

Environmental Report

Report for:

Longtown Group Neighbourhood Area

November 2018



Longtown Group Parish Environmental Report

Contents

Non-technical summary

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Methodology
- 3.0 The SEA Framework
- 4.0 Appraisal of Objectives
- 5.0 Appraisal of Options
- 6.0 Appraisal of Policies
- 7.0 Implementation and monitoring
- 8.0 Next steps

Appendix 1: Initial SEA Screening Report

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

Appendix 3: Consultation responses from Scoping Report consultation

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

Appendix 5: Options Considered

Appendix 6: Environmental Report checklist

Non-technical summary

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

Longtown Group Parish Council has undertaken to prepare an NDP and this process has been subject to environmental appraisal pursuant to the SEA Directive. The Longtown Group area is geographically large with one of the lowest population densities in Herefordshire. The distance from the western edge of Craswall through Longtown to Clodock to the eastern edge of Walterstone is appropriately 12.5 miles. Craswall is geographically, the largest parish in Herefordshire. All four parishes are predominantly rural but inevitably geographically spread and the fact that Longtown village is the hub in terms of facilities means there are some difference between the four parishes.

The Draft Longtown Group NDP includes 15 objectives. It is intended that these objectives will be delivered by 15 criteria based planning policies; including 2 site allocations and a designated settlement boundary.

The environmental appraisal of the Longtown Group 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 on the NDP and has shown that a further HRA is not required.

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

Once made (adopted) by Herefordshire Council, the effects of the policies within the Longtown Group 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 Longtown Group Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP).
- 1.2 The Longtown Group NDP contains site allocations and settlement boundary for the village of Longtown. Policy RA2 of the Herefordshire Core Strategy indicated the growth requirements for the parish until 2031 and the site allocations and housing policies of the NDP are seeking to achieve this. The NDP also provides general criteria based policies for guiding future development across the neighbourhood area as a whole.

Purpose of the SEA

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

Longtown Group Neighbourhood Plan Context

- 1.6 The Longtown Group area is geographically large with one of the lowest population densities in Herefordshire. The distance from the western edge of Craswall through Longtown to Clodock to the eastern edge of Walterstone is appropriately 12.5 miles. Craswall is geographically, the largest parish in Herefordshire. All four parishes are predominantly rural but geographically spread. Longtown village is the hub in terms of facilities and there are some difference between the four parishes in term of facilities and characteristics.
- 1.7 The population at the 2011 Census was 875. Around 22% of the population were over 65 and 18% under 16. 19.2% of the working population are working mainly from home and of those who travel to work 77% use their own vehicle.
- 1.8 The parish has a number of environmental assets including 9 ancient woodlands; 3 Sites Special Scientific Interest; 25 Special Wildlife Sites; 2 unregistered park and gardens. There are 9 ancient monuments and numerous listed buildings.
- 1.9 The vision for the Longtown Group is as follows:
'This beautiful group of parishes, with a strong agricultural heritage, needs to meet the social and economic needs of the whole community whilst maintaining and enhancing its unique rural landscape and environment. It must improve its infrastructure and support small-scale development to ensure it is a vibrant and sustainable place for all generations of residents and visitors to live, learn, work and play.
We will protect our natural and historic environment
We will provide new homes and support local facilities
We will promote business and employment opportunities'
- 1.10 The NDP objectives are as follows:

Housing objectives:

- Review the settlement boundary for Longtown village
- Seek the development of family and starter homes
- Promote the conversion of redundant, abandoned and derelict buildings

Economy objectives:

- Support farm diversification by providing space for rural craftspeople, encourage operations that add value to local produce and the development of tourism projects appropriate to the local landscape
- Support the development of live/work units
- Support the erection of technological facilities that will support local business, aid home working and provide services which are considered essential for modern-day life

Infrastructure and community facilities

- Ensure new development can be accommodated safely and within the capacity of the local road network
- Protect and improve the footpaths and public rights of way network
- Protect and support improvements to local infrastructure and community facilities and services
- Contribute to the Brecon Beacons Dark Skies Reserves

Environment

- Ensure the natural landscape and historic environment are protected
- Ensure important habitats are identified and given an appropriate level of protection
- Maintain tree cover
- Ensure storm and waste water drainage is accommodated satisfactorily

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 Longtown Group NDP must therefore conform to national planning policy set within the NPPF and strategic level local policy including the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy).
- 1.13 The Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) was adopted on the 16th October 2015.
- 1.14 Paragraph 46 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 Policy RA2 of the Herefordshire Core Strategy highlights that Longtown will accommodate a minimum of 32 new homes during the plan period.

- 1.16 Once made (adopted) by Herefordshire Council, the Longtown Group NDP will have a role in guiding future development proposals within the town, by setting out policies against which planning applications will be determined.

Structure of SEA

- 1.17 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 Longtown Group 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 Longtown Group NDP.
 - *Task A3:* Focused on the environmental issues identified from the baseline, highlighting key issues and problems within the neighbourhood area.
 - *Task A4:* Used the information gathered from Tasks A1-A3 to develop a set of SEA objectives, sometimes referred to as the 'sustainability framework'.
 - *Task A5:* Collated the results of Tasks A1-A4 within a Scoping Report, a document which was subject to a statutory 5 week consultation.
- 2.3 Stage B involved 4 tasks and assessed the effects of the NDP.
- *Task B1:* Tested NDP Objectives against the SEA Objectives
 - *Task B2:* Developed and refined the NDP options and policies
 - *Task B3/B4:* Predicted and evaluated the significant effects of the NDP
- 2.4 Stage C involved preparing an Environmental Report. This report presents information compiled during Stage B of the SEA process and constitutes the Draft Environmental Appraisal of the NDP. It accompanies the Draft Plan during its formal Regulation 14

consultation with people who live, work and carry out businesses in the neighbourhood area, as well as statutory bodies listed in the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

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

Scoping Report Consultation

- 2.6 With regard to the SEA scoping assessments, documents A1 to A4 were completed by a Herefordshire Council Planning Officer and sent to the Parish Council for comment, in readiness for a 5 week consultation with statutory bodies, pursuant to the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.
- 2.7 After the document was approved by the Parish Council, the Longtown Group SEA Scoping Report was available to four¹ statutory bodies for consultation from 5 May to 9 June 2016.

Consultation outcomes from Statutory Consultees

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

Natural England: consider that the methodology and baseline information used to inform the reports appears to meet the requirements of the SEA directive.

Historic England: no substantive comments to make. The SEA Framework sections of the SEA are generally commendable in their approach of including reference to historic landscape and townscape quality.

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

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

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

Policy context

- 3.3 The Longtown Group NDP will deliver the Local Plan (Core Strategy) at local level by adding locally specific detail to strategic policies. As a consequence, the Scoping Report for the NDP

was based on the context review Herefordshire Council undertook for its Local Plan (Core Strategy).

- 3.4 The results of this assessment (context review) provide the source of the local baseline data and have been incorporated into the SEA framework. It should be noted that:
- No list of policies, plans and programmes can ever be exhaustive and that Herefordshire Council has selected those considered to be of particular relevance to the planning system;
 - New or revised plans and policies can emerge during the SEA process
- 3.5 The following strategies and plans have been reviewed and, where appropriate, incorporated within the SA Framework objectives:
- *The EC Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010)* - These regulations transpose the Habitats Directive in England, Wales and to a limited extent Scotland by ensuring that activities are carried out in accordance with the Habitats Directive, which is to protect biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and species of wild flora and fauna.
 - *The EC Water Framework Directive (2000)* - Commits all EU member states to achieve good qualitative and quantitative status of all water courses by 2015
 - *The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)* - The major legal instrument for wildlife protection in Britain, although other significant acts have been passed since. It has numerous parts and supplementary lists and schedules many of which have been amended since publication.
 - *Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (2011)* - Forms part of the UK's Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework by setting out England's contribution towards the UK's commitments under the United Nations Convention of Biological Diversity.
 - *The Countryside and Right of Way Act (2000)* - Creates a statutory right of access on foot to certain types of open land, to modernise the public rights of way system, to strengthen nature conservation legislation, and to facilitate better management of AONBs
 - *The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)* - Designed to help achieve a rich and diverse natural environment and thriving rural communities through modernised and simplified arrangements for delivering Government policy.
 - *Revised EU Sustainable Development strategy (2009)* - Sets out a single strategy on how the EU will more effectively meet its long-standing commitment to meet the challenges of sustainable development.
 - *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2012)* - Consolidates the suite of PPG/PPS into one succinct planning policy document.
 - *Planning Practice Guidance (2013)* - Sets out the vision, objectives and policies for the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy), which will guide development across the county up to 2031.
 - *Herefordshire Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP) 2013-2015* - Sets out the Council's strategy for supporting economic growth, social inclusion and reducing the environmental impacts of transport, as well as the program of investment for the period April 2013 to April 2015.

- *Understanding Herefordshire Report (2014)* - Important to understand the place such as the local economy natural and built environment in which people live, learn and work as part of understanding their quality of life. Enable development for economy and housing to the required levels and growth should be supported by sustainable transport measures.
- *Malvern Hills AONB Management Plan 2014-2018 (2014)* - Identifies the issues and challenges facing the special features of the area and contains 24 guiding principles and 46 strategic objectives which will help address them.
- *Wye Valley AONB management Plan 2014-2018 (2014)* - The Management Plan is the prime document which sets out the vision for the area and the priorities for its management.
- *Herefordshire Economic Development Strategy 2011-2016* - Aims to increase the economic wealth of Herefordshire by setting out proposals and to support business growth up to 2016.
- *Herefordshire Employment Land Study (2012)* - Includes employment land assessments for the plan period 2011-2031. The study includes Quantitative and Qualitative assessments of employment land, assessment of market demand and need, as well as providing forecasts and recommendations for future employment need over the plan period.
- *Herefordshire Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) (2009)* - The SHLAA aims to justify site allocations in plans by:
 - Identifying sites which are capable of delivering housing development
 - Assessing sites for their housing potential; and
 - Predicting when a site could be developed for housing.
- *Herefordshire Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) (2013)* - Builds on an earlier Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) developed for Herefordshire and Shropshire. Its purpose is to inform the Local Plan's policies regarding housing need and demand (for market and affordable housing) within each of the 7 Housing Market Areas (HMAs) in Herefordshire between 2011 and 2031.
- *Herefordshire Local Housing Requirements Study (2012)* - Technical assessment of the housing market and potential future local housing requirements which supports planning policy regarding the amount of growth, housing tenure and housing type needed within Herefordshire up to 2031.
- *Herefordshire Rural Housing Background Report (2013)* - Provides the justification for the proportional housing growth targets outlined in the Core Strategy
- *Herefordshire Draft Gypsies and Travellers Assessment (2013)* - Assesses the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers across Herefordshire.
- *Herefordshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan (2007)* - Focuses conservation efforts on the areas within Herefordshire that will result in the greatest benefit for ecological networks, habitats and species.
- *Building Biodiversity into the LDF (2009)* - Provides the Council's Local Plan (Core Strategy) with evidence in respect of biodiversity and geodiversity, identifying both opportunities and constraints across Herefordshire.

- *Herefordshire Green Infrastructure Strategy (2010)* - Develops a framework of natural and culturally important features and functions so that planning for a sustainable future is at the heart of planning within Herefordshire.
- *Renewable Energy Study (2010)* - Assesses the energy demand within Herefordshire and the ability for the county to accommodate renewable and low carbon energy technologies.
- *Herefordshire Playing Pitch Assessment (2012)* - Produces a strategic framework, audit and assessment and needs analysis of outdoor sports pitches and facilities for Herefordshire. The document arises as a result of a recommendation in the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Sports Facilities Framework to develop local standards for playing fields and sports pitches throughout Herefordshire.
- *Open Spaces Study (2006)* - The 2006 space audit and assessment of need is a snap shot of the quality, quantity and distribution of open space across Herefordshire.
- *Play Facilities Study (2012)* - The Play Facilities Study 2012 updates the previous play facilities analysis under the Open Spaces Study 2006 and provides guidance and a framework for the development, delivery and continued sustainability of providing new and improved play facilities for children and young people in Herefordshire to 2031.
- *Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) and Water Cycle Study (2009)* - The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) provides a summary of flood risk in Herefordshire to inform the location of future development. The Water Cycle Study examines how water resources and water supply infrastructure, wastewater treatment, water quality, sewerage and flood risk could constrain growth across Herefordshire.

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

SEA Objectives and baseline characteristics

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

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

13	To minimise the production of waste
14	To improve the health of the population
15	To reduce crime and nuisance
16	To conserve natural and manmade resources

- 3.8 The SEA objectives detailed above conform to the SEA Directive, and are derived from the Sustainability Appraisal undertaken for the Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy 2011-2031.
- 3.9 Baseline information gathered during Stage A of the SEA process provided details of the current environmental characteristics of the neighbourhood area and the status of its natural assets and features (refer to Appendix 2). This information was analysed as part of Task B2 of SEA, which looked at the extent to which the emerging NDP policies will help or obstruct these characteristics.
- 3.10 Following the completion of Task B2 of SEA it was apparent that the largest environmental issue within the neighbourhood area is landscape and the historic nature of the settlement of Longtown in particular
- 3.11 Baseline characteristics within the SEA detail the current environmental status of environmental characteristics in the neighbourhood plan area from different sources. The source of Baseline Information used in Table A2 in Appendix 2, and analysed in Table B2 can be found in Appendix 4 Baseline characteristics in relation to the Longtown Group NDP SEA objectives can be found in stage A SEA assessments.
- 3.12 There are three objectives for which there is no local baseline data available and therefore this provides a limitation on the baseline data and whether the NDP policies are able to move towards or away from this data, this also means that there are no future trends to link the SEA objective too.

4.0 Assessing the NDP Objectives

- 4.1 The following are primary objectives listed in the NDP that aim to realise the vision for Longtown Group in 2031:

Housing objectives:

- Review the settlement boundary for Longtown village
- Seek the development of family and starter homes
- Promote the conversion of redundant, abandoned and derelict buildings

Economy objectives:

- Support farm diversification by providing space for rural craftspeople, encourage operations that add value to local produce and the development of tourism projects appropriate to the local landscape
- Support the development of live/work units
- Support the erection of technological facilities that will support local business, aid home working and provide services which are considered essential for modern-day life

Infrastructure and community facilities

- Ensure new development can be accommodated safely and within the capacity of the local road network
- Protect and improve the footpaths and public rights of way network

- Protect and support improvements to local infrastructure and community facilities and services
- Contribute to the Brecon Beacons Dark Skies Reserves

Environment objective

- Ensure the natural landscape and historic environment are protected
- Ensure important habitats are identified and given an appropriate level of protection
- Maintain tree cover
- Ensure storm and waste water drainage is accommodated satisfactorily

- 4.2 The table below tests these NDP objectives against the SEA objectives, providing a summary of the results of Task B1 of SEA. The full results are available at Appendix 4 of this report.
- 4.3 The majority of the NDP objectives which have a relationship with the SEA framework are positively compatible with it or have a neutral or unknown effect or were not relevant.
- 4.4 Task B1 of the SEA didn't identify and major conflicts between the NDP objectives and the SEA framework, however some impacts are unknown due to the overarching nature of the policy and will have to be addressed on a case by case basis at planning stages:

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

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

5.0 Assessing the NDP Options

- 5.1 All options that were considered by Longtown Group Council during the development of their Plan have been assessed as part of the SEA, the summary matrix of the assessment can be found in Table B2 options these tables are in Appendix 4.
- 5.2 The options covered were are followed;

Option 1	Do nothing
Option 2	To define a settlement boundary
Option 3	No settlement boundary
Option 4	Allocate only one site
Option 5	Allocate on two sites
Option 6	Allocations on a greater number of sites

Site Options

Site 1	Land close to Pontynys Mill,
Site 2	Land north of Crown Inn Public House
Site 3	Land south east of Greyhound Close
Site 4	Land north of Llanwonog Lane
Site 5	Land north of Penbailey
Site 6	Land behind the village hall
Site 7	Land to the south of Old Vicarage Stables
Site 8	Land south of Perthy Perton

- 5.3 These options were formulated at public consultation events across the Parish. The results of which will feed into the identification of the preferred options and ultimately the draft policies.
- 5.4 Option 1 is essential a do nothing and not allocate any housing within the NDP. This was not seen as a variable alternative by the community who wished to take an active part in producing further planning policy.
- 5.5 The option of designating settlement boundary would also have seen a positive effect on the baseline. The designation of a settlement boundary would give additional certainty and help define those areas considered as the built form and open countryside. This can aid the direction of further growth to maintain the quality of the landscape and surroundings. There is less certainty over the positive effects on the baseline as any growth will be adjudged by criteria based policy.
- 5.6 The option not to have a settlement boundary and rely on development management criteria policies was also assessed. Criteria based policy does not give the same level of certainty as the other options, as it will be more reactionary than proactive in terms of growth proposals. However, the option will have a positive effect on the baseline, provided that criteria are added to the policies to safeguard or mitigate against any harm
- 5.7 Three options were considered regarding the distribution of housing on allocation sites. Longtown is historically a linear village and the group parish is very rural in nature with a scattering of rural farms and isolated dwellings. The proportional growth for the group parish is 32 dwellings.
- 5.8 The allocation of one large site will bring some benefits and this would need to be balanced with the historic character of the area and the linear nature of the village itself. Equally, assessing a number of sites to accommodate a smaller number of dwellings on each may be characteristic of the area however environmental constraints may make finding appropriate sites difficult.

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	+	+	x	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
Option 3	+	+	x	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
Option 4	++	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	++	+				++

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

NDP sites options	SEA Objectives															
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Site 1	?	-	-	-	?	?	?	?	+	+	+	-				-
Site 2	-	-	-	-	+	+	?	?	+	+	?	+				?
Site 3 Selected site	?	?	+	?	+	+	?	?	+	+	+	+				?
Site 4	?	-	?	--	+	+	?	?	+	+	+	?				-
Site 5 Selected site	?	?	?	?	+	+	?	?	+	+	+	+				?
Site 6	?	?	?	-	+	+	?	?	+	+	+	+				?
Site 7	?	?	?	?	+	-	?	?	+	+	+	+				?
Site 8	?	?	?	?	+	+	?	?	+	+	+	+				?

6.0 Appraisal of the policies

- 6.1 A key part of developing a plan such as the Longtown Group 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:

LGPC1	Housing within Longtown village
LGPC2	Land south east of Greyhound Close
LGPC3	Land north of Penbailey
LGPC4	Residential use associated with historic farmsteads
LGPC 5	Providing for local housing need
LGPC 6	Supporting local enterprise
LGPC 7	Broadband and mobile telephone infrastructure
LGPC8	Highway design requirements
LGPC9	Protection and development of public rights of way
LGPC10	Protection and enhancement of community facilities and services
LGPC11	Contributions to community services, youth provisions and recreational facilities
LGPC13	Protecting heritage assets
LGPC14	Foul and storm water drainage
LGPC15	Proposals for renewable energy

Stage B of SEA

- 6.3 In the context of Task B1 of SEA, the previous section of this report identified that three of the NDP objectives are compatible with the SEA framework, while others needed further information such as location of development. Additional policy safeguards within the NDP and Local Plan (Core Strategy) would help mitigate any possible conflicts.
- 6.4 With regard to Task B2 of SEA, the NDP policies were measured against both the SEA framework and the baseline characteristics identified during Stage A of the process; here,

there was no baseline data available in respect of SEA Objectives 3 and 9. Full details of this appraisal are attached at Appendix 4.

- 6.5 The policies largely score as positive against the SEA objectives and will not have an adverse impact on the baseline characteristics or immediate environmental impacts. This is because they are criteria based policies which only consider schemes on their own merits, as and when planning applications are submitted to the local planning authority.
- 6.6 There are some unknown factors with regards to the location of employment provisions particularly as the location of specific development could have specific effects but these will be mitigated by other policies within the plan and judged at planning application stage.

NDP Policies	SEA Objectives															
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Policy LGPC 1 Housing within Longtown village	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
Policy LGPC2 Land south east of Greyhound Close 8 to 12 dwellings	?	?	?	?	+	+	?	?	+	+	+	+				?
Policy LGPC3 Land north of Penbailey 12 to 16 dwellings	?	?	?	?	+	+	?	?	+	+	+	+				?
Policy LGPC4 Residential use associated with historic farmsteads	?	+	+	+	x	?	x	x	x	x	?	+				+
Policy LGPC5 Providing for local housing need	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x
Policy LGPC6 Supporting local enterprise	?	+	+	+	?	?	?	?	x	+	x	?				+
Policy LGPC7 Broadband and mobile telephone infrastructure	x	x	+	?	x	+	x	x	x	x	x	x				x
Policy LGPC8 Highway design requirements	+	+	+	+	x	?	x	x	x	x	x	x				x
Policy LGPC9 Protection and development of public rights of way	+	+	+	+	x	+	x	x	x	x	x	x				+
Policy LGPC10 Protection and enhancement of community	x	+	++	+	x	+	x	x	x	x	x	+				+

NDP Policies	SEA Objectives															
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
facilities and services																
Policy LGPC11 Contributions to community services, youth provision and recreational facilities	x	x	+	X	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x
Policy LGPC12 Protecting and enhancing the landscape	++	++	++	++	+	x	+	+	+	x	+	+				++
Policy LGPC13 Protecting heritage assets	++	++	++	++	x	x	?	?	x	x	x	+				++
Policy LGPC14 Foul and storm water drainage	+	+	+	x	x	x	+	+	+	+	++	x				+
Policy LGPC15 Proposal for renewal energy	+	+	+	+	x	+	+	+	x	x	x	+				+

6.7 The results of Task B3, as shown at Appendix 4, demonstrates that the cumulative impact of the NDP policies over the course of the plan period is generally positive. Although some policies may have a neutral or uncertain impact during the first 5 years of the plan period, there is no reason why they cannot have a positive effect in the medium to long-term due to policy safeguards included in the Local Plan (Core Strategy); these safeguards should avoid or mitigate against unacceptable adverse impacts.

6.8 Task B4 of SEA brings together the results of earlier tasks and identifies the cumulative impact of the entire of the NDP. This task, which is also attached at Appendix 4, reveals that the objectives and policies contained in the Longtown 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 The policies in the Longtown Group NDP are not considered to be in direct conflict with or propose greater levels of growth and development than strategic policies contained in the Local Plan (Core Strategy), which themselves have undergone a full Sustainability Appraisal.

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 Draft Longtown Group NDP.
- 8.2 Responses on the Draft NDP will be reviewed and the plan amended where appropriate.
- 8.3 Any changes made to the NDP as a consequence of the Regulation 14 consultation with those who live, work or carry out business in the neighbourhood area, as well as statutory consultation bodies, will trigger a review of the SEA, unless they do not materially affect the outcomes of Stage B of the SEA process.

Appendix 1

**Initial Habitat Regulations Assessment and Strategic Environmental
Assessment Screening Notification**

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

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (d)

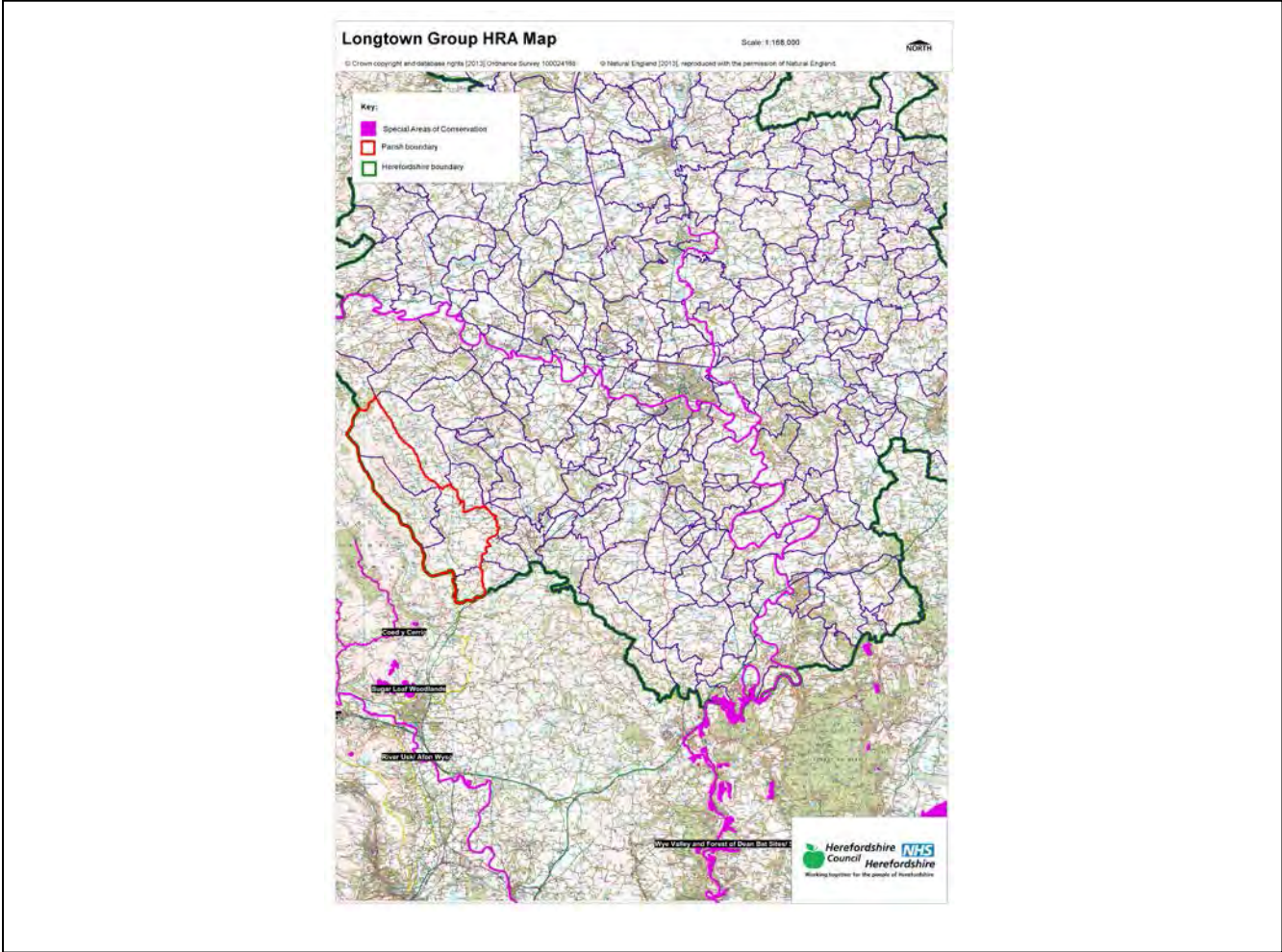
Neighbourhood Area:	Longtown Group Neighbourhood Area
Parish Council:	Longtown Group Parish Council
Neighbourhood Area Designation Date:	13/06/2013

Introduction

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

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

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



Initial HRA Screening

River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC:

Does the Neighbourhood Area have the River Wye (including the River Lugg) in or next to its boundary?	N	The River Wye is 6.5km away from the Group Parish
Is the Neighbourhood Area in the hydrological catchment of the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC?	N	The Group Parish is not within the River Wye/Lugg hydrological catchment area.
If yes above, does the Neighbourhood Area have mains drainage to deal with foul sewage?	N/A	

Downton Gorge SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of Downton Gorge SAC?	N	Downton Gorge is 37.4km 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 15.3km away from the Group Parish
--	---	---

Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of any of the individual sites that make up the Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites?	N	The Group Parish is 29.7km away from Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites
--	---	--

Wye Valley Woodlands SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of any of the individual sites that make up the Wye Valley Woodlands Site?	N	The Parish is 20km 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 Longtown Group Neighbourhood Area and a Full HRA Screening will not be required.

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

The following environmental features are within or in general proximity to the Longtown 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	9	1 unlabelled site in the north of the Group Parish; Daniel's Place Wood; Pentwyn Wood; Ruinsford Wood; Pencilley Wood; Holly Wood (border); Lodge Wood; Dulas Court Wood 1 (border); Maes-Y-Fedw Wood	Y
Areas of Archaeological Interest	0	There are no AAI's within the Group Parish	N
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	0	There are no AONB's within the Group Parish	N
Conservation Areas	0	There are no Conservation Areas within the Group Parish	N
European Sites	0	There are no SAC's within the Group Parish	N
Flood Areas		Flood Zones follow the River Monnow and various tributaries from this	Y
Listed Buildings	Numerous	There are numerous Listed Buildings scattered throughout the Group Parish	Y
Local Sites (SWS/SINCS/RIGS)	25 (SWS)	Clodock Church; Clodock Meadows; Cefn Hill Common; Wood at Canddu Source and pool at Craswall Abbey; Meadows and Woodlands alongside Lower Canddu Valley; Field near Gilberts Place; College Farm Meadows; Cae Pound Woodland and adjoining Meadows; Rockyfold Farms; Black Mountains & adjoining Woodlands; Field at The Place; Field near Blackhill Farm; Olchon Farm Meadows; Olchon Brook; Ashen Coppice, Holly & Court Woods (border); Wayne Herbert Quarry (border); Meadow near Longtown Police Station; Maes-Y-Fedw Wood; Dulas Brook; Roadside Verge near Trout Inn; Woodland near Lower Hunthouse Farm; Hedgebank at Crossway; Walterstone Brook; River Monnow; Escley Brook	Y
Long distance footpaths/trails	3	Offas Dyke; Three Rivers Ride; Monnow Valley Walk	Y
Mineral Reserves	0	There are no Minerals Reserves Sites within the Parish	N
National Nature Reserve	0	There are no NNR's within the Group Parish	N

Registered & Unregistered parks and gardens	2 Unregistered	Michaelchurch Court (border); Dulas Court (border)	Y
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	9	Bowl Barrow 350m NNE of Abbey Farm; Craswall Priory associated building remains, pond bays and hollow ways; Longtown Castle & town; Two Bowl Barrows and a lime kiln 220m west of Llan Oleu; Ringwork and Bailey known as Whitehouse Camp 200m north of Trelan Farm (border); Bowl Barrow 700m NNE of Dukes Farm; Pont-Hendre Castle Mound; Walterstone Camp; Churchyard Cross in St Mary's Churchyard	Y
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	3	Black Mountains (Unfavourable Recovering (part) Unfavourable No Change (part) Unfavourable Declining (part)); Olchon Farm Meadows (Unfavourable Recovering); Wayne Herbert Quarry (Favourable) (border)	Y

Decision Notification:

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

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

Assessment date: 06/06/2013

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

Usk Bat Site

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

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

Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites

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

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

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

NDPs closest to the European Site will need to consider:

Woodland habitat buffer.

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

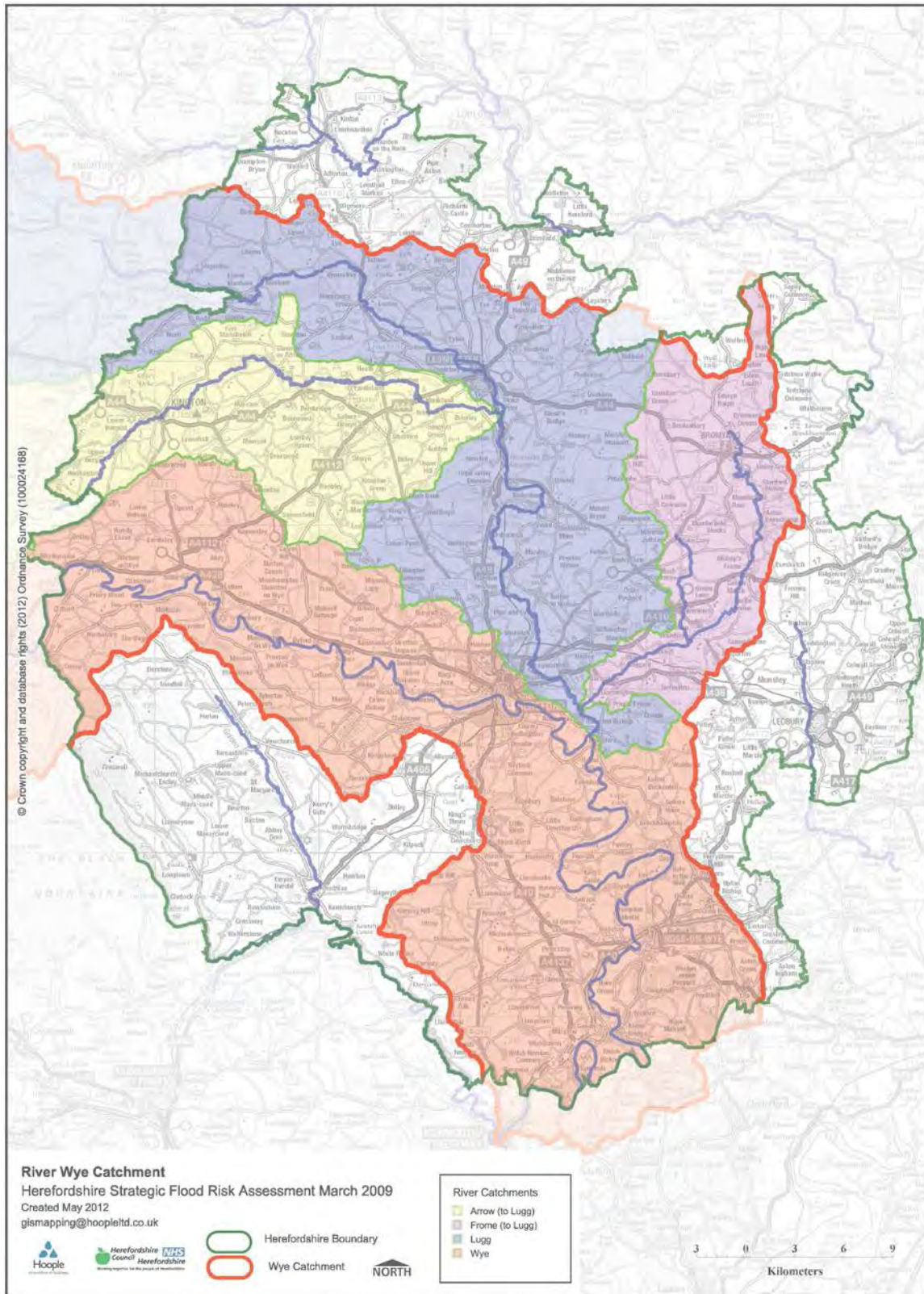
Greater Horseshoe Bat: Large buildings, pasture, edge of mixed deciduous woodland and hedgerows. Mixed land-use especially south-facing slopes, favours beetles, moths and insects they feed on. During the winter they depend on caves, abandoned mines and other underground sites for undisturbed hibernation.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

Wye Valley Woodlands

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

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

Appendix 2: Wye Catchment Map

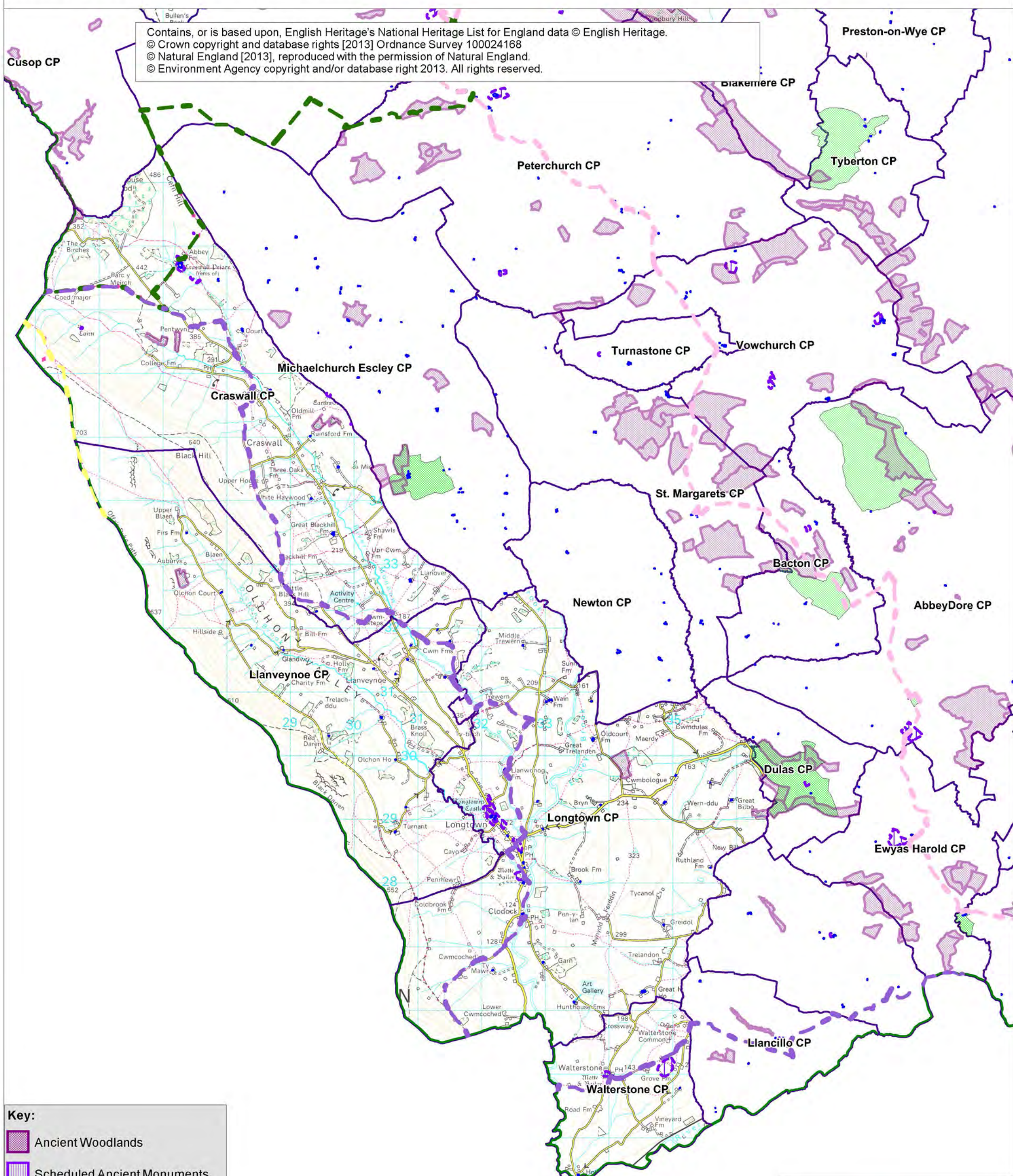


Longtown Group SEA Map 1

Scale: 1:55,000



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



Key:

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



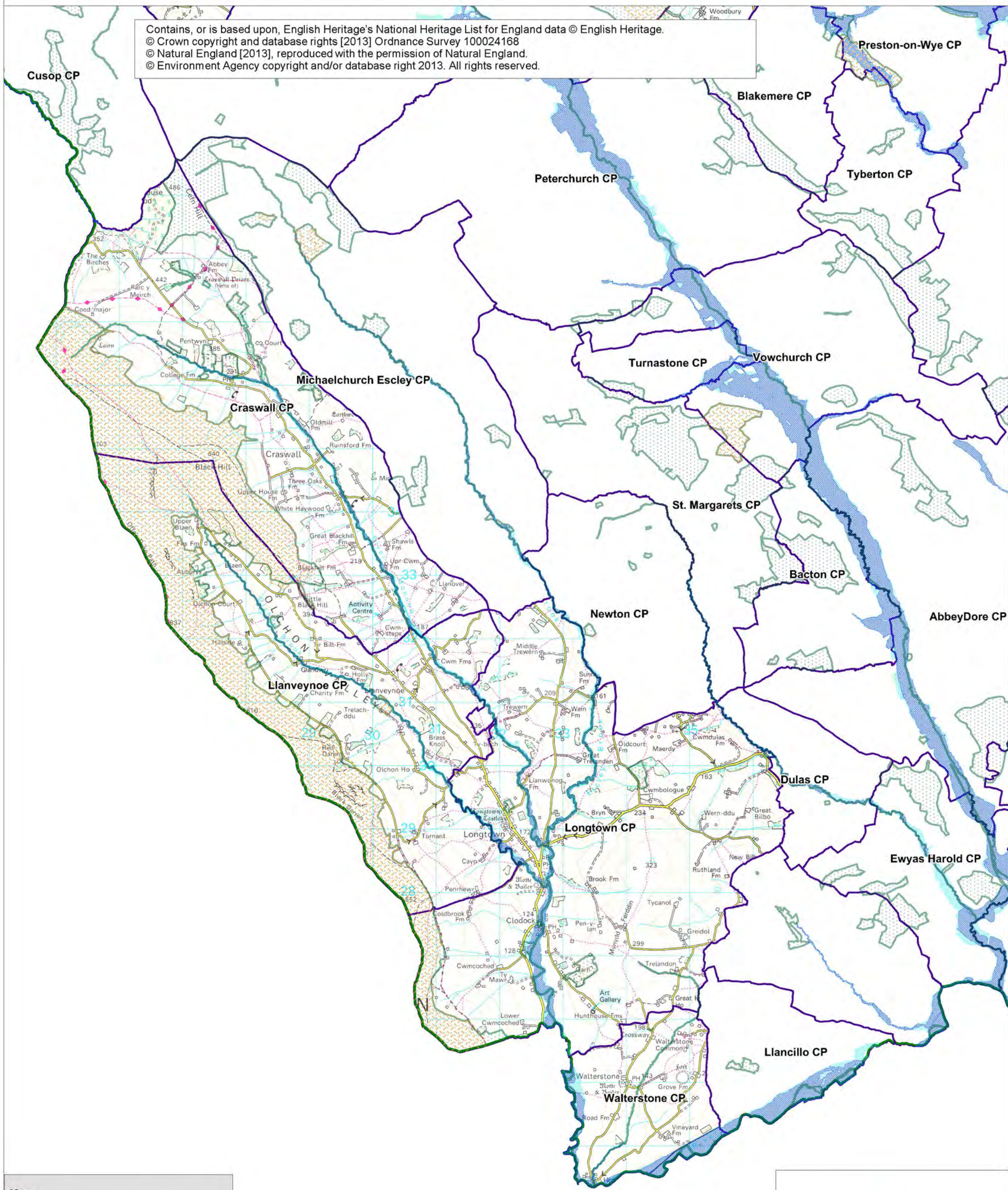
**Herefordshire
Council**

Longtown Group SEA Map 2

Scale: 1:55,000



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



Key:

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

Herefordshire Council

Appendix 2

Strategic Environmental Assessment



Longtown Group Neighbourhood Area

Scoping Report

April 2016

Consultation on the Scoping Report

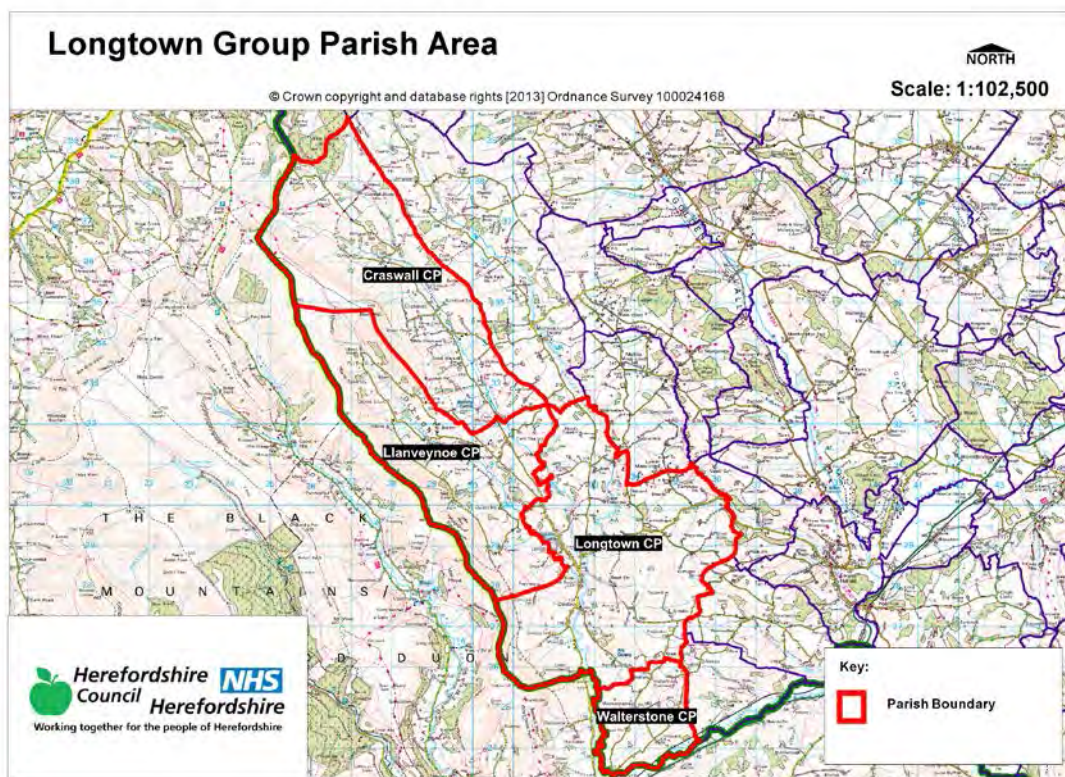
The aim of the consultation process is to involve and engage with statutory consultees and other relevant bodies on the scope of the appraisal. In particular, it seeks to:

- 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 Natural Resources Wales.

The three consultation bodies are as follows:

1. Natural England;
2. Historic England;
3. Environment Agency.



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

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
The EC Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations	European Union Legislation	2010	These regulations transpose the Habitats Directive in England, Wales and to a limited extent Scotland by ensuring that activities are carried out in accordance with the Habitats Directive, which is to protect biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and species of wild flora and fauna.	The Regulations make it an offence (subject to exceptions) to deliberately capture, kill, disturb, or trade in the animals listed in Schedule 2, or pick, collect, cut, uproot, destroy, or trade in the plants listed in Schedule 4. However, these actions can be made lawful through the granting of licenses by the appropriate authorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity Cultural heritage and the landscape 	The Neighbourhood Plan should be compliant with all the relevant legislation and regulations.
The EC Water Framework Directive	European Union	2000	Commits all EU member states to achieve good qualitative and quantitative status of all water courses by 2015	Aims for 'good status' for all ground and surface waters (rivers, lakes, transitional waters, and coastal waters) in the EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water 	The Neighbourhood Plan should be compliant with all the relevant legislation and regulations.
The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)	Domestic Legislation	1981	The major legal instrument for wildlife protection in Britain, although other significant acts have been	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 	The Neighbourhood Plan should be compliant with all the relevant legislation and regulations.

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

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

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
			passed since. It has numerous parts and supplementary lists and schedules many of which have been amended since publication.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil 	
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 Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)	Domestic Legislation	2006	Designed to help achieve a rich and diverse natural environment and thriving rural communities through modernised and simplified arrangements for delivering Government policy.	Provides that any public body or statutory undertaker in England and Wales must have regard to the purpose of conservation of biological diversity in the exercise of their functions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Soil 	The Neighbourhood Plan should be compliant with all the relevant legislation and regulations.
Revised EU Sustainable Development strategy	European Union Strategy	2009	Sets out a single strategy on how the EU will more effectively meet its	Recognises the need to gradually change current unsustainable consumption and production patterns and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape 	The Neighbourhood Plans should take into account the objectives of the strategy. The aim of

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

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
			long-standing commitment to meet the challenges of sustainable development.	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change and clean energy; • Sustainable transport • Sustainable production and consumption; • Public health threats; • Better management of natural resources; • Social inclusion, demography and migration; • Fighting global poverty. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population and human health 	sustainable development should be implicit in its approach.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and 	The NDP should take into account the relevant policies set within the NPPF.

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

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
			document.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the landscape • Flora and fauna • 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 (adopted), 2011-2031	Development Plan Document (DPD)	2015	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 needs 	<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>The Core Strategy</p>

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

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
				<p>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 12% in Longtown, (Golden Valley HMA) over the plan period.</p>		<p>highlights that Longtown should accommodate 12% growth by 2031.</p> <p>This is unless there is robust and sound evidence to demonstrate a more accurate existing built form figure or the existence of unavoidable constraints on site delivery.</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 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 Longtown Group Neighbourhood Area, but any new development proposed through the NDP should seek to reduce the environmental impacts of transport.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Understanding Herefordshire Report	Built and natural environment	2014	<p>Important to understand the place such as the local economy natural and built environment in which people live, learn and work as part of understanding their quality of life</p> <p>Enable development for economy and housing to required levels.</p> <p>Growth should be supported by sustainable transport measures.</p>	An air quality management plan is in place to tackle this. Destination Hereford project is in place to give locals more sustainable transport options.	<p>Improve air quality.</p> <p>Have a more diverse range of transport options.</p>	None identified.
Malvern Hills AONB Management Plan 2014-2018	Corporate	2014	Identifies the issues and challenges facing the special features of the area and contains 24 guiding principles and 46 strategic objectives which will help address them.		<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 Longtown Group Plan Neighbourhood Area is not within or adjacent to the Malvern Hills AONB.

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 2014-2018	Corporate	2014	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 Longtown Group Neighbourhood Area is not within or adjacent to the Wye Valley AONB.
Herefordshire Economic Development Strategy 2011-2016	Corporate	2011	Aims to increase the economic wealth of Herefordshire by setting out proposals and to support business growth up to 2016.	<p>The document outlines the path and direction to foster economic vitality within Herefordshire. Key objectives therefore include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>There are no employment land allocations within Longtown at present.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Material assets • Population and human health 	None of merit; however the NDP process may have to explore whether there is any employment need locally and if so whether there is any scope for providing employment land and premises.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None of the villages within Longtown Group have had a SHLAA assessment undertaken during the 2009 or 2012 assessments. The 2013 review is currently being undertaken. 	<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 assesses the potential availability of land for housing in Longtown.</p> <p>The Longtown Group NDP should be informed by the findings of the SHLAA.</p> <p>The village of Longtown did not have a SHLAA assessment undertaken in 2009 or 2012, therefore a local site assessment exercise should be undertaken for villages with Longtown Group parish.</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>Longtown Group fall within the Golden Valley HMA. Here, the study reveals that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 56% of households are unable to afford market housing. • There is an annual requirement for 16 affordable dwellings between 2012 and 2017. <p>The study identifies that, in the Golden Valley HMA, there is a need (2011-2031) for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 198 market houses • 106 affordable houses. <p>The study highlights that within the Golden Valley HMA the overall estimated housing need by size 2012-2017 is as follows: 1 Bed- 61.6%, 2 bed- -5.0%, 3 bed- 37.8%, 4 bed- 5.6%.</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 Golden Valley HMA.</p> <p>It provides evidence that could be used to inform policies or market and affordable housing requirements in the NDP.</p>

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 Requirements Study	Evidence	2012	Technical assessment of the housing market and potential future local housing requirements which supports planning policy regarding the amount of growth, housing tenure and housing type needed within Herefordshire up to 2031.	<p>The delivery of 5,300 homes in the rural areas would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support growth in the rural population by 6% • Increase the number of households by 14.5% <p>Forecasts also predict that growth in the population of the rural areas is likely to be primarily through an increase in those aged over 75.</p> <p>Moderate growth is expected in the 30-44 and 60-74 age brackets.</p> <p>The Local Housing Requirements Study therefore anticipates continuing improvements in life expectancy; significant growth is expected of those in their 80s, with the existing population in their 40s and 50s moving into retirement. As a consequence, the rural areas will face an increasing urgency to provide more 3 bedroom homes, with more 1 and 2 bed homes required in the affordable sector.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	<p>This study provides an indication of housing requirements in the rural areas and the Golden Valley HMA.</p> <p>This evidence can be used to inform the content of the Longtown Group NDP, which could include policies to facilitate the provision of the right types of homes in the right places.</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 Rural Housing Background Report	Evidence	2013	Provides the justification for the proportional housing growth targets outlined in the Core Strategy	The village of Longtown is listed as RA1 settlement, which means it is considered a sustainable location for proportional growth of up to 12%.	<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 Longtown Group NDP will need to be in conformity with the provisions of Policy RA1.
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 	A countywide Gypsy and Traveller DPD is currently being produced which will seek to accommodate the needs. However, the Longtown Group NDP can establish whether any of the need identified in this assessment falls within the neighbourhood area and make appropriate provisions for it if required..

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 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.
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 Longtown Group NDP can overcome any existing constraints and capitalise on opportunities to enhance habitats and their networks.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) 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 Longtown 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 Longtown 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 Longtown group parish itself, the study reveals that there is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.94 ha of playing pitch area. • 20% (0.19 ha) of playing pitch areas have secured community access. • Longtown football ground has no changing facilities and condition is rated as average. It is not currently used for competitive matches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health 	<p>The study provides evidence that could be taken into account when preparing policies for the Longtown Group NDP.</p> <p>Additional local evidence may be required to identify if there is a need for any secured playing pitch facilities within the Group Parish.</p> <p>Consider re-use of Longtown football ground.</p>

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

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) 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 Golden Valley Area, to which Longtown Group is within, there are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No parks or gardens, within Golden Valley area. As it is quite a rural area. • 2.92 ha of amenity green space provision within the Golden Valley area. And has the lowest levels of amenity green space in the county. • Extensive over provision of natural and semi natural Greenspace. • Extensive under provision of parks and gardens and outdoor sport. • Under provision of amenity greenspace. • 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 Longtown Group.

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.	None of merit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • 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
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) and Water Cycle Study	Evidence	2009	<p>The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) provides a summary of flood risk in Herefordshire to inform the location of future development.</p> <p>The Water Cycle Study examines how water resources and water supply infrastructure, wastewater treatment, water quality, sewerage and flood risk could constrain growth across Herefordshire.</p>	<p>Longtown group falls within the Upper Monnow catchment. This is regarded as one of the highest general risk of hazard flooding zones in the county.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Upper Monnow catchment has a 33.4 standard run percentage run off by sub catchment. This is potentially moderately unsuitable for infiltration source control The Upper Monnow has a very rapid response (Tp-time to peak) time at around 5 hours. The WCS states that parishes within Longtown group are more susceptible to surface water flooding and climate change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity Climate factors Material assets Population and human health Water 	<p>New development proposed through the Longtown Group NDP should be assessed against the capacity of local infrastructure.</p> <p>Up-to-date flood risk information should be gathered from the Environment Agency, in order to ensure that any flood risks are considered when preparing the Longtown Group NDP.</p>

Appendix A2 – Baseline information for Longtown Group

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

SA Objective 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.	The 2011-2013 AMR does not contain updated conservation data. 2010/11: 27% of Herefordshire's SSSI land was in favourable condition. <i>There are Three SSSI's within Longtown Group. 05/08/14 –Black Mountains-Majority of the area is unfavourable recovering. Olchon Farm meadows-Majority of area is unfavourable recovering and</i>	2006: 22% 2007: 22% 2008: 22% 2010: 24 % 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%.	% of SSSI land in favourable condition (Increase) % of SSSI land in unfavourable condition but recovering (Increase) % of SSSI land in unfavourable condition and declining (Decrease)	Herefordshire's SSSIs are in extremely poor condition relative to England as whole, where 96.1% of all SSSI land was in favourable condition in April 2014. The proportion of SSSI in unfavourable condition but recovering is greater than England as a whole, where the figure currently stands at 58.6%.	Understanding Herefordshire: An integrated needs assessment (June 2013). NE and DEFRA website (June 2015)

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
			<i>minority is unfavourable no change. Wayne Herbert Quarry (border)- Favourable.</i>				
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. <i>Longtown Group is within the River Monnow catchment and does not fall within the River Wye.</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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

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.	Longtown Group has: SSSI: 3 SWS: 25 it also has 9 ancient woodlands There are no SACs, NNRs, SINC and LNRs within the parish.	As of 2012, there had been no change in the areas of designated nature conservation sites as a consequence of the planning permissions granted.	To capitalise on opportunities to enhance the areas of value to nature conservation 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 Principle wooded hills. Hill hills and slopes High moors and commons	-	No specific targets identified.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	Herefordshire Landscape Character Assessment (2004 updated 2009)
SEA Topic covered by objectives: <i>Material assets</i>							
14. Use natural resources and energy more efficiently.	Resource consumption and climate change	Maintaining Herefordshire Council's County Site	Countywide data would be too large to incorporate into	-	No specific targets identified, but need to ensure	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the	Herefordshire Environmental Records Register

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
		and Monuments Register.	this template. There are 9 Scheduled Ancient Monuments in Longtown Group according to the latest version of the register.		that the register is kept up to date.	Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	(search April 2016).
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 such study has been undertaken for the Longtown area	-	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
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.	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)

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 Longtown Group parishes at present.	No historic records of any planning enforcement action or appeals concerning locally important buildings. There are no conservation areas within Longtown Group.	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 2016)
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 increase the take up of alternative modes to the private car.	There are a lack of transport options for many rural communities and therefore high car ownership and dependency – the last decade has seen a 15 per cent increase in household car ownership, although this is not reflected in traffic flows of recent years with volumes in Hereford City and wider county having decreased. The proportion of people working from home increased over the decade from 15 per cent in 2001 to 17 per cent in 2011.	2011 Census

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

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

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
SEA Topic covered by objective: <i>Water</i>							
17. Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public wellbeing, the economy and the environment.	Natural environment	Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on flood defence grounds.	The 2011-2013 AMR does not contain updated conservation data. 2010/14: 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 around Longtown group is Grade 3 moderate (good-moderate) and grade 4 (poor).	-	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>The agricultural land classification around Longtown Group is mainly Grades 3 and 4 (Good-Moderate to Poor).</i>	Figure steadily improved before going into decline: Herefordshire 1999 85.9%, 2000 89.5%, 2001 92.2%, 2002 91.8%	To ensure that rivers meet their conservation objectives and do not fall below the required standard of quality.	None identified.	The State of Herefordshire Report (2007) Water Framework Directive (2000)
SEA Topic covered by objective: <i>Soil</i>							
19. Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use.	Built environment	Percentage of all new development completed on previously developed land.	2010/11: 67% 2011-13: 57% <i>There is no locally specific data available at present.</i>	Completions on PDL had risen to 71% by 2005.	To increase the number of homes built on PDL in line with the provisions of national planning policy.	The number of brownfield completions has fallen slightly in recent years, though this is probably the offshoot of tough market conditions.	Herefordshire Council AMR (2010/11) and (2011-2013)

SA Objective 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	Housing densities in urban and rural areas	<i>There is no countywide or locally specific data available at present.</i>	-	No specific targets identified.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	-
19. Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use.	Built environment	Level of development in urban areas compared to rural.	<i>There is no countywide or locally specific data available at present.</i> This indicator would not be applicable to rural NDPs.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
SEA Topic covered by objective: <i>Cultural heritage</i>							

SA Objective 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	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>There are numerous listed buildings within the parishes and 9 SAMs.</p> <p>The following are listed as at risk</p> <p>Motte and bailey, west of St Mary's Church, Walterstone.</p> <p>Craswall Priory ruins, Crawall</p>	There were 70 heritage assets in Herefordshire that were considered to be at high risk and included in the Heritage at Risk Register 2014.	Promote opportunities to achieve the removal of heritage assets from the at risk register.	<p>Several of Longtown's group listed buildings or SAMs are considered to be at risk at present.</p> <p>(Motte and bailey, west of St Mary's Church, Walterstone.</p> <p>Craswall Priory ruins, Crawall)</p>	Buildings at Risk Register (English Heritage; search April 2016)

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 within Longtown Group at present.	No historic records of any planning enforcement action or appeals concerning locally important buildings. There are no conservation areas within Longtown Group parish.	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 2016)

Appendix A3 – Environmental issues identified from the Longtown 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	Longtown Group has nine 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.	

SEA Framework SEA Objectives, Indicators, Targets

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 gardens and their settings Encourage local stewardship of local environments, for example by promoting best practices in 	<p>Net change in condition of SSSIs across Herefordshire.</p> <p>After use of mineral sites especially wildlife habitat creation</p> <p>Changes to protected habitats and impacts of species within the Herefordshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan.</p>	<p>% of SSSI land in favourable condition (Increase)</p> <p>% of SSSI land in unfavourable condition but recovering (Increase)</p> <p>% of SSSI land in unfavourable condition and declining (Decrease)</p> <p>Percentage of opportunities taken</p> <p>To protect and where possible enhance the habitats of protected species identified. No net losses</p>

SEA Topics	SA Objective	SEA Objective	Sub-objectives / Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal/site...)	Indicators	Targets
			<p>agricultural management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<p>To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes</p> <p>To improve quality of surroundings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 places to live • Decrease litter and graffiti in towns and countryside 	<p>Changes in the areas of designated nature conservation sites as a consequence of planning permission.</p> <p>Proportion of local sites where positive conservation management has or is being implemented.</p> <p>Monitoring changes to historic landscapes.</p> <p>Area resulting in a loss of open space as a result of planning permission</p>	<p>To capitalise on opportunities to enhance the areas of value to nature conservation as much as possible.</p> <p>No specific targets identified.</p> <p>No specific targets identified.</p> <p>No specific targets identified</p>

SEA Topics	SA Objective	SEA Objective	Sub-objectives / Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal/site...)	Indicators	Targets
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 area. 	<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
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>
Water	Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting	To improve water quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce flood risk both presently and taking into 	Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on flood	To have no applications permitted contrary to EA advice.

SEA Topics	SA Objective	SEA Objective	Sub-objectives / Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal/site...)	Indicators	Targets
	<p>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 provide for sustainable sources of water supply</p> <p>To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk</p>	<p>account climate change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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>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 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>Ensure</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. Ensure new developments 	<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>

SEA Topics	SA Objective	SEA Objective	Sub-objectives / Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal/site...)	Indicators	Targets
	integrated, efficient and balanced land use.		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.	To improve health of the population To reduce crime and nuisance	<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



Historic England

WEST MIDLANDS OFFICE

Mr James Latham
6887

Direct Dial: 0121 625

Herefordshire Council

Neighbourhood Planning & Strategic Planning
PL00021489

Our ref:

Planning Services, PO Box 230, Blueschool House

Blueschool Street

Hereford

HR1 2ZB
2016

6 June

Dear Mr Latham

**CONSULTATION ON SEA SCOPING REPORTS FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS
IN: Aymestrey; Longtown Group; Stretton Grandison Group and Woolhope.**

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

The SEA Frameworks sections of the SEA's submitted are generally commendable in their approach of including references to historic landscape and townscape quality, the maintenance of the Herefordshire SMR and conservation and wherever possible enhancement of locally significant heritage assets. We also particularly commend the treatment of "Heritage at Risk" and the commitment to put measures in place to assist in the removal of heritage assets from the register, also the commitment to encourage



THE AXIS 10 HOLLIDAY STREET BIRMINGHAM B1 1TG

Telephone 0121 625 6870
HistoricEngland.org.uk





Historic England

WEST MIDLANDS OFFICE

the retention and re-use of existing buildings.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Boland
Historic Places Advisor
peter.boland@HistoricEngland.org.uk

cc:



THE AXIS 10 HOLLIDAY STREET BIRMINGHAM B1 1TG

Telephone 0121 625 6870
HistoricEngland.org.uk



Historic England is subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 2000 (FOIA) and Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). All information held by the organisation will be accessible in response to an information request, unless one of the exemptions in the FOIA or EIR applies.

Date: 07 June 2016
Our ref: 185033
Your ref: None



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

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

T 0300 060 3900

BY EMAIL ONLY

neighbourhoodplanning@herefordshire.gov.uk

Dear Mr Latham

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

**Aymestrey
Longtown Group
Stretton Grandison
Woolhope**

Thank you for your consultation which was received by Natural England on 05 May 2016.

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.

SEA scoping report

Natural England generally welcomes the SEA scoping reports for the Aymestrey, Longtown Group, Stretton Grandison and Woolhope Neighbourhood Development Plans and considers that the methodology and baseline information used to inform the reports appears to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) and associated guidance.

We have no specific comments to make but refer you to the attached annex which covers the issues and opportunities relevant to neighbourhood plans which may be helpful to you.

Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening

Aymestrey

We note that a full HRA screening is required due to the proximity to the River Wye SAC and Downton Gorge SAC.

Longtown Group

We note that a full HRA screening is not required as there are no European sites in close proximity and the Neighbourhood area is not within the catchment for the River Wye.

Stretton Grandison

Woolhope

We note that a full HRA screening is required due to the proximity to the River Wye 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 Tom Reynolds on 020 802 61050. 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

Tom Reynolds
Planning Adviser
Sustainable Development
South Mercia

Annex 1 - Neighbourhood planning and the natural environment: information, issues and opportunities

Natural environment information sources

The [Magic](#)¹ website will provide you with much of the nationally held natural environment data for your plan area. The most relevant layers for you to consider are: **Agricultural Land Classification, Ancient Woodland, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Local Nature Reserves, National Parks (England), National Trails, Priority Habitat Inventory, public rights of way (on the Ordnance Survey base map) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (including their impact risk zones)**. Local environmental record centres may hold a range of additional information on the natural environment. A list of local record centres is available [here](#)².

Priority habitats are those habitats of particular importance for nature conservation, and the list of them can be found [here](#)³. Most of these will be mapped either as **Sites of Special Scientific Interest**, on the Magic website or as **Local Wildlife Sites**. Your local planning authority should be able to supply you with the locations of Local Wildlife Sites.

National Character Areas (NCAs) divide England into 159 distinct natural areas. Each character area is defined by a unique combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and cultural and economic activity. NCA profiles contain descriptions of the area and statements of environmental opportunity, which may be useful to inform proposals in your plan. NCA information can be found [here](#)⁴.

There may also be a local **landscape character assessment** covering your area. This is a tool to help understand the character and local distinctiveness of the landscape and identify the features that give it a sense of place. It can help to inform, plan and manage change in the area. Your local planning authority should be able to help you access these if you can't find them online.

If your neighbourhood planning area is within or adjacent to a **National Park** or **Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty** (AONB), the relevant National Park/AONB Management Plan for the area will set out useful information about the protected landscape. You can access the plans on from the relevant National Park Authority or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty website.

General mapped information on **soil types** and **Agricultural Land Classification** is available (under 'landscape') on the [Magic](#)⁵ website and also from the [LandIS website](#)⁶, which contains more information about obtaining soil data.

Natural environment issues to consider

The [National Planning Policy Framework](#)⁷ sets out national planning policy on protecting and enhancing the natural environment. [Planning Practice Guidance](#)⁸ sets out supporting guidance.

Your local planning authority should be able to provide you with further advice on the potential impacts of your plan or order on the natural environment and the need for any environmental assessments.

Landscape

¹ <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/>

² <http://www.nbn-nfbr.org.uk/nfbr.php>

³ <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140711133551/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/protectandmanage/habsandspeciesimportance.aspx>

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making>

⁵ <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/>

⁶ <http://www.landis.org.uk/index.cfm>

⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

⁸ <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/natural-environment/>

Your plans or orders may present opportunities to protect and enhance locally valued landscapes. You may want to consider identifying distinctive local landscape features or characteristics such as ponds, woodland or dry stone walls and think about how any new development proposals can respect and enhance local landscape character and distinctiveness.

If you are proposing development within or close to a protected landscape (National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) or other sensitive location, we recommend that you carry out a landscape assessment of the proposal. Landscape assessments can help you to choose the most appropriate sites for development and help to avoid or minimise impacts of development on the landscape through careful siting, design and landscaping.

Wildlife habitats

Some proposals can have adverse impacts on designated wildlife sites or other priority habitats (listed [here](#)⁹), such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest or [Ancient woodland](#)¹⁰. If there are likely to be any adverse impacts you'll need to think about how such impacts can be avoided, mitigated or, as a last resort, compensated for.

Priority and protected species

You'll also want to consider whether any proposals might affect priority species (listed [here](#)¹¹) or protected species. To help you do this, Natural England has produced advice [here](#)¹² to help understand the impact of particular developments on protected species.

Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land

Soil is a finite resource that fulfils many important functions and services for society. It is a growing medium for food, timber and other crops, a store for carbon and water, a reservoir of biodiversity and a buffer against pollution. If you are proposing development, you should seek to use areas of poorer quality agricultural land in preference to that of a higher quality in line with National Planning Policy Framework para 112. For more information, see our publication [Agricultural Land Classification: protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land](#)¹³.

Improving your natural environment

Your plan or order can offer exciting opportunities to enhance your local environment. If you are setting out policies on new development or proposing sites for development, you may wish to consider identifying what environmental features you want to be retained or enhanced or new features you would like to see created as part of any new development. Examples might include:

- Providing a new footpath through the new development to link into existing rights of way.
- Restoring a neglected hedgerow.
- Creating a new pond as an attractive feature on the site.
- Planting trees characteristic to the local area to make a positive contribution to the local landscape.
- Using native plants in landscaping schemes for better nectar and seed sources for bees and birds.
- Incorporating swift boxes or bat boxes into the design of new buildings.
- Think about how lighting can be best managed to encourage wildlife.
- Adding a green roof to new buildings.

⁹<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140711133551/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/protectandmanage/habsandspeciesimportance.aspx>

¹⁰<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ancient-woodland-and-veteran-trees-protection-surveys-licences>

¹¹<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140711133551/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/protectandmanage/habsandspeciesimportance.aspx>

¹²<https://www.gov.uk/protected-species-and-sites-how-to-review-planning-proposals>

¹³<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/35012>

You may also want to consider enhancing your local area in other ways, for example by:

- Setting out in your plan how you would like to implement elements of a wider Green Infrastructure Strategy (if one exists) in your community.
- Assessing needs for accessible greenspace and setting out proposals to address any deficiencies or enhance provision.
- Identifying green areas of particular importance for special protection through Local Green Space designation (see [Planning Practice Guidance on this](#) ¹⁴).
- Managing existing (and new) public spaces to be more wildlife friendly (e.g. by sowing wild flower strips in less used parts of parks, changing hedge cutting timings and frequency).
- Planting additional street trees.
- Identifying any improvements to the existing public right of way network, e.g. cutting back hedges, improving the surface, clearing litter or installing kissing gates) or extending the network to create missing links.
- Restoring neglected environmental features (e.g. coppicing a prominent hedge that is in poor condition, or clearing away an eyesore).

¹⁴ <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities-public-rights-of-way-and-local-green-space/local-green-space-designation/>

Appendix 4

Objectives verses SEA Objectives (SMART and Compatibility Test)				
SEA Stage B1	Key:	SMART criteria:		
+ =/++	Compatible/ Very comp	S – Specific:	NDP objectives should specify what is intended to be done in detail and should not be open to a wide range of misinterpretations	The following matrix appraises the emerging Longtown 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.
- =	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					
Housing objective	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	?	+	+	+					+	This objective is compatible with the SEA objectives. It is seeking to ensure that the required growth for the parish can be accommodated	None	This objective meets all of the SMART criteria. This objective is specific and measurable via the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR). It will be attainable, achievable and realistic.	
Economy objective	?	+	+	?	?	+	?	?	?	?	x	+					+	This objective is generally compatible with the SEA objectives. The provision of local employment reduce the need to travel. Some of the impact will be locational dependant and additional policies and site allocations will ensure compatibility	None	This objective meets all of the SMART criteria. This objective is specific and measurable via the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR). It will be attainable, achievable and realistic.	
Infrastructure and community facilities objective	++	+	+	+	+	++	x	x	x	x	x	+					++	This objective is generally compatible with the SEA objectives. Protecting and improving local infrastructure and facilities will assist in maintaining the quality of the surrounding and the vitality of the area. The inclusion of dark skies will assist nocturnal species as well as the quality of the surroundings.	None	This objective meets all of the SMART criteria. It is specific and measurable via the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) and it is attainable, achievable and realistic.	
Environment objective	++	++	++	++	+	x	++	+	x	x	++	+					++	This objective is compatible with the SEA objectives. The objective is aiming to protect the environment which includes many of the SE objectives	None	This objective meets all of the SMART criteria. It is specific and measurable via the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) and it is attainable, achievable and realistic.	

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

The following matrix appraises the emerging Longtown Group Neighbourhood Plan options and alternatives in terms of their SMART criteria and their compatibility with the SEA Objectives.

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

NDP Options and alternatives	SEA objectives																Summary in relation to baseline	Overall commentary and any initial cumulative effects/ Recommendations	Conformity with Core Strategy in terms of SEA	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16				
Baseline	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	NA	NA	NA	16				
Option 1 Do nothing	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X		Do nothing option is essential not to produce a neighbourhood plan and rely on the criteria policies within the Core Strategy to guide further development. Specific policies and proposals for the parishes would not exist.	All developments would need to be in conformity with the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy has been subject to a Sustainability Appraisal and policies met the SEA objectives	n/a
Option 2 To define a settlement boundary	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+		The designation of a settlement boundary will give additional certainty and help define those areas considered as the built form and open countryside. This can aid the direction of further growth to maintain the quality of the landscape and surroundings. There is less certainty over the positive effects on the baseline as any growth with be adjudged by criteria based policy.	Any settlement boundary would need to be designated to ensure that sufficient capacity was included to permit the proportional growth requirements within Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy. Criteria would need to be included within the policy to safeguard against effects on any SEA objectives.	This option would meet the Core Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA.
Option 3	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+		Criteria based policy does not give the same level of certainty as the other	Criteria would need to be included within the	This option would meet

No settlement boundary																		options as it will be more reactionary than proactive in terms of growth proposals. However, provided criteria is added to the policy to safeguard or mitigate against any harm, the option will have a positive effect on the baseline.	policy to safeguard against effects on any SEA objectives.	the Core Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA.	
Option 4 Allocate only one site	++	+	+	+	?	+	++	++	++	+	++	+						++	The allocation of the dwellings on one site would give certainty to the location of future growth. Additional criteria can be added to the policy criteria to ensure that the proposal has a positive effect on the baseline. One site could bring additional benefits however the characteristic of Longtown is linear and this may be more difficult to achieved on one single site	Any site would need to be assessed prior to allocation to ensure that it had a positive effect overall on the baseline.	This option would meet the Core Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA
Option 5 Allocation on two sites	++	++	++	++	++	+	++	++	++	+	++	+						++	The allocation of the dwellings on two site would give certainty to the location of future growth. Additional criteria can be added to the policy criteria to ensure that the proposal has a positive effect on the baseline. Allocating the proportional growth across two sites would have more possibility of achieving development which is characteristic to the landscape and historic nature of the settlement.	Any site would need to be assessed prior to allocation to ensure that it had a positive effect overall on the baseline.	This option would meet the Core Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA
Option 6 Allocations on a greater number of sites	?	?	+	+	++	+	++	++	++	+	++	+						++	The allocation of the dwellings on a greater number of sites would give certainty to the location of future growth. Additional criteria can be added to the policy criteria to ensure that the proposal has a positive effect on the baseline. Given the environmental constraints within the settlement, it may mean that other SEA objectives may be affected	Any site would need to be assessed prior to allocation to ensure that it had a positive effect overall on the baseline.	This option would meet the Core Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA

Site options

NDP Options and alternatives	SEA objectives																Summary in relation to baseline	Overall commentary and any initial cumulative effects/ Recommendations	Conformity with Core Strategy in terms of SEA
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
Baseline	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	NA	NA	NA	16			
Site 1 Land close to Pontyns Mill	?	-	-	-	?	?	?	?	+	+	+	-				-	Considered to be located within open countryside and contrary of Policy RA2 No environmental designations but prominent in the landscape and within an isolated location. Small scale site for 1 to 2 dwellings.		This option would not meet the Core Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA
Site 2 Land north of Crown Inn Public House	-	-	-	-	+	+	?	?	+	+	?	+				?	Site could accommodate 30 dwelling Could be subject to flooding from the brook. A large portion of the sites is designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument which could adversely affect the setting and the character of the area.		This option would not meet the Core Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA
Site 3 Land south east of Greyhound Close	?	?	+	?	+	+	?	?	+	+	+	+				?	Considered with the SHLAA as medium potential. Site is well contained and there are no national designations		This option would meet the Core Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA
Site 4 Land north of Llanwonog Lane	?	-	?	--	+	+	?	?	+	+	+	?				-	Majority of the site is designated a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Site is to the rear of existing housing and opposite the primary school.		This option would not meet the Core Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA
Site 5 Land north of Penbailey	?	+	+	?	+	+	?	?	+	+	+	+				?	No national designation and adjacent to the built form. Locations would not increase the any adverse effects		This option would meet the Core Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA
Site 6	?	?	?	-	+	+	?	?	+	+	+	+				?	Site is adjacent to a Schedule Ancient Monument. The landscape is seen as		This option would meet the Core

Land behind the village hall																		highly sensitive in this location This site was assessed in SHLAA as inappropriate and unavailable	Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA	
Site 7 Land to the south of Old Vicarage Stables	?	?	?	?	+	-	?	?	+	+	+	+						?	The site was assessed within SHLAA Potential ransom strip and access may be difficult The site is visible from the hills but well screen within the village	This option would meet the Core Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA
Site 8 Land south of Perthy Perton	?	?	?	?	+	+	?	?	+	+	+	+						?	No national designations Close to the village primary school Small site of less than 10 dwellings Development along the frontage would fit the character of the village	This option would meet the Core Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA

NDP Policies	SEA objectives																Summary in relation to baseline	Overall commentary and any initial cumulative effects/ Recommendations	Conformity with Core Strategy in terms of SEA
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
Baseline	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
Policy LGPC 1 Housing within Longtown village	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	The policy has a positive effect on the baseline as it is seeking to ensure that growth is contained within the designated settlement boundary. It also contains a number of policies which are seeking to safeguard many of the SEA objectives	none	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in term of the SEA
Policy LGPC2 Land south east of Greyhound Close 8 to 12 dwellings	?	?	+	?	+	+	?	?	+	+	+	+				?	The policy has not specific criteria or detail regarding its development. There are no specific historic or natural constraints	Other policies within the plan will seek to safeguard the objectives and these details will be assessed as part of the planning application stage when	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA

																	on the site itself. However the village has a distinctive linear characteristic and a number of sites of archaeological significant.	the details have been determined		
Policy LGPC3 Land north of Penbailey 12 to 16 dwellings	?	+	+	?	+	+	?	?	+	+	+	+					?	The policy has not specific criteria or detail regarding its development. There are no specific historic or natural constraints on the site itself. However the village has a distinctive linear characteristic and a number of sites of archaeological significant. The site is seeking some community benefit in providing a car park and a children's play area	Other policies within the plan will seek to safeguard the objectives and these details will be assessed as part of the planning application stage when the details have been determined	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA
Policy LGPC4 Residential use associated with historic farmsteads	?	+	+	+	x	?	x	x	x	x	?	+					+	The policy is seeking to provide small scale housing on historic farmsteads. There will be some effects which will be effected by it location.	Other policies within the plan will seek to safeguard the objectives and these details will be assessed as part of the planning application stage when the location have been determined	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA
Policy LGPC5 Providing for local housing need	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x					x	This is not a land use policy which will lead to development but will indicate how to retain affordable housing	None	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA
Policy LGPC6 Supporting local enterprise	?	+	+	+	?	?	?	?	x	+	x	?					+	Many of the objectives will be locational dependant. There are a number of criteria within the policy with seek to safeguard a number of the objectives.	Other policies within the plan will seek to safeguard the objectives and these details will be assessed as part of the planning application stage when the location of the local enterprise and tourism have been determined.	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA

Policy LGPC7 Broadband and mobile telephone infrastructure	x	x	+	?	x	+	x	x	x	x	x	x				x	The inclusion of additional broadband and mobile with enable more facilities and the potential to work from home which could reduce the need to travel.	None	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA
Policy LGPC8 Highway design requirements	+	+	+	+	x	?	x	x	x	x	x	x				x	The provision of safe highway design and provision will help to enhance the quality of the surroundings. The limits on lighting will also have a positive effect on the natural environment particularly nocturnal species and the quality of the surroundings from light pollution. The improvements in highway safety could encourage more journeys by private car.	None	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA
Policy LGPC9 Protection and development of public rights of way	+	+	+	+	x	++	x	x	x	x	x	x				+	The retention of public rights of way will not only help to provide alternative means of moving around the parish but also provide the potential for some wildlife corridors.	None	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA
Policy LGPC10 Protection and enhancement of community facilities and services	x	+	++	+	x	+	x	x	x	x	x	+				+	The policy is seeking to retain existing community facilities. This will help to maintain the surroundings and help to reduce the need to travel to other places.	None	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA
Policy LGPC11 Contributions to community services, youth provision and recreational facilities	x	x	+	X	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x	This policy is not a specific land use one but is seeking to ensure that developer contributions are sought to improve the local area	None	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA

Policy LGPC12 Protecting and enhancing the landscape	++	++	++	++	+	x	++	++	+	x	+	+				++	The policy is seeking to protect and enhance elements of the natural environment. This will have a positive effect on many of the objectives.	None	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA
Policy LGPC13 Protecting heritage assets	++	++	++	++	x	x	?	?	x	x	x	+				++	The policy is seeking to preserve historic assets when faced with development proposals. The included criteria will have a positive impact on the SEA objectives. There are some unknowns regarding climate change elements as these may have competing priorities.	none	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA
Policy LGPC14 Foul and storm water drainage	+	+	+	x	x	x	++	++	+	+	++	x				+	The policy is seeking to improve foul and storm water drainage within the parish to reduce any potential pollution or flooding.	none	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA
Policy LGPC15 Proposal for renewal energy	+	+	+	+	x	+	++	++	x	x	x	+				+	The policy is seeking to include criteria to safeguard much of the baseline.	None	The policy is in conformity with the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA

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

Key:

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

towards

Policy LGPC1

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	+	The policy contains criteria to safeguard elements of natural conservation	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	The criteria of the policy area seeking to protect, enhance and safeguard elements of the landscape and village scape	
To improve quality of	+	+	+	The criteria of the policy area seeking to protect, enhance and	

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

surroundings				safeguard elements of the landscape and village scape	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	Criteria within the plan is seeking to protect the historic setting of Longtown Castle and the Pont-Hendre motte and bailey	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	The concentration of the proportional growth within the village will help to reduce the need to travel locally and could have a positive effect on air quality	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	The concentration of the proportional growth within the village will help to reduce the need to travel locally	
To reduce contributions to climate change	?	+	+	Although there is nothing specific within this policy, other policies of the plan and building regulations will ensure that development takes account of climate change	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	?	+	+	Although there is nothing specific within this policy, other policies of the plan and building regulations will ensure that development takes account of climate change	

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

To improve water quality	+	+	+	Longtown is outside of the SAC river catchment	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	+	+	+	Welsh Water have confirmed availability	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	The village is outside of the flood zones 2 and 3	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to ensure that development is within and adjacent to the built form	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to ensure that development is within and adjacent to the built form	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The policy has a positive effect on the baseline and there are a number of criteria which safeguard a number of the SEA objectives				

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

Policy LGPC2

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)	?	?	+	There are no know environmental designations on the site and the policy encourages tree planting and landscaping. The details will be addressed at the planning application stage.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	?	?	+	There are no know environmental designations on the site and the policy encourages tree planting and landscaping. The details will be addressed at the planning application stage.	
To improve quality of surroundings	?	?	+	The policy contains criteria to safeguard and enhance the surrounding and the character of the village	

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

To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	?	?	+	The policy seeks to safeguard elements of the historic and cultural environment and the characteristics of the village	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	Site is adjacent to the built form and therefore will reduce the need to travel by concentrating the proportional growth to the village	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	Site is adjacent to the built form and therefore will reduce the need to travel by concentrating the proportional growth to the village	
To reduce contributions to climate change	?	?	?	There are not specifics within the policy regarding this element.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	?	?	?	There are not specifics within the policy regarding this element.	
To improve water quality	+	+	+	There are no specific water quality issues within the area	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	+	+	+	Welsh Water has confirmed that there is adequate supply within the area	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	The site is no flooding issues	

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

To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	Concentrating proportional growth development within the village will safeguard other more rural areas from development.	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	?	?	?	The specific details will be addressed at planning application stage	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The policy is positive on the baseline objectives and some unknown issues will be further assessed as the planning application stage.				

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

Policy LGPC3

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)	?	?	?	There are no specific designation on the site and the policy does not specific reference natural conservation issues but other policies of the plan will ensure that these issues are addressed and these will be further assessed as planning application stage.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	?	?	?	There are no specific designation on the site and the policy does not specific reference landscape and townscape issues but other policies of the plan will ensure that these issues are addressed and these will be further assessed as planning application stage.	
To improve quality of	?	?	?	There are no specific designation on the site and the policy does not	

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

surroundings				specific reference landscape and townscape issues but other policies of the plan will ensure that these issues are addressed and these will be further assessed as planning application stage	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	?	?	?	There are no specific designation on the site and the policy does not specific reference issues but other policies of the plan will ensure that these issues are addressed and these will be further assessed as planning application stage	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	Site is adjacent to the built form and therefore will reduce the need to travel by concentrating the proportional growth to the village	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	Site is adjacent to the built form and therefore will reduce the need to travel by concentrating the proportional growth to the village	
To reduce contributions to climate change	?	?	?	There are not specifics within the policy regarding this element.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	?	?	?	There are not specifics within the policy regarding this element.	
To improve water	+	+	+	There are no specific water quality issues within the area	

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

quality					
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	+	+	+	Welsh Water has confirmed that there is adequate supply within the area	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	The site is no flooding issues	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	Concentrating proportional growth development within the village will safeguard other more rural areas from development.	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	The specific details will be addressed at planning application stage	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The policy is positive on the baseline objectives and some unknown issues will be further assessed as the planning application stage.				

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

Policy LGPC4

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	?	?	?	The development of historic farmsteads could have an impact on nature conservation, particularly if involves the conversion of existing derelict rural buildings.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to reinstate historic farmsteads within the area.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to reinstate historic farmsteads within the area.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to reinstate historic farmsteads within the area.	

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

cultural heritage					
To improve air quality	x	x	x	No relationship	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	?	?	?	The development of historic farmsteads could lead to more development in countryside locations which could increase the need to travel by private car.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	x	x	x	No relationship	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	x	x	x	No relationship	
To improve water quality	X	x	x	No relationship	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	x	x	x	No relationship	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	?	?	?	This will be locational and will need to be assessed at the planning application stage.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to reinstate historic farmsteads within the area.	
To minimise the production of waste					

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

To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to reinstate historic farmsteads within the area.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The policy is seeking to reinstate historic farmsteads within the area, this could lead to development within the countryside which will increase the need to travel.				

Policy LGPC5

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

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

	5 years)	(6 – 10 years)			
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	x	x	x	No relationship	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	x	x	x	No relationship	
To improve quality of surroundings	x	x	x	No relationship	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	x	x	x	No relationship	
To improve air quality	x	x	x	No relationship	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	x	x	x	No relationship	
To reduce contributions to climate change	x	x	x	No relationship	

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

To reduce vulnerability to climate change	x	x	x	No relationship	
To improve water quality	x	x	x	No relationship	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	x	x	x	No relationship	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	x	x	x	No relationship	
To conserve soil resources and quality	x	x	x	No relationship	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	x	x	x	No relationship	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	This is not a land use policy which will lead directly to development.				

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

Policy LGPC6

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	?	?	?	The impacts will be locational dependant. However the policy contains criteria to ensure elements of the natural environmental are taken account of	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	The policy contains criteria to reduce the adverse impacts on the landscape and character of the area	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	The policy contains criteria to reduce the adverse impacts on the landscape and character of the	

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

				area	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	The policy contains criteria to reduce the adverse impacts on the historic character of the area	
To improve air quality	?	?	?	This will be locational dependant, however he effects can be adjudged at the planning application stage	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	?	?	?	The policy contains criteria to reduce the adverse impacts on the landscape and character of the area	
To reduce contributions to climate change	?	?	?	The policy contains criteria to reduce the adverse impacts on the landscape and character of the area	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	?	?	?	The policy contains criteria to reduce the adverse impacts on the landscape and character of the area	
To improve water quality	x	x	x	No relationship	
To provide for sustainable sources of	x	x	x	No relationship	

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

water supply					
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	x	x	x	No relationship	
To conserve soil resources and quality	?	?	?	The policy contains criteria to reduce the adverse impacts on the landscape and character of the area	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	The policy does contain criteria to safeguard elements of the natural and cultural environment	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The policy contains a number of criteria which will safeguard the objectives however some effects are locational and will be assessed as part of any future planning application.				

Policy LGPC7

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider	Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation
---------------	--------------------------------	---------------------	----------------------------

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

	cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)				opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	x	x	x	No relationship	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	x	x	x	No relationship	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	There will be positive benefits to the community quality of live with improved broadband and telephone infrastructure.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	?	?	+	There may be some locational issues regarding the siting of apparatus within the historical environment	

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

To improve air quality	x	x	x	No relationship	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	The improvements in broadband and telephone infrastructure may reduce the need to travel for some goods and services and allow more to work from home.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	x	x	x	No relationship	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	x	x	x	No relationship	
To improve water quality	x	x	x	No relationship	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	x	x	x	No relationship	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	x	x	x	No relationship	
To conserve soil resources and quality	x	x	x	No relationship	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					

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

To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	x	x	x	No relationship	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The improvements in broadband and telephone technology will enable homeowners and businesses to reach additional goods and services without the need to travel. This will have positive benefits on many of the baseline indicators				

Policy LGPC8

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

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

To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	+	The reducing in unnecessary street lighting will have a positive effect on nocturnal wildlife. This will complement the dark skies policy within the neighbouring parishes.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	Sensitive highway design and the reduction in street lighting will have a positive benefit on the quality of the landscape and the village scape	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	Sensitive highway design and the reduction in street lighting will have a positive benefit on the quality of the landscape and the village scape	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	Sensitive highway design and the reduction in street lighting will have a positive benefit on the quality of the landscape and the village scape	
To improve air quality	x	x	x	No relationship	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	?	?	?	The enhancements in highway design could encourage more to use private vehicles	
To reduce contributions to climate change	x	x	x	No relationship	

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

To reduce vulnerability to climate change	x	x	X	No relationship	
To improve water quality	x	x	X	No relationship	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	x	x	x	No relationship	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	x	x	x	No relationship	
To conserve soil resources and quality	x	x	x	No relationship	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	x	x	x	No relationship	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	Improvement in highways design and reduction in street lighting will have many positive benefits on the objectives				

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

Policy LGPC9

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	+	The protection and enhancement of public rights of way could lead to the added effect of protecting green infrastructure and wildlife networks.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	Access to the surrounding countryside and villages help provide a sense of place within the landscape and help to protect landscape features along the rights of way	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	Access to the surrounding countryside and villages help provide a sense of place within the landscape	

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

To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	Access to the surrounding countryside and villages help provide a sense of place within the landscape and connect areas of cultural heritage	
To improve air quality	x	x	x	No relationship	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	++	++	++	The provision of public rights of way and circular routes could provide local alternatives to private car to connect local services	
To reduce contributions to climate change	x	x	x	No relationship	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	x	x	x	No relationship	
To improve water quality	x	x	x	No relationship	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	x	x	x	No relationship	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	x	x	x	No relationship	
To conserve soil resources and quality	x	x	x	No relationship	

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

To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	The protection of rights of way will also ensure that elements of the natural environment and resources are maintained	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The provision of rights of way have multiple benefits and have many positive effects on the baseline.				

Policy LGPC10

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

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

To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	x	x	x	No relationship	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to protect and enhance community facilities within the area which will have a positive effect on the villagescape	
To improve quality of surroundings	++	++	++	The policy is seeking to protect and enhance community facilities within the area which will have a positive effect on the villagescape	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to protect and enhance community facilities within the area which will have a positive effect on the villagescape	
To improve air quality	x	x	x	No relationship	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to protect and enhance community facilities within the area which will have a positive effect on the reducing the need to travel locally	
To reduce contributions	x	x	x	No relationship	

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

to climate change					
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	x	x	x	No relationship	
To improve water quality	x	x	x	No relationship	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	x	x	x	No relationship	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	x	x	x	No relationship	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	The retention of existing community facilities will ensure that buildings and land are reused	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	The retention of existing community facilities will ensure that buildings and land are reused	
Overall commentary and any cumulative	The policy is seeking to protect and enhance community facilities within the area which will have a positive effect on the				

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

effects	reducing the need to travel locally and help to maintain the sense of quality within the area.
----------------	--

Policy LGPC11

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	x	x	x	No relationship	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	x	x	x	No relationship	
To improve quality of	+	+	+	The inclusion of community services, youth provision and recreational	

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

surroundings				facilities with have a positive effect on the surroundings	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	x	x	x	No relationship	
To improve air quality	x	x	x	No relationship	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	x	x	x	No relationship	
To reduce contributions to climate change	x	x	x	No relationship	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	x	x	x	No relationship	
To improve water quality	x	x	x	No relationship	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	x	x	x	No relationship	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	x	x	x	No relationship	

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

To conserve soil resources and quality	x	x	x	No relationship	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	x	x	x	No relationship	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	This is not a land use policy which will directly result in development but it seeks to encourage community infrastructure levy and S106 payments for a range of community facilities. This will have an indirect positive relationship with the quality of the surroundings.				

Policy LGPC12

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

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

	5 years)	term (6 – 10 years)	(11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	++	++	++	The intention of the policy is to preserve and enhance the landscape and its features. This will have a positive effect on the related biodiversity.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	++	++	++	The intention of the policy is to preserve and enhance the landscape and its features	
To improve quality of surroundings	++	++	++	The intention of the policy is to preserve and enhance the landscape and its features	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	++	++	++	The intention of the policy is to preserve and enhance the landscape and its features.	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	The protection of the landscape and associated features will have an indirect benefit on the air quality of the surroundings	
To reduce the effect of	x	x	x	No relationship	

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

traffic on the environment					
To reduce contributions to climate change	++	++	++	The protection of the landscape and associated features will have an indirect benefit on reducing the contribution to climate change	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	++	++	++	The protection of the landscape and associated features will have an indirect benefit on reducing the vulnerability to climate change	
To improve water quality	+	+	+	There will be an indirect benefit on water quality by protecting the landscape and its features	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	x	x	x	No relationship	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	Preserving areas of the landscape and its features will indirectly help to reduce flooding	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	The preservation of landscape and its features will help to preserve soils	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					

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

To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	++	++	++	The intention of the policy is to preserve and enhance the landscape and its features	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The intention of the policy is to preserve and enhance the landscape and its features. This will have a number of positive benefits on a range of SEA objectives				

Policy LGPC13

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	++	++	++	The policy is seeking to protect historic heritage assets and this could have a positive effect on the natural environment too. There is a specific criteria with regards to protecting biodiversity	

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

To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	++	++	++	The policy is seeking to protect the heritage environment and has specific criteria to safeguard ancient monuments and other important features	
To improve quality of surroundings	++	++	++	The protection of the heritage environment will help to improve the quality of the surroundings	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	++	++	++	The policy is seeking to protect the heritage environment and has specific criteria to do so	
To improve air quality	x	x	x	No relationship	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	x	x	x	No relationship	
To reduce contributions to climate change	?	?	?	The retention of historic buildings and traditional character and techniques may have issues within regarding to contributing to reducing climate change	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	?	?	?	The retention of historic buildings and traditional character and techniques may have issues within regarding to vulnerability of climate	

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

				change	
To improve water quality	x	x	x	No relationship	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	x	x	x	No relationship	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	x	x	x	No relationship	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	The reuse of heritage assets will have the potential of reducing the need for other land to accommodate proportional growth.	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	++	++	++	The policy is seeking to protect assets of heritage value	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The policy is seeking to protect the heritage of Longtown and the surrounding parishes and this will have a positive effect on a number of the objectives.				

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

Policy LGPC14

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to support biodiversity	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to ensure that foul and storm issues are addressed and this will add to the quality of the villagescape	

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

townscapes					
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to ensure that foul and storm issues are addressed and this will add to the quality of the villagescape	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	x	x	x	No relationship	
To improve air quality	x	x	x	No relationship	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	x	x	x	No relationship	
To reduce contributions to climate change	++	++	++	The policy is seeking to ensure that foul and storm issues are addressed	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	++	++	++	The policy is seeking to ensure that foul and storm issues are addressed	
To improve water quality	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to ensure that foul and storm issues are addressed	
To provide for sustainable sources of	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to ensure that foul and storm issues are	

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

water supply				addressed	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	++	++	++	The policy is seeking to ensure that foul and storm issues are addressed	
To conserve soil resources and quality	x	x	x	No relationship	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	The policy is seeking to ensure that foul and storm issues are addressed	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The policy is seeking to ensure that any issues regarding foul and storm water drainage are addressed which will have a positive effect on many of the objectives				

Policy LGPC15

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

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	+	The policy contains criteria which seeks to safeguard biodiversity	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	The policy contains criteria which include the landscape and important features	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	The policy contains criteria which include the safeguarding of the surroundings	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	The policy contains criteria which seeks to safeguarding the historic environment	

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

To improve air quality	x	x	x	No relationship	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	The policy contains a criteria to ensure that any additional traffic can be accommodated on the local road network.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	++	++	++	The policy is seeking to support proposal for renewable energy	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	++	++	++	The policy is seeking to support proposal for renewable energy	
To improve water quality	x	x	x	No relationship	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	x	x	x	No relationship	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	x	x	x	No relationship	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	The policy contains criteria which include the safeguarding of the surroundings	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					

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

To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	The policy contains criteria which include the safeguarding of the surroundings	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The policy has a positive effect on the baseline.				

Key:

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

SEA Objective / Policy	1. To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	2. To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	3. To improve quality of surroundings	4. To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and culture heritage	5. To improve air quality	6. To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	7. To reduce contributions to climate change	8. To reduce vulnerability to climate change	9. To improve water quality	10. To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	11. To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	12. To conserve soil resources and quality	13. To minimise the production	14. To improve health of the population	15. To reduce crime and nuisance	16. To conserve natural and manmade resources
Housing objectives	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	?	+	+	+				+
Economy objectives	?	+	+	?	?	+	?	?	?	?	X	+				+
Infrastructure and community facilities objective	++	+	+	+	+	++	X	X	X	X	X	+				++
Environment objective	++	++	++	++	+	X	++	++	X	X	++	+				++
Policy LGPC1	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
Policy LGPC2	?	?	?	?	+	+	?	?	+	+	+	+				?
Policy LGPC3	?	+	+	?	+	+	?	?	+	+	+	+				?
Policy LGPC4	?	+	+	+	X	?	X	X	X	X	?	+				+
LGPC5	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X
Policy LGPC6	?	+	+	+	?	?	?	?	X	+	X	?				+
Policy LGPC7	X	X	+	?	X	+	X	X	X	X	X	X				X

Policy LGPC8	+	+	+	+	X	?	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	
Policy LGPC9	+	+	+	+	X	++	X	X	X	X	X	X				+	
Policy LGPC10	X	+	++	+	X	+	X	X	X	X	X	+				+	
Policy LGPC11	X	X	+	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	
Policy LGPC12	++	++	++	++	+	X	++	++	+	X	+	+				++	
Policy LGPC13	++	++	++	++	X	X	?	?	X	X	X	+				++	
Policy LGPC14	+	+	+	X	X	X	++	++	+	+	++	X				+	
Policy LGPC15	+	+	+	+	X	+	++	++	X	X	X	+				+	
Summary of effects of whole plan on each SEA Objective	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	
	The plan positively and actively addresses the main purpose of the SEA objective. Policies surrounding landscape and green infrastructure highlight the importance of maintaining and enhancing biodiversity.	The plan policies include the importance of the quality of the existing landscapes and it is clear though the majority of policies that they are positively addressing the maintaining and enhancement of these key features covered in the SEA objective.	The plan looks favourably to improving quality of surroundings with any new development, a key SEA objective.	The plan positively addresses SEA objectives relating to the historic environment and culture heritage.	There are no policies specifically addressing air quality, however some of the measures outlined in some policies relating to biodiversity and landscaping could be seen as enhancing through planting and seeking to reduce the need to travel	There are no policies specifically aimed at reducing traffic but other policies will have an indirect positive effect.	The plan does not specifically aim any policies at reducing contributions to climate change however some policies have positive moves towards the environment and sustainability which in term could work towards reducing contributions to climate change.	The plan does not specifically aim any policies at reducing vulnerability to climate change however some policies have positive moves towards the environment and sustainability which in term could be targeted at reduction of vulnerability	The plan does not specifically aim any policies to improve water quality directly, however some policies make reference to water management and other policies of the development plan ensure water quality is addressed	The plan does not specifically aim any policies to improve water supply, however some policies will indirectly have a positive effect.	The plan actively and positively addresses the issue of flooding in a number of its policies which is a key SEA objective	There are no direct policies to address this issue however many of the policies regarding the reuse of existing buildings and land will have a positive impact on to protecting soils					The plan makes effort to look at sustainability and biodiversity and the natural resources in the area and overall makes positives contributions towards the SEA objective

Cumulative effects of whole plan (1 + 2 + 3...)	<i>Overall, the Longtown Group NDP policies positively address the majority of SEA objectives and if implemented correctly will cumulatively have a positive impact in the short and long term on environmental assets in the designated area.</i>
Commentary for significant cumulative effects	<i>The plan overall is a positive answer to the objectives of the SEA.</i>

Appendix 5

Option 1	Do nothing
Option 2	To define a settlement boundary
Option 3	No settlement boundary
Option 4	Allocate only one site
Option 5	Allocate on two sites
Option 6	Allocations on a greater number of sites

Site 1	Land close to Pontyns Mill
Site 2	Land north of Crown Inn public house
Site 3	land south east of Greyhound Close
Site 4	Land north of Llanwonog Lane
Site 5	Lane north of Penbailey
Site 6	
Site 7	
Site 8	Land south of Perthy Perton

Appendix 6

Objectives and context	Where are the points covered in Neighbourhood Development Plan SEA (insert chapter, section, page references, as necessary)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Neighbourhood Development Plan's purpose and objectives are made clear. • The Neighbourhood Area's environmental issues and constraints, including acknowledgement of those in the Local Plan (Core Strategy) SA, where relevant, and local environmental protection objectives, are considered in developing objectives and targets. • SEA objectives are clearly set out and linked to indicators and targets where appropriate. • Links with other locally related plans, programmes and policies are identified, explained and acknowledgement for those set out in the SA of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) is given, where relevant. • Conflicts that exist between SEA objectives; between SEA and Neighbourhood Development Plan objectives; and between SEA objectives and other local plan objectives are identified and described. 	<p>Chapter 1.6 – 1.10</p> <p>Chapter 2 methodology, chapter 3 and tables A2 and A3</p> <p>Chapter 3 paragraph 3.5 and 3.7</p> <p>Chapter 3, paragraph 3.1</p> <p>Chapter 3</p>
<p>Scoping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory Consultees are consulted in appropriate ways and at appropriate times on the content and scope of the Environmental Report. • The assessment focuses on significant issues. • Technical, procedural and other difficulties encountered are discussed; assumptions and uncertainties are made explicit. • Reasons are given for eliminating issues from further consideration. 	<p>Chapter 2, paragraphs 2.6-2.9</p> <p>Chapter 2 and chapter 4</p> <p>Chapter 2</p> <p>Chapter 2, chapter 4 and chapter 5</p>
<p>Alternatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realistic alternatives are considered for key issues, and the reasons for choosing them are documented. • Alternatives include 'do minimum' and/or 'business as usual' scenarios wherever relevant. 	<p>Chapter 4 and chapter 5</p> <p>Paragraph 5.4</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The environmental effects (both adverse and beneficial) of each alternative are identified and compared. • Inconsistencies between the alternatives and other relevant local plans, programmes or policies are identified and explained. • Reasons are given for selection or elimination of alternatives. 	<p>Chapter 5</p> <p>Chapter 5, chapter 3,</p> <p>Chapter 5</p>
<p>Baseline information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant aspects of the current state of the local, neighbourhood area environment and their likely evolution without the Neighbourhood Development Plan are described. Acknowledgement to the information in the SA of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) is given, where relevant. • Environmental characteristics of the local, neighbourhood area, likely to be significantly affected are described, including areas wider than the physical boundary of the designated neighbourhood area, where it is likely to be affected by the Neighbourhood Development Plan. • Difficulties such as deficiencies in information or methods are explained. 	<p>Chapter 1, Chapter 3</p> <p>Initial screening report and Chapter 1</p> <p>Chapter 2</p>
<p>Prediction and evaluation of likely significant environmental effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects identified include the types listed in the Directive (biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climate factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape), as relevant; and other local likely environmental effects are also covered, as appropriate. • Both positive and negative effects are considered, and the duration of effects (short, medium or long-term) is addressed. • Likely secondary, cumulative (growing in quantity and strength) and synergistic (acting together) effects are identified, where practicable. • Inter-relationships between effects are considered, where practicable. • The prediction and evaluation of effects makes use of relevant accepted standards, regulations, and thresholds (i.e. data gathered for the evidence base). • Methods used to evaluate the effects are described. 	<p>Tables A2, A3 and A4</p> <p>Tables B2 and B3</p> <p>Table B4</p> <p>Chapter 5, chapter 6</p> <p>Chapter 5, chapter 6</p> <p>Chapter 2</p>

<p>Mitigation measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the Neighbourhood Development Plan are indicated. • Issues to be taken into account when determining planning applications or other projects, for example funding bids, are identified. 	<p>Chapter 6, paragraph 6.6 – 6.9</p> <p>Chapter 6</p>
<p>The Environmental Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is clear and concise in its layout and presentation. • Uses simple, clear language and avoids or explains technical terms. • Uses maps and other illustrations, where appropriate. • Explains the methodology used. • Explains who was consulted and what methods of consultation were used. • Identifies sources of information, including expert judgement and matters of opinion. • Contains a non-technical summary covering the overall approach to the SEA, the objectives of the Neighbourhood Development Plan, the main options considered, and any changes to the Neighbourhood Development Plan resulting from the SEA. 	<p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>Chapter 2</p> <p>Paragraph 2.6-2.9</p> <p>Paragraph 2.8-2.9</p> <p>Page 1 / Paragraph 1.8 / Chapter 6</p>
<p>Consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SEA is consulted on as an integral part of the plan-making process of the Neighbourhood Development Plan. • Consultation Bodies and the public likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the Neighbourhood Development Plan are consulted in ways and at times, which give them an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinions on the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan and Environmental Report. 	<p>Paragraph 2.6-2.9</p> <p>Chapter 8</p>
<p>Decision-making and information on the decision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The environmental report and the opinions of those consulted are taken into account in finalising and adopting the Neighbourhood Development Plan. • An explanation is given of how they have been taken into account. 	<p>Chapter 8</p> <p>Following draft consultation</p>

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