

# Habitats Regulations Assessment



## Bishopstone Group Neighbourhood Area

June 2016

# **Bishopstone HRA**

## **HRA Screening Assessment**

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## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This Screening Assessment relates to a Neighbourhood Development Plan that is considered to be in general conformity with higher level strategic plans, such as the Herefordshire Core Strategy and the National planning Policy Framework. The screening stage involves assessing broadly whether the Bishopstone Draft Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have a significant effect on any European site.
- 1.2 Bishopstone Parish Council is producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Bishopstone Parish, in order to set out the vision, objectives and policies for the development of the Parish up to 2031. This HRA reviews the Draft Bishopstone Plan (June 2016) being assessed.
- 1.3 The NDP has identified a settlement boundary for the settlement of Bishopstone, Byford Common, Byford Village and Home Farm. Bishopstone have chosen not to allocate housing sites but have accommodate enough areas within the four settlement boundaries. The housing target for Bishopstone is 25 houses in the plan period. Bishopstone have several areas in the settlement boundaries which have the potential to accommodate housing beyond the minimum target figure. However all sites selected are small by nature and any large scale sites have not been considered, as potential housing will be achieved windfall, infill and small sites within the settlement boundary. Bishopstone NDP provides criteria based policies that clarify and provide local detail to the policies within the Herefordshire Core Strategy. Therefore it requires a high level screening assessment to build upon the HRA Screening Assessment Report for the Herefordshire Core Strategy. Therefore this high level screening assessment should be read in combination with the Herefordshire Pre-submission publication of the Local Plan-Core Strategy Habitat Regulations Assessment Report (April 2014) and its addendum (July 2015) ensures that there will not be any significant impacts upon Natura 2000 sites.
- 1.4 This high level screening assessment, which should be read in conjunction with the Pre submission publication of the adopted Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy (October 2015), and Habitat Regulations Assessment Report (published in April 2015) (adJuly 2015), ensures that there will not be any significant impacts upon Natura 2000 sites.
- 1.5 The map below shows Bishopstone Area with the European Site highlighted.



Figure 1- Bishopstone HRA Map

## 2.0 The requirement to undertake Habitats Regulations Assessment of neighbourhood plans

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

### **3.0 Methodology**

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

#### **4.0 Results of the Initial Screening Report and Options**

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

## 5.0 Description of the Bishopstone Neighbourhood Plan

- 5.1 The Draft Bishopstone Plan present detailed policies for development in the Neighbourhood Area, which is equivalent to the group parish boundary, up to 2031. The first part of the Plan introduces the Plan and its preparation and discusses the background to each of the villages.
- 5.2 The NDP then details the vision for the Group Parish over the Plan period and 4 objectives of how this will be achieved. The objectives are as follows:

***B01-To encourage provision of housing which answers local needs, provides future sustainability and accords with the wishes and needs of the residents of each individual community.***

***B02 To encourage business development of a type and scale that suits our villages especially supporting home based business enterprise***

***B03 To protect the historic landscape and built heritage***

***B04 To support a mixed community of residents of all ages***

- 5.3 The Neighbourhood Plan also sets out six policies on themes based on the objective headings above:

- **Policy H1 Housing in Bishopstone**
- **Policy H2 Housing in Byford**
- **Policy H3 Housing in Bridge Sollars, Kenchester and Mansell Gamage**
- **Policy G1 Housing development sites and design**
- **Policy G2 Flooding**
- **Policy G3 Business development and home working**
- **Policy G4 Traffic and Transport**
- **Policy G5 Tourism**
- **Policy G6 Historic Landscape and Green Infrastructure**

- 5.4 The NDP proposes that the sites can be found for housing in the vacant sites stated within the Settlement boundaries of Bishopstone, Bridge Sollars, Byford, Byford Common and Home Farm in order to facilitate the proportional growth envisaged by Policy RA1 and RA2 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy). Development on to areas within the settlement boundaries are subject to environmental constraints and access, this can be determined at planning application stage and is assessed on a case by case basis. The Settlement Boundaries proposed can be found on p13,14 and 16 of the Bishopstone NDP.

## 5.5 Bishopstone Settlement Boundaries

- 5.6 As an 4.14 the settlement of Bishopstone has allocated settlement boundaries as well as 4.15 settlement of Byford. The HRA screening assessment has found the settlement boundaries proposed to have no significant impact on the SAC.

## **6.0 Identification of other plans and projects which may have ‘in-combination’ effects**

- 6.1 Regulation 102 of the Habitats Regulations 2010 requires an appropriate assessment where a land use plan (not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site) is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. In addition, in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulation 2012 a NDP cannot have a significant effect on any European Site whether alone or in combination with another Plan.
- 6.2 There are a number of potentially relevant plans and projects which may result in in-combination effects with the Core Strategy across Herefordshire, these plans have been reviewed and can be found in Appendix 2 of the pre-submission publication of the Herefordshire Local Plan – Core strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment (May 2014)(app July 2015). It is seen that as this NDP does not go over and beyond the requirements set out in the Core Strategy this review will also be substantial for the NDP.
- 6.3 It is considered that as the Bishopstone NDP contains policies that provides potential housing sites in the settlement boundaries, which would result in similar levels of development that is envisaged by strategic policies, as set out in the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy), this review will suffice for the purposes of the NDP. Adjacent Neighbourhood Plans (Stretton Sugwas, Eaton Bishop, Madley, Wyese Group, Staunton on Wye and District group, Foxley Group and Credenhill) are at varying stages of their production. But none of the proposals within these plans involve the measures to promote higher levels of growth than the Local Plan (Core Strategy) at this stage.
- 6.4 The latest version of the HRA for the Local Plan (Core Strategy) also identifies that both the Water Cycle Study for Herefordshire and the work on the Nutrient Management Plan, have both been considered as part of the in-combination assessment. The former, on the one hand, indicates the potential for planned water abstraction requirements combined with pressures on European Sites from the Local Plan’s policies, whilst the latter seeks to ensure the favourable conservation status of the SAC in respect of phosphate levels as soon as possible and at the latest by 2027.



## **7.0 Assessment of the ‘likely significant effects’ of the Bishopstone Plan NDP**

- 7.1 As required under Regulation 102 of the Habitats Regulations 2010, a screening assessment has been undertaken to identify the ‘likely significant effects’ of the NDP. A screening matrix was prepared in order to identify whether any of the policies in the Plan would be likely to have a significant effect on the River Wye SAC.
- 7.2 The findings of the screening matrix can be found in the Screening Matrix in Appendix 3 of this report. Colour coding was used to record the likely impacts of the policies on the European site and its qualifying habitats and species as shown in the table 1 below.

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

- 7.3 The screening matrix took the approach of screening each policy, objective and housing policy individually, which is consistent with current guidance. The results from the HRA reports for the adopted October 2015 version of the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) were also taken into consideration.
- 7.4 Mitigation of some of the identified potential effects could be achieved through additional policy wording and the implementation of the other policies within the NDP and the Local Plan (Core Strategy). Surface and foul water drainage helps to alleviate impact of flooding through precautionary work before development is committed. The Bishopstone NDP will safeguard any proposal or development against detrimental impact on the environment and protected sites in policies G1, G2 and G3.

## **8.0 Timescale for adoption**

- 8.1 The Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) has been adopted on the 16th October 2015. Given the current draft stage of the Bishopstone Neighbourhood Development Plan.

## **9.0 Conclusions from the Screening Matrix**

- 9.1 None of the Bishopstone NDP objectives and policies ( June 2016) were concluded to be likely to have a significant effect on the River Wye SAC. This conclusion is based on assumptions and information contained within the Bishopstone NDP, to the adopted Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the latest version of the HRA for the Local Plan (Core Strategy) published on the Council’s website.
- 9.2 In many cases this is because the policy itself would not result in development, i.e., it related instead to criteria for development. Where there are housing development policies, a number of cases the policies also included measures to help support the natural environment policy G1, G2 and G3 and protecting Local Heritage therefore no significant effect conclusion could be reached. In addition, these policies have the potential to mitigate some of the possible adverse effects arising from other policies such as housing and transport infrastructure policies. Many of the policies impact from housing development will be mitigated by Core Strategy environmental and landscape policies SD1, LD1, and LD2.
- 9.3 The majority of the plan is criteria based plan and does not allocate housing sites. However it allocates settlement boundaries within the core settlements of Bishopstone and Lower Byford, Byford Common and Home Farm. The Neighbourhood Area has one 4.14 settlement within Bishopstone, and one 4.15 settlement of Byford. Within the settlement boundaries there is space to accommodate housing in line with the housing development target in the Core

Strategy. In response to the River Wye SAC, the River Wye runs along Bishopstone and has a number of tributaries running into the Wye catchment.

- 9.4 The water cycle study highlights that most of the River Wye catchment has a moderate ecological status. The WCS identified sites in the Lower Middle Wye catchment area are principally affected by water resources adverse impacts. It requires a holistic integrated approach to flood risk management. This will require integrated flood management and special mitigation measures if housing is required. NDP has generally addressed these issues in policy G2 and G6. These policies as well as policies within the Core Strategy can help to mitigate the effects of additional development. In addition, the preparation of the Nutrient Management Plan for the River Wye SAC should ensure that development within Herefordshire which can be accommodated within existing water discharge permits would not be likely to have a significant effect upon the River Wye SAC.
- 9.5 It is unlikely that the Bishopstone NDP will have any in-combination effects with any Plans from neighbouring parish councils as the level of growth proposed is the same as that proposed for the Housing Market Area in the Herefordshire Core Strategy and all of the proposed housing sites will be of a small scale.
- 9.6 It is therefore concluded that the **Bishopstone Neighbourhood Plan will not have a likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC.**
- 9.7 Any further amendments to policies (post June 2016) will be rescreened if required and an addendum to this report will be produced.

# Appendix 1

## **Bishopstone Options**

*Do nothing*

### **Housing development options**

*Housing to be developed no more than 2 houses*

*Between 3 and 5 houses*

*Between 5 and 10 houses*

### **Types of housing options**

*Develop starter homes (2 bedrooms)*

*Develop Family homes (3 or more bedrooms)*

*Develop Executive homes (4 or more bedrooms)*

*Develop Bungalows*

*Develop Live/work properties (small business run adjacent to house)*

*Convert of existing buildings*

*Develop homes for local people/people with local connections*

### **Building Design feature options**

*Develop Building design in keeping with the scale and style of existing buildings*

*High levels of energy conservation*

*Use of traditional building materials*

*Use of renewable energy technology/low carbon requirements*

*Green alternatives for sewage treatment*

### **Options for housing location**

*Within the main existing housing area*

*On the edge of the existing housing area*

*On brownfield sites*

*On greenfield sites*

### ***Settlement boundary options***

*Retain Bishopstone boundary as it is (without a settlement boundary)*

*Alter Bishopstone boundary*

*Remove Bishopstone boundary*

*Create a settlement boundary for Bridge Sollars*

*Leave Bridge Sollars without a boundary*

*Create a settlement boundary for Byford*

*Leave Byford without a boundary*

*Create a settlement boundary for Kenchester*

*Leave Kenchester without a boundary*

*Create a settlement boundary for Mansell Gamage*

*Leave Mansell Gamage without a boundary*

### **Options what public facilities to improve**

Access to information about local facilities and activities

Broadband

Facilities for children and young people

Facilities for older people

Facilities for leisure and recreation

Mobile phone reception

Public transport

Public footpaths and bridleways

Road Safety

# Appendix 2

**Table 1: HRA Screening of Emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan Options**

Parish Council Name: Bishopstone

NDP Title: Neighbourhood Development Plan

Date undertaken: June 2016

NDP options , objectives, policies	Mitigation measures to be considered, as necessary, through redraft of objective/option/policy and to be considered as part of Appropriate Assessment				
	N/A	Likely effect if option implemented. Could they have Likely Significant Effects (LSE) on European Sites? (Yes/No, with reasons)  <i>(If no, progress on to next objective/option/policy. If yes, progress on to next set of columns in row)</i>	European Sites potentially affected	Mitigation measures to be considered, as necessary, through redraft of objective/policy and to be considered as part of Appropriate Assessment	If recommendations are implemented, would it be possible that it would result in no LSE? (Yes/No with reasons)
Do nothing	No NDP to determine planning applications.	Criteria policies within the Core Strategy would guide further development. Specific policies and proposals for the parish would not exist.	The River Wye runs along the borders Byford, Bridge Sollars and Kenchester Parishes to the south. The group parish is within the hydrological catchment area of the parish.	The measures set out in the Core Strategy policies and also the NDP policies should help to avoid adverse impacts upon the European site.	N/A
<i>Housing to be developed no more than 2 houses</i>	Potential increase in car use/ parking and congestion. Increased demand in water treatment and abstraction. Increased	No likely effect if implemented due to the scale of proposed housing site.  However selecting	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	The measures set out in the Core Strategy policies LD1, LD2, LD4 and SD1 and also the NDP policies should help to avoid adverse impacts upon the	No. Scale and extent of such development is unlikely to be significant

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	<p>recreation activities.</p> <p>Small amount of Erosion/trampling.</p> <p>Small amount of Non-physical disturbance, noise vibration.</p> <p>Small amount of Light and air pollution.</p>	<p>specific sites will give greater certainty over the impact of future development on the European sites, as the location of housing would be pre-determined and not left to market forces.</p>		European site.	
<i>Between 3 and 5 houses</i>	<p>Potential increase in car use/ parking and congestion. Increased demand in water treatment and abstraction. Increased recreation activities.</p> <p>Small amount of Erosion/trampling.</p> <p>Small amount of Non-physical disturbance, noise vibration.</p> <p>Small amount of Light and air pollution.</p>	<p>No likely effect if implemented due to the scale of proposed housing site.</p> <p>However selecting sites will give greater certainty over the impact of future development on the European sites, as the location of housing would be pre-determined and not left to market forces.</p>	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	<p>Specific environmental issues could be investigated during the site search and be positively addressed within the policy wording.</p> <p>Policy would need to take account of the proportional growth requirements of the Core Strategy and potential headroom capacity at the local STW.</p>	<p>No, development in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.</p> <p>Policy criteria should be included within the NDP which reflects this. Further assessments will be undertaken at draft policy stage.</p>
<i>Between 5 and 10 houses</i>	<p>Potential increase in car use/ parking and congestion. Increased demand in water treatment and abstraction. Increased recreation activities.</p> <p>Small amount of Erosion/</p>	<p>No likely effect if implemented due to the scale of proposed housing site.</p> <p>However selecting sites will give greater certainty over the impact of future development on the</p>	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	<p>Specific environmental issues could be investigated during the site search and be positively addressed within the policy wording.</p> <p>Policy would need to take account of the proportional growth requirements of the</p>	<p>No, development in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.</p>

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	<p>trampling.</p> <p>Small amount of Non-physical disturbance, noise vibration.</p> <p>Small amount of Light and air pollution.</p>	European sites, as the location of housing would be pre-determined and not left to market forces.		Core Strategy and potential headroom capacity at the local STW.	Policy criteria should be included within the NDP which reflects this. Further assessments will be undertaken at draft policy stage.
<i>Develop starter homes (2 bedrooms)</i>	<p>Increase in traffic short term and long term.</p> <p>Use of building materials</p>	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Policies within the Core Strategy LD1, LD2, LD4 and SD1 help to mitigate effect of development.	No. Scale and extent of such development is unlikely to be significant
<i>Develop Family homes (3 or more bedrooms)</i>	<p>Small increase in traffic</p> <p>Use of building materials</p>	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	The measures set out in the Core Strategy policies LD1, LD2, LD4 and SD1 and also the NDP policies should help to avoid adverse impacts upon the European site.	No. Scale and extent of such development is unlikely to be significant
<i>Develop Executive homes (4 or more bedrooms)</i>	<p>Small increase in traffic</p> <p>Use of building materials</p>	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Policies within the Core Strategy LD1, LD2, LD4 and SD1 help to mitigate effect of development.	No. Scale and extent of such development is unlikely to be significant
<i>Develop Bungalows</i>	<p>Small increase in traffic</p> <p>Use of building materials</p>	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	The measures set out in the Core Strategy policies LD1, LD2, LD4 and SD1 and also the NDP policies should help to avoid adverse impacts upon the European site.	No. Unlikely to have significant environmental impact on the SAC.
<i>Develop Live/work properties (small business run adjacent</i>	<p>Small increase in traffic</p> <p>Use of building materials</p>	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Policies within the Core Strategy LD1, LD2, LD4 and SD1 help to mitigate	No. Unlikely to have significant environmental impact

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<i>to house)</i>	Small increase in water abstraction and usage	the European Site.		effect of development.	on the SAC.
<i>Convert of existing buildings</i>	Small increase in water abstraction and usage Traffic increase Increase parking space demand	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Policies within the Core Strategy LD1, LD2, LD4 and SD1 help to mitigate effect of development.	No. Unlikely to have significant environmental impact on the SAC.
<i>Develop homes for local people/people with local connections</i>	Small increase in water abstraction and usage Traffic increase Increase parking space demand	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	This option will help mitigate the impact caused from development.	No. Unlikely to have significant environmental impact on the SAC.
<i>Develop Building design in keeping with the scale and style of existing buildings</i>	Buildings are developed in a similar design	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	This option will help mitigate the impact caused from development.	No. Unlikely to have significant environmental impact on the SAC.
<i>High levels of energy conservation</i>	Sustainable building methods and approach to building development. Reduction in C02 emissions.	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	This option will help mitigate the impact caused from development.	No. Unlikely to have significant environmental impact on the SAC.
<i>Use of traditional building materials</i>	Sustainable building materials used within new house construction.	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	This option will help mitigate the impact caused from development.	No. Unlikely to have significant environmental impact on the SAC.
<i>Use of renewable energy technology/low</i>	Sustainable building materials/ techniques used within new house	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on	River Wye (including River	This option will help mitigate the impact caused	No. Unlikely to have significant

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<i>carbon requirements</i>	<p>construction.</p> <p>Reduction in CO2 emissions.</p> <p>Potential increase in U values within new housing.</p>	the European Site.	Lugg) SAC	from development.	environmental impact on the SAC.
<i>Green alternatives for sewage treatment</i>	<p>Sustainable approach to water abstraction and waste disposal.</p> <p>Potential scope for anaerobic digestion development.</p>	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	This option will help mitigate the impact caused from development.	No. Unlikely to have significant environmental impact on the SAC.
<i>Housing development within the main existing housing area</i>	<p>Increase in water abstraction and usage</p> <p>Traffic increase</p> <p>Increase parking space demand</p>	Due to the potential scale of development it is unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Policies within the Core Strategy LD1, LD2, LD4 and SD1 help to mitigate effect of development.	No. Unlikely to have significant environmental impact on the SAC
<i>On the edge of the existing housing area</i>	<p>Increase in water abstraction and usage</p> <p>Traffic increase</p> <p>Increase parking space demand</p>	Due to the potential scale of development it is unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Policies within the Core Strategy LD1, LD2, LD4 and SD1 help to mitigate effect of development.	No. Unlikely to have significant environmental impact on the SAC
<i>On brownfield sites</i>	<p>Increase in water abstraction and usage</p> <p>Traffic increase</p> <p>Increase parking space</p>	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Policies within the Core Strategy LD1, LD2, LD4 and SD1 help to mitigate effect of development.	No. Unlikely to have significant environmental impact on the SAC.

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	demand				
<i>On greenfield sites</i>	<p>Increase in water abstraction and usage</p> <p>Traffic increase</p> <p>Increase parking space demand</p> <p>Physical disturbance damage</p> <p>Erosion/ trampling of greenfield</p> <p>Potential impact of biodiversity</p>	Depending on location and proximity to the river Wye. Could have a potential impact on the	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Policies within the Core Strategy can help to mitigate effect of development. But it is dependent on size and scale of proposed development on greenfield.	Uncertain. Dependent on location of site and environmental impact can be tested on a case by case basis.
<i>Retain Bishopstone boundary as it is (without a settlement boundary)</i>	Small scale proportionate growth where the location would be determined by criteria based policy.	Uncertain as to the impact on the European sites as dependant on the location of the development.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	<p>Criteria based housing policy would require to include reference to mitigation measures to avoid any non-disturbance effects on the River Wye via its catchment. Policies within the Core Strategy help to mitigate effect of development.</p> <p>Policy would need to take account of the proportional growth requirements of the Core Strategy and potential headroom capacity at the local STW. Policies within the Core Strategy help to mitigate effect of development.</p>	<p>No, development in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.</p> <p>Policy criteria should be included within the NDP which reflects this. Further assessments will be undertaken at draft policy stage.</p>

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<i>Allocate Settlement Boundary for Bishopstone</i>	New housing will be developed in settlement boundary. Increase demand in transportation. Increase demand in water abstraction and waste production. New houses developed.	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. Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Additional criteria would be required when formulating the accompanying settlement boundary policy to ensure that no likely significant effects could occur.  Policy would need to take account of the proportional growth requirements of the Core Strategy and potential headroom capacity at the local STW.	No, this option acknowledges sustainable scale growth within defined settlement boundaries in line with Core Strategy policy. Safeguard policies exist within the plan.
<i>Create a settlement boundary for Bridge Sollars</i>	Small scale proportionate growth on specific sites identified on a proposals map and within a defined settlement boundary area.	Greater degree of certainty over the impact of future development on the European sites, as the location of housing would be pre-determined and the settlement boundary would provide a clear distinction between open countryside and the built environment.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	Specific environmental issues could be investigated during the site search and be positively addressed within the policy wording.  Additional criteria would be required when formulating the accompanying settlement boundary policy to ensure that no likely significant effects could occur.  Policy would need to take account of the proportional growth requirements of the Core Strategy and potential headroom capacity at the local STW.	No, development in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.  Policy criteria should be included within the NDP which reflects this. Further assessments will be undertaken at draft policy stage.
<i>Leave Bridge Sollars</i>	Small scale proportionate growth	Uncertain as to the impact on the European sites as	River Wye (including the River	Criteria based housing policy would require to	No, development in line with the Local

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<i>without a boundary</i>	where the location would be determined by a criteria based policy.	dependant on the location of the development.	Lugg) SAC	include reference to mitigation measures to avoid any non-disturbance effects on the River Wye via its catchment. Policies within the Core Strategy help to mitigate effect of development.  Policy would need to take account of the proportional growth requirements of the Core Strategy and potential headroom capacity at the local STW. Policies within the Core Strategy help to mitigate effect of development.	Plan (Core Strategy) and the policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.  Policy criteria should be included within the NDP which reflects this. Further assessments will be undertaken at draft policy stage.
<i>Create a settlement boundary for Byford</i>	New housing will be developed in settlement boundary. Increase demand in transportation. Increase demand in water abstraction and waste production. New houses developed.	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. Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Additional criteria would be required when formulating the accompanying settlement boundary policy to ensure that no likely significant effects could occur.  Policy would need to take account of the proportional growth requirements of the Core Strategy and potential headroom capacity at the local STW.	No, this option acknowledges sustainable scale growth within defined settlement boundaries in line with Core Strategy policy. Safeguard policies exist within the plan.
<i>Leave Byford without a boundary</i>	Small scale proportionate growth where the location would be determined by a	Uncertain as to the impact on the European sites as dependant on the location of the development.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	Criteria based housing policy would require to include reference to mitigation measures to avoid any non-disturbance	No, development in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the policy safeguards which exist

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	criteria based policy.			<p>effects on the River Wye via its catchment. Policies within the Core Strategy help to mitigate effect of development.</p> <p>Policy would need to take account of the proportional growth requirements of the Core Strategy and potential headroom capacity at the local STW. Policies within the Core Strategy help to mitigate effect of development.</p>	<p>within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.</p> <p>Policy criteria should be included within the NDP which reflects this. Further assessments will be undertaken at draft policy stage.</p>
<i>Create a settlement boundary for Kenchester</i>	New housing will be developed in settlement boundary. Increase demand in transportation. Increase demand in water abstraction and waste production. New houses developed.	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. Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	<p>Additional criteria would be required when formulating the accompanying settlement boundary policy to ensure that no likely significant effects could occur.</p> <p>Policy would need to take account of the proportional growth requirements of the Core Strategy and potential headroom capacity at the local STW.</p>	No, this option acknowledges sustainable scale growth within defined settlement boundaries in line with Core Strategy policy. Safeguard policies exist within the plan.
<i>Leave Kenchester without a boundary</i>	Small scale proportionate growth where the location would be determined by a criteria based policy.	Uncertain as to the impact on the European sites as dependant on the location of the development.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	Criteria based housing policy would require to include reference to mitigation measures to avoid any non-disturbance effects on the River Wye via its catchment. Policies within the Core Strategy	No, development in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely

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				<p>help to mitigate effect of development.</p> <p>Policy would need to take account of the proportional growth requirements of the Core Strategy and potential headroom capacity at the local STW. Policies within the Core Strategy help to mitigate effect of development.</p>	<p>significant effects.</p> <p>Policy criteria should be included within the NDP which reflects this. Further assessments will be undertaken at draft policy stage.</p>
<i>Create a settlement boundary for Mansell Gamage</i>	<p>New housing will be developed in settlement boundary. Increase demand in transportation. Increase demand in water abstraction and waste production. New houses developed.</p>	<p>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. Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.</p>	<p>River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC</p>	<p>Additional criteria would be required when formulating the accompanying settlement boundary policy to ensure that no likely significant effects could occur.</p> <p>Policy would need to take account of the proportional growth requirements of the Core Strategy and potential headroom capacity at the local STW.</p>	<p>No, this option acknowledges sustainable scale growth within defined settlement boundaries in line with Core Strategy policy. Safeguard policies exist within the plan.</p>
<i>Leave Mansell Gamage without a boundary</i>	<p>Small scale proportionate growth where the location would be determined by a criteria based policy.</p>	<p>Uncertain as to the impact on the European sites as dependant on the location of the development.</p>	<p>River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC</p>	<p>Criteria based housing policy would require to include reference to mitigation measures to avoid any non-disturbance effects on the River Wye via its catchment. Policies within the Core Strategy help to mitigate effect of development.</p>	<p>No, development in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.</p> <p>Policy criteria should</p>

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				Policy would need to take account of the proportional growth requirements of the Core Strategy and potential headroom capacity at the local STW. Policies within the Core Strategy help to mitigate effect of development.	be included within the NDP which reflects this. Further assessments will be undertaken at draft policy stage.
Improve access to information about local facilities and activities	More movement from residents Increase in social events/ activities	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	No this option aims to improve existing services, and may help mitigate impact caused from development.	No, this option will not directly lead to development. Instead it strives to improve existing facilities and access within Bishopstone.
Improve broadband	Increase in broadband connecting Increase in home working	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	No this option aims to improve existing services, and may help mitigate impact caused from development.	No, this option will not directly lead to development. Instead it strives to improve broadband.
Improve facilities for children and young people	Improvement of facilities for children and young people	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	No this option aims to improve existing services, and may help mitigate impact caused from development.	No, this option will not directly lead to development. Instead it aims to improve existing facilities for
Improve facilities for older people	Improvement of facilities	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	No this option aims to improve existing services, and may help mitigate impact caused from development.	No, this option will not directly lead to development. Instead it aims to improve existing facilities for
Improve Facilities for	Improvement of facilities	Unlikely that there will be	River Wye	No this option aims to improve existing services,	No, this option will not

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leisure and recreation		any significant effects on the European Site.	(including the River Lugg) SAC	and may help mitigate impact caused from development.	directly lead to development. Instead it aims to improve existing leisure and recreation facilities.
Improve mobile phone reception	Improvement of mobile phone reception	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	No this option aims to improve existing services, and may help mitigate impact caused from development.	No, this option will not directly lead to development. Instead it aims to improve mobile phone reception throughout Bishopstone.
Improve public transport	Promotion of public transport links	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	No this option aims to improve existing services, and may help mitigate impact caused from development.	No, this option will not directly lead to development. Instead it strives to improves transport links.
Improve public footpaths and bridleways	Improvement of public footpaths and bridleways	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	No this option aims to improve existing services, and may help mitigate impact caused from development.	No, this option will not directly lead to development. Instead it strives to improve public footpaths and bridleways.
Improve road safety	Promotion of road safety Slower speed limits in villages	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	Improve existing services, and may help mitigate impact caused from development.	No, this option will not directly lead to development. Instead it promotes road safety within Bishopstone.

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# Appendix 3

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

Parish Council Name: Bishopstone

NDP Title: Neighbourhood Development Plan

Date undertaken: June 2016

NDP options , objectives, policies	HRA Screening of Emerging NDP objectives, options and policies				
	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the objective/option/policy	Likely effect if option implemented. Could they have Likely Significant Effects (LSE) on European Sites? (Yes/No, with reasons)	European Sites potentially affected	Mitigation measures to be considered, as necessary, through redraft of objective/option/policy and to be considered as part of Appropriate Assessment	If recommendations are implemented, would it be possible that it would result in no LSE? (Yes/No with reasons)
<p><b>Objective 1.</b></p> <p>To encourage provision of housing which answers local needs, provides future sustainability and accords with the wishes and needs of the residents of each individual community</p>	Sustainable housing development in line with Core Strategy targets is encouraged.	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	N/A	No, this objective will not lead to development; rather it promotes sustainable housing provision.
<p><b>Objective 2:</b> To encourage provision of housing which answers local needs, provides future sustainability and accords with the wishes and needs of the</p>	Promotion of housing provision meeting local housing requirements.	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	N/A	No: the objective encourages proportionate growth meeting the needs of the local community.

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residents of each individual community					
<b>Objective 3:</b> To protect the historic landscape and built heritage	Protection of historic assets within Bishopstone Parish.	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site. This policy helps to safeguard historic landscape and townscape against inappropriate development.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	N/A	No: This objective is in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should help avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.
<b>Objective 4:</b> To support a mixed community of residents of all ages	Promotion of a vivacious and diverse community.	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site. NDP policy	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	N/A	No, this objective will not lead to development; rather it promotes a mixed and diverse community.
Policies					
<i>Policy H1</i>	<p>Housing development in line with Core Strategy targets.</p> <p>Increase in vehicle traffic.</p> <p>Increase recreation activities.</p> <p>Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment.</p> <p>Development of infill sites</p>	<p>Majority of housing target will be met through windfall and infill within Bishopstone Settlement boundary.</p> <p>The required number of houses is in line with the Core Strategy and types of new houses will be provided within the relevant constraints appropriate to the character and countryside.</p> <p>Due to size and nature of windfall and infill</p>	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Implementation of Core Strategy policy LD2: Biodiversity and Geodiversity, which aims to avoid adverse impacts on European sites from development including housing. Policy SD1: Sustainable design and Energy efficiency should help to mitigate potential impacts relating to non-physical disturbance.	No. This policy acknowledges that proportional growth will occur across the neighbourhood area in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy). Scale and extent of such development is unlikely to be significant.

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		development it is unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.			
Policy H2	<p>Housing development in line with Core Strategy targets.</p> <p>Increase in vehicle traffic.</p> <p>Increase recreation activities.</p> <p>Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment.</p> <p>Development of infill sites</p>	<p>Majority of housing target will be met through windfall and infilling within three settlement boundaries of Byford village, Byford Common and Home Farm.</p> <p>The required number of houses is in line with the Core Strategy and types of new houses will be provided within the relevant constraints appropriate to the character and countryside.</p> <p>Due to size and nature of windfall and infill development it is unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site. Any adverse effects will be mitigated by Core Strategy policies SD1 and LD2.</p>	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	<p>This policy sets out a criteria for housing development in Byford.</p> <p>Implementation of Core Strategy policy LD2: Biodiversity and Geodiversity, which aims to avoid adverse impacts on European sites from development including housing. Policy SD1: Sustainable design and Energy efficiency should help to mitigate potential impacts relating to non-physical disturbance.</p>	No. This policy acknowledges that proportional growth will occur across the neighbourhood area in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy). Scale and extent of such development is unlikely to be significant.
Policy H3	<p>Housing development in line with Core Strategy targets.</p> <p>Small increase in vehicle</p>	<p>Majority of housing target will be met through windfall and infilling within three settlement boundaries of Byford village, Byford Common</p>	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	<p>This policy sets out a criteria for housing development in Bridge Sollars, Kenchester and Mansell Gamage.</p>	No. This policy acknowledges that proportional growth will occur across the neighbourhood area in line with the Local

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	<p>traffic.</p> <p>Small increase recreation activities.</p> <p>Small increase in demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment.</p> <p>Development in redundant rural buildings.</p>	<p>and Home Farm.</p> <p>The required number of houses is in line with the Core Strategy and types of new houses will be provided within the relevant constraints appropriate to the character and countryside.</p>		<p>This policy sets out criteria for sites in accordance with rural housing policy RA3,RA4 and RA5.</p>	<p>Plan (Core Strategy). Scale and extent of such development is unlikely to be significant.</p>
Policy G1	<p>Promotion of sustainable housing construction</p> <p>Reuse of materials</p> <p>Sustainable housing design developed</p> <p>Sustainable growth</p> <p>Building conservation</p>	<p>Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.</p>	<p>River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC</p>	<p>In accordance with policy Core Strategy policy SD1, this policy can help mitigate the effects of development through sustainable housing design. This can help minimise adverse impact on the environment and the SAC.</p>	<p>No: development will not directly lead to development and set a design criterion in which development should adhere to. This policy helps to avoid or any unsuitable and unsustainable development within Bishopstone.</p>
<i>Policy G2</i>	<p>Mitigate impact of flooding</p> <p>Promotion of implementation of sustainable drainage systems.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC</p>	<p>This policy will help to mitigate impact of flooding for housing development policies. This can help minimise adverse impact on the environment and the SAC.</p>	<p>No: development will not directly lead to development. But will help mitigate and prevent the impact of flooding.</p>
Policy G3	<p>Promotion for residents to work from home</p> <p>Support new small scale</p>	<p>Due to the potential scale of agricultural and tourism business it is unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the</p>	<p>River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC</p>	<p>This policy deals with homeworking and small scale rural business development and accords with Core</p>	<p>No. Due to the scale and nature of development this policy is unlikely to produce an adverse</p>

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	<p>business development</p> <p>Small scale tourism development developed.</p> <p>Development of agricultural businesses.</p>	European Site.		Strategy Policy E3 and RA6.	impact upon the European site.
Policy G4	<p>Reduction of noise pollution</p> <p>Traffic calming measures promoted</p> <p>Promotion of sustainable transport</p>	N/A	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	This policy will help to mitigate traffic impact caused by new development.	No: development will not directly lead to development. But will help to mitigate traffic impact on traffic and road safety.
Policy G5	<p>Small scale tourism development.</p> <p>Increase in vehicle traffic</p> <p>Small increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment.</p>	Due to the size and scale of potential development it is unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	This policy deals with tourism development and accords with Core Strategy Policy E4 and SD1.	No. Due to the scale and nature of development this policy is unlikely to produce an adverse impact upon the European site.
Policy G6	<p>Safeguard historic landscape.</p> <p>Greater protection for natural environment, tree hedgerows, woodland and watercourses.</p> <p>Maintenance and improvement of green infrastructure.</p>	N/A	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	This policy helps Bishopstone NDP area maintain historic character and helps safeguard against inappropriate development.	No this policy safeguards against inappropriate development in order to preserve the historic character of Bishopstone.

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# Appendix 4

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**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)**

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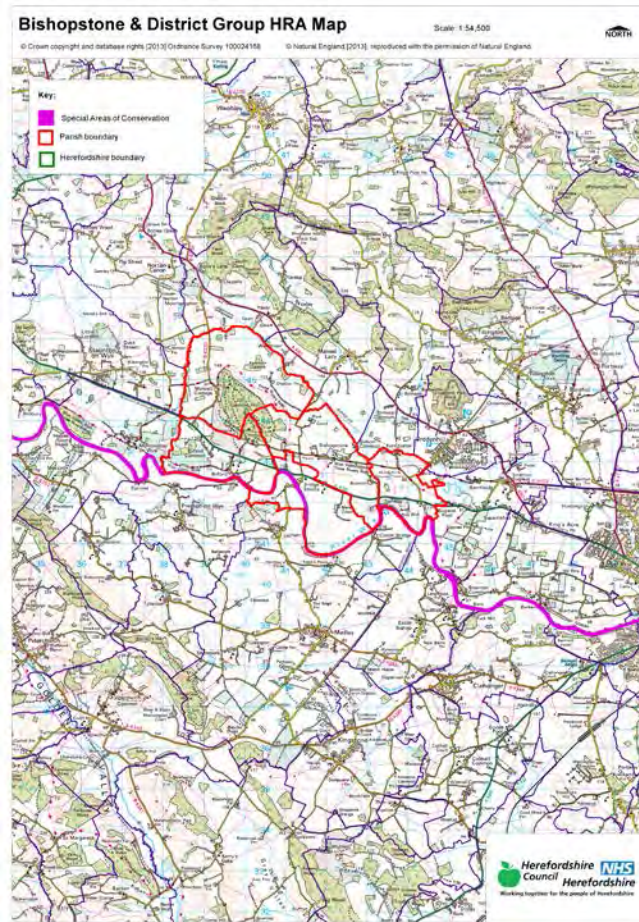
<b>Neighbourhood Area:</b>	Bishopstone & District Group Neighbourhood Area
<b>Parish Council:</b>	Bishopstone & District Group Parish Council
<b>Neighbourhood Area Designation Date:</b>	18/03/2013

### **Introduction**

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

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

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



**Initial HRA Screening**

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

Does the Neighbourhood Area have the River Wye (including the River Lugg) in or next to its boundary?	Y	The River Wye borders Byford, Bridge Sollars and Kenchester Parishes to the south
Is the Neighbourhood Area in the hydrological catchment of the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC?	Y	The Group Parish is within the hydrological catchment of the River Wye.
If yes above, does the Neighbourhood Area have mains drainage to deal with foul sewage?	Y	Drainage at Kenchester and Bishopstone flow into Hereford Mains Drainage

**Downton Gorge SAC:**

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of Downton Gorge SAC?	N	Downton Gorge is 26.75km away from the Parish
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**River Clun SAC:**

Does the Neighbourhood Area include: Border Group Parish Council or Leintwardine Group Parish Council?	N	River Clun does not border the Parish
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**Usk Bat Sites SAC:**

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of the SAC boundary?	N	Usk Bat Sites are 32.5km away from the Parish
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**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 30km away from Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites
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**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 28.65km 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 Bishopstone & District Group Neighbourhood Area and a Full HRA Screening will be required.

**European Site**

*(List only those which are relevant from above)*

River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC

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

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

<b>SEA features</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Explanation</b>	<b>SEA required</b>
Air Quality Management Areas	0	There are no AQMA's within the Group Parish	N
Ancient Woodland	3	Kenmoor Coppice; 1 unlabelled site in the north of Mansell Gamage Parish; 1 unlabelled site in Garnons Hill	Y
Areas of Archaeological Interest	0	There are no AAI's in 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	1	River Wye runs through the south of Byford, Bridge Sollars and Kenchester Parishes	Y
Flood Areas		Flood Zones at: south and west of Byford Parish. The western border of Mansell Gamage Parish. The northern border of Bishopstone Parish. The south of Bridge Sollars Parish. The north and south of Kenchester Parish	Y
Listed Buildings	Numerous	There are numerous Listed Buildings throughout the Group Parish	Y
Local Sites (SWS/SINCS/RIGS)	6 (SWS)	River Wye; Kenmoor Coppice; Garnons Hill & Carolines Coppice; Bishon Common (border); First pond near Bunshill; Pool near Magna Castra Farm	Y
Long distance footpaths/trails	2	Three Rivers Ride; Wye Valley Walk	Y
Mineral Reserves	6	Ashmoor Plantation to Bishopstone Court to ownshill Coppice; East of Byford, south of Bishopstone; South of Wye and Bridge Sollars to Lulham; South of Canon Bridge (border); South of Roman Road to A438 and area between Wye and A438; North west of Credenhill (border)	Y
National Nature Reserve	0	There are no NNR's within the Group Parish	N
Registered & unregistered parks and gardens	1 Registered 4 Unregistered	Registered: Garnons Unregistered: Bishopstone Court; Garnons; New Weir; Canon Bridge House (border)	Y
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	5	Offas Dyke: The section extending 250yds (210m) North and South of the Old Barn near Kenmoor Coppice (South East of Bowmore Wood); Offas Dyke: The section extending 950yds (870m)	Y

		North and South of Big Oaks; Moated Site at Bishopstone Court; Site of Romano-British town of Magna; New Weir Roman Site	
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	2	River Wye (Unfavourable Recovering); Bishon Common (Favourable) (border)	Y

**Decision Notification:**

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

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

**Assessment date: 03/06/2013**

**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.

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

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

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

### Usk Bat Site

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

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

### Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites

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

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

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

NDPs closest to the European Site will need to consider:  
Woodland habitat buffer.

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

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

### Wye Valley Woodlands

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

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



## Appendix 2: Wye Catchment Map

