDP cannot have a significant effect on any European Site whether alone or in combination with another Plan.
- 6.2 There are a number of potentially relevant plans and projects which may result in in-combination effects with the Core Strategy across Herefordshire, these plans have been reviewed and can be found in Appendix 2 of the publication of the adopted Herefordshire Local Plan – Core Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment (May 2014). It is seen that as this NDP does not go over and beyond the requirements set out in the Core Strategy this review will also be substantial for the NDP.
- 6.3 It is considered that as the Welsh Newton and Llanrothal NDP contains policies and a settlement boundary which would result in similar levels of development than envisaged by strategic policies, as set out in the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy), this review will suffice for the purposes of the NDP. Adjacent neighbourhood are at varying stages of their production. But none of the proposals within these plans involve the measures to promote higher levels of growth than the Local Plan (Core Strategy) at this stage.

6.4 The latest version of the HRA for the Local Plan (Core Strategy) also identifies that both the Water Cycle Study for Herefordshire and the work on the Nutrient Management Plan, have both been considered as part of the in-combination assessment. The former, on the one hand, indicates the potential for planned water abstraction requirements combined with pressures on European Sites from the Local Plan's policies, whilst the latter seeks to ensure the favourable conservation status of the SAC in respect of phosphate levels as soon as possible and at the latest by 2027.

7.0 Assessment of the 'likely significant effects' of the Welsh Newton and Llanrothal NDP

7.1 As required under Regulation 102 of the Habitats Regulations 2010, a screening assessment has been undertaken to identify the 'likely significant effects' of the NDP. A screening matrix was prepared in order to identify whether any of the policies in the Plan would be likely to have a significant effect on the River Wye SAC.

7.2 The findings of the screening matrix can be found in the Screening Matrix in Appendix 3 of this report. Colour coding was used to record the likely impacts of the policies on the European site and its qualifying habitats and species as shown in the table 1 below.

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

7.3 The screening matrix took the approach of screening each policy, objective and housing policy individually, which is consistent with current guidance. The results from the HRA reports for the Pre-submission version of the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the proposed Main Modifications were also taken into consideration.

7.4 Mitigation of some of the identified potential effects could be achieved through additional policy wording and the implementation of the other policies within the NDP and the Local Plan (Core Strategy). Surface and foul water drainage helps to alleviate impact of flooding through precautionary work before development is committed. Policy in the Welsh Newton and Llanrothal NDP will safeguard any proposal or development against detrimental impacts to the environment and protected sites.

8.0 Timescale for adoption

- 8.1 The Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) has been adopted in October 2015. Given the current draft stage of the Welsh Newton and Llanrothal Neighbourhood Development Plan, the assumption is made whilst producing the HRA reports and screening matrix is that the Core Strategy will be adopted prior to the adoption of the Welsh Newton and Llanrothal Neighbourhood Development Plan.

9.0 Conclusions from the Screening Matrix

- 9.1 None of the Welsh Newton and Llanrothal NDP objectives and policies (July 2015) were concluded to be likely to have a significant effect on the River Wye SAC. This conclusion is based on assumptions and information contained within the Welsh Newton and Llanrothal NDP, the proposed Main Modifications to the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the latest version of the HRA for the Local Plan (Core Strategy), updated in April 2015 in light of the said modifications and published on the Council's website.
- 9.2 In many cases this is because the policy itself would not result in development, i.e., it related instead to criteria for development. Where there are housing development policies, a number of cases the policies also included measures to help support the natural environment policy and protecting Local Heritage therefore no significant effect conclusion could be reached. In addition, these policies have the potential to mitigate some of the possible adverse effects arising from other policies such as housing and transport infrastructure policies.
- 9.3 The plan allocates settlement boundaries within the main settlement of Welsh Newton Common. The Neighbourhood Area has two RA1 settlements of RA2 settlement of Steen's Bridge. Within the settlement boundaries there is space to accommodate housing to meet the Core Strategy housing development target. In response to the River Wye SAC, the River Lugg runs adjacent to the Parish of Welsh Newton and Llanrothal and has a number of tributaries running into the Lugg and Wye catchment.
- 9.4 The water cycle study highlights that most of the River Wye catchment is in a moderate ecological status. The parish falls within the catchment area for the Lower River Wye SAC. It is within the River Wye sub catchment area. The River Wye downstream of the confluence with the River Lugg is currently. The WCS also identifies that the Welsh Newton and Llanrothal Group is regarded as one of the highest areas at risk of fluvial flooding in the Lower Wye sub-catchment. The Lower Wye catchment is a part of a large, linear ecosystem which acts as an important wildlife corridor, an essential migration route, and breeding area for many nationally and internationally important species.
- 9.5 The 2014 Nutrient Management Plan highlights the Lower Wye section of the SAC is currently meeting the phosphate target (0.05 mg/l phosphate). This suggests this new development may have a small impact on the phosphate levels downstream in the Lugg. Welsh Newton and Llanrothal NDP has addressed these issues through policy, which is likely to mitigate the effects of additional development. In addition, the preparation of the Nutrient Management Plan for the River Wye SAC should ensure that development within Herefordshire which can be accommodated within existing water discharge permits would not be likely to have a significant effect upon the River Wye SAC.
- 9.6 It is unlikely that the Welsh Newton and Llanrothal Plan will have any in-combination effects with any Plans from neighbouring parish councils as the level of growth proposed is the same as that proposed for the Housing Market Area in the Herefordshire Core Strategy and all of the proposed housing sites will be of a small scale.

- 9.7 It is therefore concluded that the Welsh Newton and Llanrothal **Plan will not have a likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC.**
- 9.8 Any further amendments to policies (post October 2015) will be rescreened if required and an addendum to this report will be produced.

Appendix 1

Appendix 1

Welsh Newton and Llanrothal Options

Option 1 Do nothing
Option 2 Allocate sites for housing
Option 3 Manage future housing using a settlement boundary
Option 4 Allocate site and identify a settlement boundary

Appendix 2

Table 1: HRA Screening of Emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan Options

Parish Council Names: Welsh Newton and Llanrothal

NDP Title: Welsh Newton and Llanrothal Neighbourhood Development Plan

Date undertaken: May 2015

Core Strategy HRA version: May 2014

NDP objectives, options policies	HRA Screening of Emerging NDP objectives, options and policies				
	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the objective/option/policy	Likely effect if objective/option/policy implemented. Could they have Likely Significant Effects (LSE) on European Sites? (Yes/No, with reasons) <i>(If no, progress on to next objective/option/policy. If yes, progress on to next set of columns in row)</i>	European Sites potentially affected (Refer to Initial Screening)	Mitigation measures to be considered, as necessary, through redraft of objective/option/policy and to be considered as part of Appropriate Assessment	Could the policy have likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account?)
Options					
Option 1 Do nothing.	No NDP to determine planning applications.	Criteria policies within the Core Strategy would guide further development. Specific policies and proposals for the parish would not exist.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Option 2 Allocate sites for housing.	Small scale proportionate growth on	Greater degree of certainty over the impact	River Wye (including	Specific environmental issues could be	No, development in line with the Local

	specific sites identified on a proposals map.	of future development on the European sites, as the location of housing would be pre-determined and not left to market forces.	the River Lugg) SAC	<p>investigated during the site search and be positively addressed within the policy wording.</p> <p>Policy would need to take account of the proportional growth requirements of the Core Strategy and potential headroom capacity at the local STW.</p>	<p>Plan (Core Strategy) and the policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.</p> <p>Policy criteria should be included within the NDP which reflects this. Further assessments will be undertaken at draft policy stage.</p>
Option 3 Manage future housing using a settlement boundary.	Small scale proportionate growth within a defined settlement boundary area.	Uncertain as to the impact on the European sites as dependant on the location of the development	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	<p>Additional criteria would be required when formulating the accompanying settlement boundary policy to ensure that no likely significant effects could occur.</p> <p>Policy would need to take account of the proportional growth requirements of the Core Strategy and potential headroom capacity at the local STW.</p>	<p>No, development in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.</p> <p>Policy criteria should be included within the NDP which reflects this. Further assessments will be undertaken at draft policy stage.</p>
Option 4 (Preferred option) Allocate sites and identify a settlement boundary.	Small scale proportionate growth on specific sites identified on a proposals map and within a defined	Greater degree of certainty over the impact of future development on the European sites, as the location of housing would	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	Specific environmental issues could be investigated during the site search and be positively addressed	No, development in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the policy safeguards which exist

	settlement boundary area.	be pre-determined and the settlement boundary would provide a clear distinction between open countryside and the built environment.		<p>within the policy wording.</p> <p>Additional criteria would be required when formulating the accompanying settlement boundary policy to ensure that no likely significant effects could occur.</p> <p>Policy would need to take account of the proportional growth requirements of the Core Strategy and potential headroom capacity at the local STW.</p>	<p>within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.</p> <p>Policy criteria should be included within the NDP which reflects this. Further assessments will be undertaken at draft policy stage.</p>
Option 5 Manage future housing through a development management policy.	Small scale proportionate growth where the location would be determined by a criteria based policy.	Uncertain as to the impact on the European sites as dependant on the location of the development.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	<p>Criteria based housing policy would require to include reference to mitigation measures to avoid any non-disturbance effects on the River Wye via its catchment.</p> <p>Policy would need to take account of the proportional growth requirements of the Core Strategy and potential headroom capacity at the local STW.</p>	<p>No, development in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.</p> <p>Policy criteria should be included within the NDP which reflects this. Further assessments will be undertaken at draft policy stage.</p>

Appendix 3

Table 1: HRA Screening of Emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan Objectives and Policies

Parish Council Names: Welsh Newton and Llanrothal

NDP Title: Welsh Newton and Llanrothal Neighbourhood Development Plan

Date undertaken: May 2015

Core Strategy HRA version: May 2014

NDP objectives, options policies	HRA Screening of Emerging NDP objectives, options and policies				
	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the objective/option/policy	Likely effect if objective/option/policy implemented. Could they have Likely Significant Effects (LSE) on European Sites? (Yes/No, with reasons) <i>(If no, progress on to next objective/option/policy. If yes, progress on to next set of columns in row)</i>	European Sites potentially affected (Refer to Initial Screening)	Mitigation measures to be considered, as necessary, through redraft of objective/option/policy and to be considered as part of Appropriate Assessment	Could the policy have likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account?)
Overall Objectives					
Objective GO1:	Objective to promote the use of existing buildings for rural businesses that do not detract from the tranquillity and beauty of the area.	Businesses that do not detract from the local tranquillity and beauty will be encouraged to use existing buildings instead of building new ones. No Likely	N/A	N/A	N/A

This document is copyright of Herefordshire Council, please contact the Neighbourhood Planning team if you wish to reuse it in whole or part.

		Significant Impact expected.			
Objective GO2:	Objective to improve access to existing paths and reinstate lost footpaths	Residents will have greater access to the countryside via the improved and reinstated footpaths. No Likely Significant Impact expected	N/A	N/A	N/A
Objective GO3:	Objective to protect important and protected species and habitats, and to increase connectivity between them.	Important species and habitats will be maintained and improved via increased connectivity. New buildings will include space for bats and specific species of birds that nest in Buildings. No Likely Significant Impacts Expected.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Locality Objectives					
Welsh Newton Common Objectives					
Objective WNC1:	Objective to create new and protect existing smaller starter home sized houses.	There will be more smaller and starter-home sized properties available for local needs within the parishes. No likely significant impacts expected.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Objective WNC2:	Objective to ensure that Welsh Newton Common's	The Common area would be spared any major	N/A	N/A	N/A

This document is copyright of Herefordshire Council, please contact the Neighbourhood Planning team if you wish to reuse it in whole or part.

	Housing growth is small scale and 'organic'	development. No likely significant impacts expected.			
Objective WNC3:	Objective to support the use of eco-building principles and the use of local and traditional materials	More properties in the parishes would have a lower carbon footprint as a result of this objective. No likely significant impacts expected.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Objective WNC4:	Objective to support the use of temporary, more sustainable forms of accommodation, such as log cabins, where there is a temporary need identified	Temporary workers would be accommodated in more sustainable temporary accommodation which wouldn't threaten the character of the parishes. No likely significant impacts expected.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Objective WNC5:	Objective to support the use of suitably converted existing properties wherever possible to meet the housing need	Otherwise redundant buildings capable of conversion would be brought into use. No likely significant impacts expected.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Objective WNC6:	Objective to support the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and environmental features within the Common area.	The development process will be used to enhance biodiversity and the connections between habitats in the Common area. No likely significant impacts expected.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Objective WNC7:	Objective to protect an area of land with a significant average wind-	Residents would have the option to develop a community-owned wind	N/A	N/A	N/A

This document is copyright of Herefordshire Council, please contact the Neighbourhood Planning team if you wish to reuse it in whole or part.

	speed from residential development.	energy scheme within the protected area. No likely significant impacts expected.			
Objective WNC8:	Objective to protect and enhance local views, woodland, tranquillity and footpaths	Specific views and tree cover will be maintained. Commercial development, rural business or diversification that benefits from tranquillity will be encouraged, and those that threaten it resisted. Lost footpaths and bridleways would be reinstated. No likely significant impacts expected.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Welsh Newton Objectives					
Objective WN1:	Objective to ensure that new housing is limited in the first instance to exception housing in line with Core Strategy Policy RA3	Redundant or unoccupied buildings, or buildings that could be converted into residential dwellings would be used before creating new houses that may lie unoccupied for a long time. No likely significant impacts expected.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Objective WN2:	Objective to support the use of eco-building principles and the use of local and traditional materials	More properties in the parishes would have a lower carbon footprint as a result of this objective. No likely significant impacts expected.	N/A	N/A	N/A

This document is copyright of Herefordshire Council, please contact the Neighbourhood Planning team if you wish to reuse it in whole or part.

Objective WN3:	Objective to support the accessibility to, and the promotion of, local facilities where they exist.	The plan seeks to support any existing or new facilities that are, or would be, provided to enable the population to meet more of their needs locally. No likely significant impacts expected.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Objective WN4:	Objective to protect and enhance tranquillity, historic and natural environment, and the village boundary	Commercial development, rural business or diversification that benefits from tranquillity will be encouraged, and those that threaten it resisted. Historic and natural features of the settlement will be protected and enhanced. And development should be limited to within a virtual settlement boundary. No likely significant impacts expected.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Llanrothal Objectives					
Objective L1:	Objective to ensure that new housing is limited in the first instance to exception housing in line with Core Strategy Policy RA3	Redundant or unoccupied buildings, or buildings that could be converted into residential dwellings would be used before creating new houses that may lie unoccupied for a long time. No likely significant impacts expected.	N/A	N/A	N/A

This document is copyright of Herefordshire Council, please contact the Neighbourhood Planning team if you wish to reuse it in whole or part.

Objective L2:	Objective to support the use of eco-building principles and the use of local and traditional materials	More properties in the parishes would have a lower carbon footprint as a result of this objective. No likely significant impacts expected.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Objective L3:	Objective to protect and enhance the features that contribute towards local distinctiveness and the areas special characteristics.	Features such as the tranquillity, environmental quality, (including water quality), important views and veteran trees will be protected and enhanced. No likely significant impacts expected.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Objective L4:	Objective to improve traffic management on the roads within the area.	Damage to roadsides, verges, bridges and road surfaces themselves would be avoided. No likely significant impacts expected.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Objective L5:	Objective to protect the historic assets of the Llanrothal area.	Historic assets such as listed buildings and traditionally built properties will be protected. No likely significant impacts expected.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Policies					
Policy WNL1:	Policy to ensure that important elements of the local landscapes character are enhanced and protected.	Issues such as the sense of tranquillity, heritage assets, environmental, habitat and wildlife assets will all be protected. Light pollution will be limited.	N/A	N/A	N/A

This document is copyright of Herefordshire Council, please contact the Neighbourhood Planning team if you wish to reuse it in whole or part.

		Developments will be required to deliver high quality green infrastructure or to contribute towards the local community through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Important views of the landscapes will also be protected. No likely significant impacts expected			
Policy WNL2:	Policy to ensure developers put in place measures to protect and enhance local wildlife and habitats.	Wildlife and habitats should not be adversely effected by new developments which will include roosting and nesting space for compatible species, planting of local and native species and the provision of wildlife corridors and stepping stones. No likely significant impacts expected.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Policy WNL3:	Policy to protect two areas of greenspace from development	The two areas could also be enhanced via CIL contributions. No likely significant impacts expected.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Policy WNL4:	Policy to support the use of design principles that take their lead from existing historical and architectural forms or the traditional materials used locally. This	More properties in the parishes would fit into the existing character of the settlements and have a lower carbon footprint as a result of this policy. No likely	N/A	N/A	N/A

This document is copyright of Herefordshire Council, please contact the Neighbourhood Planning team if you wish to reuse it in whole or part.

	includes sustainable building techniques	significant impacts expected.			
Policy WNL5:	Policy to support proposals within the settlement boundary of WN Common and as exception sites in line with Core Strategy policies RA3, RA4 and H2.	This policy will determine house sizes and support affordable or self build or community led housing projects, as well as those designed for older people. No likely significant impacts expected.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Policy WNL6:	Policy that will accept proposals in the wider countryside according to the criteria set out in Core Strategy policies RA3, RA4, RA5 and H2, but places further conditions on the proposals	Proposal in the wider countryside will be built with regard to their design and finish using local materials and sustainable building methods, requiring a wildlife survey to be undertaken and mitigation measures in place, of an appropriate scale and setting, with a demonstrable local need identified. No likely significant impacts identified	N/A	N/A	N/A
Policy WNL7:	Policy to ensure that appropriate conversions or renovations are considered before new build wherever possible. It also specifies the design and sustainability principles for their consideration.	Proposals to bring rural outbuildings, un-occupied dwellings and unused stone dwellings into residential use will be encouraged. No likely significant impacts expected.	N/A	N/A	N/A

This document is copyright of Herefordshire Council, please contact the Neighbourhood Planning team if you wish to reuse it in whole or part.

Policy WNL8:	Policy to determine the nature of proposals for a particular site in Welsh Newton.	Proposals for housing, commercial (retail) and or tourism (holiday cottage) would be considered providing a number of issues concerning drainage, flooding and wildlife can be resolved. No likely significant impacts expected.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Policy WNL9:	Policy to support in principle proposals for small scale and appropriate conversion of former agricultural buildings to offices, workshops and other business uses where they are part of agricultural diversification and contribute to local economic development.	Such proposals will have suitable access and traffic management measures, appropriate landscaping, noise attenuation, lighting mitigation and not involve frequent heavy goods movements, excessive fresh water use or waste water generation. No likely significant impacts expected.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Policy WNL10:	Policy to determine the conditions under which polytunnel development would be permitted or supported.	Polytunnels in the parish would be located where they are not; visually intrusive; form an adverse threat to the setting of heritage assets; within 30metres of any residential property; or create any difficulties with regard to access and traffic. Nor will they be permitted in Flood Zone 3 or within 2 meters of	N/A	N/A	N/A

This document is copyright of Herefordshire Council, please contact the Neighbourhood Planning team if you wish to reuse it in whole or part.

		a public right of way. No likely significant impacts expected.			
Policy WNL11:	Policy to support proposals for creating or improving the broadband infrastructure along with necessary conditions.	Providing proposals are sympathetically designed and located and any road reinstatement works are guaranteed for 10 years proposals will be supported. No likely significant impacts expected.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Policy WNL12:	Policy in support of small scale, community led low carbon energy schemes where they are able to meet the needs of local communities within the Parish	Small scale hydro or wind proposals will be supported provided their visual impact is minimised, noise levels are acceptable, and negative wildlife impacts are avoided. No likely significant impacts expected.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Policy WNL13:	Policy in support of proposals for renewable energy schemes providing they meet certain criteria	Support would be dependent upon transport and ecological study's being undertaken and the scale size, mass, design, noise & light pollution and location being considered acceptable. Small scale micro domestic installations that present negligible impacts to neighbours will also be supported. No likely	N/A	N/A	N/A

This document is copyright of Herefordshire Council, please contact the Neighbourhood Planning team if you wish to reuse it in whole or part.

		significant impacts expected.			
Policy WNL14:	Policy in support of proposals that promote improvement or extension to existing rights of way will be supported	New development proposals will be required to contribute towards improving the local rights of way network in support of the wellbeing and health of residents and visitors alike. No likely significant impacts expected.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Policy WNL15:	Policy in support of proposals for new, or improvements to existing, facilities will be supported in principle. Criteria for change of use will also apply.	Local community facilities will be protected as community assets, and a presumption in favour of the re-use of such facilities for health, education, and community use. No likely significant impacts expected.	N/A	N/A	N/A

This document is copyright of Herefordshire Council, please contact the Neighbourhood Planning team if you wish to reuse it in whole or part.

Appendix 4

**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)

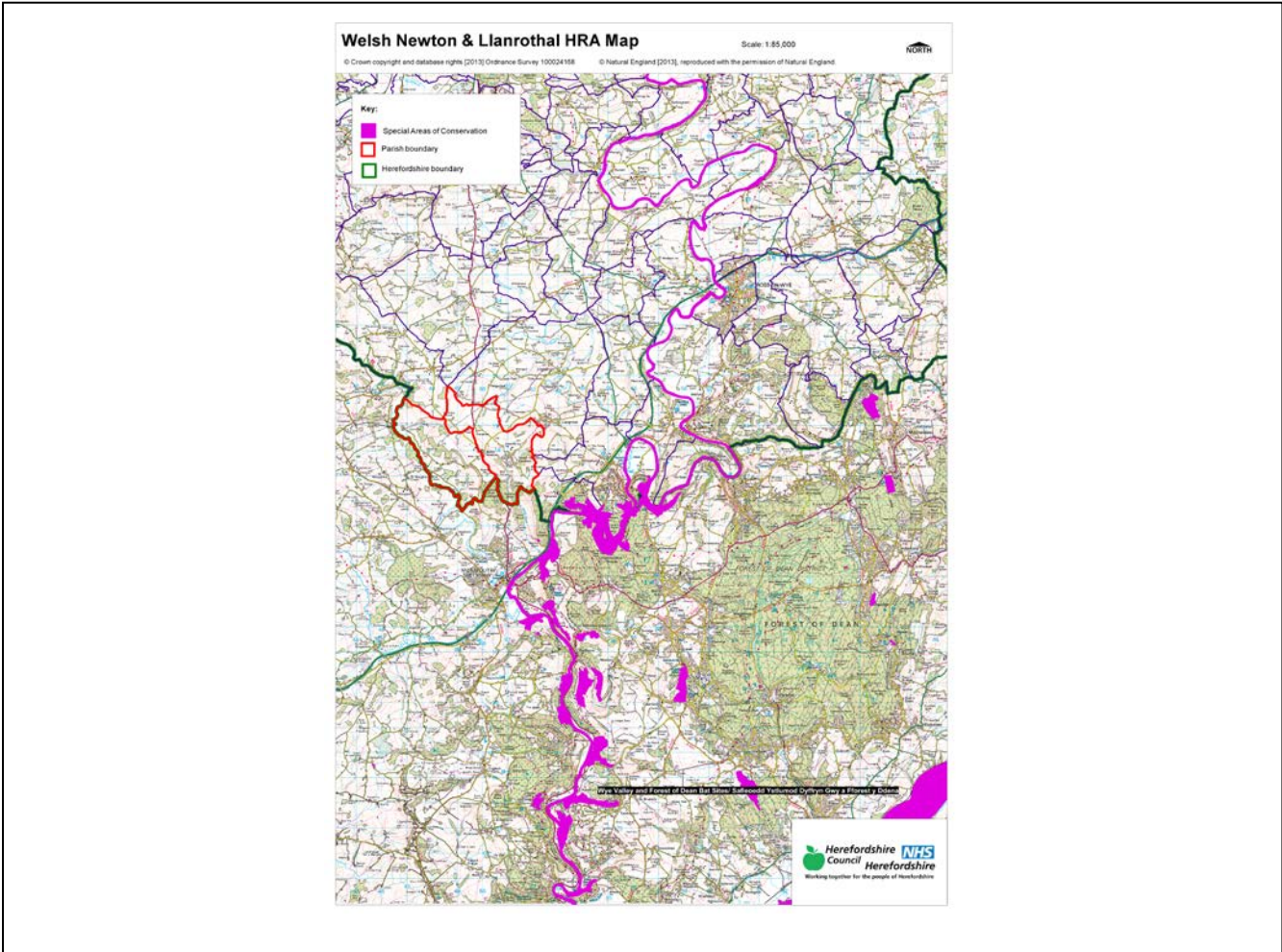
Neighbourhood Area:	Welsh Newton & Llanrothal Neighbourhood Area
Parish Council:	Welsh Newton & Llanrothal Group Parish Council
Neighbourhood Area Designation Date:	29/01/2013

Introduction

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

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

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



Initial HRA Screening

River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC:

Does the Neighbourhood Area have the River Wye (including the River Lugg) in or next to its boundary?	N	The River Wye 1.3km away from the Group Parish
Is the Neighbourhood Area in the hydrological catchment of the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC?	Y	The east of the Group Parish is within the River Wye hydrological catchment area.
If yes above, does the Neighbourhood Area have mains drainage to deal with foul sewage?	N	There is no mains drainage within the Group Parish

Downton Gorge SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of Downton Gorge SAC?	N	Downton Gorge is 53.1km away from the Group Parish
---	---	--

River Clun SAC:

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

Usk Bat Sites SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of the SAC boundary?	N	Usk Bat Sites are 28.3km away from the Group Parish
--	---	---

Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of any of the individual sites that make up the Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites?	N	The Group Parish is 12.7km 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 Group Parish is 3.5km 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 Welsh Newton & Llanrothal Group Neighbourhood Area and a Full HRA Screening will be required.

European Site

(List only those which are relevant from above)

River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC

Wye Valley Woodlands SAC

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

The following environmental features are within or in general proximity to the Welsh Newton & Llanrothal Group 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 AQMA's within the Group Parish	N
Ancient Woodland	11	Daren Wood; Nantywain Wood (border); Graiglywelyn Wood; Skenchill and Cwm Woods; Spout Wood; Tregate Warren; Newton Wood; Buckholt Wood; St Wolstans Wood; Pyefinch Wood; Hazel Wood	Y
Areas of Archaeological Interest	0	There are no AAI's within the Group Parish	N
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	0	There are no AONB's within the Group Parish	N
Conservation Areas	0	There are no Conservation Areas within the Group Parish	N
European Sites	0	There are no SAC's within the Group Parish	N
Flood Areas		The western boundary of the Group Parish is affected by Flood Zones 2 and 3	Y
Listed Buildings	Numerous	There are numerous Listed Buildings scattered all around the Group Parish	Y
Local Sites (SWS/SINCS/RIGS)	5 (SWS)	Daren Wood; Nantywain Wood (border); Skenchill Wood and adjoining woodlands; Tump Wood; Woodland at Welsh Newton & Callow Hill	Y
Long distance footpaths/trails	0	There are no long distance footpaths within the Group Parish	N
Mineral Reserves	0	There are no Minerals Reserves Sites within the Group Parish	N
National Nature Reserve	0	There are no NNR's within the Group Parish	N
Registered & unregistered parks and gardens	0	There are no Registered or Unregistered Parks and Gardens within the Group Parish	N
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	2	Pembridge Castle (uninhabited parts); Motte at Tegate Castle Farm	Y
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	0	There are no SSSI's within the Group Parish	N

Decision Notification:

The initial screening highlights that the Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Welsh Newton & Llanrothal Group Neighbourhood Area:

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

Assessment date: 31/05/2013

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

