

Environmental Report

Report for:

Withington Group Neighbourhood Area

November 2018



Withington Group Parish Environmental Report

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Non-technical summary

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

Withington Group Parish has undertaken to prepare an NDP and this process has been subject to environmental appraisal pursuant to the SEA Directive. The main development is in Withington. Westhide is the smallest parish with a population of 69. Preston Wynne is a parish of dispersed development along three miles of loop road, and small developments at Eau Withington, and Withington Marsh form other groups of development, the whole being separated by agricultural land and scattered dwellings. Whitestone Business Park provides the largest employment area. The parish is crossed by the A465 linking Hereford to Bromyard, and the A4103, Hereford to Worcester road. The village of Withington lies towards the south side of the parish, to the north of the Hereford to Worcester railway. Westhide is situated 6 miles NE of Hereford, 9½ miles SW of Bromyard and approximately 2 miles NE of Withington station on the Worcester Hereford branch of the Great Western Railway (West Midlands Section). Preston Wynne is a small village situated to the north of the A465 Hereford to Bromyard road. There are just over 60 houses on a 3 mile loop through the parish, and at Preston Marsh.

The draft Withington Group Parish NDP includes 10 main objectives and it is intended that these objectives will be delivered by 17 criteria based planning policies.

The environmental appraisal of the Withington Group Parish 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 falls within the catchment for the River Wye (including River Lugg), and is within the River Lugg. The HRA assesses the potential effects of the NDP on the River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC.

On the whole, it is considered that the Withington Group Parish 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). Parish Councillors will welcome the conclusion as to general conformity. It also does not propose any growth that would be over and above the growth prescribed by strategic policies within the Core Strategy.

Taking into consideration the cumulative effects of policies, options and sites, the plan will have an overall positive impact on environmental assets. The plan is in general conformity with the Core Strategy overall as all of the policies and objectives meet the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA. Other issues with a current uncertain outcome have the opportunity to be mitigated by further detail in policies or at planning stage.

Overall the plan is positive and would have a positive impact upon the SEA baseline data. Key recommendations would be to ensure that the environmental mitigation impacts are clear and robust, this may require some enhancement of existing policies in regard to air quality and water resources. The plan as a whole is robust and meets key targets, any unknown areas identified require further detail such as details of location, scale and size of development, which are likely to be determined at planning application/ proposal stage. No significant cumulative effects have been identified.

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

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report forms the draft Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Withington Group Parish Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP).
- 1.2 The Withington Group Parish Draft NDP identifies two commitment sites within policy P1. The NDP will provide general policies for guiding future development across the parish.

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 Withington Group Parish Draft 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 Withington Group Parish covers three rural parishes located between 3 and 8 miles to the east/north east of Hereford City. The group covers some 6.7 sq. miles. The main development is in Withington. Westhide is the smallest parish with a population of 69. Preston Wynne is a parish of dispersed development along three miles of loop road, and small developments at Eau Withington, and Withington Marsh form other groups of development, the whole being separated by agricultural land and scattered dwellings
- 1.7 The Parish area consists of 1 ancient woodland, 3 Special Wildlife Sites, 1 site of Special Scientific Interest, 2 unregistered park and gardens and a conservation area.
- 1.8 The Draft Withington Group Parish NDP includes 10 main objectives, which are designed to deliver the overarching vision on the ground, and it is intended that these objectives will be supported by 17 criteria based planning policies. Alternative options were considered prior to reaching a decision over the format of the draft plan.
- 1.9 There are numerous built heritage assets including numerous listed buildings. There are 2 Scheduled Ancient Monuments.
- 1.10 The vision Withington Group Parish in 2031 is as follows:

“The villages should evolve, but ensure that their integrity is kept and not developed into a suburb or a small town of urban sprawl. The parishioners have chosen to live in a rural village.

To take into consideration the existing needs of the community. To ensure the community facilities (transport, employment etc.) are developed and maintained in line with this.

Monitor and control traffic flows and infrastructure through the villages.”

The 10 NDP objectives are as follows:

- 1. **To ensure that the growth of housing in Withington is proportionate to the size and scale of the settlements and the surrounding countryside so that it retains its rural character.**

2. To deliver housing development in the surrounding areas that are in line with Objective 1.
3. To ensure that all new development takes into consideration the style and substance of local housing, being designed to be in keeping with the surrounding character of the parish.
4. To ensure that new housing is developed in a suitable range of tenures, types, size, affordability ranges and is flexible in usage so that local people of all ages can live in the parish in a suitable home while attracting families to the area and local housing needs are met.
5. To ensure that there are appropriate local and community facilities, which incorporate the latest technological advances in such areas as mobile phone reception and broadband as is suitable, which can support present demand, future projected growth and demographic change. Such developments must make a positive and tangible impact on the range and availability of community facilities throughout the parish.
6. To continue to develop local employment opportunities, including small businesses and tourism, which continue to be sympathetic to the largely agricultural nature of the parish.
7. To ensure that the natural and built environment of the parish is protected and enhanced for future generations through sustainable development by protecting key environmental and heritage assets (including listed buildings, conservation areas, green spaces and landscapes)
8. To ensure any new development does not increase flood risk, and to restrict any new development in flood risk areas.
9. To ensure development of a safe and well maintained network of roads and pavements and footpaths within the parish.
10. To continue to seek the opinions of parishioners at regular intervals in connection with all the above objectives, in order to make the Neighbourhood Plan a fully inclusive on-going document.

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 Withington Group Parish NDP must therefore conform to national planning policy set within the NPPF and strategic level local policy including the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy).
- 1.13 The Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) was adopted on the 16th October 2015.
- 1.14 Paragraph 216 of the NPPF and Planning Practice Guidance set out the weight that may be given to relevant policies in emerging plans, including NDPs, and indicated that weight may be given to relevant policies in emerging NDPs according to:
 - The stage of preparation of the emerging plan (the more advanced the preparation, the greater the weight that may be given);
 - The extent to which there are unresolved objections to relevant policies (the less significant the unresolved objections, the greater the weight that may be given); and

- The degree of consistency of the relevant policies in the emerging plan to the policies in this Framework (the closer the policies in the emerging plan to the policies in the Framework, the greater the weight that may be given).
- 1.15 This part of the NPPF is reinforced by Planning Practice Guidance published in March 2014, which is clear that an emerging NDP may be a material planning consideration once it has reached submission/local authorities publication stage (Regulation 16). This is reinforced by recent ministerial statements and case law (West Sussex), all of which have demonstrated that an emerging NDP may be a material consideration at the Regulation 16 stage¹.
- 1.16 The Local Plan (Core Strategy) lists Withington as a 4.14 settlement and Westhidge, Preston Wynne and Wellington Marsh as a 4.15 settlement, both of which it considers to be sustainable locations for growth, and with a 18% proportional growth target as part of the Hereford HMA.
- 1.17 Once made (adopted) by Herefordshire Council, the Withington Group Parish 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 Withington Group Parish Neighbourhood Plan objectives and the SEA framework
 - Section 4 - Appraises the objectives contained within the Neighbourhood Plan against the SEA framework
 - Section 5 - Appraises the options considered within the Neighbourhood Plan against the SEA framework
 - Section 6 – Appraises the policies contained within the Neighbourhood Plan against the SEA framework
 - Section 7 – Discusses the implementation and monitoring of the Neighbourhood Plan
 - Section 8 - Concludes the SEA report by outlining next steps

2.0 Methodology

- 2.1 The SEA process comprised several stages and which are summarised, in some detail, below.
- 2.2 Stage A involved 4 tasks and culminated in a Scoping Report:
- *Task A1:* Identified and reviewed relevant policies, plans and programmes and environmental protection objectives from European, National and Local sources.
 - *Task A2:* Collected baseline information to provide a picture of past, present and likely future conditions within the area. This helped to establish indicators which will be used to monitor the effects and performance of the Withington Group Parish NDP.
 - *Task A3:* Focused on the environmental issues identified from the

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

- baseline, highlighting key issues and problems within the neighbourhood area.
- *Task A4:* Used the information gathered from Tasks A1-A3 to develop a set of SEA objectives, sometimes referred to as the 'sustainability framework'.
- *Task A5:* Collated the results of Tasks A1-A4 within a Scoping Report, a document which was subject to a statutory 5 week consultation.

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

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

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

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

Scoping Report Consultation

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

2.7 After the document was approved by the Parish Council, the Withington Group Parish SEA Scoping Report was available to four² statutory bodies for consultation from 14 July 2014 to 18 August 2014.

Consultation outcomes from Statutory Consultees

2.8 The consultation resulted in 1 response, of which is attached at Appendix 3.

2.9 The response was collated and incorporated within this document where relevant.

Natural England:

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

Appendix A1 – Plans, policies and programmes

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

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

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Appendix A2 – Baseline information

Biodiversity, flora and fauna

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

Against the proposed indicator “Net change in condition of SSSIs across Herefordshire”, under “current status” the table states that there is no data available. Natural England is able to provide up to date information on the condition of SSSI's. Please contact us for this information as and when required.

Under the proposed indicator “Changes to protected habitats and impacts of species within the Herefordshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan”, no baseline information source has been identified.

Maps of priority habitats and species are available on Magic, Defra's GIS package for environmental assets (www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk).

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

Water, air, soil and material assets

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

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

Soil

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

Appendix A3 – Environmental issues identified baseline

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

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

Template A4: SEA Framework

Under the SEA topic “Nature Conservation (Biodiversity, flora and fauna)”, we would welcome the inclusion of an indicator/target around the impact/benefit to ecological networks (NPPF paragraph 109, 113 and 117). We note that no targets have been identified against the indicator “After use of mineral sites especially wildlife habitat creation”; we suggest that perhaps the percentage of opportunities taken could be monitored. Against “Changes to protected habitats and impacts of species within the Herefordshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan”, we suggest that as a minimum there should be no net losses. The NPPF sets out a requirement to move to net gains for nature (paragraph 9), drawing on the Natural Environment White Paper.

Under the SEA topic “Landscape” we suggest that reference could be made to the county

Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Characterisation studies including Historic

Landscape Characterisation if this has been carried out. Applications resulting in the loss of open space could be monitored.

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

Under the SEA topic “Soil”, the second objective listed looks to be incomplete. Additional indicators or targets could be included around hectares of the best and most versatile agricultural land lost to development.

Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening

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

Historic England: We have no substantive objection.

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 Withington Group Parish 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 Withington Group Parish 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 strategies and plans have been reviewed and, where appropriate, incorporated within the SA Framework objectives:
- *The EC Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010)* - These regulations transpose the Habitats Directive in England, Wales and to a limited extent Scotland by ensuring that activities are carried out in accordance with the Habitats Directive, which is to protect biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and species of wild flora and fauna.
 - *The EC Water Framework Directive (2000)* - Commits all EU member states to achieve good qualitative and quantitative status of all water courses by 2015
 - *The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)* - The major legal instrument for wildlife protection in Britain, although other significant acts have been passed since. It has numerous parts and supplementary lists and schedules many of which have been amended since publication.
 - *Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (2011)* - Forms part of the UK's Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework by setting out England's contribution towards the UK's commitments under the United Nations Convention of Biological Diversity.
 - *The Countryside and Right of Way Act (2000)* - Creates a statutory right of access on foot to certain types of open land, to modernise the public rights of way system, to strengthen nature conservation legislation, and to facilitate better management of AONBs
 - *The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)* - Designed to help achieve a rich and diverse natural environment and thriving rural communities through modernised and simplified arrangements for delivering Government policy.

- *Revised EU Sustainable Development strategy (2009)* - Sets out a single strategy on how the EU will more effectively meet its long-standing commitment to meet the challenges of sustainable development.
- *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2012)* - Consolidates the suite of PPG/PPS into one succinct planning policy document.
- *Planning Practice Guidance (2013)* - Sets out the vision, objectives and policies for the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy), which will guide development across the county up to 2031.
- *Herefordshire Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP) 2013-2015* - Sets out the Council's strategy for supporting economic growth, social inclusion and reducing the environmental impacts of transport, as well as the program of investment for the period April 2013 to April 2015.
- *Understanding Herefordshire Report (2014)* - Important to understand the place such as the local economy natural and built environment in which people live, learn and work as part of understanding their quality of life. Enable development for economy and housing to required levels and growth should be supported by sustainable transport measures.
- *Malvern Hills AONB Management Plan 2009-2014 (2009)* - Identifies the issues and challenges facing the special features of the area and contains 24 guiding principles and 46 strategic objectives which will help address them.
- *Wye Valley AONB management Plan 2009-2014 (2009)* - The Management Plan is the prime document which sets out the vision for the area and the priorities for its management.
- *Herefordshire Economic Development Strategy 2011-2016* - Aims to increase the economic wealth of Herefordshire by setting out proposals and to support business growth up to 2016.
- *Herefordshire Employment Land Study (2012)* - Includes employment land assessments for the plan period 2011-2031. The study includes Quantitative and Qualitative assessments of employment land, assessment of market demand and need, as well as providing forecasts and recommendations for future employment need over the plan period.
- *Herefordshire Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) (2009)* - The SHLAA aims to justify site allocations in plans by:
 - Identifying sites which are capable of delivering housing development
 - Assessing sites for their housing potential; and
 - Predicting when a site could be developed for housing.
- *Herefordshire Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) (2013)* - Builds on an earlier Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) developed for Herefordshire and Shropshire. Its purpose is to inform the Local Plan's policies regarding housing need and demand (for market and affordable housing) within each of the 7 Housing Market Areas (HMAs) in Herefordshire between 2011 and 2031.
- *Herefordshire Local Housing Requirements Study (2012)* - Technical assessment of the housing market and potential future local housing requirements which supports planning policy regarding the amount of growth, housing tenure and housing type needed within Herefordshire up to 2031.

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

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

SEA Objectives and baseline characteristics

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

SEA Objective	
1	To maintain or enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)

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

- 3.8 The SEA objectives detailed above conform to the SEA Directive, and are derived from the Sustainability Appraisal undertaken for the Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy 2011-2031.
- 3.9 Baseline information gathered during Stage A of the SEA process provided details of the current environmental characteristics of the neighbourhood area and the status of its natural assets and features (refer to Appendix 2). This information was analysed as part of Task B2 of SEA, which looked at the extent to which the emerging NDP policies will help or obstruct these characteristics.
- 3.10 Following the completion of Task B2 of SEA there were no major issues identified against environmental impacts.
- 3.11 The NDP proposes that 2 main sites are allocated for development alongside 10 criteria-based policies.
- 3.12 Baseline characteristics within the SEA detail the current environmental status of environmental characteristics in the neighbourhood plan area from different sources. The source of Baseline Information used in Table A2 in Appendix 2, and analysed in Table B2 can be found in Appendix 4.
- 3.13 There are four objectives for which there is no local baseline data available and therefore this provides a limitation on the baseline data and whether the NDP policies are able to move towards or away from this data, this also means that there are no future trends to link the SEA objective to.

4.0 Assessing the NDP Objectives

- 4.1 The following are objectives listed in the NDP that aim to realise the vision for Withington Group Parish in 2031:
1. To ensure that the growth of housing in Withington is proportionate to the size and scale of the settlements and the surrounding countryside so that it retains its rural character.
 2. To deliver housing development in the surrounding areas that are in line with Objective 1.
 3. To ensure that all new development takes into consideration the style and substance of local housing, being designed to be in keeping with the surrounding character of the parish.

4. To ensure that new housing is developed in a suitable range of tenures, types, size, affordability ranges and is flexible in usage so that local people of all ages can live in the parish in a suitable home while attracting families to the area and local housing needs are met.
 5. To ensure that there are appropriate local and community facilities, which incorporate the latest technological advances in such areas as mobile phone reception and broadband as is suitable, which can support present demand, future projected growth and demographic change. Such developments must make a positive and tangible impact on the range and availability of community facilities throughout the parish.
 6. To continue to develop local employment opportunities, including small businesses and tourism, which continue to be sympathetic to the largely agricultural nature of the parish.
 7. To ensure that the natural and built environment of the parish is protected and enhanced for future generations through sustainable development by protecting key environmental and heritage assets (including listed buildings, conservation areas, green spaces and landscapes)
 8. To ensure any new development does not increase flood risk, and to restrict any new development in flood risk areas.
 9. To ensure development of a safe and well maintained network of roads and pavements and footpaths within the parish.
 10. To continue to seek the opinions of parishioners at regular intervals in connection with all the above objectives, in order to make the Neighbourhood Plan a fully inclusive on-going document.
- 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 an unknown effect, requiring more detail at planning application stage or in policy detail.
- 4.4 The NDP objectives had a mainly positive or uncertain impact on the key SEA Objectives relating to the environment aspects of water and sustainability objectives. This is because at this stage, given the lack of detail over the exact details of a development that may come to fruition as a result of the implementation of these objectives is unknown; however, it is accepted that further development of the planning policies that relate to these objectives would move them towards a compatible outcome.
- 4.5 Task B1 of the SEA did not identify any major potential conflicts between the NDP objectives and the SEA framework.

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

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

5 Assessing the NDP Options

5.1 All options that were considered by Withington Group Parish during the development of their Plan have been assessed as part of the SEA, the summary matrix of the assessment can be found in Table B2 options these tables are in Appendix 4.

5.2 The options covered were are followed;

Option 1 - Not to prepare a NDP: This would mean relying solely on Development Management practices of the LPA to ensure that the existing commitments are developed in a manner that meets the needs of the local community and that any further oversupply is limited by HCS policy and National Planning Policy Guidance. By implication this would allow only ad-hoc influence from the local community through responding to planning applications. It also depends on developer-led initiatives which may or may not meet local needs. A further "sub-option" would be to rely on the LPA bringing forward its Rural Areas Development Plan Document and including policies for this NDP area within it.

Option 2 – Seek to reduce the oversupply

The inherent risk of a high level of oversupply is that it would not be "Proportionate" for the Withington Group of parishes and may draw development away from other parishes in the same HCS sub-area thereby preventing them reaching their appropriate proportionate development needs. Planning permissions can, in theory, be revoked under Section 97 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 but that was not considered as a realistic option and has not been offered by the LPA anyway. Should existing permissions expire before development commences then the LPA has the option of not renewing permission, but that would need to be considered in the context at the time. It was not considered realistic to actively plan for existing permissions to expire and to depend on that for managing housing supply.

Option 3 – Seek to restrict further oversupply

A moratorium on all new permissions has not been offered by the LPA and would be a very restrictive approach that would not allow for changes in circumstances or any specific local needs. Hence that concept has not been pursued. Instead the Steering Group has looked to the concept of establishing Settlement Boundaries within which only very limited future growth can take place, along with detailed design policies to influence the nature of development, and protection of key open spaces where they are either within Settlement Boundaries or integral to their setting. (The settings of listed buildings, conservation areas and scheduled monuments are protected through legislation in any event).

This Option has involved detailed consideration of 13 potential sites which have been subject to local consultations and publicity along with development of Settlement Boundaries which have also been the subject of informal consultations through local publicity and an exhibition.

- 5.3 The choice of preferred option was made on the basis of the most appropriate way to protect the environment, especially the quality of the landscape and scale and character of the parish's settlements. The local community was almost equally split upon whether settlement boundaries should be defined.
- 5.4 A 'do nothing' option (option 1 as considered by the Parish, i.e. not undertaking a Neighbourhood Development Plan, however this was discounted after due consideration at an early stage by the Parish Council.
- 5.5 The option which emerged as the most achievable and had support from both the LPA officers and the local community was Option 3 above, i.e. to restrict further over supply through a combination of detailed Settlement Boundaries, design guidance within them, and identification of key open spaces for both amenity and recreation/sports purposes. The 13 potential sites referred to above have been assessed in detail and the draft Settlement Boundaries publicised and community opinion sought. Existing un-implemented planning permissions have been identified as allocations – but no significant new allocations have been made as such allocations would be unlikely to conform to the HCS and may even raise further environmental issues which have not been considered. (In this context it is worth noting that whilst there are no scheduled wildlife sites within the NDP area the whole area is within the River Wye SAC catchment and thus any large scale new development over and above that already committed may require detailed assessment for HRA purposes). A key aspect of the Option chosen is that it has allowed the local community to influence the plan within the constraints of National Planning Policy Guidance and the HCS particularly through publicising and assessing realistic options for development in the NDP area.
- 5.6 These options were formulated from the responses to residents' surveys and community consultation. The results of which will feed into the identification of the preferred options and ultimately the draft policies.
- 5.7 The options all had a generally positive or unknown impact upon the Baseline data and SEA objectives, each option, apart from option 1, gave certainly as they all took note of the proposed delivery of housing from commitment sites but within proportional and appropriate settlement boundaries.
- 5.8 Overall all of the options had mainly a positive effect on the SEA objectives and baseline. If the policies that are developed incorporated the elements of the options that are ensuring mitigation of new development and additional details are provided for the location and design of any proposed site then the assessment of the policies should result in a positive result. As these options were generally moving towards the SEA objectives any further alternatives would probably be moving away and therefore no further options are required to be assessed.
- 5.9 Overall all options had a mostly positive or unknown effect on the SEA objectives and baseline, if the policies that are developed incorporated the elements of the options that are ensuring mitigation of new development and additional details are provided for the location and design of any proposed further development then the assessment of the policies should result in a positive result. As these options were generally moving towards the SEA objectives any further alternatives would probably be moving away and therefore no further options are required to be assessed. Option 1, to do nothing was not deemed to be relevant against the baseline as it was not directly contributing to any locally specific environmental issues.

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 –	+	+	+	+	0	+	?	?	?	?	0	+				+
Option 3 –	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	?	?	0	+				+

6.0 Appraisal of the policies

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

Policy P1: Allocated sites

- a. Land adjacent to Whitestone Baptist Chapel for 33 new dwellings.
- b. Land on the south side of the A4103 at Whitestone for a Care Home.

Policy P2: Withington Settlement Boundary

Policy P3: Westhide and Preston Wynne

Policy P4: Local Distinctiveness – Housing Layout and Design

Policy P5: Affordable Housing

Policy P6: Green Spaces

Policy P7: Transport and Traffic

Policy P8: Conserving Historic Character

Policy P9: Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal

Policy P10: Telecommunications - Broadband

Policy P11: Telecommunications – Mobile Phone Coverage

Policy P12: Employment

Policy P13: Agriculture and Tourism

Policy P14: Polytunnels

Policy P15: Renewable Energy

Policy P16: Social and Community Facilities

Policy P17: Minimising Flood Risk in Withington March

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, while others had either a neutral impact, no relationship with the SEA objectives or if needed; further information such as location of development. Additional policy safeguards within the NDP and Local Plan (Core Strategy) would help mitigate any possible conflicts.
- 6.4 With regard to Task B2 of SEA, the NDP policies were measured against both the SEA framework and the baseline characteristics identified during Stage A of the process. Full details of this appraisal are attached at Appendix 4.
- 6.5 The policies largely score as positive or are not relevant 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.
- 6.6 Impact on water quality, water supply and flood risk can be fully assessed further when more details are known, such as location, scale and type of development. This could be determined

on an individual basis at planning application stage. Mitigation measures have been included within the Core Strategy and criteria policies within the NDP.

NDP Policies	SEA objectives															
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Baseline	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	X	X	X	16
Policy P1:	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
Policy P2:	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+				+
Policy P3:	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+				+
Policy P4:	0	++	++	++	x	+	0	0	0	0	0	0				+
Policy P5:	+	++	++	++	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	0				+
Policy P6:	++	++	++	++	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
Policy P7:	+	+	+	+	+	++	++	+	0	0	0	0				+
Policy P8:	+	++	++	++	x	x	x	x	x	x	0	x				+
Policy P9:	++	++	++	++	0	?	x	x	+	+	+	+				++
Policy P10:	+	+	+	+	x	+	0	x	x	x	x	x				x
Policy P11:	+	+	+	+	x	+	0	x	x	x	x	x				x
Policy P12:	0	+	++	+	x	+	0	x	x	x	x	x				x
Policy P13:	+	++	++	+	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	+				+
Policy P14:	++	+	+	+	0	x	0	0	+	+	+	+				+
Policy P15:	++	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
Policy P16:	+	++	++	++	x	+	0	x	x	x	x	x				+
Policy P17:	++	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	++	+				+

- 6.7 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. Although some policies may have a neutral or uncertain impact during the first 5 years of the plan period, there is no reason why they cannot have a positive effect in the medium to long-term due to policy safeguards included in the Local Plan (Core Strategy); these safeguards should avoid or mitigate against unacceptable adverse impacts.
- 6.8 Task B4 of SEA brings together the results of earlier tasks and 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 Withington 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.
- 6.9 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.

Stage D of the SEA – assessment changes to policies

- 6.10 Regulation 14 Draft Plan Consultation – There were amendments to numerous policies the Draft Plan stage; these changes were necessitated by comments received during the consultation period. Policies P1, P3, P4, P6 and P16 were amended in light of the consultation comments to add additional clarification on the criteria for local allocation of new development in accordance with Herefordshire Councils guidelines, with Policies P3, P4 and P16 received substantial changes.
- 6.11 The amended policies P1, P3, P4 and P16 were re screened for their cumulative impact over the course of the plan period. The results of this assessment, shown at Appendix 8, reveal that the outcomes Stage B of the SEA process. P3, P4 and P16 are criteria based policies and will have no significant effect towards the surrounding environment.

7.0 Implementation and monitoring

- 7.1 Herefordshire Council as the Local Planning Authority should make arrangements to monitor the significant effects of implementing a neighbourhood plan.
- 7.2 Indeed, Regulation 17 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 requires the Local Planning Authority to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of any NDP that was subject to SEA, in order to identify unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and to enable appropriate remedial actions.
- 7.3 Accordingly, Herefordshire Council will monitor outcomes from the NDP policies and the results of these will be reported in the Council's Annual Monitoring Report (AMR).
- 7.4 The AMR runs from 1 April to 31 March each year and the topics covered therein include the following:
- Housing delivery;
 - Previously developed land
 - Housing completions
 - Affordable housing conditions
 - Employment land delivery.

8.0 Next steps

- 8.1 This report will be subject to a formal public consultation of 6 weeks duration alongside the Submission Withington Group NDP.
- 8.2 Responses on the Submission NDP will be reviewed as part of the examination.
- 8.3 Any changes /modification made to the NDP as a consequence of the examination will trigger a review of the SEA, unless they do not materially affect the outcomes of the Stage B of the SEA process.

Appendix 1

Initial Habitat Regulations Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Notification

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

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (d)

Neighbourhood Area:	Withington Group Neighbourhood Area
Parish Council:	Withington Group Parish Council
Neighbourhood Area Designation Date:	12/07/2013

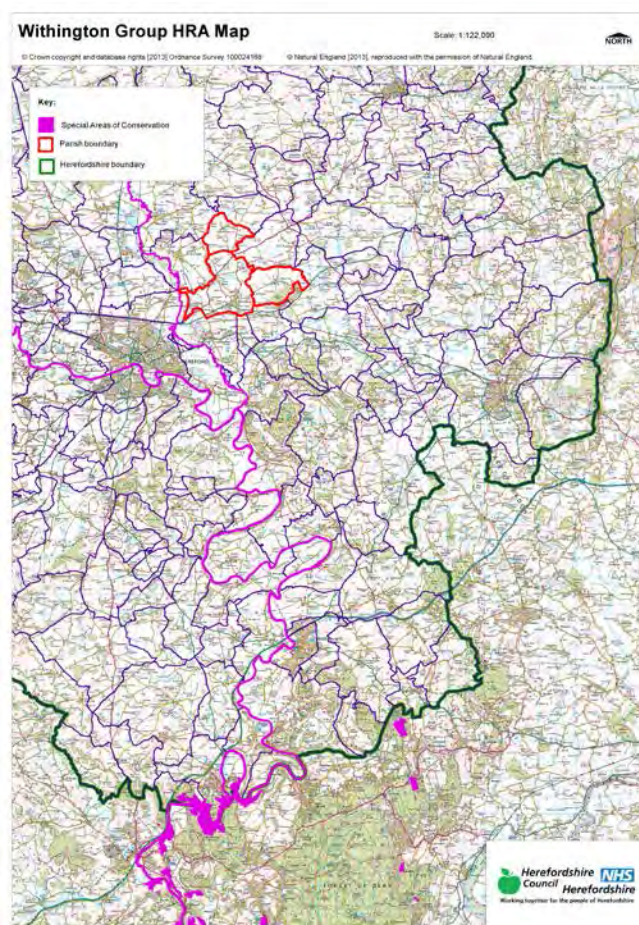
Introduction

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.

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



Initial HRA Screening

River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC:

Does the Neighbourhood Area have the River Wye (including the River Lugg) in or next to its boundary?	Y	The River Lugg borders the Group Parish to the west
Is the Neighbourhood Area in the hydrological catchment of the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC?	Y	The Group Parish is within the River Lugg hydrological catchment area.
If yes above, does the Neighbourhood Area have mains drainage to deal with foul sewage?	Y	There is mains drainage at Preston Wynne. Withington is also served by Hereford

Downton Gorge SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of Downton Gorge SAC?	N	Downton Gorge is 28km 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 42.5km 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 23.6km 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 28.1km away from the Wye Valley Woodlands
--	---	---

HRA Conclusion:

The assessment above highlights that the following European Sites will need to be taken into account in the future Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Withington Group Neighbourhood Area and a Full HRA Screening will be required.

European Site

(List only those which are relevant from above)

River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC

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

The following environmental features are within or in general proximity to the Withington 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	1	Westhide Wood	Y
Areas of Archaeological Interest	0	There are no AAI's within the Group Parish	N
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	0	There are no AONB's within the Group Parish	N
Conservation Areas	1	There is a Conservation Area around Withington Village	Y
European Sites	1	River Lugg	Y
Flood Areas		There are Flood Zones on the western borders of the Group Parish and extending into Cross Keys and ending north of Westhide, and also along the southern borders of Preston Wynne Parish	Y
Listed Buildings	Numerous	There are numerous Listed Buildings throughout the Group Parish	Y
Local Sites (SWS/SINCs/RIGS)	3 (SWS)	River Lugg; Field south of Sutton Rhea (border); Woodland on Shucknall	Y
Long distance footpaths/trails	0	There are no Trails within the Group Parish	N
Mineral Reserves	4	Quarry north west of Westhide; Yarkhill Reservoir to Hillend Grove; Shucknall Hill Common; Site running from Leominster-Hereford	Y
National Nature Reserve	0	There are no NNR's within the Group Parish	N
Registered & Unregistered parks and gardens	2 Unregistered	Westhide Court; Porch House	Y
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	2	Churchyard Cross in St Peters Churchyard; Churchyard Cross in St Bartholomew's Churchyard	Y
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	1	River Lugg (Unfavourable Recovering)	Y

Decision Notification:

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

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

Assessment date: 11/06/2013

Assessed by: James Latham

Appendix 1: European Sites

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

Downton Gorge
Site Features: <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines
Vulnerability data: 10km for air quality associated with poultry units or other intensive agricultural practices.

River Clun
Site Features: Freshwater pearl mussel <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>
Vulnerability data: Water quality is important to maintain the site feature. Parishes either side of the River Clun will be affected.

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

Usk Bat Site

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

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

Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites

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

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

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

NDPs closest to the European Site will need to consider:

Woodland habitat buffer.

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

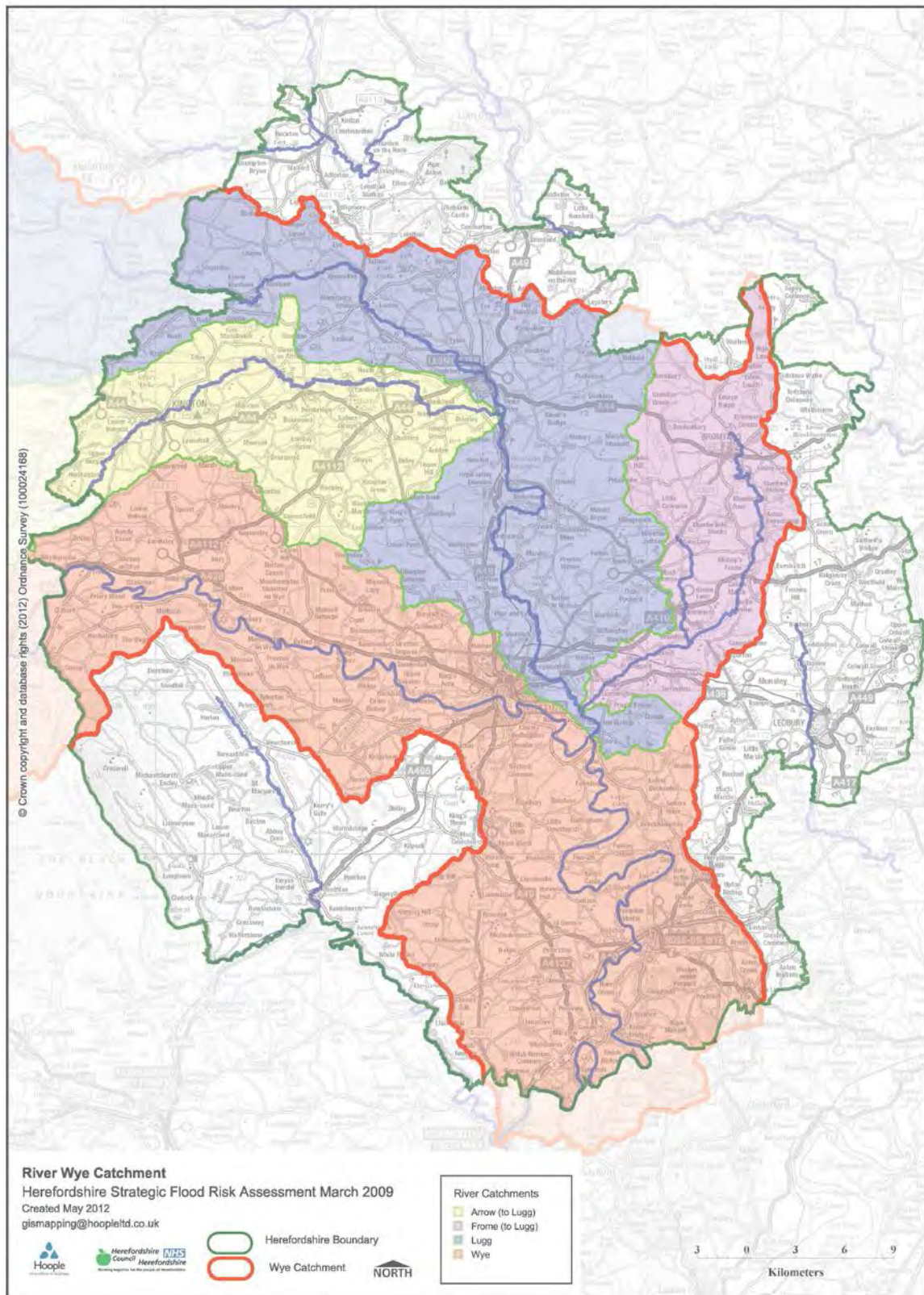
Greater Horseshoe Bat: Large buildings, pasture, edge of mixed deciduous woodland and hedgerows. Mixed land-use especially south-facing slopes, favours beetles, moths and insects they feed on. During the winter they depend on caves, abandoned mines and other underground sites for undisturbed hibernation.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

Wye Valley Woodlands

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

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

Appendix 2: Wye Catchment Map

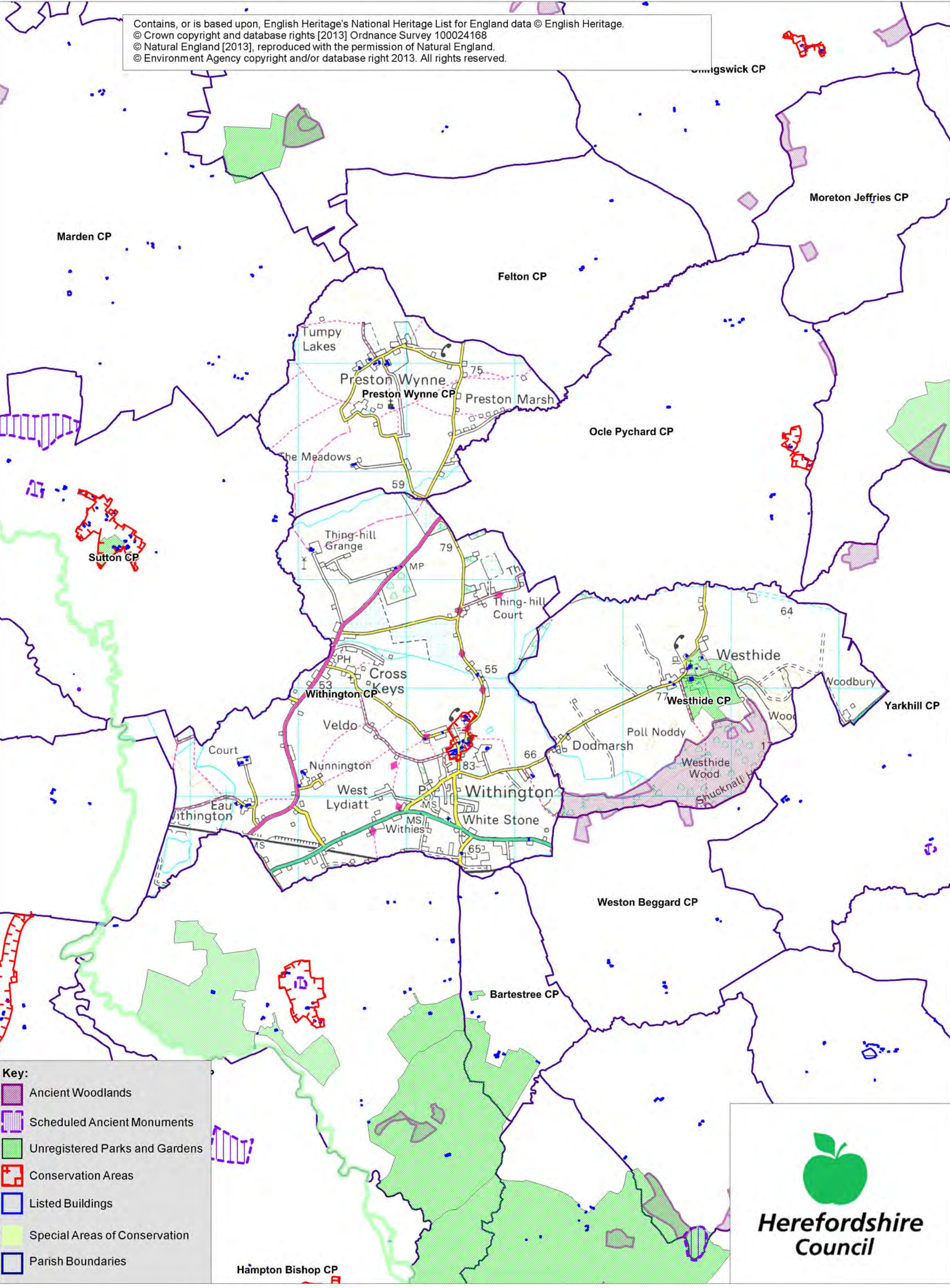


Withington Group SEA Map 1

Scale: 1:30,500



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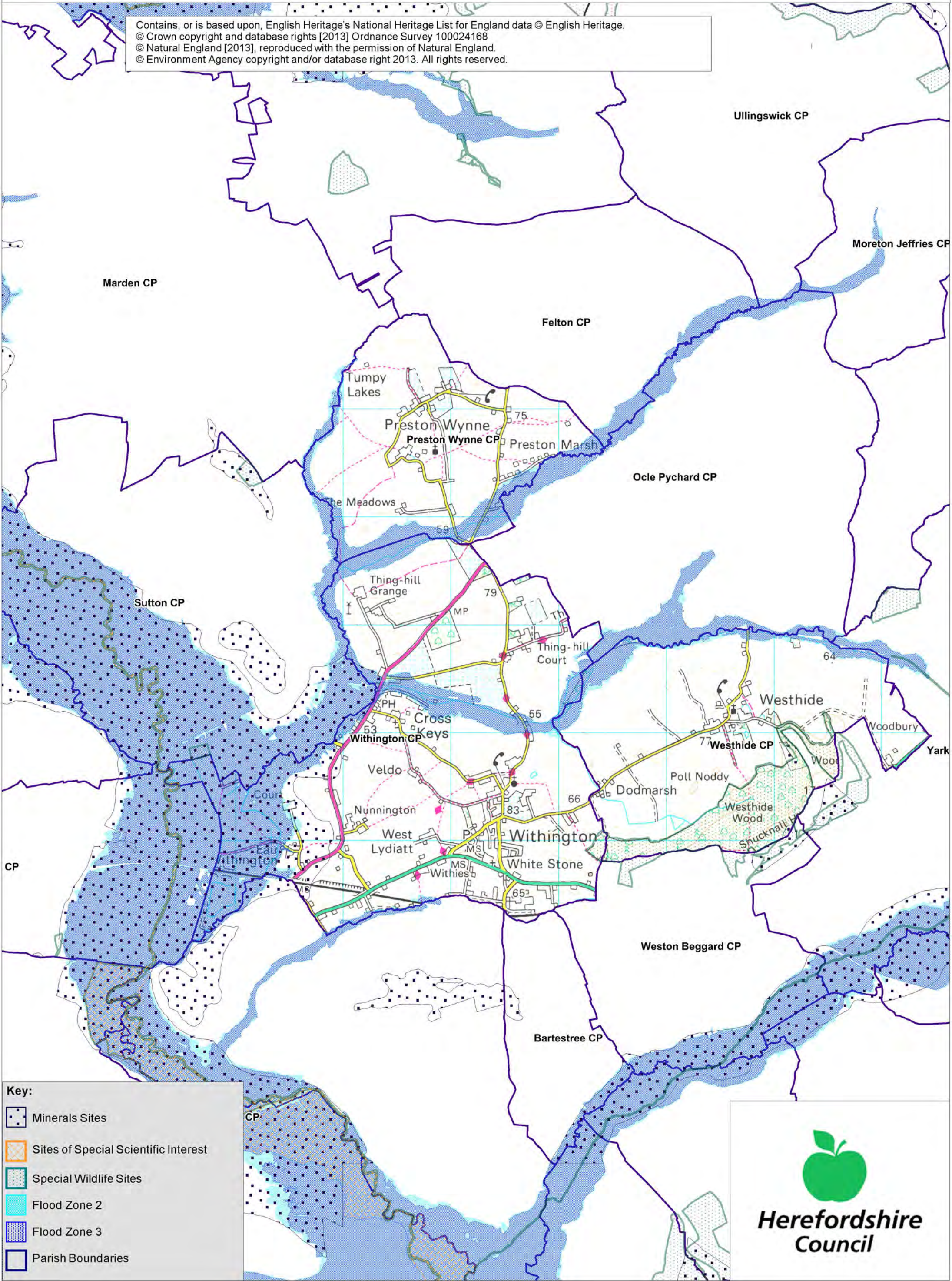


Key:

- Ancient Woodlands
- Scheduled Ancient Monuments
- Unregistered Parks and Gardens
- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Special Areas of Conservation
- Parish Boundaries

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Appendix 2

Strategic Environmental Assessment



Withington Group Neighbourhood Area

Scoping Report

October 2014

Consultation on the Scoping Report

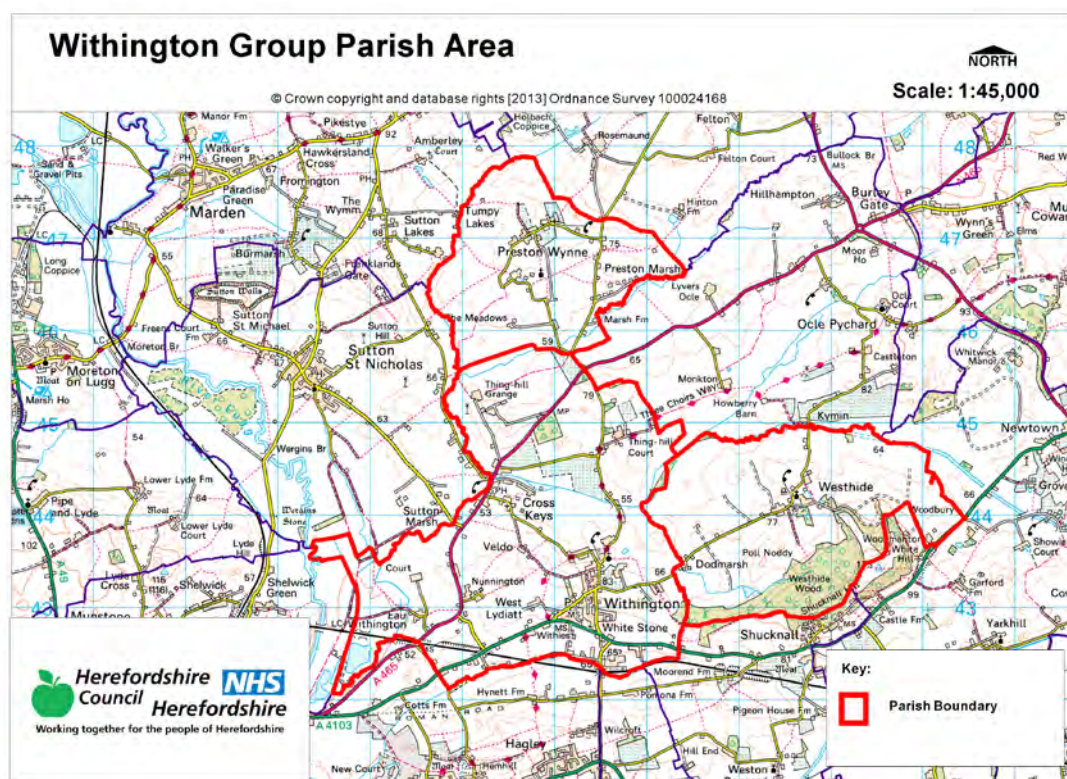
The aim of the consultation process is to involve and engage with statutory consultees and other relevant bodies on the scope of the appraisal. In particular, it seeks to:

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

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

The three consultation bodies are as follows:

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



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

Parish Council Name: Withington Group

Neighbourhood Development Plan Name: Withington

Date completed: June 2014

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
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">• Climate change and clean energy;• Sustainable transport• Sustainable production and consumption;• Public health threats;• Better management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Air• Climate factors• Cultural heritage and the landscape• Population and human health	The Neighbourhood Plans should take into account the objectives of the strategy. The aim of sustainable development should be implicit in its approach.

¹ Derived from the LDF General Scoping Report (June 2007)

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Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
				of natural resources; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social inclusion, demography and migration; • Fighting global poverty. 		
The EC Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations	European Union Legislation	2010	These regulations transpose the Habitats Directive in England, Wales and to a limited extent Scotland by ensuring that activities are carried out in accordance with the Habitats Directive, which is to protect biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and species of wild flora and fauna.	The Regulations make it an offence (subject to exceptions) to deliberately capture, kill, disturb, or trade in the animals listed in Schedule 2, or pick, collect, cut, uproot, destroy, or trade in the plants listed in Schedule 4. However, these actions can be made lawful through the granting of licenses by the appropriate authorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Cultural heritage and the landscape 	The Neighbourhood Plan should be compliant with all the relevant legislation and regulations.
The EC Water Framework Directive	European Union	2000	Commits all EU member states to achieve good qualitative and quantitative status of all water	Aims for 'good status' for all ground and surface waters (rivers, lakes, transitional waters, and coastal waters) in the EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water 	The Neighbourhood Plan should be compliant with all the relevant legislation and regulations.

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Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
			courses by 2015			
The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)	Domestic Legislation	1981	The major legal instrument for wildlife protection in Britain, although other significant acts have been passed since. It has numerous parts and supplementary lists and schedules many of which have been amended since publication.	The principle mechanism for the legislative protection of wildlife in Great Britain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Soil 	The Neighbourhood Plan should be compliant with all the relevant legislation and regulations.
The Countryside and Right of Way Act (2000)	Domestic Legislation	2000	Creates a statutory right of access on foot to certain types of open land, to modernise the public rights of way system, to strengthen nature conservation legislation, and to facilitate better management of AONBs.	<p>The Act provides for a new right of access on foot to areas of open land comprising: Mountain (land over 600 metres); Moorland; Heath; Downland; Registered common land.</p> <p>There are provisions to consider extending the right in the future to coastal land, but not woodland despite some early publicity suggesting this.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Soil 	The Neighbourhood Plan should be compliant with all the relevant legislation and regulations.
The Natural	Domestic	2006	Designed to help	Provides that any public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity 	The Neighbourhood

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Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)	Legislation		achieve a rich and diverse natural environment and thriving rural communities through modernised and simplified arrangements for delivering Government policy.	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"> • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Soil 	Plan should be compliant with all the relevant legislation and regulations.
Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services	National Strategy	2011	Forms part of the UK's Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework by setting out England's contribution towards the UK's commitments under the United Nations Convention of Biological Diversity.	Sets out to halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity 	The NDP should take account of the provisions of the strategy, making the most of opportunities to enhance wildlife habitats or restore degraded ecosystems in the process.
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	National planning policy.	2012	Consolidates the suite of PPG/PPS into one succinct planning policy document.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna 	The NDP should take into account the relevant policies set within the NPPF.

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Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	
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"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	The NDP should take into account the planning guidance provided within these documents.
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"> • To meet the housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	<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>Approx 63 dwellings will need to be delivered</p>

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Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
				<p>needs of all sections of the community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve access to services in rural areas • To strengthen the economic viability of the villages and their rural hinterlands • To achieve sustainable communities and protect the environment • To conserve, promote, utilise and enjoy our natural, built, historic and cultural assets for the fullest benefit of the whole community <p>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 18% in Withington, (Hereford HMA) over the plan period.</p>		<p>within the village of Withington unless there is robust and sound evidence to demonstrate the existence of unavoidable constraints on site delivery.</p> <p>Local Housing needs only will be delivered in the villages of Preston Wynne, Westhide and Wellington Marsh.</p>

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Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
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"> • Air • Climate factors • Population and human health 	The LTP does not explore current transport issues in the Withington Group Plan neighbourhood area, but any new development proposed through the NDP should seek to reduce the environmental impacts of transport.
Malvern Hills AONB Management Plan 2009-2014	Corporate	2009	Identifies the issues and challenges facing the special features of the area and contains 24 guiding principles and 46 strategic objectives which will help address them.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	The Withington Group Plan neighbourhood Area is not within or adjacent to the Malvern Hills AONB.

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Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	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"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	The Withington Group Plan neighbourhood Area is not within or adjacent to the Wye Valley AONB.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Herefordshire Economic Development Strategy 2011-2016	Corporate	2011	Aims to increase the economic wealth of Herefordshire by setting out proposals and to support business growth up to 2016.	<p>The document outlines the path and direction to foster economic vitality within Herefordshire. Key objectives therefore include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustaining business survival and growth • Increasing wage levels, range and quality of jobs • Having a skilled population to meet future work needs • Developing the county's built infrastructure so enterprise can flourish. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Material assets • Population and human health 	None of merit.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Herefordshire Employment Land Study	Evidence	2012	Includes employment land assessments for the plan period 2011-2031. The study includes Quantitative and Qualitative assessments of employment land, assessment of market demand and need, as well as providing forecasts and recommendations for future employment need over the plan period.	<p>This study covers existing employment sites in Hereford, the five market towns and their rural hinterlands.</p> <p>The Whitestone Business Park is located within the Parish; it has a site area of 4.65ha. It is a well-managed site in a semi-rural location with good parking facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Material assets • Population and human health 	The NDP will need to consider whether there is a requirement for a expansion to the employment land or if there is a need for employment land elsewhere in the village. The NDP should also look to protect the existing employment site.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Herefordshire Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)	Evidence	2009	<p>The SHLAA aims to justify site allocations in plans by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying sites which are capable of delivering housing development Assessing sites for their housing potential; and Predicting when a site could be developed for housing. 	<p>In terms of Withington,, previous SHLAA (2009) identifies that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 310 additional dwellings could be provided on 3 sites in and around the existing settlement, however it is unlikely that this number would materialise due to significant constraints. Of the 310 dwellings, 120 of these were identified to be on low/minor constraints 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air Biodiversity Climate factors Cultural heritage and the landscape Flora and fauna Population and human health Soil Water 	<p>The SHLAA assessed the potential availability of land for housing in Withington.</p> <p>The Withington Group NDP should be informed by the findings of the SHLAA.</p> <p>There should be an update undertaken for Withington village, and any additional sites added to the local site assessment.</p>

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	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>Withington falls within the Hereford HMA. Here, the study reveals that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 58% of households are unable to afford market housing. • There is an annual requirement for 417 affordable dwellings between 2012 and 2017. <p>The study identifies that, in rural parts of the HMA, there is a need for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,215 market houses • 654 affordable houses. <p>The study highlights that within the Hereford HMA the overall estimated housing need by size 2012-2017 is as follows: 1 Bed - 57.3%, 2 bed - 18.6%, 3 bed – 18.5%, 4 bed – 5.7%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	<p>The LHMA provides an indication of housing needs and affordability within the Hereford HMA.</p> <p>It provides evidence that could be used to inform policies or market and affordable housing requirements in the NDP.</p>
Herefordshire	Evidence	2012	Technical	The delivery of 5,300	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air 	This study provides an

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Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Local Housing Requirements Study			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>homes in the rural areas would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support growth in the rural population by 6% • Increase the number of households by 14.5% <p>Forecasts also predict that growth in the population of the rural areas is likely to be primarily through an increase in those aged over 75.</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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	<p>indication of housing requirements in the rural areas and the Hereford HMA.</p> <p>This evidence can be used to inform the content of the Withington Group NDP, which could include policies to facilitate the provision of the right types of homes in the right places.</p>

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Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
				homes, with more 1 and 2 bed homes required in the affordable sector.		
Herefordshire Rural Housing Background Report	Evidence	2013	Provides the justification for the proportional housing growth targets outlined in the Core Strategy	<p>The village of Withington are listed as a RA1 settlement, which means it is considered a sustainable location for proportional growth of up to 18%.</p> <p>Preston Wynne, Westhide and Wellington Marsh are identified as RA2 settlements which should seek to provide local housing needs only.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	The Withington Group NDP will need to be in conformity with the provisions of Policy RA2 points 1-5, for Withington and the additional points 6-8 for the smaller villages.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Herefordshire Draft Gypsies and Travellers Assessment	Evidence	2013	Assesses the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers across Herefordshire.	<p>Key findings from the survey of Gypsy and Traveller households in 2012 found that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31% of households surveyed have some sort of accommodation need • Of the 17 households with an accommodation need, 7 had a requirement for at least one additional pitch • 10 households had a requirement for bricks and mortar housing • There is an additional requirement for 7 pitches and 9 units of Registered Social Landlord accommodation within Herefordshire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	The Withington Group NDP must establish whether any of the need identified in this assessment falls within the neighbourhood area and make appropriate provisions for it.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	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"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	There is a lack of information about rural areas which means it will be necessary to gather and assess existing biodiversity and geodiversity data, in order to ensure that the Withington Group NDP can overcome any existing constraints and capitalise on opportunities to enhance habitats and their networks.
Herefordshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Evidence	2007	Focuses conservation efforts on the areas within Herefordshire that will result in the greatest benefit for ecological networks, habitats and species.	Integrating biodiversity objectives with other environmental, social and economic needs can provide a sustainable living and working environment that benefits both people and nature.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity 	The NDP can help to achieve the LBAP priorities.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Herefordshire Green Infrastructure Strategy	Evidence	2010	Develops a framework of natural and culturally important features and functions so that planning for a sustainable future is at the heart of planning within Herefordshire.	Establishes policies and principles for the protection and enhancement of those features and functions that contributes to the environment of Herefordshire across a range of scales.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	The study provides evidence that could be taken into account when preparing policies for the Withington Group NDP.
Renewable Energy Study	Evidence	2010	Assesses the energy demand within Herefordshire and the ability for the county to accommodate renewable and low carbon energy technologies.	<p>The total energy demand excluding transport for Herefordshire, at that point in time, was calculated as being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrical: 731 GWh/yr • Heat: 1,810 GWh/yr • Total: 2,541 GWh/yr <p>There is scope for all types of renewable energy production.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	The study provides evidence that could be taken into account when preparing policies for the Withington Group NDP.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	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 Withington group parish itself, the study reveals that there is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 x junior football pitch 0.86ha • New facilities at the village hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health 	The study provides evidence that could be taken into account when preparing policies for the Withington Group NDP.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	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 Central Herefordshire Area, to which Hagley Ward is a part, there is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive over provision of parks and gardens and natural and semi natural greenspace • Under provision of amenity greenspace • Extensive under provision outdoor sport • Average provision for children and young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health 	The open space audit and assessment of does not give a specific indication of open space shortfalls and surpluses in Withington Group Parish.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Play Facilities Study	Evidence	2012	The Play Facilities Study 2012 updates the previous play facilities analysis under the Open Spaces Study 2006 and provides guidance and a framework for the development, delivery and continued sustainability of providing new and improved play facilities for children and young people in Herefordshire to 2031.	<p>In terms of Withington itself, the study reveals that the village hall site has good play value and plenty of opportunity for natural play.</p> <p>The study also identifies that the play areas at Withies Close and Meridian Grange are in good condition and are in need of any immediate updating.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health 	The study provides evidence that could be taken into account when preparing policies for the Withington Group NDP.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	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>	The village of Withington Marsh is classified as one of the five highest catchments by flood reports, this is within the Lower Lugg catchment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Material assets • Population and human health • Water 	<p>New development proposed through the Withington Group NDP should be assessed against the capacity of local infrastructure.</p> <p>Any 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 Withington Group NDP.</p>
Withington, Westhide and Preseton Wynne Community Led Plan	Community Led Plan document (local)	2010 - 2015	This Plan sets out the aims and actions for each of the villages within the group, to improve the villages covering 11 topics.	Each of the villages within the group parish all vary and all have different concerns and issues and therefore actions required to help with improvements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Material Assets • Population and health • Water • Cultural heritage and the landscape 	The NDP needs to consider the results of the CLP and include where applicable the aims and actions for each of the villages.

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Appendix A2 – Baseline information for Withington

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

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
SEA Topic covered by objective: <i>Biodiversity, flora and fauna</i>							
13. Value, maintain, restore 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>SSSI status 12/08/14 – R.Lugg – unfavourable recovering</p>	<p>2006: 22% 2007: 22% 2008: 22% 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%. 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).

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

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
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. The River Lugg section of the SAC is currently exceeding the phosphate targets, and is therefore failing its conservation objectives.	The River Wye SAC was subject to a review of consents in 2010, as a number of sections of the river were found to have greater phosphate levels than those identified in Natural England's favourable condition tables.	Successful completion of the Nutrient Management Plan will provide future targets	New development within the area could lead to the water quality failing the phosphate levels and conservation objectives.	Nutrient Management Plan 2014

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
13. Value, maintain, restore 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>	Herefordshire Biological Records Centre (HBRC) holds limited data on some individual sites.	Herefordshire Council AMR (2010/11)

SA Objective ¹	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.	Withington has: SSSI: 1 SWS: 2 The River Lugg Sac borders the Parish. There are no NNRs, SINC's and LNRs within the parish.	As of 2012, there had been no change in the areas of designated nature conservation sites as a consequence of the planning permissions granted.	To capitalise on opportunities to enhance the areas of value to nature conservation 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
13. Value, maintain, restore and expand county biodiversity.	Natural environment	Proportion of local sites where positive conservation management has or is being implemented.	The Parish Area has the following landscape types: Principal settled farmlands; estate farmlands; settled farmlands on river terrace	-	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	Resource consumption and climate	Maintaining Herefordshire Council's	Countywide data would be too large to incorporate into	-	No specific targets identified, but	Should be monitored through AMR following the	Herefordshire Environmental Records Register

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
efficiently.	change	County Site and Monuments Register.	<p>this template.</p> <p>Whilst there is no qualitative, locally specific data available at present, there are two scheduled monuments in Withington parish according to the latest version of the register.</p>		need to ensure that the register is kept up to date.	adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	(search June 2014).

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
14. Use natural resources and energy more efficiently.	Resource consumption and climate change	Monitoring changes to historic landscapes.	Historic Landscape Character assessments have only been undertaken for Hereford City. Rapid townscape Assessments (2010) were only undertaken for Hereford, Ledbury and Ross.	-	No specific targets identified.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	Historic Landscape Character Assessment for Hereford. Rapid townscape Assessments (2010)
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 ¹	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. There are no outstanding enforcement actions or appeals concerning local loss of heritage assets and locally important buildings within Withington parish at present.	No historic records of any planning enforcement action or appeals concerning locally important buildings within the conservation area.	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 June 2014)
SEA Topic covered by objective: <i>Climatic Factors</i>							

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

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

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.	Resource consumption and climate	Total CO2 emissions per capita	<p>Latest figure dates back to 2010: 1.61 million tonnes (mtCO₂)</p> <p><i>There is no locally specific data available at present.</i></p>	<p>Between 2005 and 2010 Herefordshire's total and per capita carbon emission reduced by 7% and 8% respectively; while UK's total and per capita carbon emission reduced by 8% and 12% respectively within the same period. This trend hides an increase in emissions between 2009 and 2010 when total emissions in the county increased by 5% the same as across the UK (+5%).</p>	To reduce the overall carbon emissions.	CO ₂ emissions produced are decreasing.	Understanding Herefordshire: An integrated needs assessment (June 2013).

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
SEA Topic covered by objective: <i>Water</i>							
17. Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public wellbeing, the economy and the environment.	Natural environment	Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on flood defence grounds.	The 2011-2013 AMR does not contain updated conservation data. 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.	The Agricultural land classification across the Parish is a mixture of Grades 2 and 3 (very Good and good-moderate)	-	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 ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
18. Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources.	Natural environment	Percentage of river length assessed as good or very good chemical quality and ecological quality as required by the Water Framework Directive	Latest figure dates back to 2005: 84% <i>There is no locally specific data available at present.</i>	Figure steadily improved before going into decline: Herefordshire 1999 85.9%, 2000 89.5%, 2001 92.2%, 2002 91.8%	To ensure that rivers meet their conservation objectives and do not fall below the required standard of quality.	None identified.	The State of Herefordshire Report (2007) Water Framework Directive (2000)
SEA Topic covered by objective: <i>Soil</i>							
19. Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use.	Built environment	Percentage of all new development completed on previously developed land.	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)
19. Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use.	Built environment	Housing densities in urban and rural areas	<i>There is no countywide or locally specific data available at present.</i>	-	No specific targets identified.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	-

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
19. Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use.	Built environment	Level of development in urban areas compared to rural.	<p><i>There is no countywide or locally specific data available at present.</i></p> <p>This indicator would not be applicable to rural NDPs.</p>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
SEA Topic covered by objective: <i>Cultural heritage</i>							
20. Value, protect 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).	<p>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.</p> <p><i>There are numerous listed buildings within the parish and two SAMs. None are currently recorded in the Buildings at Risk Register.</i></p>	There were 58 heritage assets in Herefordshire that were considered to be at high risk and included in the Heritage at Risk Register 2011.	To wherever possible improve upon or otherwise maintain current status	<i>None of Whitbourne's listed buildings or SAMs are considered to be at risk at present.</i>	Buildings at Risk Register (English Heritage; search June 2014)

SA Objective ¹	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.	Countywide data would be too large to incorporate into this template. There are no outstanding enforcement actions or appeals concerning local loss of heritage assets locally important buildings particularly within a conservation area within Withington Parish at present.	No historic records of any planning enforcement action or appeals concerning locally important buildings within the conservation area.	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 April 2014)

Appendix A3 – Environmental issues identified from the Withington Group baseline

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

SEA Topic		Environmental issue	SA objectives
1	Air	High reliance upon the private car causing high levels of air pollution 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	Withington Group has two 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

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

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

Template A4: SEA Framework

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

Parish Council Name: Withington Group

Neighbourhood Development Plan Name: Withington Group Neighbourhood Development Plan

Date completed: June 2014

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

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

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"> Decrease litter and graffiti in towns and countryside Result in the loss of open space 		
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"> Preserve, protect and enhance heritage assets including conservation areas, listed buildings, archaeological sites and other culturally important features in both urban and rural settings. Prevent development which is inappropriate in scale, form or design to its setting or to its function or local area. Encourage development that creates and sustains well-designed, high quality built environments that incorporate green space, encourage biodiversity and promote local distinctiveness and sense of place. Encourage cleanliness and/or improve the general appearance of the 	<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"> Minimise water, air, soil, groundwater, noise and light pollution from current activities and the potential for such pollution. Protect or enhance the quality of watercourses. Provide opportunities to improve soil quality or reduce contaminated land. Reduce the county's contribution to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport, domestic, commercial and industrial sources. Increase the proportion of energy generated from renewable and low carbon sources including by micro-generation, Combined Heat and Power (CHP), district heating and in transportation. 	<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>

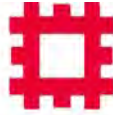
SEA Topics	SA Objective	SEA Objective	Sub-objectives / Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal/site...)	Indicators	Targets
Water	<p>Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment.</p> <p>Minimise local and global pollution and protect 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"> • Reduce flood risk both presently and taking into account climate change. • Prevent inappropriate development of the floodplain, and include flood protection systems. • Include sustainable urban drainage systems where appropriate. • Minimise water, air, soil, groundwater, noise and light pollution from current activities and the potential for such pollution. • Protect or enhance the quality of watercourses. 	<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"> • Minimise water, air, soil, groundwater, noise and light pollution from current activities and the potential for such pollution. • Provide opportunities to improve soil quality or reduce contaminated land. 	<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>

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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"> 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. 		
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"> Value, enhance and protect natural environmental assets including AONB's, historic landscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings. Encourage local stewardship of local environments, for example by promoting best practices in agricultural management. Ensure that environmental impacts caused by mineral operations and the transport of minerals are minimised. Promote the use of 	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"> • Maximise energy efficiency and minimise the consumption of non-renewable energy i.e. from fossil fuels. • Minimise the consumption of water, land, soil, minerals, aggregates and other raw materials by all? E.g. through integrated transport, sustainable resource-efficient design, local sourcing of food, goods, materials. • Encourage the re-use/enhancement (to high standards of sustainable resource-efficient design) of existing buildings and minimise the need for new build. • Encourage the use of clean technologies and water minimisation techniques. 	<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



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

15 August 2014

Dear Sir or Madam

CONSULTATION ON SEA SCOPING REPORTS FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS IN:

(Bartestree & Lugwardine; Breinton; Brimfield little Hereford; Callow & Haywood; Dorstone; Eardisley; Lyonshall; Peterchurch; Staunton on Wye; Stretton Sugwas; Sutton St. Nicholas; Wellington; Whitbourne; Withington).

Thank you for your e-mails and the invitation to comment on the SEA Scoping Reports for the Neighbourhood Plans listed above. We have no substantive objection to the contents of the documents but have the following comments and recommendations which we urge you to consider before finalizing the reports.

Firstly, as regards terminology there appears to be very little reference made to “heritage assets” generally which leaves a perhaps undue emphasis upon designated assets such as conservation areas, listed buildings and SAMs. This is at variance with the Government’s objective, expressed as a core planning principle in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) to “conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations”. No distinction is made here between designated and undesignated assets. The accompanying Planning Practice Guidance also states (inter alia) that local planning authorities should identify specific opportunities within their area for the conservation and enhancement of heritage assets and equally this applies to all such assets.

We strongly encourage you, therefore, to weave the term “heritage assets” into the SEA templates wherever reference is made to the cultural heritage. It is difficult to be more specific as there is a degree of variation in the template content across the range of

Neighbourhood Plans covered, presumably due to differing authorships. Nevertheless in English Heritage's view some templates are more successful at reflecting historic environment concerns than others. In this regard we would particularly endorse the approach taken in relation to Dorstone, Breinton, Stretton Sugwas, Peterchurch, Brimfield and Whitbourne and suggest similar wording is applied to the other NP templates. That said, however, we would also suggest slight rewording and additions to those preferred templates.

Taking the Dorstone "Task 4" template (page 3 of 7) and the Cultural heritage SA Objective as an example, we would suggest "Value protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's *heritage assets*, historic environment and cultural heritage". Similarly under Sub-objectives consider "Preserve, protect and enhance *heritage assets*, including Conservation Areas....." Under Indicators please consider ".....aspects of local loss of *heritage assets and* locally important buildings across the Parish *and particularly* within a conservation area. Under Targets we would suggest "To *wherever possible improve upon or otherwise* maintain current status...". This reflects (inter alia) the repeated statement for each Parish under Environmental Issues that many listed buildings are in need of high levels of maintenance and there may eg be the potential for grant schemes. In the same vein, where applicable (eg Lyonshall) it should we believe be a target to "*Promote opportunities to achieve the removal of heritage assets from the At Risk Register*".

A further Indicator and Target that features in some templates (eg Staunton on Wye, Brimfield and Withington and we suggest should apply to all is "*Maintaining Herefordshire Council's Sites and Monuments Register*" with a target of "*Ensure that the Herefordshire Council Sites and Monuments Register is kept up to date*". It should in fact be possible to use the Register as an effective monitoring tool in relation to the changing status of heritage assets and the effectiveness of planning tools in achieving their conservation and enhancement. We would strongly suggest that you hold detailed discussions in this respect with your own Council historic environment specialists in order to achieve an effective indicator for the wider historic environment beyond designated heritage assets.

A final minor comment is that there are apparently stray references to "Huntingdon and Broomy Hill" that appear in the templates for Breinton and Stretton Sugwas and presumably these need editing out.

I hope you find this advice helpful.

Yours faithfully

Pete Boland
Historic Places Adviser
E-mail: peter.boland@english-heritage.org.uk

Date: 08 August 2014
Our ref: 127589
Your ref: None



James Latham
Technical Support Officer
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Dear Mr Latham

Withington Group Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 14 July 2014 which was received by Natural England on the same date.

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

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

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

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

Appendix A1 – Plans, policies and programmes

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

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

Appendix A2 – Baseline information for Bartestree and Lugwardine Group

Biodiversity, flora and fauna

Against the proposed indicator “*Net change in condition of SSSIs across Herefordshire*”, under “*current status*” the table states that there is no data available. Natural England is able to provide up to date information on the condition of SSSI’s. Please contact us for this information as and when required.

Under the proposed indicator “*Changes to protected habitats and impacts of species within the Herefordshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan*”, no baseline information source has been identified. Maps of priority habitats and species are available on *Magic*, Defra’s GIS package for environmental assets (www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk).

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

Water, air, soil and material assets

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

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

Soil

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

Appendix A3 – Environmental issues identified from Bartestree and Lugwardine Group baseline

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

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

Template A4: SEA Framework

Under the SEA topic “*Nature Conservation (Biodiversity, flora and fauna)*”, we would welcome the inclusion of an indicator/target around the impact/benefit to ecological networks (NPPF paragraph 109, 113 and 117). We note that no targets have been identified against the indicator “*After use of mineral sites especially wildlife habitat creation*”, we suggest that perhaps the percentage of

opportunities taken could be monitored. Against “*Changes to protected habitats and impacts of species within the Herefordshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan*”, we suggest that as a minimum there should be no net losses. The NPPF sets out a requirement to move to net gains for nature (paragraph 9), drawing on the Natural Environment White Paper.

Under the SEA topic “*Landscape*” we suggest that reference could be made to the county Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Characterisation studies including Historic Landscape Characterisation if this has been carried out. Applications resulting in the loss of open space could be monitored.

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

Under the SEA topic “*Soil*”, the second objective listed looks to be incomplete. Additional indicators or targets could be included around hectares of the best and most versatile agricultural land lost to development.

Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely

Hayley Fleming
Lead adviser – Planning
South Mercia Area Team
(Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull)

Appendix 4

Objectives verses SEA Objectives (SMART and Compatibility Test)				
SEA Stage B1	Key:	SMART criteria:		The following matrix appraises the emerging Withington Group NDP Objectives in terms of their SMART criteria and their compatibility with the SEA Objectives. These have been developed from Government guidance on SEA and from the local evidence base gathered for identifying the NDP issues.
+ =/++	Compatible/ Very comp	S – Specific:	NDP objectives should specify what is intended to be done in detail and should not be open to a wide range of misinterpretations	
- =	Possible conflict	M – Measurable:	It should be possible to monitor NDP objectives in a quantifiable way, by the use of indicators. Indicators should be measurable with limited resource implications.	
0 =	Neutral	A – Attainable/achievable:	NDP objectives should be achievable and deliverable, related to the scale of growth proposed	
X =	No relationship between objectives	R – Realistic:	NDP objectives should relate to the overall vision of the plan. Likewise, chosen indicators should relate to objectives and their outcomes.	
? =	Unclear, more information needed	T – Time-Bound:	Objectives should be specific to the NDP period or another specified time-frame. Objectives should be associated with a target and indicators should specify when the target should be achieved.	

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

NDP objectives	SEA Objectives																Conclusions	Recommendations	SMART Test of NDP objective	After SMART objectives
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16				
Objective 1: To ensure that the growth of housing in Withington is proportionate to the size and scale of the settlements and the surrounding countryside so that it retains its rural character.	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	+	Overall this objective has a positive outcome over the SEA objectives.	Ensure that detail of the aims and of the objective are thoroughly explained in any emerging policy and that further details are given at each stage.	This objective is achievable and deliverable. It could be monitored against policy sustainability and conservation criteria and is in line with the overall vision for the plan and it is considered that this objective meets the SMART criteria.	No changes recommended.
Objective 2: To deliver housing development in the surrounding areas that are in line with Objective 1.	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	+	Overall this objective has a positive outcome over the SEA objectives.	Ensure that detail of the aims and of the objective are thoroughly explained in any emerging policy and that further details are given at each stage.	This objective is achievable and deliverable. It could be monitored against policy sustainability and conservation criteria and is in line with the overall vision for the plan and it is considered that this objective meets the SMART criteria.	No changes recommended.
Objective 3: To ensure that all new development takes into consideration the style and substance of local housing, being designed to be in keeping with the surrounding character of the parish.	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	+	Overall this objective has a positive outcome over the SEA objectives.	Ensure that detail of the aims and of the objective are thoroughly explained in any emerging policy and that further details are given at each stage.	This objective is achievable and deliverable. It could be monitored against policy sustainability and conservation criteria and is in line with the overall vision for the plan and it is considered that this objective meets the SMART criteria.	No changes recommended.
Objective 4: To ensure that new housing is developed in a suitable range of tenures, types, size, affordability ranges and is flexible in usage	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	Overall this objective has a positive outcome over the SEA objectives where relevant.	Ensure that policies relating to this objective have details specifying how new development, that will increase traffic, not only when finished but during will ensure to mitigate any significant impact.	This objective is achievable and deliverable. It could be monitored against policy criteria relating to conservation of the historical environment and is in line with the overall vision for the plan and it is considered that this objective meets the SMART criteria.	No changes recommended

so that local people of all ages can live in the parish in a suitable home while attracting families to the area and local housing needs are met.																				
Objective 5: To ensure that there are appropriate local and community facilities, which incorporate the latest technological advances in such areas as mobile phone reception and broadband as is suitable, which can support present demand, future growth and demographic change. Such developments must make a positive and tangible impact on the range and availability of community facilities throughout the parish.	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	Overall this objective has a positive outcome over the SEA objectives where relevant.	Ensure that detail of the aims and of the objective are thoroughly explained in any emerging policy and that detailed are given at planning stage. Improving communications networks will support home working and in turn reduce traffic movements from commuting	This objective is achievable and deliverable. It could be monitored against policy sustainability and communications criteria and is in line with the overall vision for the plan and it is considered that this objective meets the SMART criteria.	No changes recommended
Objective 6: To continue to develop local employment opportunities, including small businesses and tourism, which continue to be sympathetic to	+	+	+	+	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	+	?	+	0	+	Overall this objective has a positive outcome over the SEA objectives. The unknown factors are due to not knowing details of any related sustainability measures at relating to the type of business activity and or proposed tourism	Ensure that detail of the aims and of the objective are thoroughly explained in any emerging policy relating to tourism development and that detailed are given at planning stage.	This objective is achievable and deliverable. It could be monitored against policy sustainability criteria and is in line with the overall vision for the plan and it is considered that this objective meets the SMART criteria.	No changes recommended

the largely agricultural nature of the parish.																	activity in the parish.			
Objective 7: To ensure that the natural and built environment of the parish is protected and enhanced for future generations through sustainable development by protecting key environmental and heritage assets (including listed buildings, conservation areas, green spaces and landscapes)	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	Overall this objective has a positive outcome over the SEA objectives where relevant.	Ensure that detail of the aims and of the objective are thoroughly explained in any emerging policy and that detailed are given at planning stage and have detailed design criteria and details for any sustainability measures.	This objective is achievable and deliverable. It could be monitored against policy sustainability, environmental and design criteria and is in line with the overall vision for the plan and it is considered that this objective meets the SMART criteria.	No changes recommended
Objective 8: To ensure any new development does not increase flood risk, and to restrict any new development in flood risk areas.	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	x	x	+	Overall this objective has a positive outcome over the SEA objectives where relevant and a neutral impact on some of the sustainability factors elsewhere. The objective works towards preventing flood risk. It is unknown at this stage the impacts or plans for sustainability water provision.	Ensure that detail of the aims and of the objective are thoroughly explained in any emerging policy. There will be a need to ensure that safeguards are in place in any emerging policy to mitigate any harm to the countryside.	This objective is achievable and deliverable. It could be monitored against policy sustainability and is in line with the overall vision for the plan and it is considered that this objective meets the SMART criteria.	No changes recommended
Objective 9: To ensure development of a safe and well maintained network of roads and pavements and footpaths within the parish.	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	x	x	x	+	0	+	0	+	Overall this objective has a positive outcome over the SEA objectives where relevant. The enhancement of access to foot paths, which could reduce the reliance on the private car and help to contribute to improving air quality over time.	Ensure that detail of the aims and of the objective are thoroughly explained in any emerging policy relating to the enhancement roads and pavements.	This objective is achievable and deliverable. It could be monitored against policy sustainability and is in line with the overall vision for the plan and it is considered that this objective meets the SMART criteria.	No changes recommended

Objective 10: To continue to seek the opinions of parishioners at regular intervals in connection with all the above objectives, in order to make the Neighbourhood Plan a fully inclusive on-going document.	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	Overall this objective has an unknown outcome over the SEA objectives, however it can be seen that the Parish Council will work towards implementing the objectives through policies in the emerging plan.	Ensure that detail of the aims and of the objective are thoroughly explained in any emerging policy relating to the review of the plan.	This objective is not achievable or deliverable at this stage of the process. It could be monitored against sustainability criteria for its compatibility in line with the overall vision for the plan and in this instance it would mean that the objective meets the SMART criteria.	No changes recommended
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Objectives verses SEA Objectives (SMART and Compatibility Test)				
SEA Stage B1	Key:	SMART criteria:		The following matrix appraises the emerging Withington Group NDP Objectives in terms of their SMART criteria and their compatibility with the SEA Objectives. These have been developed from Government guidance on SEA and from the local evidence base gathered for identifying the NDP issues.
+ =/++	Compatible/very comp	S – Specific:	NDP objectives should specify what is intended to be done in detail and should not be open to a wide range of misinterpretations	
- =	Possible conflict	M – Measurable:	It should be possible to monitor NDP objectives in a quantifiable way, by the use of indicators. Indicators should be measurable with limited resource implications.	
0 =	Neutral	A – Attainable/achievable:	NDP objectives should be achievable and deliverable, related to the scale of growth proposed	
X =	No relationship between objectives	R – Realistic:	NDP objectives should relate to the overall vision of the plan. Likewise, chosen indicators should relate to objectives and their outcomes.	
? =	Unclear, more information needed	T – Time-Bound:	Objectives should be specific to the NDP period or another specified time-frame. Objectives should be associated with a target and indicators should specify when the target should be achieved.	

SEA Objectives	Baseline carried over from Stage A
1- To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	1-The 2011-2013 AMR does not contain updated conservation data.2010/11: 27% of Herefordshire’s SSSI land was in favourable condition.– August 2014 status of the SSSIs are: River Wye – unfavourable recovering. Moseley Common (Unfavourable but recovering). The existing status of the Wye SAC between Hay and the Lugg confluence is currently meeting its phosphate target and is meeting the conservation targets. The 2011-2013 AMR does not contain updated conservation data. 2010/11: 17 Habitat Action Plans and 14 Species Action Plans are currently in operation across Herefordshire. Withington Group Parish has: 1 SSSI, 1 SWS. Withington Group Parish lies within the hydrological catchment of the River Wye SAC and sits in the hydrological catchment of the River Wye, the River Lugg Sac borders the parish. There are no NNRs, SWS and SINC’s within the parish.
2- To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	2-There are no outstanding enforcement actions or appeals concerning locally important buildings within Withington Group Parish at present. There is a Conservation Area around Withington Village
3- To improve quality of surroundings	3- In terms of Withington Group Parish itself, In terms of Withington group parish itself, the study reveals that there is: 1 x junior football pitch 0.86ha and new facilities at the village hall
4- To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and culture heritage	4-Whilst there is no qualitative, locally specific data available at present, Aymestrey has 2 Scheduled Ancient Monuments and numerous listed buildings, all of which require ongoing maintenance.
5- To improve air quality	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.
6- To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	6-% of Herefordshire residents who travel to work by: Car: 70.1%, Foot: 14.7: Bicycle: 4.3%,Bus: 2%, Train: 0.8%,Motorbike: 0.8%,Taxi: 0.3%,Other: 7%.
7- To reduce contributions to climate change	7-Herefordshire latest figure of C02 emissions per capita-dates back to 2010: 1.61 million tonnes (mtCO²)
8- To reduce vulnerability to climate change	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.
9- To improve water quality	9-Percentage of river length assessed as good or very good chemical quality and ecological quality as required by the Water Framework Directive. Latest figure dates back to 2005: 84%.
10- To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	10-The parish falls into the Herefordshire Conjunctive Use Water Resource Zones (WRZs), one of 6 zones covering Herefordshire. 39% of demand is from non-household use.
11- To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	11-Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on flood defence grounds. The 2011-2013 AMR does not contain updated conservation data.
12- To conserve soil resources and quality	12- Majority of land within the agricultural land classification around Withington Group Parish is predominantly The Agricultural land classification across the Parish is a mixture of Grades 2 and 3 (very good and good to moderate). Percentage of all new development completed on previously developed land.2010/11: 67%2011-13: 57%.
13- To minimise the production of waste	
14- To improve health of the population	16- There are numerous listed buildings within the parish and 2 SAMs. The neighbourhood area comprises the following types of landscapes: Principal settled farmlands; estate farmlands; settled farmlands on river terrace
15- To reduce crime and nuisance	
16- To conserve natural and manmade resources	

NDP Options and Site Options	SEA objectives																		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	Summary in relation to baseline	Overall commentary and any initial cumulative effects/ Recommendations	Conformity with Core Strategy
Baseline	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	X	X	X	16			
Option 1 - Not to prepare a NDP: (Do Nothing)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X		Do nothing option sees the parish choose 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 until a Rural Areas Development Plan Document is drafted.	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 – Seek to reduce the oversupply	+	+	+	+	0	+	?	?	?	?	0	+				+	This option looks to address risk of a high level of oversupply for the reasoning that it would not be “Proportionate” for the Withington Group of parishes. Specific environmental issues could be investigated further during the site search and allocation, therefore could be positively addressed within policy in regard to managing housing supply. This option would have an overall positive effect on the baseline.	Any development or policy that would come forward based on this option would need to be included within the policy to safeguard against effects on any SEA objectives. There are no specific sites allocated or specific areas to address the oversupply issue identified at this stage, therefore it is difficult to determine the impacts as this stage. More detail should be provided at planning stage. Overall this would work towards a positive impact on the baseline where relevant.	This option would meet the Core Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA
Option 3 – Seek to restrict further oversupply	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	?	?	0	+				+	This approach, promoted through Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy, would define the extent of the built-up area of each settlement and any proposed extensions to it where housing development might take place. The definition of the settlement boundary and the allocation of sufficient land to deliver required housing would give certainty in terms of the baseline objects. Specific environmental issues could be investigated further during the site search and allocation, therefore could be positively addressed within policy. This option would have an overall positive effect on the baseline.	The option emerged as the most achievable and had support from both the LPA officers and the local community was Option 3 above, i.e. to restrict further over supply through a combination of detailed Settlement Boundaries, design guidance within them, and identification of key open spaces for both amenity and recreation/sports purposes. There were a number of potential sites referred to and they have been assessed in detail and the draft Settlement Boundaries publicised and community opinion sought. Existing un-implemented planning permissions have been identified as allocations – but no significant new allocations have been made as such allocations would be unlikely to conform to the HCS and may even raise further environmental issues which have not been considered. Mitigation measures 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

Objectives verses SEA Objectives (SMART and Compatibility Test)				
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? =	Unclear, more information needed	T – Time-Bound:	Objectives should be specific to the NDP period or another specified time-frame. Objectives should be associated with a target and indicators should specify when the target should be achieved.	

SEA Objectives	Baseline carried over from Stage A
1- To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	1-The 2011-2013 AMR does not contain updated conservation data.2010/11: 27% of Herefordshire’s SSSI land was in favourable condition.– August 2014 status of the SSSIs are: River Wye – unfavourable recovering. Moseley Common (Unfavourable but recovering). The existing status of the Wye SAC between Hay and the Lugg confluence is currently meeting its phosphate target and is meeting the conservation targets. The 2011-2013 AMR does not contain updated conservation data. 2010/11: 17 Habitat Action Plans and 14 Species Action Plans are currently in operation across Herefordshire. Withington Group Parish has: 1 SSSI, 1 SWS. Withington Group Parish lies within the hydrological catchment of the River Wye SAC and sits in the hydrological catchment of the River Wye, the River Lugg Sac borders the parish. There are no NNRs, SWS and SINC’s within the parish.
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3- To improve quality of surroundings	3- In terms of Withington Group Parish itself, In terms of Withington group parish itself, the study reveals that there is: 1 x junior football pitch 0.86ha and new facilities at the village hall
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6- To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	6-% of Herefordshire residents who travel to work by: Car: 70.1%, Foot: 14.7: Bicycle: 4.3%,Bus: 2%, Train: 0.8%,Motorbike: 0.8%,Taxi: 0.3%,Other: 7%.
7- To reduce contributions to climate change	7-Herefordshire latest figure of C02 emissions per capita-dates back to 2010: 1.61 million tonnes (mtCO²)
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10- To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	10-The parish falls into the Herefordshire Conjunctive Use Water Resource Zones (WRZs), one of 6 zones covering Herefordshire. 39% of demand is from non-household use.
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13- To minimise the production of waste	
14- To improve health of the population	16- There are numerous listed buildings within the parish and 2 SAMs. The neighbourhood area comprises the following types of landscapes: Principal settled farmlands; estate farmlands; settled farmlands on river terrace
15- To reduce crime and nuisance	
16- To conserve natural and manmade resources	

NDP Options and Policies	SEA objectives																		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	Summary in relation to baseline	Overall commentary and any initial cumulative effects/ Recommendations	Conformity with Core Strategy
Baseline	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	X	X	X	16			
Policy P1: Allocated sites a. Land adjacent to Whitestone Baptist Chapel for 33 new dwellings. b. Land on the south side of the A4103 at Whitestone for a Care Home.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	Overall this policy has mainly a positive impact on the baseline data and successfully addresses the SEA and baseline objectives.	Overall this policy meets the SEA baseline as it will help to guide sustainable development. The plan does not allocate any additional sites. The sites that are identified in P1 have obtained permission and in turn will have a proven positive effect on the SEA baseline.	This policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy P2: Withington Settlement Boundary	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+				+	Overall this policy has a positive impact on the baseline data and successfully addresses the SEA and baseline objectives, those that are neutral can be monitored and mitigated through supporting policies.	Overall this policy meets the SEA baseline as it will help to guide development and identifies the key issues regarding requirement and settlement boundary allocation for development across the area and highlights the need to adhere to Core Strategy policies across the parish area.	This policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy P3: Westhide and Preston Wynne	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+				+	Overall this policy has a positive impact on the baseline data and successfully addresses the SEA and baseline objectives, those that are neutral can be monitored and mitigated through supporting policies.	Overall this policy meets the SEA baseline as it will help to maintain and protect the landscape.	This policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy P4: Local Distinctiveness – Housing Layout and Design	0	+	+	+	X	+	0	0	0	0	0	0				+	Overall this policy has mainly a positive impact on the baseline data and successfully addresses some of the SEA and baseline objectives. Some of the environmental baseline statistics that have been assessed as neutral can be monitored and mitigated by supporting policies.	Overall this policy meets the SEA baseline as it will help to protect the character of the parish.	This policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy P5: Affordable Housing	+	+	+	+	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	0				+	This policy is compatible and will have a positive effect on the baseline data where relevant. The unknown factor regarding the effect of traffic on the environment will be dependent on the details of provision of sustainable transport measures and or car parking provision at planning stage. The effects can be mitigated by supporting policies.	Overall this policy meets the SEA baseline as it will help to provide affordable housing for people in the community.	This policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.

Policy P6: Green Spaces	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	This policy is compatible and will have a positive effect on the baseline data where relevant.	Overall this policy meets the SEA baseline where relevant in terms of preserving local green spaces within the parish.	This policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy P7: Transport and Traffic	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0				+	This policy is highly compatible with and will have a positive effect on the baseline SEA data. The policy addresses key aspects of the sustainable transport objectives.	Overall this policy meets the SEA baseline as it will help to encourage and deliver sustainable modes of transport which will also help to address climate change issues in the parish by reducing the reliance of use on cars.	This policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy P8: Conserving Historic Character	+	+	+	+	x	x	x	x	x	x	0	x				+	This policy is compatible where relevant and will have a positive or neutral effect on the baseline data.	Overall this policy meets the SEA baseline as it will help conserve the historic character of the parish.	This policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy P9: Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal	+	+	+	+	0	?	x	x	+	+	+	+				+	This policy is compatible with SEA baseline objectives where relevant and will have a positive or neutral effect. Aspects that are recorded as neutral are due to the policy not actively addressing the points but overall working towards mitigation of environmental impact. The impact of traffic on the environment is unknown due to no details regarding plans for tourism.	Overall this policy meets the SEA baseline as it addresses protection of a natural and or manmade resource in the parish.	This policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy P10: Telecommunications - Broadband	+	+	+	+	x	+	0	x	x	x	x	x				x	This policy is compatible and will have a positive effect on the baseline data where relevant. Improving communications can improve conditions in which home working could become possible and in turn reduce the effect on the environment.	Overall this policy meets the SEA baseline.	This policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy P11: Telecommunications – Mobile Phone Coverage	+	+	+	+	x	+	0	x	x	x	x	x				x	This policy is compatible and will have a positive effect on the baseline data where relevant. Improving communications can improve conditions in which home working could become possible and in turn reduce the effect on the environment.	Overall this policy meets the SEA baseline.	This policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy P12: Employment	0	+	+	+	x	+	0	x	x	x	x	x				x	This policy is compatible and will have a positive effect on the baseline data where relevant, the impact on the traffic is one that is addressed through this policy.	Overall this policy meets the SEA baseline.	This policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.

Policy P13: Agriculture and Tourism	+	+	+	+	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	+				+	This policy is compatible and will have a positive effect on the baseline data where relevant.	Overall this policy meets the SEA baseline.	This policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA and is in line with policy RA6 and E4 of the Core Strategy.
Policy P14: Polytunnels	+	+	+	+	0	x	0	0	0	0	0	+				+	This policy is compatible in regard to the SEA baseline and will have a positive effect on the farming land and environmental impacts of this.	Overall this policy meets the SEA baseline in terms of sustainability and the impact of farming on the environment.	This policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy P15: Renewable Energy	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	This policy is compatible and will have a positive effect on the baseline data.	Where relevant, the policy is positive as it gives guidelines and directly addresses steps towards producing renewable energy where possible.	This policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy P16: Social and Community Facilities	+	+	+	+	x	+	x	x	x	x	x	x				+	This policy is compatible and will have a positive effect on the baseline data where relevant.	Where relevant, the policy is positive as it gives guidelines and directly addresses management of social and community facilities in the parish, in turn helping to reduce the environmental effects of traffic by reducing the need to travel to use facilities.	This policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy P17: Minimising Flood Risk in Withington March	+	+	+	+	x	x	x	x	+	+	+	+				+	This policy is compatible and will have a positive effect on the baseline data where relevant.	Where relevant, the policy is positive as it gives guidelines and directly addresses the issue of flooding in the parish.	This policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA and are in line with policies SS7 and SD3.

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

Key:

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

Policy P1: Allocated sites

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 not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would work towards ensuring that sustainability measures are included in new development, especially regarding the conservation area and ecological networks. Policy safeguards are included within supporting policies in the plan.	N/A
To maintain and enhance the quality of	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would work towards	N/A

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landscapes and townscapes				ensuring that sustainability measures are included in new development, especially regarding the enhancement of the area through housing. Policy safeguards are included within supporting policies in the plan.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would work towards ensuring that sustainability measures are included in new development, regarding maintaining and improving the quality of surroundings. Policy safeguards are included within supporting policies in the plan.	N/A
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would work towards ensuring that sustainability measures are included in new development and heritage assets are protected. Policy safeguards are included within supporting policies in the plan.	N/A
To improve air quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only see to enhance surroundings with	N/A

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				sustainable development in line with the proportional growth within the Core Strategy. This could have a positive effect on air quality if implemented correctly over time but for the shorter term the impact would remain as neutral. Policy safeguards are included within supporting policies in the plan.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only see to enhance surroundings with sustainable development in line with the proportional growth within the Core Strategy. With development there will be some margin increase in traffic however this would be balanced by the implementation of sustainable development and measures to mitigate against impacts and policy safeguards are included within supporting policies in the plan.	N/A
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only see to enhance surroundings with sustainable development in line with the proportional growth within the Core Strategy. Policy	N/A

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				safeguards are included within supporting policies in the plan.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only see to enhance surroundings with sustainable development in line with the proportional growth within the Core Strategy. Policy safeguards are included within supporting policies in the plan.	N/A
To improve water quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only see to enhance surroundings with sustainable development in line with the proportional growth within the Core Strategy. Policy safeguards are included within supporting policies in the plan.	N/A
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only see to enhance surroundings with sustainable development in line with the proportional growth within the Core Strategy. Policy safeguards are included within supporting policies in the plan.	N/A

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To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only see to enhance surroundings with sustainable development in line with the proportional growth within the Core Strategy. Policy safeguards are included within supporting policies in the plan.	N/A
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only see to enhance surroundings with sustainable development in line with the proportional growth within the Core Strategy. Policy safeguards are included within supporting policies in the plan.	N/A
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 not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only see to enhance surroundings with	N/A

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				sustainable development in line with the proportional growth within the Core Strategy. Policy safeguards are included within supporting policies in the plan.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	This policy refers to development in line with proportional growth through the Core Strategy. Policy safeguards exist in supporting policies in the plan to ensure that environmental considerations are taking into account housing and economic development and the character of the conservation area are protected and ensure a positive cumulative impact on the baseline.				

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Policy P2: Withington Settlement Boundary

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 not over and above the Core Strategy and has a positive impact on the SEA baseline data. Helping to retain development within settlement boundaries where possible will help to protect biodiversity, therefore leading to a positive impact on the SEA baseline in the short term and over the longer term.	N/A
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and has a positive impact on the SEA baseline data. Maintaining settlement boundaries will help to protect the character and appearance of the area will lead to a positive impact on the SEA baseline in the short term and over	N/A

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				the longer term.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy however has a positive impact on the SEA baseline data. Maintaining settlement boundaries will help to protect the character and appearance of the area will lead to guided development which will, with the support of other policies, will help to improve the quality of surroundings or maintain a good standard, and therefore provide a positive impact on the SEA baseline in the short term and over the longer term.	None identified. More information will be available at planning permission stage and mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and has an immediate positive effect on the SEA baseline data.	None identified. More information will be available at planning permission stage and mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.
To improve air quality	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and has a neutral cumulative impact the SEA baseline data as any development will see an impact on the baseline and development but mitigation measures are in place through	None identified. More information will be available at planning permission stage and mitigation measures are in place through

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				supporting policies.	supporting policies.
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and has a neutral cumulative impact the SEA baseline data as any development will see an impact on the baseline and development but mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.	None identified. More information will be available at planning permission stage and mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.
To reduce contributions to climate change	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and has a neutral cumulative impact the SEA baseline data as any development will see an impact on the baseline and development but mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.	None identified. More information will be available at planning permission stage and mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and has a neutral cumulative impact the SEA baseline data as any development will see an impact on the baseline and development but mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.	None identified. More information will be available at planning permission stage and mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.
To improve water quality	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and has a neutral cumulative impact the SEA baseline data as any development	None identified. More information will be available at planning permission stage and

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				will see an impact on the baseline and development but mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.	mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and has a neutral cumulative impact the SEA baseline data as any development will see an impact on the baseline and development but mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.	None identified. More information will be available at planning permission stage and mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and has a neutral cumulative impact the SEA baseline data as any development will see an impact on the baseline and development but mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.	None identified. More information will be available at planning permission stage and mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and has a neutral cumulative impact the SEA baseline data as any development will see an impact on the baseline and development but mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.	None identified. More information will be available at planning permission stage and mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.

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To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This site allocation and policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and an overall positive impact towards the SEA baseline data.	N/A
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and has an overall positive or neutral impact on the SEA baseline data. Maintaining settlement boundaries will help to protect the character and appearance, historic form of the parish, of the area will lead to guided development which will, with the support of other policies, will help to improve the quality of surroundings or maintain a good standard, and therefore provide a positive impact on the SEA baseline in the short term and over the longer term.				

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Policy P3: Westhide and Preston Wynne

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 not over and above the Core Strategy and has a positive impact on the SEA baseline data. Helping to retain development within settlement boundaries where possible will help to protect biodiversity, therefore leading to a positive impact on the SEA baseline in the short term and over the longer term.	N/A
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and has a positive impact on the SEA baseline data. Maintaining settlement boundaries will help to protect the character and appearance of the area will lead to	N/A

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				a positive impact on the SEA baseline in the short term and over the longer term.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy however has a positive impact on the SEA baseline data. Maintaining settlement boundaries will help to protect the character and appearance of the area will lead to guided development which will, with the support of other policies, will help to improve the quality of surroundings or maintain a good standard, and therefore provide a positive impact on the SEA baseline in the short term and over the longer term.	None identified. More information will be available at planning permission stage and mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and has an immediate positive effect on the SEA baseline data.	None identified. More information will be available at planning permission stage and mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.
To improve air quality	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and has a neutral cumulative impact the SEA baseline data as any development will see an impact on the baseline	None identified. More information will be available at planning permission stage and mitigation measures are

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				and development but mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.	in place through supporting policies.
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and has a neutral cumulative impact the SEA baseline data as any development will see an impact on the baseline and development but mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.	None identified. More information will be available at planning permission stage and mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.
To reduce contributions to climate change	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and has a neutral cumulative impact the SEA baseline data as any development will see an impact on the baseline and development but mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.	None identified. More information will be available at planning permission stage and mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and has a neutral cumulative impact the SEA baseline data as any development will see an impact on the baseline and development but mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.	None identified. More information will be available at planning permission stage and mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.

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To improve water quality	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and has a neutral cumulative impact the SEA baseline data as any development will see an impact on the baseline and development but mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.	None identified. More information will be available at planning permission stage and mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and has a neutral cumulative impact the SEA baseline data as any development will see an impact on the baseline and development but mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.	None identified. More information will be available at planning permission stage and mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and has a neutral cumulative impact the SEA baseline data as any development will see an impact on the baseline and development but mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.	None identified. More information will be available at planning permission stage and mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and has a neutral cumulative impact the SEA baseline data as any development will see an impact on the baseline and development but mitigation	None identified. More information will be available at planning permission stage and mitigation measures are in place through

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				measures are in place through supporting policies.	supporting policies.
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This site allocation and policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and an overall positive impact towards the SEA baseline data.	N/A
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and has an overall positive or neutral impact on the SEA baseline data. Maintaining settlement boundaries across the smaller settlements will help to protect the character and appearance, historic form of the parish, of the area will lead to guided development which will, with the support of other policies, will help to improve the quality of surroundings or maintain a good standard, and therefore provide a positive impact on the SEA baseline in the short term and over the longer term. There will be a reliance on RA3 to help determine any applications outside of the settlement boundaries.				

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Policy P4: Local Distinctiveness – Housing Layout and Design

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)	0	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would have a positive impact on the SEA baseline objectives and design guidance will support the landscape and ecological network in the parish and mitigation measures to prevent negative impact from development.	N/A
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscape	+	++	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would have a positive impact on the SEA baseline objectives and design guidance will help to maintain and enhance the quality of the landscape in the parish and mitigation measures to prevent negative impact from development.	N/A

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To improve quality of surroundings	+	++	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would have a positive impact on the SEA baseline objectives and strongly supports the landscape and surrounding conservation area in the parish and mitigation measures to prevent negative impact from development.	N/A
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	++	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would have a positive impact on the SEA baseline objectives and strongly supports the historical landscape in the parish and mitigation measures to prevent negative impact from development.	N/A
To improve air quality	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives, through the implementation of this policy there will be an overall positive impact on the baseline by reducing the impact of traffic through design.	Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and MT1.

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To reduce contributions to climate change	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would have a positive impact on the SEA through overall environmental impact mitigation through the policy and supporting policies.	Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development. Policies LD1, LD2, SS6, SS7 and SD3 cover these and will help to mitigate any uncertain impacts.
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would have a positive impact on the SEA through overall environmental impact mitigation through the policy and supporting policies.	Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development. Policies LD1, LD2, SS6, SS7 and SD3 cover these and will help to mitigate any uncertain impacts.
To improve water quality	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would have a positive impact on the SEA through overall environmental impact mitigation through the policy and supporting policies.	Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development. Policies LD1, LD2, SS6, SS7 and SD3 cover these and will help to mitigate any uncertain impacts.

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To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would have a positive impact on the SEA through overall environmental impact mitigation through the policy and supporting policies.	Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development. Policies LD1, LD2, SS6, SS7 and SD3 cover these and will help to mitigate any uncertain impacts.
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would have a positive impact on the SEA through overall environmental impact mitigation through the policy and supporting policies.	N/A
To conserve soil resources and quality	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would have a positive impact on the SEA through overall environmental impact mitigation through the policy and supporting policies.	N/A
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					

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To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would have a positive impact on the SEA through overall environmental impact mitigation through the policy and supporting policies.	N/A
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would have a positive impact on the SEA baseline objectives through promoting good design of any new development and will support the landscape and surrounding conservation area in the parish. Mitigation measures to prevent negative impact from development overall environmental impact mitigation through the policy and supporting policies.				

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Policy P5: 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 not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would work towards ensuring that sustainability measures are included in new development. Policy safeguards are included within the supporting policy.	N/A
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	++	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would lead to the protection and enhancement of sustainable infrastructure, landscapes and townscapes. Policy safeguards are included within the policy to ensure landscape and townscape features are taken into consideration.	N/A

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To improve quality of surroundings	+	++	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would lead to the protection and enhancement of sustainable infrastructure, landscapes and townscapes. Policy safeguards are included within the policy to ensure the improvement of the quality of surrounding features are taken into consideration.	N/A
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	++	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and works towards the protection of heritage, especially by offering those with a local connection to the parish, and those that match certain will have priority over new affordable homes. Policy safeguards are included within the policy to ensure that causes of possible cumulative impacts are taken into consideration.	N/A
To improve air quality	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and has a neutral cumulative impact the SEA baseline data as any development will see an impact on the baseline and development but mitigation measures are in place through	None identified. More information will be available at planning permission stage and mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.

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				supporting policies.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	?	?	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives. Any development will see an increase in overall traffic movements in the area, however policy safeguards work towards mitigating any impact.	None identified. More information will be available at planning permission stage and mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies and policy MT1 in the Core Strategy.
To reduce contributions to climate change	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and has a neutral cumulative impact the SEA baseline data as any development will see an impact on the baseline and development but mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.	None identified. More information will be available at planning permission stage and mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and has a neutral cumulative impact the SEA baseline data as any development will see an impact on the baseline and development but mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.	None identified. More information will be available at planning permission stage and mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.
To improve water quality	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and has a neutral cumulative impact the SEA	None identified. More information will be available at planning

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				baseline data as any development will see an impact on the baseline and development but mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.	permission stage and mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and has a neutral cumulative impact the SEA baseline data as any development will see an impact on the baseline and development but mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.	None identified. More information will be available at planning permission stage and mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and has a neutral cumulative impact the SEA baseline data as any development will see an impact on the baseline and development but mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.	None identified. More information will be available at planning permission stage and mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.
To conserve soil resources and quality	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and has a neutral cumulative impact the SEA baseline data as any development will see an impact on the baseline and development but mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.	None identified. More information will be available at planning permission stage and mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.

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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 not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives. Policy safeguards are included within the policy to ensure that causes of possible cumulative impacts are taken into consideration.	N/A
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and is in direct accordance with policy H1 of the Core Strategy. Policy safeguards are included within the Affordable Housing policy and supporting policies to ensure landscape and townscape features are taken into consideration. Any development will see an impact on the baseline and development will also certainly see an increase in overall traffic movements in the area but mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies and more information will be available at planning stage. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and works towards the protection of historic farmsteads. Policy safeguards are included within the policy to ensure that causes of possible cumulative impacts are taken into consideration.				

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Policy P6: Green Spaces

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 not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives. This policy summarises the local green spaces to be protected and that development may be permitted if the residential amenity of any development does not have any adverse effects on the identified areas. Policy safeguards are in place to avoid or mitigate effects.	N/A
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	++	++	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives. This policy summarises the local green spaces to be protected and that development may be permitted if the residential amenity of any development does not have any adverse effects on the identified areas. Policy safeguards are in place to avoid or mitigate	N/A

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				effects.	
To improve quality of surroundings	++	++	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives. This policy summarises the local green spaces to be protected and that development may be permitted if the residential amenity of any development does not have any adverse effects on the identified areas. Policy safeguards are in place in avoid or mitigate effects.	N/A
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	++	++	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives. This policy summarises the local green spaces to be protected and that development may be permitted if the residential amenity of any development does not have any adverse effects on the identified areas. Policy safeguards are in place in avoid or mitigate effects.	N/A
To improve air quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives. This policy summarises the local green spaces to be protected. Policy safeguards are in place in avoid or mitigate effects.	N/A

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To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives. This policy summarises the local green spaces to be protected. Policy safeguards are in place in avoid or mitigate effects.	N/A
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives. This policy summarises the local green spaces to be protected. Policy safeguards are in place in avoid or mitigate effects.	N/A
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives. This policy summarises the local green spaces to be protected. Policy safeguards are in place in avoid or mitigate effects.	N/A
To improve water quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives. This policy summarises the local green spaces to be protected. Policy safeguards are in place in avoid or mitigate effects.	N/A
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives. This policy summarises the local green spaces to be protected. Policy safeguards are in	N/A

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				place in avoid or mitigate effects.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives. This policy summarises the local green spaces to be protected. Policy safeguards are in place in avoid or mitigate effects.	N/A
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives. This policy summarises the local green spaces to be protected. Policy safeguards are in place in avoid or mitigate effects.	N/A
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 not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives. This policy summarises the local green spaces to be protected. Policy safeguards are in place in avoid or mitigate effects.	N/A
Overall commentary	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives. And summarises the local green spaces to be protected and that development may be permitted if the residential amenity of any				

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and any cumulative effects	development does not have any adverse effects on the identified areas. Policy safeguards are in place to avoid or mitigate effects. It will also only lead to development in line with Core Strategy Policies.
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Policy P7: Transport and Traffic

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 not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would work towards ensuring that transport related sustainability measures are included in new development. Policy safeguards are included within the supporting policy.	Mitigation measures in supporting policies will help to address the issue of other sustainability issues.
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would work towards ensuring that sustainability	Mitigation measures in supporting policies will help to address the issue of other

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townscapes				measures regarding traffic management and sustainable modes of transport are included in new development. Policy safeguards are included within the supporting policy.	sustainability issues
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would work towards ensuring that sustainability measures regarding traffic management and sustainable modes of transport are included in new development. Policy safeguards are included within the supporting policy.	Mitigation measures in supporting policies will help to address the issue of other sustainability issues
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would work towards ensuring that sustainability measures regarding traffic management and sustainable modes of transport are included in new development. Policy safeguards are included within the supporting policy.	N/A
To improve air quality	0	+	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would work towards ensuring that sustainability	N/A

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				measures regarding traffic management and sustainable modes of transport are included in new development which will help to improve air quality over time. Policy safeguards are included within the supporting policy.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	++	++	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would work towards ensuring that sustainability measures regarding traffic management and sustainable modes of transport are included in new development. Policy safeguards are included within the supporting policy.	N/A
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would work towards ensuring that sustainability measures regarding traffic management and sustainable modes of transport are included in new development. Policy safeguards are included within the supporting policy.	N/A
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would work towards	Mitigation measures in supporting policies will help to address

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				ensuring that sustainability measures regarding traffic management and sustainable modes of transport are included in new development. Policy safeguards are included within the supporting policy.	the issue of other sustainability issues.
To improve water quality	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would work towards ensuring that sustainability measures are included in new development. Policy safeguards are included within the supporting policy.	Mitigation measures in supporting policies will help to address the issue of other sustainability issues
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would work towards ensuring that sustainability measures are included in new development. Policy safeguards are included within the supporting policy.	Mitigation measures in supporting policies will help to address the issue of other sustainability issues
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would work towards ensuring that sustainability measures are included in new development. Policy safeguards are included within the supporting	Mitigation measures in supporting policies will help to address the issue of other sustainability issues

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				policy.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would work towards ensuring that sustainability measures are included in new development. Policy safeguards are included within the supporting policy.	Mitigation measures in supporting policies will help to address the issue of other sustainability issues
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 not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would work towards ensuring that sustainability measures are included in new development. Policy safeguards are included within the supporting policy.	N/A
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	Overall this Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would work towards ensuring that sustainability measures regarding traffic management and sustainable modes of transport are included in new development where relevant. Policy safeguards are included within the supporting policy and				

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	mitigation measures in place in the policies included within the plan.
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Policy P8: Conserving Historic Character

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 not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would have a positive impact on the SEA baseline objectives and strongly supports the landscape and ecological network in the parish and mitigation measures to prevent negative impact from development on the Withington Conservation area.	N/A

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To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	++	++	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would have a positive impact on the SEA baseline objectives and strongly supports the landscape and ecological network in the parish and mitigation measures to prevent negative impact from development on the Withington Conservation area.	N/A
To improve quality of surroundings	++	++	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would have a positive impact on the SEA baseline objectives and strongly supports the landscape and surrounding conservation area in the parish and mitigation measures to prevent negative impact from development on the Withington Conservation area.	N/A
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	++	++	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would have a positive impact on the SEA baseline objectives and strongly supports the historical landscape in the parish and mitigation measures to prevent negative impact from development on the Withington	N/A

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				Conservation area.	
To improve air quality	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
To reduce contributions to climate change	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
To improve water quality	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would have a positive impact on the SEA through overall environmental impact mitigation through the policy and supporting policies.	N/A
To conserve soil resources and quality	X	X	X	N/A	N/A

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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 not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would have a positive impact on the SEA through overall environmental impact mitigation through the policy and supporting policies.	N/A
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would have a positive impact on the SEA baseline objectives and directly supports the protection and enhancement of the historic character of the area. Mitigation measures to prevent negative impact from development overall environmental impact mitigation through the policy and supporting policies.				

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Policy P9: Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal

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 not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would have a positive impact on the SEA.	N/A
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	++	++	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would have a positive impact on the SEA.	N/A
To improve quality of surroundings	++	++	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would have a positive impact on the SEA.	N/A

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To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	++	++	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would have a positive impact on the SEA. It will only lead to development in line with Core Strategy Policies. Policy safeguards and supporting policies are in place to avoid or mitigate effect on the historic environment or cultural heritage.	N/A
To improve air quality	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	?	?	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would have an unknown effect on the SEA baseline in the short term ,but the reintroduction of the waterways may help to address traffic problems in the future.	N/A
To reduce contributions to climate change	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	X	X	X	N/A	N/A

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To improve water quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would have a positive impact on the SEA.	N/A
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would have a positive impact on the SEA.	N/A
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would have a positive impact on the SEA.	N/A
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would have a positive impact on the SEA.	N/A
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 not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would have a positive impact on the SEA.	N/A

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Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would have a positive impact on the SEA where relevant in terms of the environment through any future restoration of the canal, but mainly protection of the existing route. Any development would also be in line with Core Strategy Policies. Policy safeguards and supporting policies are in place to avoid or mitigate effect on the historic environment or cultural heritage.
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Policy P10: Telecommunications - Broadband

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 not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data.	N/A
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA	N/A

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townscapes				baseline data.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data.	N/A
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data.	N/A
To improve air quality	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data. Improving communications would make home working more feasible and reduce the number of vehicles commuting on a daily basis.	N/A
To reduce contributions to climate change	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	X	X	X	N/A	N/A

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To improve water quality	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
To conserve soil resources and quality	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
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	N/A	N/A
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data. Improving communications would make home working more feasible and reduce the number of vehicles commuting on a daily basis.				

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Policy P11: Telecommunications – Mobile Phone Coverage

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 not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data.	N/A
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data.	N/A
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data.	N/A
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA	N/A

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environment and cultural heritage				baseline data.	
To improve air quality	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data. Improving mobile phone signal would make home working more feasible and reduce the number of vehicles commuting on a daily basis.	N/A
To reduce contributions to climate change	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
To improve water quality	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	X	X	X	N/A	N/A

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To conserve soil resources and quality	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
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	N/A	N/A
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data. Improving mobile phone signal would make home working more feasible and reduce the number of vehicles commuting on a daily basis.				

Policy P12: Employment

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

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To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data.	Supporting policies in the plan support environmental issues and will help to mitigate against environmental impact.
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data. Mitigation measures are in place to reduce impact of the business park on the area.	N/A
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data. Mitigation measures are in place to reduce impact of the business park on the area.	N/A
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data. Mitigation measures are in place to reduce impact of the business park on the area.	N/A
To improve air quality	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
To reduce the effect of traffic on the	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA	N/A

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environment				baseline data. The business park is a key employer and ensuring its continued use would help to reduce commuting outside of the area.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data.	N/A
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
To improve water quality	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
To conserve soil resources and quality	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					

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To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data. Mitigation measures are in place to reduce impact of the business park on the area. The policy directly supports Core Strategy policy E3.				

Policy P13: Agriculture and Tourism

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

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To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	++	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and is in direct support of farm diversification but in accordance with policies RA6 and E4. Policy safeguards are in place in avoid or mitigate effects on nature conservation.	N/A
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	++	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data. Mitigation measures are in place to reduce impact of the agriculture and tourism on the area.	N/A
To improve quality of surroundings	+	++	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data. Mitigation measures are in place to reduce impact of the agriculture and tourism on the area.	N/A
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data. Mitigation measures are in place to reduce impact of the agriculture and tourism on the area.	N/A
To improve air quality	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a neutral impact towards the SEA baseline data. Mitigation measures	N/A

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				are in place to reduce impact of the agriculture and tourism on the area.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	?	?	?	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have an unknown impact towards the SEA baseline data due to not knowing the impact or level of tourism planned.	More information should be supplied at planning stage.
To reduce contributions to climate change	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a neutral impact towards the SEA baseline data. Mitigation measures are in place to reduce impact of the agriculture and tourism on the area.	N/A
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a neutral impact towards the SEA baseline data. Mitigation measures are in place to reduce impact of the agriculture and tourism on the area.	N/A
To improve water quality	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a neutral impact towards the SEA baseline data. Mitigation measures are in place to reduce impact of the agriculture and tourism on the area.	N/A
To provide for sustainable sources of	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a neutral impact towards the SEA	N/A

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water supply				baseline data. Mitigation measures are in place to reduce impact of the agriculture and tourism on the area.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a neutral impact towards the SEA baseline data. Mitigation measures are in place to reduce impact of the agriculture and tourism on the area.	N/A
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data.	N/A
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 not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data.	N/A
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and is in direct support of farm diversification but in accordance with policies RA6 and E4. Policy safeguards are in place to avoid or mitigate effects on nature conservation. There are some unknown impacts towards the SEA baseline data due to not knowing the impact or level of tourism planned, but it should be ensured that sustainability measures are included in new				

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	development.
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Policy P14: Polytunnels

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	N/A
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	++	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy. Policy safeguards are in place to avoid or mitigate effects on nature conservation from polytunnels.	N/A
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscape	+	++	++	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy. Policy safeguards are in place to avoid or mitigate effects on the landscape from polytunnels.	N/A

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To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	++	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy. Policy safeguards are in place to avoid or mitigate effects of polytunnels.	N/A
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy. Policy safeguards are in place to avoid or mitigate effects of polytunnels in the conservation area.	N/A
To improve air quality	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a neutral impact towards the SEA baseline data. Mitigation measures are in place to reduce impact.	N/A
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	x	x	x	N/A	N/A
To reduce contributions to climate change	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a neutral impact towards the SEA baseline data. Mitigation measures are in place to reduce impact.	N/A
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a neutral impact towards the SEA baseline data. Mitigation measures are in place to reduce impact.	N/A

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To improve water quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data.	N/A
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a neutral impact towards the SEA baseline data. Mitigation measures are in place to reduce impact.	N/A
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a neutral impact towards the SEA baseline data. Mitigation measures are in place to reduce impact.	N/A
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data.	N/A
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA	N/A

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resources				baseline data.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	Overall this policy is not above and beyond the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact on the SEA baseline data where relevant and especially relating to the proposals for intensive farming methods, such as polytunnels. Policy safeguards are included within the policy to ensure that causes of possible cumulative impacts are taken into consideration.				

Policy P15: Renewable Energy

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 not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data.	N/A
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data.	N/A

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To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data.	N/A
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	++	++	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data.	N/A
To improve air quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data.	N/A
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data.	N/A
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data.	N/A
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data.	N/A
To improve water	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a	N/A

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quality				positive impact towards the SEA baseline data.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data.	N/A
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data.	N/A
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data.	N/A
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 not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data.	N/A
Overall commentary and any cumulative	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data by promoting appropriate renewable energy. Policy safeguards are in place to avoid or mitigate and				

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

effects	possible cumulative effects.
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Policy P16: Social and Community Facilities

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 not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data.	N/A
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	++	++	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data This policy will lead to some development of community facilities, which will be in line with Core Strategy Policies. Policy safeguards are in place to avoid or mitigate effects on nature	N/A

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

				conservation.	
To improve quality of surroundings	++	++	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline.	N/A
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	++	++	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data.	N/A
To improve air quality	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data by reducing the need to travel to other community facilities.	N/A
To reduce contributions to climate change	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
To improve water quality	X	X	X	N/A	N/A

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

To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
To conserve soil resources and quality	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
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 not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data by reducing the need to travel to other community facilities.	N/A
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data This policy will lead to some development of community facilities, which will be in line with Core Strategy Policies. It will also reduce the need to travel to other community facilities. Policy safeguards are in place in avoid or mitigate effects on nature conservation.				

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

Policy P17: Minimising Flood Risk in Withington March

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	N/A
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	++	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would work towards ensuring that sustainability measures are included in new development. Policy safeguards are included within the supporting policy.	N/A
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would work towards ensuring that sustainability measures are included in new development. Policy safeguards are included within the supporting policy.	N/A

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

To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would work towards ensuring that sustainability measures are included in new development. Policy safeguards are included within the supporting policy.	N/A
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would work towards ensuring that sustainability measures are included in new development. Policy safeguards are included within the supporting policy.	N/A
To improve air quality	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
To reduce contributions to climate change	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	X	X	X	N/A	N/A

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

To improve water quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would work towards ensuring that sustainability measures are included in new development. Policy safeguards are included within the supporting policy.	N/A
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would work towards ensuring that sustainability measures are included in new development. Policy safeguards are included within the supporting policy.	N/A
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	++	++	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would work towards ensuring that sustainability measures are included in new development. Policy safeguards are included within the supporting policy and minimising flood risk in the area.	N/A
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would work towards ensuring that sustainability measures are included in new	N/A

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

				development. Policy safeguards are included within the supporting policy.	
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 not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would work towards ensuring that sustainability measures are included in new development. Policy safeguards are included within the supporting policy.	N/A
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	Overall this policy is not above and beyond the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact on the SEA baseline data where relevant. Policy safeguards are included within the policy to ensure that causes of possible cumulative impacts are taken into consideration. In line with Core Strategy policies SS7 and SD3 to help reduce the flooding risk in Wellington Marsh.				

Key:

++ Move significantly towards	+ Move towards marginally	-- Move away Significantly	- Move away marginally	0 Neutral	? Uncertain	X No relationship
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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 of waste	14. To improve health of the population	15. To reduce crime and nuisance	16. To conserve natural and manmade resources
Option 1 - Not to prepare a NDP: (Do Nothing)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Option 2 – Seek to reduce the oversupply	+	+	+	+	0	+	?	?	?	?	0	+			X	+
Option 3 – Seek to restrict further oversupply	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	?	?	0	+				+
Policy P1: Allocated sites a. Land adjacent to Whitestone Baptist Chapel for 33 new dwellings. b. Land on the south side of the A4103 at Whitestone for a Care Home.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+

Policy P2: Withington Settlement Boundary	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+				+
Policy P3: Westhide and Preston Wynne	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+				+
Policy P4: Local Distinctiveness – Housing Layout and Design	0	++	++	++	x	+	0	0	0	0	0	0				+
Policy P5: Affordable Housing	+	++	++	++	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	0				+
Policy P6: Green Spaces	++	++	++	++	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
Policy P7: Transport and Traffic	+	+	+	+	+	++	++	+	0	0	0	0				+
Policy P8: Conserving Historic Character	+	++	++	++	x	x	x	x	x	x	0	x				+
Policy P9: Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal	++	++	++	++	0	?	x	x	+	+	+	+				++
Policy P10: Telecommunications - Broadband	+	+	+	+	x	+	0	x	x	x	x	x				x
Policy P11: Telecommunications – Mobile Phone Coverage	+	+	+	+	x	+	0	x	x	x	x	x				x
Policy P12: Employment	0	+	++	+	x	+	0	x	x	x	x	x				

																X
Policy P13: Agriculture and Tourism	+	++	++	+	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	+				+
Policy P14: Polytunnels	++	+	+	+	0	X	0	0	0	0	0	+				+
Policy P15: Renewable Energy	++	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
Policy P16: Social and Community Facilities	+	++	++	++	X	+	X	X	X	X	X	X				+
Policy P17: Minimising Flood Risk in Withington March	++	+	+	+	X	X	X	X	+	+	++	+				+
Summary of effects of whole plan on each SEA Objective	+	++	++	++	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+				+
Cumulative effects of whole plan (1 + 2 + 3...)	Taking into consideration the cumulative effects of policies and options, the plan will have an overall positive impact on environmental assets. The plan is in general conformity with the Core Strategy overall and all of the policies and objectives meet the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA. Other issues with a currently uncertain or neutral outcome have the opportunity to be mitigated by further detail in policies or at planning stage.															
Commentary for significant cumulative effects	Overall the plan is positive and would have a positive impact upon the SEA baseline data. Key recommendations would be to ensure that the environmental mitigation impacts are clear and robust, this may require some enhancement of existing policies in regard to air quality and water resources. However the plan as a whole is robust and meets key targets. No significant cumulative effects have been identified.															

Appendix 5

Option 1 - Not to prepare a NDP: This would mean relying solely on Development Management practices of the LPA to ensure that the existing commitments are developed in a manner that meets the needs of the local community and that any further oversupply is limited by HCS policy and National Planning Policy Guidance. By implication this would allow only ad-hoc influence from the local community through responding to planning applications. It also depends on developer-led initiatives which may or may not meet local needs. A further “sub-option” would be to rely on the LPA bringing forward its Rural Areas Development Plan Document and including policies for this NDP area within it.

Option 2 – Seek to reduce the oversupply

The inherent risk of a high level of oversupply is that it would not be “Proportionate” for the Withington Group of parishes and may draw development away from other parishes in the same HCS sub-area thereby preventing them reaching their appropriate proportionate development needs. Planning permissions can, in theory, be revoked under Section 97 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 but that was not considered as a realistic option and has not been offered by the LPA anyway. Should existing permissions expire before development commences then the LPA has the option of not renewing permission, but that would need to be considered in the context at the time. It was not considered realistic to actively plan for existing permissions to expire and to depend on that for managing housing supply.

Option 3 – Seek to restrict further oversupply

A moratorium on all new permissions has not been offered by the LPA and would be a very restrictive approach that would not allow for changes in circumstances or any specific local needs. Hence that concept has not been pursued. Instead the Steering Group has looked to the concept of establishing Settlement Boundaries within which only very limited future growth can take place, along with detailed design policies to influence the nature of development, and protection of key open spaces where they are either within Settlement Boundaries or integral to their setting. (The settings of listed buildings, conservation areas and scheduled monuments are protected through legislation in any event).

This Option has involved detailed consideration of 13 potential sites which have been subject to local consultations and publicity along with development of Settlement Boundaries which have also been the subject of informal consultations through local publicity and an exhibition.

Appendix 6

Template C2: SEA Quality Assurance Checklist

Parish Council Name: Withington Group Parish

Neighbourhood Development Plan Name: Withington Group Parish
Neighbourhood Plan

Date completed: November 2018

Objectives and context	Where are the points covered in Neighbourhood Development Plan SEA <i>(insert chapter, section, page references, as necessary)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Neighbourhood Development Plan's purpose and objectives are made clear. • The Neighbourhood Area's environmental issues and constraints, including acknowledgement of those in the Local Plan (Core Strategy) SA, where relevant, and local environmental protection objectives, are considered in developing objectives and targets. • SEA objectives are clearly set out and linked to indicators and targets where appropriate. • Links with other locally related plans, programmes and policies are identified, explained and acknowledgement for those set out in the SA of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) is given, where relevant. • Conflicts that exist between SEA objectives; between SEA and Neighbourhood Development Plan objectives; and between SEA objectives and other local plan objectives are identified and described. 	<p>Chapter 1.6 – 1.10</p> <p>Chapter 2 methodology, chapter 3 and tables A2 and A3</p> <p>Chapter 3 paragraph 3.5 and 3.7</p> <p>Chapter 3, paragraph 3.1</p> <p>Chapter 3</p>
<p>Scoping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory Consultees are consulted in appropriate ways and at appropriate times on the content and scope of the Environmental Report. • The assessment focuses on significant issues. 	<p>Chapter 2, paragraphs 2.6-2.9</p> <p>Chapter 2 and chapter 4</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical, procedural and other difficulties encountered are discussed; assumptions and uncertainties are made explicit. • Reasons are given for eliminating issues from further consideration. 	<p>Chapter 2</p> <p>Chapter 2, chapter 4 and chapter 5</p>
<p>Alternatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realistic alternatives are considered for key issues, and the reasons for choosing them are documented. • Alternatives include 'do minimum' and/or 'business as usual' scenarios wherever relevant. • The environmental effects (both adverse and beneficial) of each alternative are identified and compared. • Inconsistencies between the alternatives and other relevant local plans, programmes or policies are identified and explained. • Reasons are given for selection or elimination of alternatives. 	<p>Chapter 4 and chapter 5</p> <p>Paragraph 5.4</p> <p>Chapter 5</p> <p>Chapter 5</p> <p>Chapter 5</p>
<p>Baseline information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant aspects of the current state of the local, neighbourhood area environment and their likely evolution without the Neighbourhood Development Plan are described. Acknowledgement to the information in the SA of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) is given, where relevant. • Environmental characteristics of the local, neighbourhood area, likely to be significantly affected are described, including areas wider than the physical boundary of the designated neighbourhood area, where it is likely to be affected by the Neighbourhood Development Plan. • Difficulties such as deficiencies in information or methods are explained. 	<p>Chapter 1, Chapter 3</p> <p>Initial screening report and Chapter 1</p> <p>Chapter 2</p>

<p>Prediction and evaluation of likely significant environmental effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects identified include the types listed in the Directive (biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climate factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape), as relevant; and other local likely environmental effects are also covered, as appropriate. • Both positive and negative effects are considered, and the duration of effects (short, medium or long-term) is addressed. • Likely secondary, cumulative (growing in quantity and strength) and synergistic (acting together) effects are identified, where practicable. • Inter-relationships between effects are considered, where practicable. • The prediction and evaluation of effects makes use of relevant accepted standards, regulations, and thresholds (i.e. data gathered for the evidence base). • Methods used to evaluate the effects are described. 	<p>Tables A2, A3 and A4</p> <p>Tables B2 and B3</p> <p>Table B4</p> <p>Chapter 5, chapter 6</p> <p>Chapter 5, chapter 6</p> <p>Chapter 2</p>
<p>Mitigation measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the Neighbourhood Development Plan are indicated. • Issues to be taken into account when determining planning applications or other projects, for example funding bids, are identified. 	<p>Chapter 6, paragraph 6.6 – 6.9</p> <p>Chapter 6</p>
<p>The Environmental Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is clear and concise in its layout and presentation. • Uses simple, clear language and avoids or explains technical terms. • Uses maps and other illustrations, 	<p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p>

<p>where appropriate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explains the methodology used. • Explains who was consulted and what methods of consultation were used. • Identifies sources of information, including expert judgement and matters of opinion. • Contains a non-technical summary covering the overall approach to the SEA, the objectives of the Neighbourhood Development Plan, the main options considered, and any changes to the Neighbourhood Development Plan resulting from the SEA. 	<p>Chapter 2</p> <p>Paragraph 2.6-2.9</p> <p>Paragraph 2.8-2.9</p> <p>Page 1 / Paragraph 1.8 / Chapter 6</p>
<p>Consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SEA is consulted on as an integral part of the plan-making process of the Neighbourhood Development Plan. • Consultation Bodies and the public likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the Neighbourhood Development Plan are consulted in ways and at times, which give them an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinions on the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan and Environmental Report. 	<p>Paragraph 2.6-2.9</p> <p>Chapter 8</p>
<p>Decision-making and information on the decision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The environmental report and the opinions of those consulted are taken into account in finalising and adopting the Neighbourhood Development Plan. • An explanation is given of how they have been taken into account. • Reasons are given for choosing the Neighbourhood Development Plan as adopted, in the light of other reasonable alternatives considered. 	<p>Chapter 8</p> <p>Following draft consultation</p> <p>Following draft consultation</p>

<p>Monitoring measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures proposed for monitoring the Neighbourhood Development Plan are clear, practicable and linked to the indicators and objectives used in the SEA. • Monitoring is used, where appropriate, during implementation of the Neighbourhood Development Plan to make good deficiencies in baseline information in the SEA. • Acknowledgement that monitoring enables unforeseen adverse effects to be identified at an early stage. (These effects may include predictions which prove to be incorrect.) And that • Proposals are made for action in response to significant adverse effects arising from the monitoring of the Neighbourhood Development Plan. 	<p>Chapter 7</p> <p>Chapter 7</p> <p>Chapter 7</p> <p>Chapter 7</p>
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Appendix 7

Template D1: SEA Consultation Feedback

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

Parish Council Name: Withington Group

Neighbourhood Development Plan Name: Withington Group NDP

Details of consultation: Reg 14

**Consultation date:
14 June to 23 July 2018**

Consultation title: Withington Group Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan Regulation 14

Response Date	Acknowledgement Sent	Consultee	Summary of Comments	Response to Comments
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

No comments received

Appendix 8

Template D3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the amended Neighbourhood Development Plan policies and sites

Parish Council Name: Withington Group

Neighbourhood Development Plan Name: Withington Group Reg 16

Date completed: November 2018

Key:

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

Policy P3: Westhide and Preston Wynne

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 not over and above the Core Strategy and has a positive impact on the SEA baseline data. Helping to retain development within settlement boundaries where possible will help to protect biodiversity, therefore leading to a positive impact on the SEA baseline in the short term and over the longer term.	N/A
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and has a positive impact on the SEA baseline data. Maintaining settlement boundaries will help to protect the character and appearance of the area will lead to a positive impact on the SEA baseline in the short term and over the longer term.	N/A
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy however has a positive impact on the SEA baseline data. Maintaining settlement boundaries will help to protect the character and appearance of the area will lead to guided development which will, with the support of other policies, will help to improve the quality of surroundings or maintain a good standard, and therefore provide a	None identified. More information will be available at planning permission stage and mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.

				positive impact on the SEA baseline in the short term and over the longer term.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and has an immediate positive effect on the SEA baseline data.	None identified. More information will be available at planning permission stage and mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.
To improve air quality	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and has a neutral cumulative impact the SEA baseline data as any development will see an impact on the baseline and development but mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.	None identified. More information will be available at planning permission stage and mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and has a neutral cumulative impact the SEA baseline data as any development will see an impact on the baseline and development but mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.	None identified. More information will be available at planning permission stage and mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.
To reduce contributions to climate change	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and has a neutral cumulative impact the SEA baseline data as any development	None identified. More information will be available at planning permission stage and

				will see an impact on the baseline and development but mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.	mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and has a neutral cumulative impact the SEA baseline data as any development will see an impact on the baseline and development but mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.	None identified. More information will be available at planning permission stage and mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.
To improve water quality	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and has a neutral cumulative impact the SEA baseline data as any development will see an impact on the baseline and development but mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.	None identified. More information will be available at planning permission stage and mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and has a neutral cumulative impact the SEA baseline data as any development will see an impact on the baseline and development but mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.	None identified. More information will be available at planning permission stage and mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.

To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and has a neutral cumulative impact the SEA baseline data as any development will see an impact on the baseline and development but mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.	None identified. More information will be available at planning permission stage and mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and has a neutral cumulative impact the SEA baseline data as any development will see an impact on the baseline and development but mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.	None identified. More information will be available at planning permission stage and mitigation measures are in place through supporting policies.
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This site allocation and policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and an overall positive impact towards the SEA baseline data.	N/A
Overall commentary	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and has an overall positive or neutral impact on the SEA baseline data. Maintaining settlement boundaries across the smaller settlements will help to protect the				

and any cumulative effects	character and appearance, historic form of the parish, of the area will lead to guided development which will, with the support of other policies, will help to improve the quality of surroundings or maintain a good standard, and therefore provide a positive impact on the SEA baseline in the short term and over the longer term. There will be a reliance on RA3 to help determine any applications outside of the settlement boundaries. The policy has been amended following Reg 14 consultation and the wording in the policy has been amended to help clarify the amount of development that will be permitted. This will not change the outcome of the cumulative effect on the SEA baseline.
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Policy P4: Local Distinctiveness – Housing Layout and Design

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)	0	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would have a positive impact on the SEA baseline objectives and design guidance will support the landscape and ecological network in the parish and mitigation measures to prevent	N/A

				negative impact from development.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	++		++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would have a positive impact on the SEA baseline objectives and design guidance will help to maintain and enhance the quality of the landscape in the parish and mitigation measures to prevent negative impact from development.	N/A
To improve quality of surroundings	++	++	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would have a positive impact on the SEA baseline objectives and strongly supports the landscape and surrounding conservation area in the parish and mitigation measures to prevent negative impact from development.	N/A
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	++	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would have a positive impact on the SEA baseline objectives and strongly supports the historical landscape in	N/A

				the parish and mitigation measures to prevent negative impact from development.	
To improve air quality	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives, through the implementation of this policy there will be an overall positive impact on the baseline by reducing the impact of traffic through design.	Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and MT1.
To reduce contributions to climate change	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would have a positive impact on the SEA through overall environmental impact mitigation through the policy and supporting policies.	Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development. Policies LD1, LD2, SS6, SS7 and SD3 cover these and will help to mitigate any uncertain impacts.
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would have a positive impact on the SEA through overall environmental impact mitigation through the policy and supporting policies.	Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development. Policies LD1, LD2, SS6, SS7 and SD3 cover these and will help to

					mitigate any uncertain impacts.
To improve water quality	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would have a positive impact on the SEA through overall environmental impact mitigation through the policy and supporting policies.	Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development. Policies LD1, LD2, SS6, SS7 and SD3 cover these and will help to mitigate any uncertain impacts.
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would have a positive impact on the SEA through overall environmental impact mitigation through the policy and supporting policies.	Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development. Policies LD1, LD2, SS6, SS7 and SD3 cover these and will help to mitigate any uncertain impacts.
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would have a positive impact on the SEA through overall environmental impact mitigation through the policy and supporting policies.	N/A

To conserve soil resources and quality	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would have a positive impact on the SEA through overall environmental impact mitigation through the policy and supporting policies.	N/A
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 not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would have a positive impact on the SEA through overall environmental impact mitigation through the policy and supporting policies.	N/A
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would have a positive impact on the SEA baseline objectives through promoting good design of any new development and will supports the landscape and surrounding conservation area in the parish. Mitigation measures to prevent negative impact from development overall environmental impact mitigation through the policy and supporting policies. The policy has been amended following Reg 14 consultation and the wording in the policy has been amended with the addition of criterion relating to the amenity of new residents in new developments and the effect of existing agricultural or commercial activity to help clarify the amount of development that will be permitted. This will improve the outcome of the cumulative effect on the SEA baseline relating to maintaining and enhancing the quality of landscapes and townscapes and improving the quality of surroundings in the short				

	term as well as the longer term.
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Policy P16: Social and Community Facilities

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 not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data.	N/A
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	++	++	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data This policy will lead to some development of community facilities, which will be in line with Core Strategy Policies. Policy safeguards are in place in avoid or mitigate effects on nature conservation.	N/A

To improve quality of surroundings	++	++	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline.	N/A
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	++	++	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data.	N/A
To improve air quality	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	++	++	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data by reducing the need to travel to other community facilities and improving cycle access to village facilities is directly encouraged within the policy.	N/A
To reduce contributions to climate change	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
To improve water quality	X	X	X	N/A	N/A

To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
To conserve soil resources and quality	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
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 not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data by reducing the need to travel to other community facilities.	N/A
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and will have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data This policy will lead to some development of community facilities, which will be in line with Core Strategy Policies. It will also reduce the need to travel to other community facilities. Policy safeguards are in place in avoid or mitigate effects on nature conservation. The policy has been amended following Reg 14 consultation and the wording in the policy has been amended with the addition of criterion relating to improved cycle access to village facilities and connectivity. This will improve the outcome of the cumulative effect on the SEA baseline relating and improving cycle access to village facilities is directly encouraged within the policy.				