

# Environmental Report



## Vowchurch & District Group Neighbourhood Area

February 2016

## Contents

### Non-technical summary

1.0	Introduction	2
2.0	Methodology	5
3.0	The SEA Framework	7
4.0	Appraisal of Objectives	11
5.0	Appraisal of Options	13
6.0	Appraisal of Policies	14
7.0	Implementation and monitoring	16
8.0	Next steps	17

Appendix 1: Initial SEA Screening Report

Appendix 2: SEA Scoping Report incorporating Tasks A1, A2, A3 and A4

Appendix 3: Consultation responses from Natural England and English Heritage

Appendix 4: SEA Stage B incorporating Tasks B1, B2, B3 and B4

Appendix 5: Options Considered

Appendix 6: Environmental Report checklist

## 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.

Vowchurch and District Group Parish Council has undertaken to prepare an NDP and this process has been subject to environmental appraisal pursuant to the SEA Directive. The group parish of Vowchurch and District consists of five parish areas: Michaelchurch Escley, Newton, St Margaret's, Turnastone and Vowchurch. They lie within the Golden Valley situated in the west of Herefordshire on the Welsh border.

The Group Parish area consists of 24 ancient woodland, 32 Special Wildlife Sites, 8 Ancient Monuments, 4 Sites and Special Scientific Interest and 4 unregistered park and gardens. The area is predominately rural with the dwellings having a high degree of physical separation between them. Historically the area supported small family run farms providing local agricultural occupations.

Two villages; Michaelchurch Escley and Vowchurch, each contain less than 15 homes at present. Both villages have a church. There is a school at Michaelchurch but this is some distance from the village centre, the village also have a public house. Lower Maes-coyd consists of a small scattering of houses with no local amenities.

The Draft Vowchurch and District NDP includes 3 objectives, which are designed to deliver the overarching vision on the ground, and it is intended that these objectives will be supported by 9 criteria based planning policies. Alternative options were considered prior to reaching a decision over the format of the draft plan.

The environmental appraisal of the Vowchurch and District NDP has been undertaken in line with the Environmental Assessment of Plan and Programmes Regulations 2004. Stage A of the SEA process involved Scoping and Stage B provided a review and analysis of the NDP. Stage C involved preparing an Environmental Report and Stage D comprises a formal consultation on both this and the Draft Plan itself.

Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening has been carried out as the Parish and has determined that a full assessment is not required. Natural England have concurred with this conclusion and a separate report have been produced.

On the whole, it is considered that the Vowchurch and District 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. Therefore no changes to the NDP are recommended as a result of the SEA.

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

## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report forms the draft Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Vowchurch and District Group Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP).
- 1.2 The Vowchurch and District Group NDP does not propose any site allocations. Michaelchurch Escley, Vowchurch and Lower Maes-coed settlements are highlighted for proportional levels of growth in Policy RA2 of the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy). The NDP will, however, provide general policies for guiding future development across the parish 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 Vowchurch and District Group NDP and it concluded that due to the range of environmental designations in and around the parish, there may be significant environmental effects and consequently an SEA would be required.

### Parish Neighbourhood Plan Context

- 1.6 The group parish of Vowchurch and District consists of five parish areas: Michaelchurch Escley, Newton, St Margaret's, Turnastone and Vowchurch. They lie within the Golden Valley situated in the west of Herefordshire on the Welsh border.
- 1.7 The Group Parish area consists of 24 ancient woodland, 32 Special Wildlife Sites, 8 Ancient Monuments, 4 Sites and Special Scientific Interest and 4 unregistered park and gardens. The area is predominately rural with the dwellings having a high degree of physical separation between them. Historically the area supported small family run farms providing local agricultural occupations.
- 1.8 Two villages; Michaelchurch Escley and Vowchurch, each contain less than 15 homes at present. Both villages have a church. There is a school at Michaelchurch but this is some distance from the village centre, the village also have a public house. Lower Maes-coyed consists of a small scattering of houses with no local amenities.
- 1.9 The vision for the Vowchurch Group in 2031 is set out in a detailed Vision Statement.' Looking ahead to 2031, we want to see an area that preserves its beautiful and essentially rural character, whilst accommodating housing development that enable more families to live in the area, largely, but not entirely, within the existing settlements.'
- 1.10 The 3 NDP objectives which underpin this vision are:
- 1) To meet local housing needs through the provision of additional and affordable homes to meet the needs of the community
  - 2) To ensure that any new development is designed to complement the character of the existing settlements and the wider environment
  - 3) By enabling more families to live in the area to support local businesses, particularly farming and support local services, not least by maintaining local schools.

### **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 Vowchurch and District Group 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) is anticipated to be adopted on 16 October 2015.
- 1.14 Paragraph 216 of the NPPF and Planning Practice Guidance set out the weight that may be given to relevant policies in emerging plans, including NDPs, and indicated that weight may be given to relevant policies in emerging NDPs according to:
- The stage of preparation of the emerging plan (the more advanced the preparation, the greater the weight that may be given);
  - The extent to which there are unresolved objections to relevant policies (the less significant the unresolved objections, the greater the weight that may be given); and
  - The degree of consistency of the relevant policies in the emerging plan to the policies in this Framework (the closer the policies in the emerging plan to the policies in the Framework, the greater the weight that may be given).
- 1.15 This part of the NPPF is reinforced by Planning Practice Guidance published in March 2014, which is clear that an emerging NDP may be a material planning consideration once it has completed 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 Table 4.14 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) lists Michaelchurch Escley, Vowchurch and Lower Maes-coyd among the settlements which it considers to be sustainable locations for proportional growth in line with the provisions of Policy RA2. This policy is expected to facilitate the delivery of 5,300 homes across the areas outside Hereford and the Market Towns in accordance with Policy RA1 and it anticipates that NDPs will be the principle mechanism for delivering growth in the rural areas.
- 1.18 Once made (adopted) by Herefordshire Council, the Vowchurch and District Group NDP will have a role in guiding future development proposals within the parish, by setting out policies against which planning applications will be determined.

### **Structure of SEA**

- 1.19 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 Vowchurch and District Group NDP objectives and the SEA framework
  - Section 4 - Appraises the objectives set within the NDP against the SEA framework
  - Section 5 - Appraises the options set within the NDP against the SEA framework
  - Section 6 – Appraises the policies set within the NDP against the SEA framework
  - Section 7 – Discusses the implementation and monitoring of the NDP

- 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 Vowchurch and District Group 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, Vowchurch and District Group SEA Scoping Report was available to four<sup>1</sup> statutory bodies for consultation from 27 November 2016 to 8 January 2016.

### 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.

---

<sup>1</sup> Statutory consultation bodies: Natural England; English Heritage; Environment Agency Natural Resources Wales

**Natural England:** Two documents to be updated within A1. Include information on geodiversity in A2

*Response: The two documents referred to have been updated in A1 and further baseline data has been incorporated at A2.*

**English Heritage:** No substantive objection to the content of the document and comments to earlier tranches of SEA Scoping reports remain relevant.

*Response: Comments are noted and necessary changes made*

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

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

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

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

- *The EC Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010)* - These regulations transpose the Habitats Directive in England, Wales and to a limited extent Scotland by ensuring that activities are carried out in accordance with the Habitats Directive, which is to protect biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and species of wild flora and fauna.
- *The EC Water Framework Directive (2000)* - Commits all EU member states to achieve good qualitative and quantitative status of all water courses by 2015
- *The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)* - The major legal instrument for wildlife protection in Britain, although other significant acts have been passed since. It has numerous parts and supplementary lists and schedules many of which have been amended since publication.
- *Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (2011)* - Forms part of the UK's Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework by setting out England's contribution towards the UK's commitments under the United Nations Convention of Biological Diversity.
- *The Countryside and Right of Way Act (2000)* - Creates a statutory right of access on foot to certain types of open land, to modernise the public rights of way system, to strengthen nature conservation legislation, and to facilitate better management of AONBs

- *The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)* - Designed to help achieve a rich and diverse natural environment and thriving rural communities through modernised and simplified arrangements for delivering Government policy.
- *Revised EU Sustainable Development strategy (2009)* - Sets out a single strategy on how the EU will more effectively meet its long-standing commitment to meet the challenges of sustainable development.
- *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2012)* - Consolidates the suite of PPG/PPS into one succinct planning policy document.
- *Planning Practice Guidance (2013)* - Sets out the vision, objectives and policies for the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy), which will guide development across the county up to 2031.
- *Herefordshire Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP) 2013-2015* - Sets out the Council's strategy for supporting economic growth, social inclusion and reducing the environmental impacts of transport, as well as the program of investment for the period April 2013 to April 2015.
- *Understanding Herefordshire Report (2014)* - Important to understand the place such as the local economy natural and built environment in which people live, learn and work as part of understanding their quality of life. Enable development for economy and housing to the required levels and growth should be supported by sustainable transport measures.
- *Malvern Hills AONB Management Plan 2014-2018 (20014)* - 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 2014-2017 (20014)* - The Management Plan is the prime document which sets out the vision for the area and the priorities for its management.
- *Herefordshire Economic Development Strategy 2011-2016* - Aims to increase the economic wealth of Herefordshire by setting out proposals and to support business growth up to 2016.
- *Herefordshire Employment Land Study (2012)* - Includes employment land assessments for the plan period 2011-2031. The study includes Quantitative and Qualitative assessments of employment land, assessment of market demand and need, as well as providing forecasts and recommendations for future employment need over the plan period.
- *Herefordshire Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) (2009)* - The SHLAA aims to justify site allocations in plans by:
  - Identifying sites which are capable of delivering housing development
  - Assessing sites for their housing potential; and
  - Predicting when a site could be developed for housing.
- *Herefordshire Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) (2013)* - Builds on an earlier Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) developed for Herefordshire and Shropshire. Its purpose is to inform the Local Plan's policies regarding housing need and demand (for market and affordable housing) within each of the 7 Housing Market Areas (HMAs) in Herefordshire between 2011 and 2031.

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

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

### **SEA Objectives and baseline characteristics**

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

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

- 3.8 The SEA objectives detailed above conform to the SEA Directive, and are derived from the Sustainability Appraisal undertaken for the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) 2011-2031.
- 3.9 Baseline information gathered during Stage A of the SEA process provided details of the current environmental characteristics of the neighbourhood area and the status of its natural assets and features (refer to Appendix 2). This information was analysed as part of Task B2 of SEA, which looked at the extent to which the emerging NDP policies will help or obstruct these characteristics. There are four objectives for which there is no local information available, which provides a limitation on the baseline data and whether the NDP policies are likely to improve or exacerbate existing problems and issues relating to these themes.
- 3.10 Following the completion of Task B2 of SEA it was apparent that the largest environmental issue within the parish is objective surrounding the details of protection of the natural and built environment. The Group parish is predominately rural in nature and very sparsely populated. Development in this area is small scale and often individual, this mean that the full impacts on the SEA objectives will be tested at the planning application stage when the full details of the location are known. The need for robust environmental criteria based policy is therefore important as the plan text is developed.

## 4.0 Assessing the NDP Objectives

4.1 The following objectives, as set out in the NDP, aim to realise the vision for Vowchurch Group in 2031:

- 1) To meet local housing needs through the provision of additional and affordable homes to meet the needs of the community
- 2) To ensure that any new development is designed to complement the character of the existing settlements and the wider environment
- 3) By enabling more families to live in the areas to support local businesses, particularly farming, and support local services, not least by maintaining local schools.

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 those NDP objectives which have a relationship with the SEA framework are positively compatible with it or have a neutral effect.

4.4 It is impossible to appraise the full implications of NDP objective 1 and 3 at this stage given the lack of detail over the exact locations of development that may come to fruition as a result of the implementation of this objectives; however, it is accepted that further development of the planning policies that relate to these objectives would move them towards a compatible outcome.

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
<b>Objective 1</b>	?	?	?	?	0	0	?	?	?	+	?	?				?
<b>Objective 2</b>	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
<b>Objective 3</b>	X	X	+	+	X	+	+	X	X	X	X	+				+

## 5.0 Assessing the NDP Options

5.1 All options that were considered by the NDP steering group during the development of their plan have been assessed as part of the SEA and the summary matrix of the assessment can be found in Table B2 at Appendix 4.

5.2 The options covered were as follows;

- Option 1 - Do nothing
- Option 2 - Allocate sites for housing
- Option 3 - Manage future housing using a settlement boundary
- Option 4 - Manage future housing growth by criteria base policy
- Option 5 - Settlement boundary for Lower Maes-coyd
- Option 6 - No settlement boundary for Lower Maes-coyd
- Option 7 - Design policies for parish
- Option 8 - Allocation for employment

Option 9 - Criteria for small scale business development and home working  
 Option 10 - Specific external lighting policy  
 Option 11 - No specific lighting policy

- 5.3 A 'do nothing' option was also considered, i.e. not undertaking an NDP, however this was disregarded at an early stage by the Parish Council as it was considered the majority of the community would support the work undertaken for an NDP.
- 5.4 The option of designating settlement boundary would also have seen a positive effect on the baseline. The designation of a settlement boundary would give additional certainty and help define those areas considered as the built form and open countryside. This can aid the direction of further growth to maintain the quality of the landscape and surroundings. There is less certainty over the positive effects on the baseline as any growth will be adjudged by criteria based policy. However, the nature, characteristics and form of Lower Maes-coyd indicates that the criteria based policy rather than a settlement boundary would be the preferred option in this particularly case.
- 5.5 Options with regards to policy development were also considered, mainly either the promotion of larger scale specific employment compared to smaller scale, diversification and home working and the development of specific design policies.

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 2	++	++	++	++	++	+	++	++	++	+	++	+				++
Option 3	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
Option 4	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
Option 5	+	o	o	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
Option 6	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
Option 7	+	++	++	+	+	x	+	+	x	+	+	+				+
Option 8	?	o	o	o	-	-	?	?	+	+	+	+				+
Option 9	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
Option 10	++	++	++	+	x	x	+	x	x	x	x	x				x
Option 11	+	+	+	+	x	x	+	x	x	x	x	x				x

## 6.0 Appraisal of the policies

6.1 A key part of developing a plan such as the Vowchurch and District Group NDP is developing a range of options and testing these, so that a preferred way forward can be selected.

6.2 The plan has been organised with a set of general overarching policies for the whole neighbourhood area and these emerging set of draft policies have been appraised for the purposes of Stage B of the SEA:

- Policy 1 - to protect and enhance the local environment
- Policy 2 – Location of future development
- Policy 3 - Development in open countryside
- Policy 4 – Nature and scale of new homes
- Policy 5 – Housing design criteria
- Policy 6 – Affordable housing
- Policy 7 - External lighting
- Policy 8 – New commercial developments
- Policy 9 – New tourism developments

### Stage B of SEA

6.3 In the context of Task B1 of SEA, the previous section of this report identified that many of the NDP objectives are compatible with the SEA framework, although 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 13, 14 and 15. 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, therefore, 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.

NDP Policy	SEA Objectives															
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1	++	++	++	++	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
2	?	+	++	++	?	?	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
3	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
4	?	+	+	?	+	O	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
5	+	++	++	+	+	X	+	+	X	+	+	+				+
6	?	?	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
7	++	++	++	+	X	X	+	X	X	X	X	X				X
8	X	+	+	+	++	++	++	+	O	+	+	O				++
9	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	O	X	+	O				+

6.6 The results of Task B3, as shown at Appendix 4, demonstrate that the cumulative impact of the NDP policies over the course of the plan period is generally positive.

6.7 Task B4 of SEA brings together the results of earlier tasks and thus identifies the cumulative impact of the entire of the NDP. This task, which is also attached at Appendix 4, reveals that the objectives and policies contained in the Vowchurch and District Group 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.

- 6.8 None of the NDP policies are considered to be in direct conflict with or propose greater levels of growth and development than strategic policies contained in the Local Plan (Core Strategy), which themselves have undergone a full Sustainability Appraisal.



## **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 Authority Monitoring Report (AMR).
- 7.4 The AMR runs from 1 April to 31 March each year and the topics covered therein include the following:
- Housing delivery;
  - Previously developed land
  - Housing completions
  - Affordable housing conditions
  - Employment land delivery.

**8.0 Next steps**

- 8.1 This report will be subject to a formal public consultation of 6 weeks duration alongside the Draft Vowchurch and District Group 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 14 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)**

---

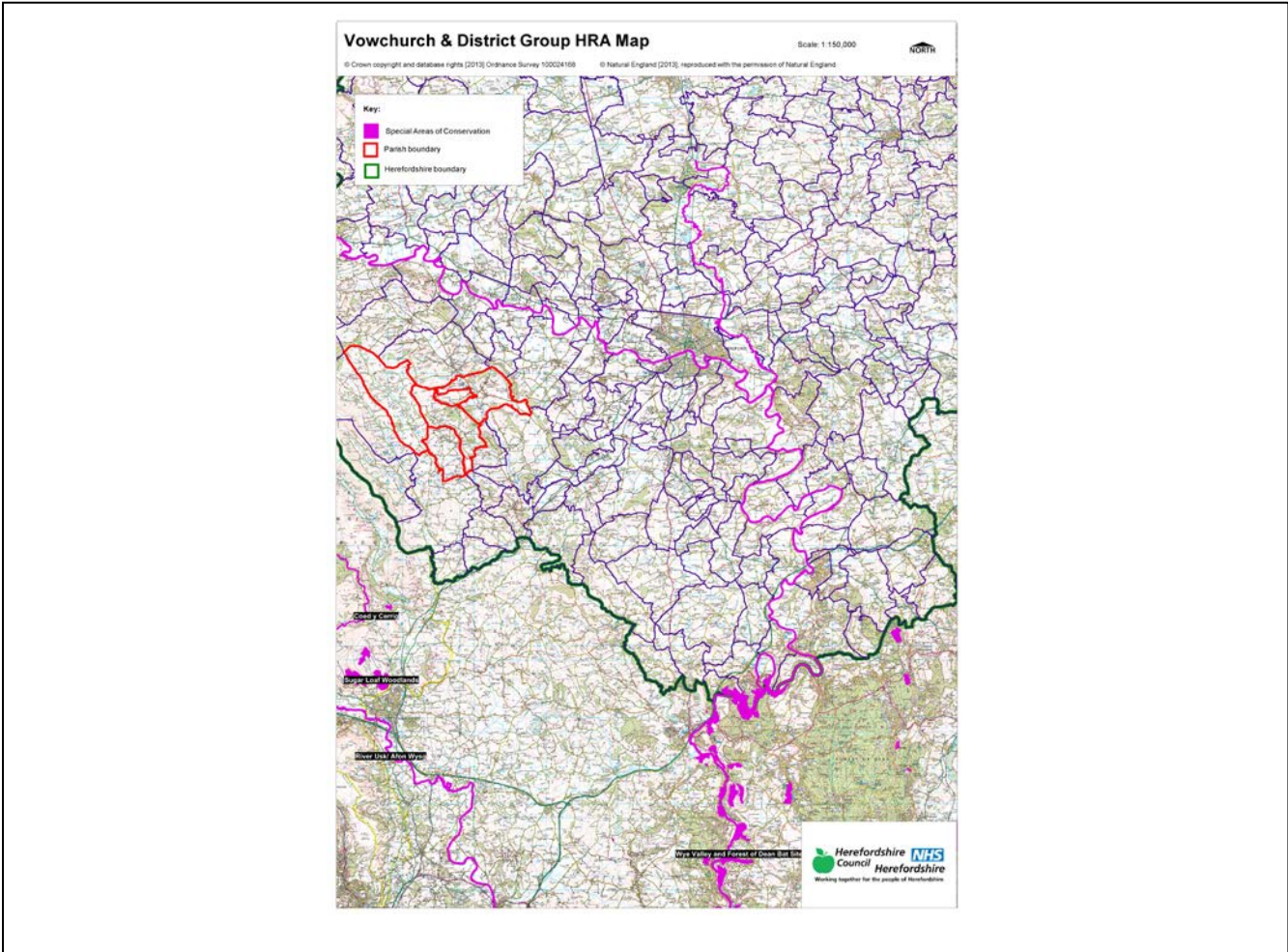
<b>Neighbourhood Area:</b>	Vowchurch & District Group Neighbourhood Area
<b>Parish Council:</b>	Vowchurch & District Group Parish Council
<b>Neighbourhood Area Designation Date:</b>	30/09/2013

### **Introduction**

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

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

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



**Initial HRA Screening**

**River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC:**

Does the Neighbourhood Area have the River Wye (including the River Lugg) in or next to its boundary?	N	The River Wye is 4.11km away from the Group Parish
Is the Neighbourhood Area in the hydrological catchment of the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC?	N	The Parish is not within the hydrological catchment of the River Wye
If yes above, does the Neighbourhood Area have mains drainage to deal with foul sewage?		Not Applicable

**Downton Gorge SAC:**

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of Downton Gorge SAC?	N	Downton Gorge is 34.9km 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 20.2km 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 29.3km 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?	N	The Group Parish is 26.02km away from the Wye Valley Woodlands
--	---	--

**HRA Conclusion:**

The assessment above highlights that no European Sites will need to be taken into account in the future Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Vowchurch & District Group Neighbourhood Area and a Full HRA Screening will not be required.

---

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

---

The following environmental features are within or in general proximity to the Vowchurch & District 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	24	Wallstone Wood; Greens Wood; Ton Wood (border); Lower Park Wood; Birchy Park Wood; Kiln Wood; Rushden Wood; Barretts Hill Wood; Lady Coppice and The Birches; Brampton Hill Wood 2 (border); Eaton Hill Wood; Ravenshoot and Dunsall Woods (border); Tan House and Hay Brooks Woods; Chanstone Wood; Cae-Gwyn Wood; Park Wood; Lawn Wood; Lan Awr Wood; Holly Wood; Gigfran Wood; Cefn-Cist Wood; Ruinsford Wood (border); Wern Fawr; Glibes Wood	Y
Areas of Archaeological Interest	0	There are no AAls within the Group Parish	N
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	0	There are no AONBs within the Group Parish	N
Conservation Areas	0	There are no Conservation Areas within the Group Parish	N
European Sites	0	There are no SACs within the Group Parish	N
Flood Areas		Flood Zones 2 and 3 follow the River Dore through Vowchurch and Turnastone Parishes. There are also Flood Zones running along Escley Brook through Michaelchurch Escley Parish	Y
Listed Buildings	Numerous	There are numerous Listed Buildings scattered throughout the Group Parish	Y
Local Sites (SWS/SINCS/RIGS)	32 (SWS)	Greens & Wallstone Woods, Whitehall Coppice; Vowchurch Common; Timberline Wood and adjoining Woodlands; Brampton Hill Wood (border); Newbarns, Dunsall, Ravenshoot, WDS and Pontapina Break (border); Eaton Hill Wood; River Dore; Chanstone Wood and adjoining Woodland; Bacton Woods; Russells Coppice and adjoining grassland (border); St Margarets Churchyard; Lower House Common; Crow Wood and Meadow and adjoining Woodland; Canon Tump Common; Meadow near Upper Crossway; Meadow near Graig Farm; Upper Court Meadow; Woodland at The Folly; Wayne Herbert Quarry; Roadside bank opposite Llanafon Farm; Wern Ifor Wood; Ashen Coppice, Holly and Court Woods; Escley Brook; Rockyfold Farm (border); Glibes Wood; Wern Fawr; Pikes Farm Meadows; Cefn Hill Common; Caeiron Meadow and adjoining Meadows; Vagar Hill Common; Field near Myndd Brith (border); Dulas Brook	Y
Long distance footpaths/trails (e.g. Herefordshire Trail)	2	Herefordshire Trail; Three Rivers Ride	Y

Mineral Reserves	0	There are no Minerals Reserves Sites within the Group Parish	N
National Nature Reserve	0	There are no NNRs within the Group Parish	N
Registered & Unregistered parks and gardens	4 Unregistered	Michaelchurch Court; Bacton Manor (border); Morehampton (border); Tyberton Court (border)	Y
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	8	Lower Park Wood Camp; Monnington Straddle Motte; Cothill Tump, a Motte Castle 500m north west of Cothill Farm; Motte Castle with associated courtyard and mill leat, 130m north west of Chanstone Mill; Moated Site, fishponds and associated buildings platforms 117m west of Chanstone Mill; Motte Castle, Chapel, Post-Medieval House and Garden remains east of Urishay Castle Farm (border); Motte and Bailey Castle 200yds (180m) south west of Newcourt Farm (border); Earthwork on western border of Michaelchurch Escley Parish, west of Holt Farm House	Y
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	4	Caeiron Meadow (Favourable); Pikes Farm Meadows (Favourable); Wayne Herbert Quarry (Favourable); Chanstone Wood (Favourable)	Y

**Decision Notification:**

The initial screening highlights that the Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Vowchurch & District Group Neighbourhood Area:

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

**Assessment date: 13/08/2013**

**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.

<b>Downton Gorge</b>
<b>Site Features:</b> <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines
<b>Vulnerability data:</b> 10km for air quality associated with poultry units or other intensive agricultural practices.
<b>River Clun</b>
<b>Site Features:</b> Freshwater pearl mussel <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>
<b>Vulnerability data:</b> Water quality is important to maintain the site feature. Parishes either side of the River Clun will be affected.
<b>River Wye</b>
<b>Site Features:</b> 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>
<b>Vulnerability data:</b> 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: <a href="http://www.environmentagency.gov.uk/static/documents/Business/Otters_the_facts.pdf">http://www.environmentagency.gov.uk/static/documents/Business/Otters_the_facts.pdf</a> 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.

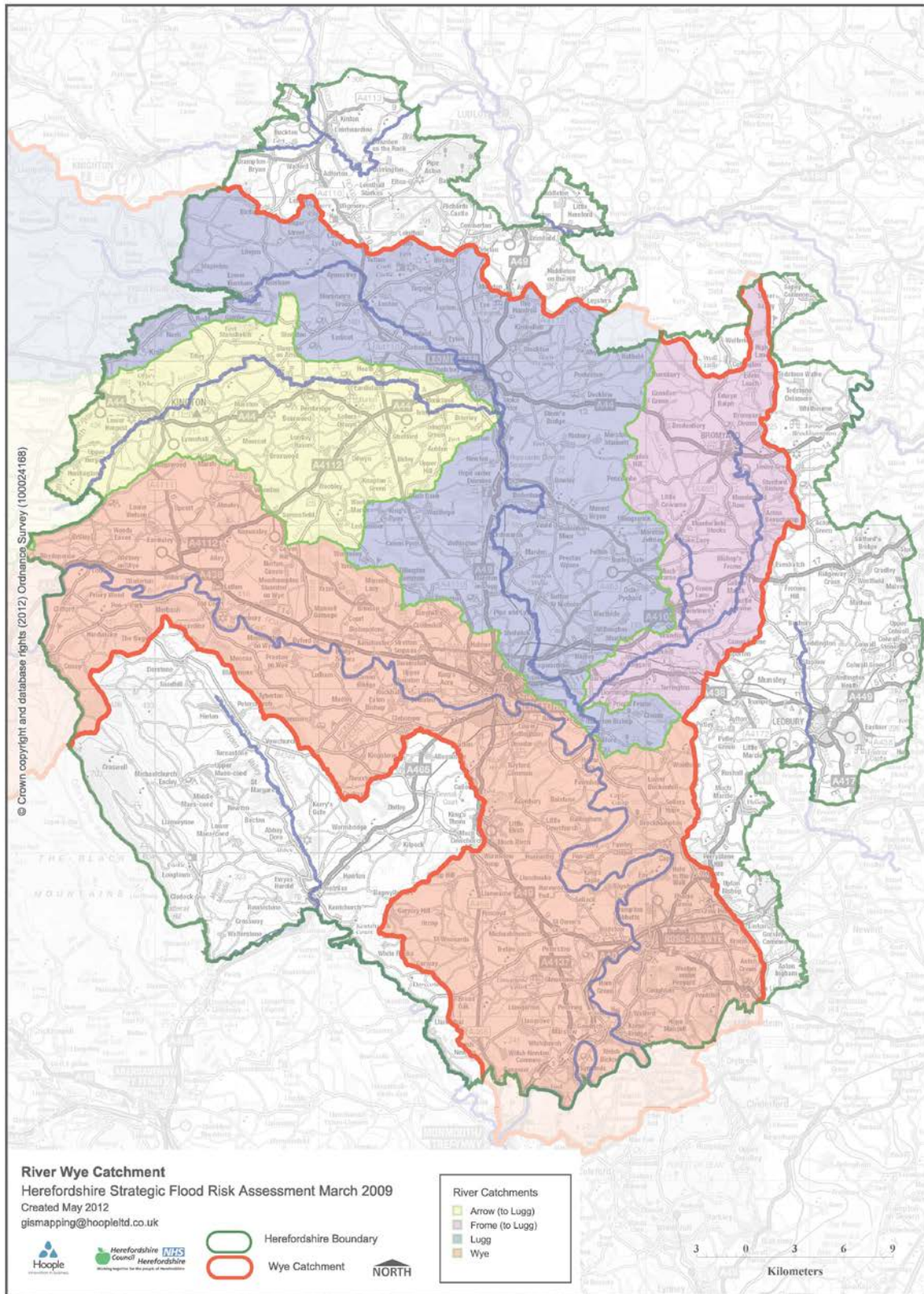
Greater Horseshoe Bat: Large buildings, pasture, edge of mixed deciduous woodland and hedgerows. Mixed land-use especially south-facing slopes, favours beetles, moths and insects they feed on. During the winter they depend on caves, abandoned mines and other underground sites for undisturbed hibernation.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



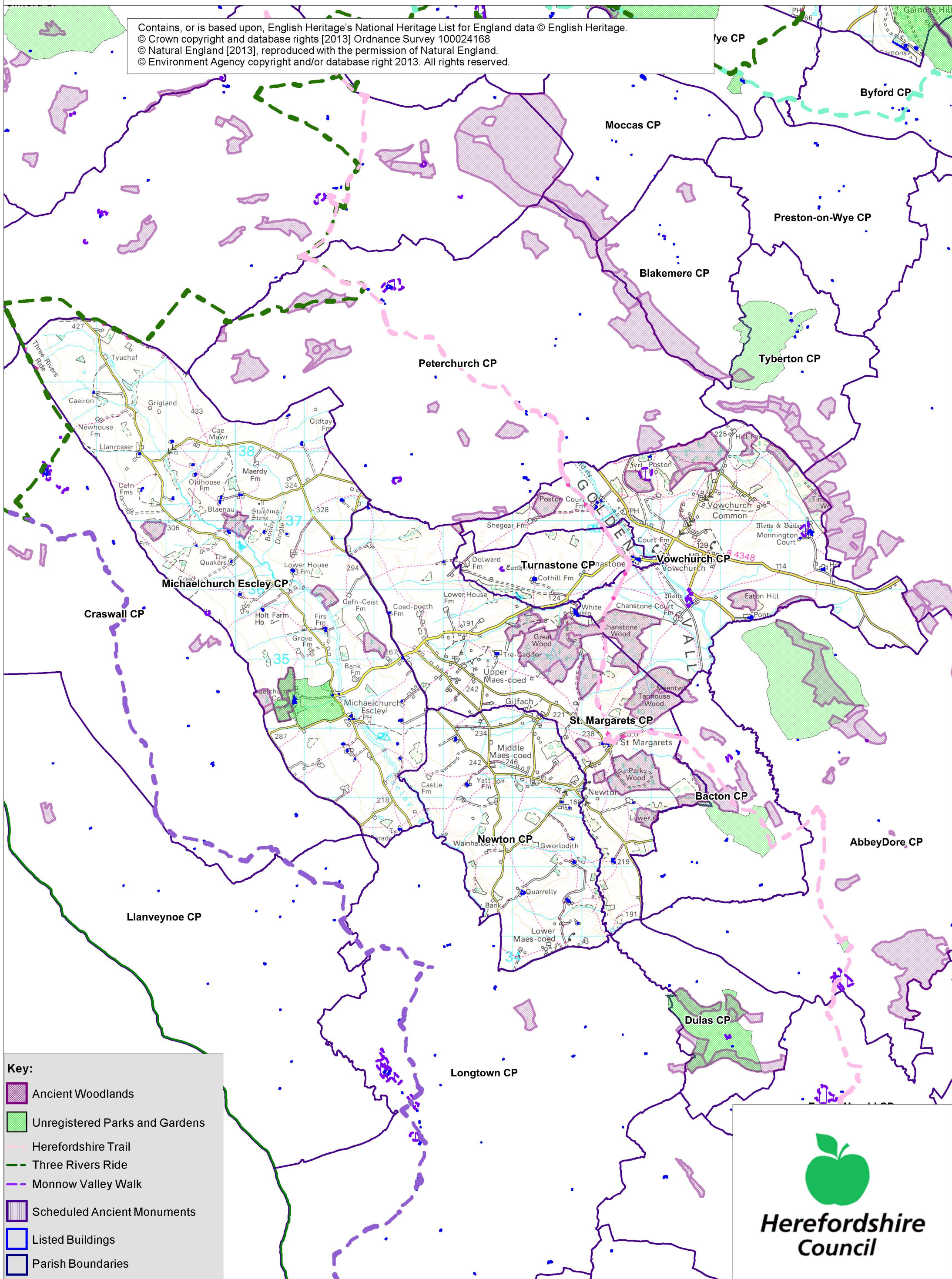


# Vowchurch & District Group SEA Map 1

Scale: 1:47,500



Contains, or is based upon, English Heritage's National Heritage List for England data © English Heritage.  
© Crown copyright and database rights [2013] Ordnance Survey 100024168  
© Natural England [2013], reproduced with the permission of Natural England.  
© Environment Agency copyright and/or database right 2013. All rights reserved.



**Key:**

- Ancient Woodlands
- Unregistered Parks and Gardens
- Herefordshire Trail
- Three Rivers Ride
- Monnow Valley Walk
- Scheduled Ancient Monuments
- Listed Buildings
- Parish Boundaries

**Herefordshire Council**



# Vowchurch & District Group SEA Map 2

Scale: 1:47,500



Contains, or is based upon, English Heritage's National Heritage List for England data © English Heritage.  
© Crown copyright and database rights [2013] Ordnance Survey 100024168  
© Natural England [2013], reproduced with the permission of Natural England.  
© Environment Agency copyright and/or database right 2013. All rights reserved.



**Key:**

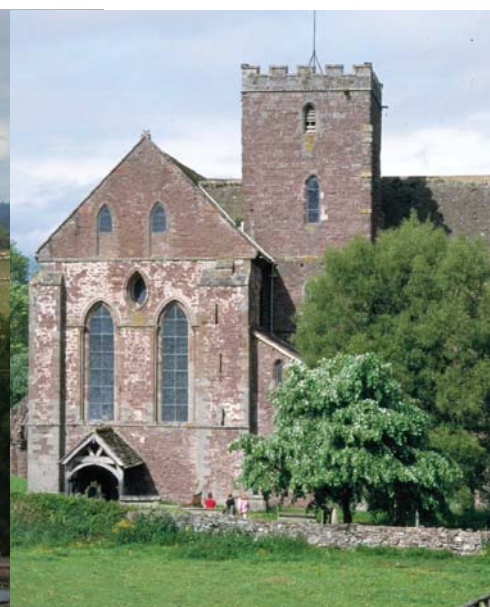
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- Special Wildlife Sites
- Flood Zone 2
- Flood Zone 3
- Parish Boundaries

**Herefordshire Council**



# Appendix 2

# Strategic Environmental Assessment



## Vowchurch & District Group Neighbourhood Area

Scoping Report

November 2014

## Consultation on the Scoping Report

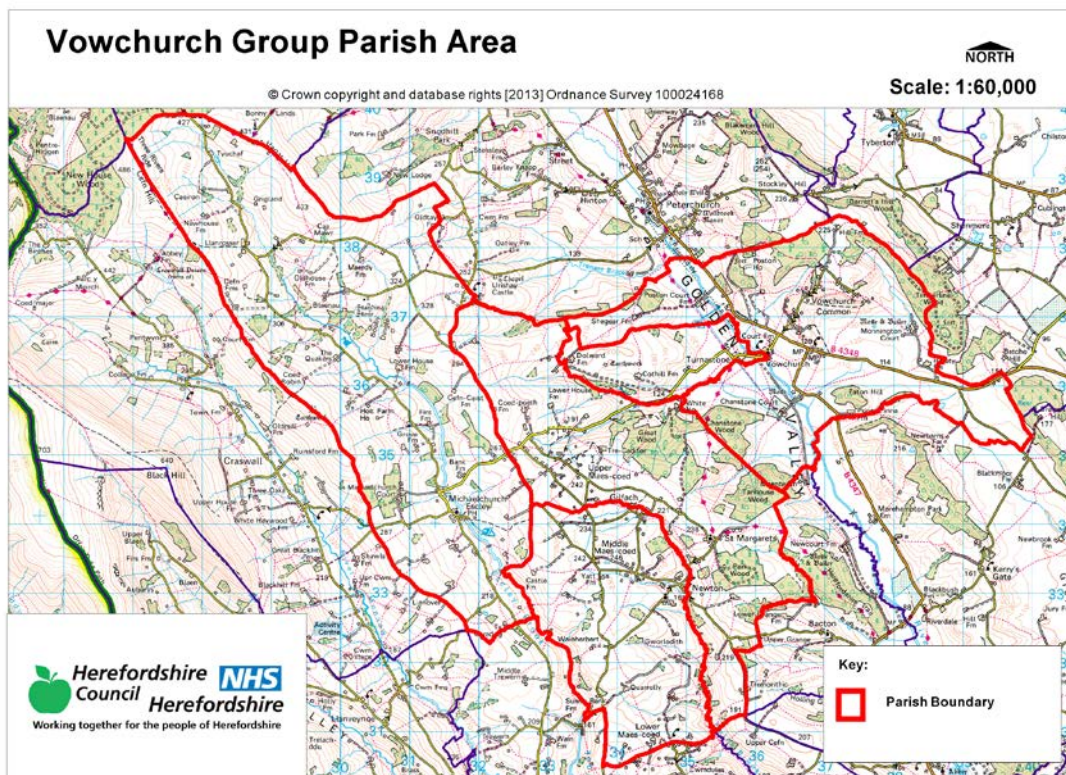
The aim of the consultation process is to involve and engage with statutory consultees and other relevant bodies on the scope of the appraisal. In particular, it seeks to:

- 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.





## Template A1: Identification and review of local Neighbourhood Area relevant plans, policies and programmes

Parish Council Name: Vowchurch & District Group

Neighbourhood Development Plan Name: Vowchurch & District Group Neighbourhood Plan

Date completed: July 2014

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) <sup>1</sup>	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"> <li>Biodiversity</li> <li>Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> </ul>	The Neighbourhood Plan should be compliant with all the relevant legislation and regulations.
The EC Water Framework	European Union	2000	Commits all EU member states to achieve good	Aims for 'good status' for all ground and surface waters (rivers, lakes,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water</li> </ul>	The Neighbourhood Plan should be compliant with all the

<sup>1</sup> Derived from the LDF General Scoping Report (June 2007)

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) <sup>1</sup>	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Directive			qualitative and quantitative status of all water courses by 2015	transitional waters, and coastal waters) in the EU		relevant legislation and regulations.
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"> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Soil</li> </ul>	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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Soil</li> </ul>	The Neighbourhood Plan should be compliant with all the relevant legislation and regulations.

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

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) <sup>1</sup>	Implications for the NDP and SEA
				despite some early publicity suggesting this.		
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"> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Soil</li> </ul>	The Neighbourhood Plan should be compliant with all the relevant legislation and regulations.
Revised EU Sustainable Development strategy	European Union 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.	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"> <li>• Climate change and clean energy;</li> <li>• Sustainable transport</li> <li>• Sustainable production and consumption;</li> <li>• Public health threats;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air</li> <li>• Climate factors</li> <li>• Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> <li>• Population and human health</li> </ul>	The Neighbourhood Plans should take into account the objectives of the strategy. The aim of sustainable development should be implicit in its approach.

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

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) <sup>1</sup>	Implications for the NDP and SEA
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better management of natural resources;</li> <li>• Social inclusion, demography and migration;</li> <li>• Fighting global poverty.</li> </ul>		
Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services	National Strategy	2011	Forms part of the UK's Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework by setting out England's contribution towards the UK's commitments under the United Nations Convention of Biological Diversity.	Sets out to halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity</li> </ul>	The NDP should take account of the provisions of the strategy, making the most of opportunities to enhance wildlife habitats or restore degraded ecosystems in the process.
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	National planning policy.	2012	Consolidates the suite of PPG/PPS into one succinct planning policy document.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Climate factors</li> <li>• Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population and human health</li> <li>• Soil</li> <li>• Water</li> </ul>	The NDP should take into account the relevant policies set within the NPPF.
Planning Practice Guidance	Government Guidance	2014	Provides guidance to local planning authorities and others on the operation of the planning system.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Climate factors</li> <li>• Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> </ul>	The NDP should take into account the planning guidance provided within these documents.

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

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) <sup>1</sup>	Implications for the NDP and SEA
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population and human health</li> <li>• Soil</li> <li>• Water</li> </ul>	
Herefordshire Core Strategy, Pre-submission document 2011-2031	Development Plan Document (DPD)	2013	Sets out the vision, objectives and policies for the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy), which will guide development across the county up to 2031.	<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 Core Strategy includes a range of objectives, five of which directly relate to rural areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To meet the housing needs of all sections of the community</li> <li>• To improve access to services in rural areas</li> <li>• To strengthen the economic viability of the villages and their rural hinterlands</li> <li>• To achieve sustainable communities and protect the environment</li> <li>• To conserve, promote, utilise and enjoy our natural, built, historic and cultural assets for the fullest benefit of the whole community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Climate factors</li> <li>• Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population and human health</li> <li>• Soil</li> <li>• Water</li> </ul>	<p>The NDP should take account of relevant policies set within in 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>The NDP will need to take account of the criteria set within Policy RA1. The villages of Vowchurch and Michealchurch Escley fall within the RA1 policy.</p> <p>In accordance with the Rural Housing Background Paper March 2013, unless there is robust and sound evidence to demonstrate a more accurate existing built form figure or the existence of unavoidable constraints on site delivery approximately 7 dwellings will need to be delivered</p>

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

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) <sup>1</sup>	Implications for the NDP and SEA
				<p>To achieve a thriving rural Herefordshire, the Core Strategy seeks to enhance the role the villages have traditionally played in as accessible, sustainable centres for their rural catchments.</p> <p>Seeks proportional growth of up to 12% Michealchurch Escley and Vowchurch (Golden Valley HMA) over the plan period.</p>		<p>within the village of Vowchurch and 3 dwellings need to be provided within Michealchurch Escley.</p> <p>Lower Maes-coed is classified as an RA2 settlement, and should adhere to the RA2 policy; accepting affordable housing needs only.</p>
Herefordshire Local Transport Plan 3 (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 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"> <li>• Air</li> <li>• Climate factors</li> <li>• Population and human health</li> </ul>	The LTP does not explore current transport issues in the Vowchurch & District Group Plan neighbourhood area, but any new development proposed through the NDP should seek to reduce the environmental impacts of transport.

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

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) <sup>1</sup>	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Understanding Herefordshire Report	Built and natural environment	2014	<p>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</p> <p>Enable development for economy and housing to required levels.</p> <p>Growth should be supported by sustainable transport measures.</p>	An air quality management plan is in place to tackle this. Destination Hereford project is in place to give locals more sustainable transport options.	<p>Improve air quality.</p> <p>Have a more diverse range of transport options.</p>	None identified.
Malvern Hills AONB Management Plan 2009-2014	Corporate	2009	Identifies the issues and challenges facing the special features of the area and contains 24 guiding principles and 46 strategic objectives which will help address them.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Climate factors</li> <li>• Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population and human health</li> <li>• Soil</li> <li>• Water</li> </ul>	The Vowchurch & District Group neighbourhood area is not within or adjacent to the Malvern Hills AONB.

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

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) <sup>1</sup>	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.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Climate factors</li> <li>• Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population and human health</li> <li>• Soil</li> <li>• Water</li> </ul>	The Vowchurch & District Group neighbourhood area is not within or adjacent to the Wye Valley AONB.
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"> <li>• Sustaining business survival and growth</li> <li>• Increasing wage levels, range and quality of jobs</li> <li>• Having a skilled population to meet future work needs</li> <li>• Developing the county's built infrastructure so enterprise can flourish.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population and human health</li> </ul>	None of merit.

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



<b>Plans and Programmes</b>	<b>Type of document</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Overview</b>	<b>Key message, target/objective/indicator</b>	<b>SEA topic(s)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Implications for the NDP and SEA</b>
Herefordshire Employment Land Study	Evidence	2012	Includes employment land assessments for the plan period 2011-2031. The study includes Quantitative and Qualitative assessments of employment land, assessment of market demand and need, as well as providing forecasts and recommendations for future employment need over the plan period.	<p>This study covers existing employment sites in Hereford, the five market towns and their rural hinterlands.</p> <p>There are no employment land allocations within Vowchurch &amp; District Group at present and as such the study does not identify sites which are worthy of continued protection from alternative uses. Nor does it make any recommendations in respect of employment need within the neighbourhood area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population and human health</li> </ul>	None of merit; however the NDP process may have to explore whether there is any employment need locally and if so whether there is any scope for providing employment land and premises.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) <sup>1</sup>	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"> <li>Identifying sites which are capable of delivering housing development</li> <li>Assessing sites for their housing potential; and</li> <li>Predicting when a site could be developed for housing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 sites have been submitted as part of the 2013 call for sites. These sites have not been assessed to date.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Air</li> <li>Biodiversity</li> <li>Climate factors</li> <li>Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> <li>Flora and fauna</li> <li>Population and human health</li> <li>Soil</li> <li>Water</li> </ul>	<p>The SHLAA assesses the potential availability of land for housing in Vowchurch &amp; District Group.</p> <p>The villages within Vowchurch District did not have a SHLAA assessment undertaken in 2009 or 2012, therefore a local site assessment exercise should be undertaken for these villages if site allocations are being considered.</p>

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) <sup>1</sup>	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>Vowchurch &amp; District Group fall within the Golden Valley HMA. Here, the study reveals that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 56% of households are unable to afford market housing.</li> <li>• There is an annual requirement for 16 affordable dwellings between 2012 and 2017.</li> </ul> <p>The study identifies that, in the Golden Valley HMA, there is a need (2011-2031) for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 198 market houses</li> <li>• 106 affordable houses.</li> </ul> <p>The study highlights that within the Golden Valley HMA the overall estimated housing need by size 2012-2017 is as follows:</p> <p>1 Bed- 61.6%  2 bed- -5.0%  3 bed- 37.8%  4 bed- 5.6%.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Climate factors</li> <li>• Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Population and human health</li> <li>• Soil</li> <li>• Water</li> </ul>	<p>The LHMA provides an indication of housing needs and affordability within the Golden Valley HMA.</p> <p>It provides evidence that could be used to inform policies or market and affordable housing requirements in the NDP.</p>

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

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) <sup>1</sup>	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Herefordshire Local Housing Requirements Study	Evidence	2012	Technical assessment of the housing market and potential future local housing requirements which supports planning policy regarding the amount of growth, housing tenure and housing type needed within Herefordshire up to 2031.	<p>The delivery of 5,300 homes in the rural areas would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support growth in the rural population by 6%</li> <li>• Increase the number of households by 14.5%</li> </ul> <p>Forecasts also predict that growth in the population of the rural areas is likely to be primarily through an increase in those aged over 75.</p> <p>Moderate growth is expected in the 30-44 and 60-74 age brackets.</p> <p>The Local Housing Requirements Study therefore anticipates continuing improvements in life expectancy; significant growth is expected of those in their 80s, with the existing population in their 40s and 50s moving into retirement. As a consequence, the rural areas will face an increasing urgency to provide more 3 bedroom homes, with more 1 and 2 bed homes required in the affordable sector.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Climate factors</li> <li>• Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population and human health</li> <li>• Soil</li> <li>• Water</li> </ul>	<p>This study provides an indication of housing requirements in the rural areas and the Golden Valley HMA.</p> <p>This evidence can be used to inform the content of the Vowchurch &amp; District NDP, which could include policies to facilitate the provision of the right types of homes in the right places.</p>

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

<b>Plans and Programmes</b>	<b>Type of document</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Overview</b>	<b>Key message, target/objective/indicator</b>	<b>SEA topic(s)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Implications for the NDP and SEA</b>
Herefordshire Rural Housing Background Report	Evidence	2013	Provides the justification for the proportional housing growth targets outlined in the Core Strategy	The villages of Vowchurch and Michealchurch Escley are listed as RA1 settlements, which means they are considered a sustainable location for proportional growth of up to 12%.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Climate factors</li> <li>• Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population and human health</li> <li>• Soil</li> <li>• Water</li> </ul>	The Vowchurch & District Group NDP will need to be in conformity with the provisions of Policy RA1 and RA2.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) <sup>1</sup>	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"> <li>• 31% of households surveyed have some sort of accommodation need</li> <li>• Of the 17 households with an accommodation need, 7 had a requirement for at least one additional pitch</li> <li>• 10 households had a requirement for bricks and mortar housing</li> <li>• There is an additional requirement for 7 pitches and 9 units of Registered Social Landlord accommodation within Herefordshire.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Climate factors</li> <li>• Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population and human health</li> <li>• Soil</li> <li>• Water</li> </ul>	The Vowchurch and District Group NDP must establish whether any of the need identified in this assessment falls within the neighbourhood area and make appropriate provisions for it.
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"> <li>• Biodiversity</li> </ul>	The NDP can help to achieve the LBAP priorities.

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

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) <sup>1</sup>	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.	This document provides useful information in respect of Hereford and the market towns only.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Climate factors</li> <li>• Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population and human health</li> <li>• Soil</li> <li>• Water</li> </ul>	There is a lack of information about rural areas which means it will be necessary to gather and assess existing biodiversity and geo diversity data, in order to ensure that the Vowchurch & District Group NDP can overcome any existing constraints and capitalise on opportunities to enhance habitats and their networks.
Herefordshire Green Infrastructure Strategy	Evidence	2010	Develops a framework of natural and culturally important features and functions so that planning for a sustainable future is at the heart of planning within Herefordshire.	Establishes policies and principles for the protection and enhancement of those features and functions that contributes to the environment of Herefordshire across a range of scales.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Climate factors</li> <li>• Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population and human health</li> <li>• Soil</li> <li>• Water</li> </ul>	<p>The study provides evidence that could be taken into account when preparing policies for the Vowchurch &amp; District Group NDP.</p> <p>The study identifies the need to reinforce the distinctive local character of the Golden Valley.</p>

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

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) <sup>1</sup>	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"> <li>• Electrical: 731 GWh/yr</li> <li>• Heat: 1,810 GWh/yr</li> <li>• Total: 2,541 GWh/yr</li> </ul> <p>There is scope for all types of renewable energy production.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Climate factors</li> <li>• Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population and human health</li> <li>• Soil</li> <li>• Water</li> </ul>	The study provides evidence that could be taken into account when preparing policies for the Vowchurch & District Group NDP.



Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) <sup>1</sup>	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 Vowchurch &amp; District group, the study reveals that there is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.88 ha of playing pitch area. 1.3ha has secured community access. There is one junior football pitch. This is rated at 50% which is average quality. The sports field hosts 2 tennis courts, football, cricket pitches. All are rated at 26% which is of poor quality.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biodiversity</li> <li>Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> <li>Flora and fauna</li> <li>Material assets</li> <li>Population and human health</li> </ul>	<p>The study provides evidence that could be taken into account when preparing policies for the Vowchurch &amp; District Group NDP.</p> <p>Additional local evidence may be required to identify if there is a need for any secured playing pitch facilities within the Group Parish.</p>

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

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) <sup>1</sup>	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 Golden Valley Area, to which Vowchurch and District is a part of, there are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.92 ha of amenity green space provision within the Golden Valley area. And has the lowest levels of amenity green space in the county.</li> <li>• Extensive over provision of natural and semi natural green space.</li> <li>• Extensive under provision of parks and gardens and outdoor sport.</li> <li>• Under provision of amenity green space.</li> <li>• Average provision for children and young people.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Climate factors</li> <li>• Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population and human health</li> </ul>	The open space audit and assessment of does not give a specific indication of open space shortfalls and surpluses in Vowchurch & District Group Parish.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) <sup>1</sup>	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Play Facilities Study	Evidence	2012	The Play Facilities Study 2012 updates the previous play facilities analysis under the Open Spaces Study 2006 and provides guidance and a framework for the development, delivery and continued sustainability of providing new and improved play facilities for children and young people in Herefordshire to 2031.	In terms of Vowchurch & District itself, the study reveals; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vowchurch &amp; District has a population under 500 and the nearest play provision reference within the study is Dorstone or Peterchurch.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biodiversity</li> <li>Climate factors</li> <li>Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> <li>Flora and fauna</li> <li>Material assets</li> <li>Population and human health</li> </ul>	The study provides evidence that could be taken into account when preparing policies for the Vowchurch & District NDP.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) <sup>1</sup>	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) and Water Cycle Study	Evidence	2009	<p>The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) provides a summary of flood risk in Herefordshire to inform the location of future development.</p> <p>The Water Cycle Study examines how water resources and water supply infrastructure, wastewater treatment, water quality, sewerage and flood risk could constrain growth across Herefordshire.</p>	<p>Vowchurch &amp; District group falls within the Upper Middle Wye catchment. This area has one of the highest risk of fluvial flooding in the county.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Upper Middle Wye catchment has a 44.7% standard run percentage run off by sub catchment. This is potentially highly unsuitable for infiltration source control</li> <li>The Upper Middle Wye has a very slow response (Tp-time to peak) time at around 11 hours.</li> <li>The WCS states that parishes within Vowchurch &amp; District group are more susceptible to fluvial flooding. This requires a holistic integrated approach to flood risk management.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biodiversity</li> <li>Climate factors</li> <li>Material assets</li> <li>Population and human health</li> <li>Water</li> </ul>	<p>New development proposed through the Vowchurch &amp; District Group 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 Vowchurch &amp; District Group NDP.</p>

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

**Appendix A2 – Baseline information for Vowchurch and District Group**

*N.B. This is based on countywide baseline information with some additions relevant to Vowchurch and District Group (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 <sup>1</sup>	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 and expand county biodiversity.	Natural environment	Net change in condition of SSSIs across Herefordshire.	<p>The 2011-2013 AMR does not contain updated conservation data.</p> <p>2010/11: 27% of Herefordshire's SSSI land was in favourable condition.</p> <p><i>There are four SSSI's within Vowchurch Group-</i></p> <p><i>05/08/14 –Caerion Meadow-Area favourable. Pikes Farm Meadows-Area favourable. Wayne Herbert Quarry-Favourable. Chanstone Wood-Area favourable.</i></p>	<p>2006: 22%</p> <p>2007: 22%</p> <p>2008: 22%</p> <p>2010: 24 %</p> <p>Proportion of SSSI land that was in unfavourable condition but recovering increased between 2010 and 2012 going from 41% to 65%.</p> <p>Proportion in unfavourable and declining condition had also decreased from 4% to 1%.</p>	<p>% of SSSI land in favourable condition (Increase)</p> <p>% of SSSI land in unfavourable condition but recovering (Increase)</p> <p>% of SSSI land in unfavourable condition and declining (Decrease)</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>The proportion of SSSI in unfavourable condition but recovering is greater than England as a whole, where the figure currently stands at 58.6%.</p>	Understanding Herefordshire: An integrated needs assessment (June 2013).

<sup>1</sup> Derived from the Pre Submission Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Assessment (May 2014)

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

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

SA Objective <sup>1</sup>	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
13. Value, maintain, restore and expand county biodiversity.	Natural environment	Changes in the areas of designated nature conservation sites as a consequence of planning permission.	<p>Vowchurch and District Group has:</p> <p>SSSI: 4 SWS: 32</p> <p>Ancient woodlands: 24</p> <p>There are no, NNRs, SINC and LNRs within the parish.</p> <p>SACs- River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC is 4.1KM away from the parish, but Vowchurch &amp; District watercourses (River Dore) fall into the River Wye SAC.</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 enhance the areas of value to nature conservation as much as possible.	Herefordshire Biological Records Centre (HBRC) holds limited data on some Individual sites.	Herefordshire Council Initial Screening Report for the Neighbourhood Plan 2013



SA Objective <sup>1</sup>	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
13. Value, maintain, restore and expand county biodiversity.	Natural environment	Proportion of local sites where positive conservation management has or is being implemented.	<p>The Parish Area has the following landscape types:</p> <p>Wooded hills and farmlands.</p> <p>Principle timbered farmlands.</p> <p>Principle settled farmlands.</p>	-	No specific targets identified.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	Herefordshire Landscape Character Assessment (2004 updated 2009)
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.	<p>Countywide data would be too large to incorporate into this template.</p> <p>There are numerous scheduled monuments in Vowchurch &amp; District Group according to the latest version of the register.</p>	-	No specific targets identified, but need to ensure that the register is kept up to date.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	Herefordshire Environmental Records Register (search July 2014).

SA Objective <sup>1</sup>	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
14. Use natural resources and energy more efficiently.	Resource consumption and climate change	Monitoring changes to historic landscapes.	<p>Historic Landscape Character assessments have only been undertaken for Hereford City.</p> <p>Rapid townscape Assessments (2010) were only undertaken for Hereford, Ledbury and Ross</p>	-	No specific targets identified.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	<p>Historic Landscape Character Assessment for Hereford.</p> <p>Rapid townscape Assessments (2010)</p>
SEA Topic covered by objective: <i>Population, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</i>							
15. Value, protect, enhance and 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 <sup>1</sup>	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
15. Value, protect, enhance and 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 aspects of local loss of heritage assets and locally important buildings particularly within a conservation area	Countywide data would be too large to incorporate into this template.  <b>There is one outstanding appeal in Turnastone (minor application) concerning locally important buildings at present.</b>	No historic records of any planning enforcement action concerning locally important buildings.  <b>There are no conservation areas within Vowchurch and District Group.</b>	To wherever possible improve upon or otherwise maintain current status.	Current status must be verified by Dvt Mgt and Enforcement Officers, but the NDP can help to avoid enforcement action and appeals during the plan period.	Council Dvt Mgt records (searched July 2014)
SEA Topic covered by objective: <i>Climatic Factors</i>							

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

SA Objective <sup>1</sup>	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.  2010/11: None  <i>There is no locally specific data available at present.</i>	There have been no approvals contrary to EA advice since reporting began in 2004.	To have no applications permitted contrary to EA advice.	None identified.	Herefordshire Council AMR (2010/11)
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. LA to monitor the number of hectares of the best and most versatile agricultural land (grades 3a and higher) lost to development.	<b>The agricultural land classification around Vowchurch Group is mainly Grades 3 and 4 (Good-Moderate to Poor), and small patches of grade 2 land which is graded as very good.</b>	-	Measure the number of hectares of best and most versatile soil lost through development.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	DEFRA 'Magic' website for land classification

SA Objective <sup>1</sup>	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.	2010/11: 67% 2011-13: 57%  <i>There is no locally specific data available at present.</i>	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 (2010/11) and (2011-2013)



SA Objective <sup>1</sup>	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
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.	-
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>  This indicator would not be applicable to rural NDPs.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
SEA Topic covered by objective: <i>Cultural heritage</i>							

SA Objective <sup>1</sup>	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's heritage assets, including conservation areas, historic environment and cultural heritage.	Built environment	Number and percentage of listed buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments on Buildings at Risk Register (English Heritage).	Up-to-date countywide information will be presented in the next AMR and which is due to be published in 2014. However, this data would be too large to incorporate into this template.  There are numerous listed buildings within the parish and eight Scheduled Ancient Monuments. There are two buildings recorded in the Buildings at Risk Register.	There were 70 heritage assets in Herefordshire that were considered to be at high risk and included in the Heritage at Risk Register 2014.	To improve the condition of the II* Barn and cowhouse, both need comprehensive repair. Gibes Farmhouse also needs comprehensive repair.  To promote opportunities to achieve the removal of heritage assets from the at risk register.	The Barn and attached cowhouse as well as Gibes Farmhouse at Michealchurch Escley are both considered to be at risk at present.	Buildings at Risk Register (English Heritage; search July 2014)

SA Objective <sup>1</sup>	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's heritage assets, including conservation areas, historic environment and cultural heritage.	Built environment	The need for, frequency and outcomes of planning enforcement investigations/ planning appeals concerning aspects of local loss of heritage assets, locally important buildings within the parish and particularly within a conservation area.	<p>Countywide data would be too large to incorporate into this template.</p> <p>There are no conservation areas within Vowchurch &amp; District group.</p> <p>There is no outstanding enforcement action local loss of heritage assets locally important buildings within Vowchurch &amp; District at present.</p> <p>There is one outstanding appeal in Turnastone (minor application) concerning locally important buildings at present.</p>	No historic records of any planning enforcement action concerning locally important buildings .	To wherever possible improve upon or otherwise maintain current status.	Current status must be verified by Development Management and Enforcement Officers, but the NDP can help to avoid enforcement action and appeals during the plan period.	Council Development Management records (searched July 2014)

**Appendix A3** – Environmental issues identified from Vowchurch & District Group baseline

These environmental issues are the same as most of those identified for the Herefordshire Core Strategy<sup>1</sup>

SEA Topic		Environmental issue	SA objectives
1	Air	High reliance upon the private car causing high levels of air pollution and in Hereford in particular	Objective 16
		Need to reduce carbon emissions by encouraging alternative modes of travel.	
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	Vowchurch & District Group has numerous Scheduled Ancient Monuments and listed buildings, all of which require ongoing protection and many in need of high levels of maintenance.	Objective 20
5	Flora and fauna	Conserve and enhance the character and quality of historic landscapes, including all types of natural flora and fauna.	Objective 15
6	Material assets	How the countryside can continue to be managed in an economically, socially and environmentally beneficial way in the face of continuing pressures on traditional farming.	Objectives 14 & 18
7	Population	Minimise energy waste through good designs, which help to reduce energy consumption and maximise efficiency.	Objective 15
		Need to avoid enforcement investigations/action concerning locally important buildings and those within conservation areas in particular.	
8	Soil	Promoting development of previously developed land and buildings as opposed to greenfield sites or agricultural land of the highest quality.	Objectives 18 & 19

<sup>1</sup> Derived from the Pre-submission Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Assessment (May 2014) and LDF General Scoping Report (June 2007)

---

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

## Template A4: SEA Framework

### SEA Scoping Stage A, Task A4 - SEA Framework SEA Objectives, Indicators, Targets

Parish Council Name: Vowchurch and District Group

Neighbourhood Development Plan Name: Vowchurch and District Group Neighbourhood Plan

Date completed: July 2014

SEA Topics	SA Objective	SEA Objective	Sub-objectives / Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal/site...)	Indicators	Targets
Nature Conservation (Biodiversity, flora and fauna)	<p>Value, maintain, restore or expand county biodiversity.</p> <p>Value, protect, enhance or restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces.</p>	To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect or enhance habitats of international, national, regional or local importance.</li> <li>Protect international, national, regional or locally important terrestrial or aquatic species.</li> <li>Maintain wildlife corridors and minimise fragmentation of ecological areas and green spaces.</li> <li>Manage access to sites in a sustainable way that protects or enhances their nature conservation value.</li> <li>Create new appropriate habitats.</li> <li>Value, enhance and protect natural environmental assets including AONB's, historic landscapes, open spaces, parks and</li> </ul>	<p>Net change in condition of SSSIs across Herefordshire.</p> <p>After use of mineral sites especially wildlife habitat creation</p> <p>Changes to protected habitats and impacts of species within the Herefordshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan.</p>	<p>% of SSSI land in favourable condition (Increase)</p> <p>% of SSSI land in unfavourable condition but recovering (Increase)</p> <p>% of SSSI land in unfavourable condition and declining (Decrease)</p> <p>Percentage of opportunities taken</p> <p>To protect and where possible enhance the habitats of protected species identified. No net losses</p>

SEA Topics	SA Objective	SEA Objective	Sub-objectives / Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal/site...)	Indicators	Targets
			<p>gardens and their settings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage local stewardship of local environments, for example by promoting best practices in agricultural management</li> <li>• Ensure that environmental impacts caused by mineral operations and the transport of minerals are minimised.</li> <li>• Promote the use of rural areas and open space by all, encourage easy non-car based access, and accommodate the needs of disabled users.</li> </ul>		
Landscape	Not covered in SA	<p>To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes</p> <p>To improve quality of surroundings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect and enhance the landscape everywhere and particularly in designated areas</li> <li>• Value and protect diversity and local distinctiveness</li> <li>• Improve landscape and ecological quality and character of the countryside</li> <li>• Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space</li> <li>• Improve satisfaction of people with their neighbourhoods as</li> </ul>	<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>Monitoring changes to historic landscapes.</p> <p>Area resulting in a loss of open space as a result of planning permission</p>	<p>To capitalise on opportunities to enhance the areas of value to nature conservation as much as possible.</p> <p>No specific targets identified.</p> <p>No specific targets identified.</p> <p>No specific targets identified</p>

SEA Topics	SA Objective	SEA Objective	Sub-objectives / Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal/site...)	Indicators	Targets
			<p>places to live</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decrease litter and graffiti in towns and countryside</li> <li>• Result in the loss of open space</li> </ul>		
Heritage	Value, protect or enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's heritage assets, historic environment and cultural heritage.	To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment , heritage assets and culture heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preserve, protect and enhance heritage assets including conservation areas, listed buildings, archaeological sites and other culturally important features in both urban and rural settings.</li> <li>• Prevent development which is inappropriate in scale, form or design to its setting or to its function or local area.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Encourage cleanliness and/or improve the general appearance of the</li> </ul>	<p>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.</p> <p>Number and percentage of listed buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments on Buildings at Risk Register (English Heritage).</p> <p>Ensure that Herefordshire Council's Sites and Monuments Register is kept up to date.</p>	<p>To improve upon or otherwise maintain current status.</p> <p>To improve upon or otherwise maintain current status.</p> <p>No specific targets identified, but need to ensure that the register is kept up to date.</p>



SEA Topics	SA Objective	SEA Objective	Sub-objectives / Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal/site...)	Indicators	Targets
			area.		
Air and Climate	<p>Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources.</p> <p>Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.</p>	<p>To improve air quality</p> <p>To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment</p> <p>To reduce contributions to climate change</p> <p>To reduce vulnerability to climate change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimise water, air, soil, groundwater, noise and light pollution from current activities and the potential for such pollution.</li> <li>Protect or enhance the quality of watercourses.</li> <li>Provide opportunities to improve soil quality or reduce contaminated land.</li> <li>Reduce the county's contribution to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport, domestic, commercial and industrial sources.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>Transport patronage by mode</p> <p>Number of decentralised energy schemes granted permission.</p> <p>Total CO2 emissions per capita</p>	<p>To increase the take up of alternative modes to the private car.</p> <p>To contribute towards the national target.</p> <p>To reduce the overall carbon emissions.</p>

SEA Topics	SA Objective	SEA Objective	Sub-objectives / Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal/site...)	Indicators	Targets
Water	<p>Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment.</p> <p>Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources.</p>	<p>To improve water quality</p> <p>To provide for sustainable sources of water supply</p> <p>To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce flood risk both presently and taking into account climate change.</li> <li>• Prevent inappropriate development of the floodplain, and include flood protection systems.</li> <li>• Include sustainable urban drainage systems where appropriate.</li> <li>• Minimise water, air, soil, groundwater, noise and light pollution from current activities and the potential for such pollution.</li> <li>• Protect or enhance the quality of watercourses.</li> </ul>	<p>Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on flood defence grounds.</p> <p>Percentage of river length assessed as good or very good chemical quality and ecological quality</p> <p>Phosphate levels within the River Wye SAC and adjoining tributaries that receive increased phosphates from proportional growth.</p>	<p>To have no applications permitted contrary to EA advice.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>To meet the targets set out in the Nutrient Management Plan (2014)</p>
Soil	<p>Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources.</p>	<p>To conserve soil resources and quality</p> <p>Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimise water, air, soil, groundwater, noise and light pollution from current activities and the potential for such pollution.</li> <li>• Provide opportunities to improve soil quality or reduce contaminated land.</li> </ul>	<p>Percentage of all new development completed on previously developed land.</p> <p>Amount of land identified as best and most versatile agricultural land lost to development.</p>	<p>To increase the number of homes built on PDL in line with the provisions of national planning policy.</p> <p>Measure the number of hectares of best and most versatile soil lost through development.</p>

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

SEA Topics	SA Objective	SEA Objective	Sub-objectives / Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal/site...)	Indicators	Targets
	Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>		
Population and Human Health	Value, protect, enhance or restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces.	<p>To improve health of the population</p> <p>To reduce crime and nuisance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Value, enhance and protect natural environmental assets including AONB's, historic landscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings.</li> <li>• Encourage local stewardship of local environments, for example by promoting best practices in agricultural management.</li> <li>• Ensure that environmental impacts caused by mineral operations and the transport of minerals are minimised.</li> <li>• Promote the use of</li> </ul>	Number of developments meeting and surpassing national design	No specific targets identified.

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

# Appendix 3

Date: 15 January 2015  
Our ref: 139243  
Your ref: Neighbourhood Area SEA Scoping



Mr J. Latham  
Technical Support Officer  
Neighbourhood Planning, Strategic Planning & Conservation teams  
Herefordshire Council  
Planning Services,  
Blueschool House,  
Blueschool Street  
Hereford,  
HR1 2ZB

Customer Services  
Hornbeam House  
Crewe Business Park  
Electra Way  
Crewe  
Cheshire  
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

## BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Mr Latham

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

Ballingham, Bolstone & Hentland Group;  
Kington, Kington Rural & Lower Harpton and Huntington  
Upton Bishop  
Vowchurch & District Group  
Weston Beggard

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 04 December 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**

All that refer to:

Malvern Hills AONB Management Plan 2009- 2014, we advise referring to the more up to date [Malvern Hills AONB Management Plan 2014 to 2018](#).

Wye Valley AONB Management Plan 2009-2014, we advise also referring to [Draft Wye Valley Management Plan 2014 -19](#).

## Appendix A2 – Baseline information

### ***Biodiversity, flora and fauna***

#### Ballingham, Bolstone & Hentland Group

Under objective-13. “*Value, maintain, restore or expand county biodiversity*”, proposed indicator: “Phosphate levels within the River Wye SAC and adjoining tributaries that receive increased phosphates from proportional growth” there are no trends, targets, issues and constraints and would refer you to the other Neighbourhood Area Scoping Report we have been consulted on which do include these details.

#### Upton Bishop

Under objective-13. “*Value, maintain, restore or expand county biodiversity*”, proposed indicator- “*Net change to condition of SSSIs across Herefordshire*”, it is stated under Current Status that “there are no SSSIs within the Neighbourhood area”. Whilst this statement is correct, consideration should be made of impacts to SSSIs outside the Neighbourhood Area which could be impacted by Neighbourhood Area plan.

#### All

Under the proposed indicator “*Changes to protected habitats and impacts of species within the Herefordshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan*”, we advise an additional or at least the following 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](http://www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk)). We note that some of the report refer to the Herefordshire Council AMR (2010/11) as a baseline information source- could this be applied to all of them?

### ***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.

## Appendix A3 – Environmental issues identified from the baseline

#### All

Natural England welcomes the environmental issues identified.

## Appendix A4 – SEA Framework

#### All

Under topic “*Nature Conservation*”- “*Value, maintain, restore or expand county biodiversity*”, we advise that any indicators chosen should allow for the monitoring of the effects of the plan on the objective concerned, and not the objective more generally. Thus, for example, condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest is not a useful thing to monitor, but impacts of the plan on Sites of Special Scientific Interest might be.

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.

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.

### **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'.

#### Kington, Kington Rural & Lower Harpton and Huntington

##### Weston Beggard

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

##### Ballingham, Bolstone & Hentland Group;

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

##### Upton Bishop

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

##### Vowchurch & District Group

We welcome this initial assessment and agree that a full screening exercise will not be required.

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](mailto: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 Gililan Driver  
Planning Adviser  
South Mercia Team





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

05 January 2015

Dear Sir or Madam

**CONSULTATION ON SEA SCOPING REPORTS FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS IN: Ballingham, Bolstone & Hentland Group; Kington, Kington Rural & Lower Harpton and Huntingdon; Upton Bishop; Vowchurch & District Group; Weston Beggard.**

Thank you for your e-mail 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 seventh 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?

Other than that we note the SEA Frameworks sections of the SEA's submitted are generally commendable in their approach of including references to historic landscape and townscape quality, the maintenance of the Herefordshire SMR and conservation and wherever possible enhancement of locally significant heritage assets. We also particularly commend the

treatment of “Heritage at Risk” and the commitment to put measures in place to assist in the removal of heritage assets from the register, also the commitment to encourage the retention and re-use of existing buildings.

A final minor comment is to simply highlight a typographical error in Appendix A3 of the Ballingham, Bolstone & Hentland Group where S.4 “Cultural Heritage” erroneously references “Eardisley Group”.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Boland', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Pete Boland  
Historic Places Adviser  
E-mail: [peter.boland@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:peter.boland@english-heritage.org.uk)

# Appendix 4

NDP Objectives versus SEA Objectives (SMART and Compatibility Test)			
SEA Stage B1	Key:	SMART criteria:	
+	Compatible	<b>S – Specific:</b>	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	<b>M – Measurable:</b>	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	<b>A – Attainable/achievable:</b>	NDP objectives should be achievable and deliverable, related to the scale of growth proposed.
X	No relationship between objectives	<b>R – Realistic:</b>	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	<b>T – Time-Bound:</b>	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 Vowchurch and District Group NDP Objectives in terms of their SMART criteria and their compatibility with the SEA Objectives.

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

### SEA Objectives

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

NDP objectives	SEA objectives																Conclusions	Recommendations	SMART Test of NDP objective	After SMART objective
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16				
<b>Objective 1</b> <b>Meet local housing needs</b>	?	?	?	?	0	0	?	?	?	+	?	?				?	At this stage more information is required to assess the compatibility with the SEA objectives. This will emerge as the policies are assessed. However, this has the ability to be compatible if in conformity with the Core Strategy.	SEA objectives should be taken into account during the formulation of the policies for growth.	This objective is specific and can be monitored via indicators within the Annual Monitoring Report. The Vowchurch and District Neighbourhood Plan does not indicate any review period which would be a useful addition. This objective is achievable and deliverable and aims to meet the overall vision for the area. It is considered that this objective meets the SMART criteria.	Consideration of a period of monitoring policies being included within the plan.
<b>Objective 2</b> <b>New development design and environment</b>	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	The objective is seeking to ensure that development within the group parish complements the character of the historic and natural environment. This has a positive effect on the baseline	SEA objectives should be taken into account during the formulation of the policies for growth.	The objective is achievable and realistic and specific. The vision indicated that the time period for the plan is 2031.	No changes recommended
<b>Objective 3</b> <b>Local business and service</b>	x	x	+	+	x	+	+	x	x	x	x	+				+	At this stage more information is required to assess the compatibility with the SEA objectives. This will emerge as the policies are assessed. However, this has the ability to be compatible if in conformity with the Core Strategy.	SEA objectives should be taken into account during the formulation of the policies for growth.	This objective is specific and can be monitored via indicators within the Annual Monitoring Report. The Vowchurch and District Neighbourhood Plan does not indicate any review period which would be a useful addition. This objective is achievable and deliverable and aims to meet the overall vision for the area. It is considered that this objective meets the SMART criteria.	Consideration of a period of monitoring policies being included within the plan.

Objectives verses SEA Objectives (SMART and Compatibility Test)				
<b>SEA Stage B1</b>	<b>Key:</b>	<b>SMART criteria:</b>		
+ =	Compatible	<b>S – Specific:</b>	NDP objectives should specify what is intended to be done in detail and should not be open to a wide range of misinterpretations	The following matrix appraises the emerging Vowchurch Neighbourhood Plan options 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.
- =	Possible conflict	<b>M – Measurable:</b>	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	<b>A – Attainable/achievable:</b>	NDP objectives should be achievable and deliverable, related to the scale of growth proposed	
X =	No relationship between objectives	<b>R – Realistic:</b>	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	<b>T – Time-Bound:</b>	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.	

SEA Objectives	Baseline carried over from Stage A
<p>1- To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)</p> <p>2- To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes</p> <p>3- To improve quality of surroundings</p> <p>4- To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and culture heritage</p> <p>5- To improve air quality</p> <p>6- To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment</p> <p>7- To reduce contributions to climate change</p> <p>8- To reduce vulnerability to climate change</p> <p>9- To improve water quality</p> <p>10- To provide for sustainable sources of water supply</p> <p>11- To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk</p> <p>12- To conserve soil resources and quality</p> <p>13- To minimise the production of waste</p> <p>14- To improve health of the population</p> <p>15- To reduce crime and nuisance</p> <p>16- To conserve natural and manmade resources</p>	<p>1-Up-to-date countywide information will be presented in the next AMR and which is due to be published in 2014. The 2010/11 data indicates that 27% of Herefordshire's SSSI land was in favourable condition. At August 2014, there are four SSSI's within Vowchurch District Group - <i>Caerion Meadow-Area (favourable)</i>. <i>Pikes Farm Meadows-Area (favourable)</i>. <i>Wayne Herbert Quarry-(Favourable)</i>. <i>Chanstone Wood-Area (favourable)</i></p> <p>In 2010/11: 17 Habitat Action Plans and 14 Species Action Plans are currently in operation across Herefordshire, however no locally specific data is available.</p> <p>Vowchruh District Group has: SSSI: 4, SWS: 32, Ancient woodlands:24. There are no, NNRs and SINC's within the parish. There is no locally specific data available at present.</p> <p>2-There are no outstanding enforcement actions or appeals concerning locally important buildings within conservation area as there are no conservation areas within the parish.</p> <p>3-In terms of Vowchurch District Group, 1.88 ha of playing pitch area.1.3ha has secured community access. There is one junior football pitch. This is rated at 50% which is average quality. The sports field hosts 2 tennis courts, football, cricket pitches. All are rated at 26% which is of poor quality.</p> <p>4-There are numerous listed buildings within the parish and 8 Schedule Ancient Monuments. There are two buildings at risk on the register</p> <p>5-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 suggests that air quality is improving.</p> <p>6-% of Herefordshire residents who travel to work by: Car: 70.1%, Foot: 14.7%;Bicycle: 4.3%,Bus: 2%, Train: 0.8%,Motorbike: 0.8%,Taxi: 0.3%,Other: 7%.</p> <p>7-Herefordshire latest figure of C02 emissions per capita-dates back to 2010: 1.61 million tonnes (mtCO<sup>2</sup>)</p> <p>8-Reduce the risk of flooding-There have been no approvals contrary to EA advice since reporting began in 2004.The 2011-2013 AMR does not contain updated conservation data.</p> <p>9-Percentage of river length assessed as good or very good chemical quality and ecological quality as required by the Water Framework Directive. Latest figure dates back to 2005: 84%.</p> <p>10- The number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on flood defence grounds. However the 2001-13 AMR does not contain updated data Little Dewchurch Parish is more susceptible to fluvial flooding. This requires a holistic integrated approach to flood risk management.</p> <p>11-Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on flood defence grounds. The 2011-2013 AMR does not contain updated conservation data.</p> <p>12-The agricultural land classification around the Vowchurch District Group is mainly Grade 3 (good- moderate) or 4 (Poor). There are small patches of Grade 2 (very good) Percentage of all new developments completed on previously developed land; 67% (2010) and 57% (2011-13)</p> <p>16- There are numerous listed buildings within the parish and 8 Schedule Ancient Monuments. There are two buildings at risk on the register at present</p>

NDP Policies	SEA objectives																Summary in relation to baseline	Overall commentary and any initial cumulative effects/ Recommendations	Conformity with Core Strategy
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
<b>Baseline</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	N/A	N/A	N/A	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 2 Allocate sites for housing	++	++	++	++	++	+	++	++	++	+	++	+				++	Allocation of sites for housing or other uses would give certainty to future development. Specific environmental issues could be investigated during the site search and be positively addressed within the policy wording. The designation of a settlement boundary will give additional certainty and help define those areas considered as the built form and open countryside This option could have a positive effect on the baseline.	Pursuing this option would give greater certainty over future development within the area particularly within Vowchurch, Michealchurch Escley and Lower Maescoyd villages, where proportional growth is expected. 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 3 Manage future housing using a settlement boundary	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	The designation of a settlement boundary will give additional certainty and help define those areas considered as the built form and open countryside. This can aid the direction of further growth to maintain the quality of the landscape and surroundings. There is less certainty over the positive effects on the baseline as any growth with be adjudged by criteria based policy.	Any settlement boundary would need to be designated to ensure that sufficient capacity was included to permit the proportional growth requirements within Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy. Criteria would need to be included within the policy to safeguard against effects on any SEA objectives.	This option would meet the Core Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA.
Option 4 Manage future housing growth by criteria base policy	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	Criteria based policy does not give the same level of certainty as the other options as it will be more reactionary than proactive in terms of growth proposals. However provide criteria is added to the policy to safeguard or mitigate against any harm, the option will have a positive effect on the baseline.	Criteria would need to be included within the policy to safeguard against effects on any SEA objectives.	This option would meet the Core Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA

<p>Option 5 Settlement boundary for Lower Maes-coyd</p>	+	O	O	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	<p>The designation of a settlement boundary will give additional certainty and help define those areas considered as the built form and open countryside. However, the historic form of Lower Maes-coyd does not make the designation of a settlement boundary characteristic. Most of the area consists of individual dwellings within and around common land.</p>		<p>Criteria would need to be included within the policy to safeguard against effects on any SEA objectives.</p> <p>This option would meet the Core Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA</p>
<p>Option 6 No settlement boundary for Lower Maes-coyd</p>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	<p>Criteria based policy does not give the same level of certainty as the other options as it will be more reactionary than proactive in terms of growth proposals. However provide criteria is added to the policy to safeguard or mitigate against any harm, the option will have a positive effect on the baseline particularly given the form and setting of the settlement.</p>		<p>Criteria would need to be included within the policy to safeguard against effects on any SEA objectives.</p> <p>This option would meet the Core Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA</p>
<p>Option 7 Design policies for parish</p>	+	++	++	+	+	X	+	+	X	+	+	+				+	<p>A specific design policy for the area would have a positive effect on the baseline particularly with regards to townscape, quality of surroundings and historic environment. This will enable additional local detail to supplement the environmental policies of the Core Strategy.</p>		<p>Criteria would need to be included within the policy to safeguard against effects on any SEA objectives.</p> <p>This option would meet the Core Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA.</p>
<p>Option 8 Allocation for employment</p>	?	O	O	O	-	-	?	?	+	+	+	+				+	<p>The allocation of employment would add certainty however the dominate employment within this area has been agricultural / land based or small business / home working. Purpose built employment units would not necessary be characteristic of the local area and could increase traffic on rural single track roads.</p>		<p>Criteria would need to be included within the policy to safeguard against effects on any SEA objectives.</p> <p>This option would meet the Core Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA.</p>
<p>Option 9 Criteria for small scale business development and home</p>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	<p>Criteria based policy does not give the same level of certainty as the other options as it will be more reactionary than proactive in terms of growth proposals. However provide criteria is</p>		<p>Criteria would need to be included within the policy to safeguard against effects on any SEA objectives.</p> <p>This option would meet the Core Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA.</p>



working																			added to the policy to safeguard or mitigate against any harm, the option will have a positive effect on the baseline particularly given the form and setting of the settlements and the nature of employment growth within the area		
Option 10 Specific external lighting policy	++	++	++	+	X	X	+	X	X	X	X	X				X			The control of lighting can have a positive effect on the surrounding and the environment. Darker skies can also have a positive effect many nocturnal species.	Criteria would need to be included within the policy to safeguard against effects on any SEA objectives.	This option would meet the Core Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA.
Option 11 No specific lighting policy	+	+	+	+	X	X	+	X	X	X	X	X				X			Policy SD1 of the Core Strategy does provide criteria to safeguard against light contamination.	Criteria would need to be included within the policy to safeguard against effects on any SEA objectives.	This option would meet the Core Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA.

Objectives verses SEA Objectives (SMART and Compatibility Test)			
<b>SEA Stage B1</b>	<b>Key:</b>	<b>SMART criteria:</b>	
+ =	Compatible	<b>S – Specific:</b>	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	<b>M – Measurable:</b>	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	<b>A – Attainable/achievable:</b>	NDP objectives should be achievable and deliverable, related to the scale of growth proposed
X =	No relationship between objectives	<b>R – Realistic:</b>	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	<b>T – Time-Bound:</b>	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 Vowchurch and District Neighbourhood Plan policies 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 Policies	SEA objectives																Summary in relation to baseline	Overall commentary and any initial cumulative effects/ Recommendations	Conformity with Core Strategy
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
<b>Baseline</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	N/A	N/A	N/A	16			
Policy 1 – Protect and enhance local environment	++	++	++	++	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	Overall the policy is compatible and has a positive impact on the baseline data as the criteria is aimed at protecting the local environment.	The policy would not lead to development but set the environmental criteria any development will need to address. This is aimed at preserving and enhancing the local characteristics and well as the natural environment.	This policy does meet the Core Strategy requirement for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy 2 - Location of future development	?	+	++	++	?	?	+	?	+	+	?	+				+	Overall the policy is compatible and has a positive impact on the baseline data. Safeguarding criteria exists within Policy 1. Some areas of Vowchurch and Michaelchurch Escley are subject to flooding and this should be reflected within the policy.	Overall this policy meets the SEA baseline objectives. It will only lead to small scale development in line with Policy H2 of the Core Strategy. Include reference to avoiding an land liable to flooding within the policy criteria.	This policy does meet the Core Strategy requirement for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy 3 – Development in the open countryside	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	Overall the policy is compatible and has a positive impact on the baseline data	This policy is compatible with policy RA3 of the Core Strategy. It will only lead to very small and specific developments required within the open countryside.	This policy does meet the Core Strategy requirement for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy 4 – Nature and scale of new homes	?	+	+	?	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	Overall this policy has a positive effect on the baseline. Some objectives will be dependent on the specific location, however Policy 1 contains criteria safeguards with regards to the natural and built environments.	It is recommended that this policy should be read in conjunction with Policy 2 with regards to location. Therefore this would need lead to development itself by guide the type and scale of development. Recommended that cross reference is made within the policy text to the location element of the new housing proposals.	This policy does meet the Core Strategy requirement for the purposes of the SEA.

Policy 5 – Housing design criteria	+	++	++	+	+	x	+	+	x	+	?	+				+	This policy has a positive effect on the baseline, it will net lead to development itself but contains criteria for new housing developments to meet.	The policy would not lead to development but set the environmental criteria any development will need to address. This is aimed at preserving and enhancing the local characteristics and well as the natural environment. Additional criteria is recommended to reflect the need to avoid land liable to flooding.	This policy does meet the Core Strategy requirement for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy 6 – Affordable housing	?	?	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	Overall the policy is compatible and has a positive impact on the baseline data. Some objectives will be dependent on location of the affordable housing schemes.	Overall this policy meets the SEA baseline objectives. It will only lead to small scale development in line with Policy H2 of the Core Strategy.	This policy does meet the Core Strategy requirement for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy 7 – External lighting	++	++	++	+	x	x	+	x	x	x	x	x				x	The control of lighting can have a positive effect on the surrounding and the environment. Darker skies can also have a positive effect many nocturnal species.	The policy meets the SEA objective.	This policy does meet the Core Strategy requirement for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy 8 – New commercial development	x	+	+	+	++	++	++	+	o	+	+	o				++	Overall the policy is compatible and has a positive impact on the baseline data	Overall the policy is positive as it will help to reduce the need to travel and enable additional opportunities to work from home. Criteria has been included which would aim to safeguard environmental character and quality.	The principle of this policy is compatible with the Core Strategy Policy E3, RA5, RA6 and meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purpose of the SEA.
Policy 9 – New tourism development	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	o	x	+	o				+	Overall the policy is compatible with the baseline data.	Overall the policy meets the SEA baseline objectives. Additional tourism visitors and facilities can have an effect on natural resources. Additional policy safeguards within the Neighbourhood plan and Core Strategy will help mitigate these issues.	This policy does meet the Core Strategy requirement for the purposes of the SEA.

**Key:**

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

***Policy 1 – to protect and enhance the local environment***

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)	+	+	++	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the landscape, environment and habitats.	-
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	++	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the landscape, environment and habitats.	-
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	++	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the landscape, environment and habitats.	-
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and	+	+	++	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the landscape, environment and	-

cultural heritage				habitats.	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	The preservation and enhance of many natural features 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	+	+	+	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the landscape, environment and habitats.	-
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the landscape, environment and habitats.	-
To improve water quality	+	+	+	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the landscape, environment and habitats.	-
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	?	+	+	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the landscape, environment and habitats.	-
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	?	?	+	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the landscape, environment and habitats. Vowchurch has areas within Flood Zone 3 and Michaelchurch Escley also	Reference to avoidance of flood areas should be included within the criteria.

				experience flooding to the south west. A criteria should be added to include reference to flooding	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the landscape, environment and habitats.	-
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the natural and built environment, habitats and cultural assets.	-
<b>Overall commentary and any cumulative effects</b>	This policy is seeking to safeguard many features of the natural and built environment within any development proposals. This will have a positive effect overall on the SEA baseline.				

***Policy 2 – Location of future developments in Michaelchurch Escley, Vowchurch and Lower Maes-coed***

<b>SEA Objective</b>	<b>Assessment of effect</b> (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)	<b>Summary Explanation</b>	<b>Enhancement and mitigation opportunities</b>

	<b>Short term</b> (1 – 5 years)	<b>Medium term</b> (6 – 10 years)	<b>Long term</b> (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	?	?	+	This policy is encouraging smaller development which are characteristic to the form and nature of the settlements within the Group parish area. The conservation of historic and existing buildings could have an impact on nature conservation.	-
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to direct development to the settlement boundaries for two settlements highlighted with RA2. The criteria is seeking to ensure that new developments follow historic settlement patterns or within existing buildings.	-
To improve quality of surroundings	+	++	++	The policy is seeking to direct development to the settlement boundaries for two settlements highlighted with RA2. The criteria is seeking to ensure that new developments follow historic settlement patterns or within existing buildings.	-
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and	+	++	++	The policy is seeking to direct development to the settlement boundaries for two settlements	-

cultural heritage				highlighted with RA2. The criteria is seeking to ensure that new developments follow historic settlement patterns or within existing buildings.	
To improve air quality	?	?	+	Proportional growth will have the potential to increase traffic within the area. However, the policy seeks to locate development within settlement boundaries or existing buildings near to existing services and facilities.	-
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	?	?	+	Proportional growth will have the potential to increase traffic within the area. However, the policy seeks to locate development within settlement boundaries or existing buildings near to existing services and facilities.	-
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	This policy is in line with Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy and does not go over and above the proportional growth.	-
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	?	?	+	This policy is in line with Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy and does not go over and above the proportional growth. Some areas of Vowchurch settlement and Michaelchurch Escley experience flooding. It would be beneficial to include this within	Include reference to avoid of dwellings within areas liable to flood.



				the policy criteria	
To improve water quality	+	+	+	This policy is in line with Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy and does not go over and above the proportional growth.	-
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	+	+	+	This policy is in line with Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy and does not go over and above the proportional growth.	-
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	?	?	+	This policy is in line with Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy and does not go over and above the proportional growth. Some areas of Vowchurch settlement and Michaelchurch Escley experience flooding. It would be beneficial to include this within the policy criteria	Include reference to avoid of dwellings within areas liable to flood.
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This policy is in line with Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy and does not go over and above the proportional growth.	-
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					

To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This policy is in line with Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy and does not go over and above the proportional growth.	-
<b>Overall commentary and any cumulative effects</b>	This policy is seeking to direct development in line with Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy and contains criteria to encourage future developments to reflect the historic character of this predominately rural area. Some reference should be included within the criteria to safeguarding against areas liable to flooding.				

***Policy 3 – Development in the open countryside***

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)	+	+	+	This policy is in line with policy RA3 of the Core Strategy.	-
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	This policy is in line with policy RA3 of the Core Strategy.	-
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	This policy is in line with policy RA3 of the Core Strategy.	-

To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	This policy is in line with policy RA3 of the Core Strategy.	-
To improve air quality	+	+	+	This policy is in line with policy RA3 of the Core Strategy.	-
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	This policy is in line with policy RA3 of the Core Strategy.	-
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	This policy is in line with policy RA3 of the Core Strategy.	-
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	This policy is in line with policy RA3 of the Core Strategy.	-
To improve water quality	+	+	+	This policy is in line with policy RA3 of the Core Strategy.	-
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	+	+	+	This policy is in line with policy RA3 of the Core Strategy.	-
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	This policy is in line with policy RA3 of the Core Strategy.	-
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	The policy is in line with the Core Strategy	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and					

nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This policy is in line with policy RA3 of the Core Strategy.	-
<b>Overall commentary and any cumulative effects</b>	This policy is in line with policy RA3 of the Core Strategy.				

**Policy 4 Nature and scale of new homes**

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)	?	?	+	This policy will not lead to development itself and other policies within the NDP exist to safeguard natural environment aspects.	Textual links to policy 2 of the NDP would be beneficial.
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	This policy will not lead to development itself and other policies within the NDP exist to safeguard natural environment aspects.	
To improve quality of	+	+	+	This policy will not lead to	

surroundings				development itself and other policies within the NDP exist to safeguard natural environment aspects.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	?	?	?	This policy will not lead to development itself and other policies within the NDP exist to safeguard natural environment aspects.	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	The policy is encouraging a dwellings which would able a range and mix to be provided in the local area to assist young local families to remain close to existing family members and facilities.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	o	o	o	Proportional growth will potentially lead to additional traffic. However, the policy is seeking to encourage a range and mix of housing locally which could reduce the need to travel to local facilities including the local primary school.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	Proportional growth will potentially lead to additional traffic. However, the policy is seeking to encourage a range and mix of housing locally which could reduce the need to travel to local facilities including the local primary school.	

To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	Criteria should be included within other policies of the NDP to avoid areas which are liable to flooding.	
To improve water quality	+	+	+	The policy is in line with the Core Strategy	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	+	+	+	The policy is in line with the Core Strategy	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	Criteria should be included within other policies of the NDP to avoid areas which are liable to flooding.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This policy is in line with the Core Strategy	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This policy is in line with the Core Strategy.	
<b>Overall commentary and any cumulative effects</b>	There are some unknown effects on the SEA objectives, however there are sufficient policy safeguards within the Core Strategy and other NDP policies.				

**Policy 5 – Housing design criteria**

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)	+	+	+	This policy will not lead to development itself, it highlights design criteria. Criteria is included to encourage developments to 'blend' with the surrounding environment.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	++	This policy will not lead to development itself, it highlights design criteria. Criteria is included to encourage developments to 'blend' with the surrounding environment.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	++	++	This policy will not lead to development itself, it highlights design criteria. Criteria is included to encourage developments to 'blend' with the surrounding environment.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and	+	+	+	This policy will not lead to development itself, it highlights design criteria. Criteria is included	

cultural heritage				to encourage developments to 'blend' with the surrounding environment.	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	Criteria is included to encourage energy efficient within the buildings and developments	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	x	x	x	No relationship	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	Criteria is included to encourage energy efficient within the buildings and developments	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	Criteria is included to encourage energy efficient within the buildings and developments. Amendments to other policies within the NDP will refer to flooding aspects	
To improve water quality	x	x	x	No relationship	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	+	+	+	Criteria is included to encourage energy efficient within the buildings and developments	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	Criteria is included to encourage energy efficient within the buildings and developments. Amendments to other policies within the NDP will refer to flooding aspects	
To conserve soil	+	+	+	This policy will not lead to development itself, it highlights	



resources and quality				design criteria. Criteria is included to encourage developments to 'blend' with the surrounding environment.	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This policy will not lead to development itself, it highlights design criteria. Criteria is included to encourage developments to 'blend' with the surrounding environment.	
<b>Overall commentary and any cumulative effects</b>	The policy contains a number of criteria which are aimed at ensuring that the design of any new developments complement the character of the existing settlements and surrounding areas.				

**Policy 6 – Affordable housing**

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)	?	?	?	This policy is specifically aimed to encourage affordable housing. The location and criteria associated with the development of the sites are not detailed within the policy itself. Other policies of the NDP and Core Strategy can provide this policy detail. Although at this stage the details of the site locations are unknown.	Cross reference to policy H2 would be beneficial with regards to locations
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	?	?	?	This policy is specifically aimed to encourage affordable housing. The location and criteria associated with the development of the sites are not detailed within the policy itself. Other policies of the NDP and Core Strategy can provide this policy detail. Although at this stage the details of the site locations are unknown.	Cross reference to policy H2 would be beneficial with regards to locations
To improve quality of	?	?	?	This policy is specifically aimed to encourage affordable housing. The	Cross reference to policy H2 would be

surroundings				location and criteria associated with the development of the sites are not detailed within the policy itself. Other policies of the NDP and Core Strategy can provide this policy detail. Although at this stage the details of the site locations are unknown.	beneficial with regards to locations
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	?	?	?	This policy is specifically aimed to encourage affordable housing. The location and criteria associated with the development of the sites are not detailed within the policy itself. Other policies of the NDP and Core Strategy can provide this policy detail. Although at this stage the details of the site locations are unknown.	Cross reference to policy H2 would be beneficial with regards to locations
To improve air quality	+	+	+	The provision of affordable housing within the parish will enable an opportunity for young families to continue living need to existing service and facilities including the local primary school thus reducing the need to travel.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	The provision of affordable housing within the parish will enable an opportunity for young families to continue living need to existing service and facilities including the local primary school thus reducing	

				the need to travel.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	The provision of affordable housing within the parish will enable an opportunity for young families to continue living need to existing service and facilities including the local primary school thus reducing the need to travel.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	Policy safeguards exist within policy 1 of the NDP and with the Core Strategy.	
To improve water quality	+	+	+	Policy safeguards exist within policy 1 of the NDP and with the Core Strategy.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	+	+	+	Policy safeguards exist within policy 1 of the NDP and with the Core Strategy.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	Policy safeguards exist within policy 1 of the NDP and with the Core Strategy.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	Policy safeguards exist within policy 1 of the NDP and with the Core Strategy.	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					

To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	Policy safeguards exist within policy 1 of the NDP and with the Core Strategy.	
<b>Overall commentary and any cumulative effects</b>	This policy is seeking to encourage affordable housing in line with Policy H2 of the Core Strategy. As there are no locational references within the policy itself, some of the objectives will be fully tested during the planning application stage. However there are policy safeguards within the Core Strategy and other policies of the NDP.				

**Policy 7 – External lighting**

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)	+	+	++	This policy is aiming at reducing the amount of unnecessary light pollution in the open countryside. Darker skies can help nocturnal animals particularly bats.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes	+	+	++	The reduction in light pollution can have a positive effect on the landscape particularly in this area	

and townscapes				close to the Brecon Beacons.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	++	The reduction in light pollution can have a positive effect on the landscape particularly in this area close to the Brecon Beacons.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	The reduction in light pollution can have a positive effect on the landscape particularly in this area close to the Brecon Beacons.	
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	+	+	+	Reduction in the use of artificial lighting can help to reduce energy use.	
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	
<b>Overall commentary and any cumulative effects</b>	Darker skies policy can assist in balancing the need for well-designed and required lighting with minimising light pollution. The reduction in lighting can have a positive effect on the landscape, local fauna and views of the night sky.				

**Policy 8 – Applications for new commercial developments**

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	+	+	+	This policy is seeking to encourage small scale commercial development in line with policy RA6 of the Core Strategy whilst preserving the rural character of the 5 parishes.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	This policy is seeking to encourage small scale commercial development in line with policy RA6 of the Core Strategy whilst preserving the rural character of the 5 parishes.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	This policy is seeking to encourage small scale commercial development in line with policy RA6 of the Core Strategy whilst preserving the rural character of the 5 parishes.	
To improve air quality	+	+	++	This policy will encourage small scale commercial developments including working for home. This will assist reduce the need to travel by providing some local employment opportunities.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	++	This policy will encourage small scale commercial developments including working for home. This will assist reduce the need to travel by providing some local employment opportunities.	



To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	++	This policy will encourage small scale commercial developments including working from home. This will assist reduce the need to travel by providing some local employment opportunities.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	Policy criteria within the Core Strategy and the NDP will provide necessary policy safeguards to ensure issues relating to location and vulnerability are taken into consideration.	
To improve water quality	o	+	+	This will be dependent on the scale and type of commercial development proposed. However the parish is not within the hydrological catchment of the River Wye SAC where water quality is a current issue.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	x	x	x	No relationship	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	Policy criteria within the Core Strategy and the NDP will provide necessary policy safeguards to ensure issues relating to location and vulnerability are taken into consideration.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	o	o	o	Policy criteria within the Core Strategy and the NDP will provide necessary policy safeguards to	

				ensure issues relating to location and vulnerability are taken into consideration.	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	++	This policy is seeking to encourage small scale commercial development in line with policy RA6 of the Core Strategy whilst preserving the rural character of the 5 parishes.	
<b>Overall commentary and any cumulative effects</b>	This policy is seeking to encourage small scale commercial development in line with policy RA6 of the Core Strategy whilst preserving the rural character of the 5 parishes.				

***Policy 9 – Applications for new tourism development***

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)	Medium term	Long term		

	years)	(6 – 10 years)	(11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	+	Policy safeguards exist within policy 1 of the NDP and within the Core Strategy to assist maintain and enhancing the natural elements of any proposal.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	Policy safeguards exist within policy 1 of the NDP and within the Core Strategy to assist maintain and enhancing the natural elements of any proposal.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	Policy safeguards exist within policy 1 of the NDP and within the Core Strategy to assist maintain and enhancing the natural elements of any proposal.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	Policy safeguards exist within policy 1 of the NDP and within the Core Strategy to assist maintain and enhancing the natural elements of any proposal.	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	Tourism will have the potential to encourage additional car trips to the area. This will be dependent on the location, nature and form of the tourism development concerned.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	Tourism will have the potential to encourage additional car trips to the	

				area. This will be dependent on the location, nature and form of the tourism development concerned.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	Tourism will have the potential to encourage additional car trips to the area. This will be dependent on the location, nature and form of the tourism development concerned.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	The area is not within the hydrological catchment of an European site. Flooding should be reflected within the policy criteria.	
To improve water quality	o	o	+	The area is not within the hydrological catchment of an European site. Flooding should be reflected within the policy criteria.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	x	x	x	No relationship	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	?	?	+	Some areas of the parish are subject to flooding and the policies should have some additional reference to avoid areas which are liable to flooding.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	o	o	o	Policy safeguards exist within policy 1 of the NDP and within the Core Strategy to assist maintain and enhancing the natural elements of any proposal. This will be location	

				and nature of business dependent.	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	Policy safeguards exist within policy 1 of the NDP and within the Core Strategy to assist maintain and enhancing the natural and built elements of any proposal.	
<b>Overall commentary and any cumulative effects</b>	The plans contained sufficient policy safeguards within both the Core Strategy and the NDP. Details will be dependent on the location and the nature of the tourism development concerns, these details will be addressed at the planning application stages.				

**Key:**

++ Move towards significantly	+ Move towards marginally	-- Move away Significantly	- Move away marginally	0 Neutral	? Uncertain	X No relationship
-------------------------------	---------------------------	----------------------------	------------------------	-----------	-------------	-------------------

SEA Objective / 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	?	?	?	?	0	0	?	?	?	+	?	?				?
Objective 2	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
Objective 3	X	X	+	+	X	+	+	X	X	X	X	+				+
Policy 1	++	++	++	++	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
Policy 2	?	+	++	++	?	?	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
Policy 3	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
Policy 4	?	+	+	?	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
Policy 5	+	++	++	+	+	X	+	+	X	+	+	+				+
Policy 6	?	?	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
Policy 7	++	++	++	+	X	X	+	X	X	X	X	X				X
Policy 8	X	+	+	+	++	++	++	+	0	+	+	0				++
Policy 9	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	X	+	0				+
Summary of effects of whole plan on each SEA Objective	?+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
Cumulative effects of whole plan (1 + 2 + 3...)	Overall the Vowchurch Neighbourhood Plan will contribution to meeting the SEA objectives and having a positive impact on the baseline. Policies have been drafted in general conformity with the Core Strategy objectives and contain many policy safeguards to ensure that the effects on environmental assets can be avoided or mitigated against. None of the policies are over and above those already assessed for the Core Strategy.															
Commentary for significant cumulative effects	The Vowchurch neighbourhood plan is unlikely to have any significant cumulative effects on the SEA objectives.															

# Appendix 5

**Options Considered in preparation of Vowchurch and District Group NDP**

- Option 1 – Do nothing
- Option 2 – Allocation sites for housing
- Option 3 – Manage future housing using a settlement boundary
- Option 4 – Manage future housing growth by criteria base policy
- Option 5 – Settlement boundary for Lower Maes-coyd
- Option 6 – No settlement boundary for Lower Maes-coyd
- Option 7 – Design policies for parish
- Option 8 – Allocation for employment
- Option 9 – Criteria for small scale business development and home working
- Option 10 – Specific external lighting policy
- Option 11 – No specific lighting policy



# Appendix 6

Objectives and context	Where referenced in NDP/SEA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Neighbourhood Development Plan's purpose and objectives are made clear.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• SEA objectives are clearly set out and linked to indicators and targets where appropriate.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Conflicts that exist between SEA and Neighbourhood Development Plan objectives; and between SEA objectives and other local plan objectives are identified and described.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 1 (paras 1.10 – 1.18).</li> <li>• Sections 2 and 3; and Tables A2 and A3</li> <li>• Section 3 (para 3.7).</li> <li>• Section 3 (para 3.1).</li> <li>• Section 4 (paras 4.4)</li> </ul>
Scoping	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statutory Consultees are consulted in appropriate ways and at appropriate times on the content and scope of the Environmental Report.</li> <li>• The assessment focuses on significant issues.</li> <li>• Technical, procedural and other difficulties encountered are discussed; assumptions and uncertainties are made explicit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 2 (paras 2.6 – 2.9) &amp; Appendix 3</li> <li>• Sections 2 and 6</li> <li>• Sections 2 and 6</li> </ul>

<b>Alternatives</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Realistic alternatives are considered for key issues, and the reasons for choosing them are documented.</li> <li>Alternatives include 'do minimum' and/or 'business as usual' scenarios wherever relevant.</li> <li>The environmental effects (both adverse and beneficial) of each alternative are identified and compared.</li> <li>Inconsistencies between the alternatives and other relevant local plans, programmes or policies are identified and explained.</li> <li>Reasons are given for selection or elimination of alternatives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 5.</li> <li>Section 5 (paras 5.2 – 5.8).</li> <li>Section 5 &amp; Appendix 5</li> <li>N/A</li> <li>Section 5 (paras 5.2 – 5.8).</li> </ul>
<b>Baseline information</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Difficulties such as deficiencies in information or methods are explained.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 1 and 6.</li> <li>Initial screening report and Section 1.</li> <li>Section 2.</li> </ul>

<b>Prediction and evaluation of likely significant environmental effects</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Both positive and negative effects are considered, and the duration of effects (short, medium or long-term) is addressed.</li> <li>• Likely secondary, cumulative (growing in quantity and strength) and synergistic (acting together) effects are identified, where practicable.</li> <li>• Inter-relationships between effects are considered, where practicable.</li> <li>• The prediction and evaluation of effects makes use of relevant accepted standards, regulations, and thresholds (i.e. data gathered for the evidence base).</li> <li>• Methods used to evaluate the effects are described.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tables A2, A3 and A4 (Appendix 2)</li> <li>• Tables B2 and B3 (Appendix 4)</li> <li>• Table B4 (Appendix 4)</li> <li>• Section 6</li> <li>• Section 6</li> <li>• Section 2</li> </ul>
<b>Mitigation measures</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the Neighbourhood Development Plan are indicated.</li> <li>• Issues to be taken into account when determining planning applications or other projects, for example funding bids, are identified.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 6 (paras 6.5. – 6.8)</li> <li>• Section 6.</li> </ul>

<b>The Environmental Report</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is clear and concise in its layout and presentation.</li> <li>• Uses simple, clear language and avoids or explains technical terms.</li> <li>• Uses maps and other illustrations, where appropriate.</li> <li>• Explains the methodology used.</li> <li>• Explains who was consulted and what methods of consultation were used.</li> <li>• Identifies sources of information, including expert judgement and matters of opinion.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> <li>• N/A</li> <li>• N/A</li> <li>• Section 2</li> <li>• Section 2</li> <li>• Section 2</li> <li>• Included at page 1</li> </ul>
<b>Consultation</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SEA is consulted on as an integral part of the plan-making process of the Neighbourhood Development Plan.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 2 (paras 2.4 – 2.5).</li> <li>• Section 7.</li> </ul>

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