

Habitats Regulations Assessment



Peterchurch Neighbourhood Area

October 2015

Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening Emerging Peterchurch Neighbourhood Plan Reg14 Consultation Draft September 2015

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Screening Assessment relates to a Neighbourhood Development Plan that is considered to be in general conformity with higher level strategic plans, such as the Herefordshire Core Strategy and the National Planning Policy Framework. The screening stage involves assessing broadly whether the Draft Peterchurch Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have a significant effect on any European site(s).
- 1.2 Peterchurch Parish Council is producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan for whole administrative area of Peterchurch Parish, in order to set out the vision, objectives and policies for the development of the Parish up to 2031. The Reg14 consultation draft plan dated September is being assessed at this stage.
- 1.3 The NDP has allocated one housing site which reflects a current application and also allocates new land for employment and community uses. It provides general policies that clarify and add detail to the policies within the Herefordshire Core Strategy. The plan will therefore require a high level screening assessment to build upon the HRA Screening Assessment Report for the Herefordshire Core Strategy. 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 (May 2014) and the Proposed Modification Addendum B (July 2015) to ensure that there will not be any significant impacts upon Natura 2000 sites.
- 1.4 The map below shows Peterchurch Neighbourhood Area and parish boundary.



2 The requirement to undertake Habitats Regulations Assessment of plans

- 2.1 The requirement to undertake HRA of development/neighbourhood 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 neighbourhood plan, Peterchurch Parish

Council is required by law to carry out an assessment known as “Habitats Regulations Assessment”. Reg 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 development 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.
- **Ramsar sites** support internationally important wetlands habitats

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 Methodology

3.1 As the Peterchurch Neighbourhood 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 Neighbourhood Plan made and be re-screened until all likely effects have been mitigated.

4 Results of the Initial Screening Report and options

- 4.1 The initial Screening report (24 May 2013) (Appendix 1) found that the River Wye SAC is located 1.87km away from the northern edge of the Peterchurch Neighbourhood Area. However some eastern and northern parts of the neighbourhood area are within the hydrological catchment of the River Wye therefore a full screening assessment is required. Figure 2 below highlights the location of River Wye SAC in relation to the neighbourhood area.



- 4.2 European sites can be sensitive to changes in water quantity and quality. As outlined within the Habitat Regulation Assessment to the Herefordshire Core Strategy, the water supply in this area comes from Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) and no likely significant effects on European sites as a result of changes in water quality are expected in relation to the proportional growth outlined with the Herefordshire Core Strategy. In relation to water quality, the preparation of the Nutrient Management Plan for the River Wye SAC should ensure that developments within the area can be accommodated within existing water discharge permits would not be likely to have a significant effect upon the River Wye SAC. This position is confirmed within the HRA of the Core Strategy in April 2015. Work is currently ongoing with DCWW to ensure that sufficient permitted headroom exists and or measure can be put in place in the Peterchurch Sewerage treatment works (STW) to accommodate the specific growth highlighted within the Peterchurch Neighbourhood Plan.
- 4.3 For full details of the River Wye's attributes which contribute to and define their integrity and vulnerable data see Appendix 1 of the Peterchurch Neighbourhood Plan Initial Screening Report (Full report in Appendix 1 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 Peterchurch Neighbourhood Plan may affect site integrity.
- 4.4 Options for initial policy choices (see appendix 2) have been assessed to determine their environmental impact for each option that could impact the River Wye SAC. Four alternative options were supplied by Peterchurch Parish Council for testing – do nothing, allocate housing sites, manage future growth using a settlement boundary and allocation together with a settlement boundary. Overall these options are predominately considering the alternatives to accommodate proportion growth for Peterchurch village rather than options for the plan as a whole. The village itself is outside of the hydrological catchment of the River Wye, therefore any options regarding the future growth of the village would not have a direct impact on the catchment.
- 4.5 From the chosen option, Peterchurch Parish Council have drafted neighbourhood plan policies, the Plan as it progresses will need to identify ways in which the least effect on the River Wye SAC could be achieved, alongside taking forward comments from the consultation from the community.

5 Description of the Peterchurch Neighbourhood Plan

- 5.1 The Reg14 Consultation Draft Neighbourhood Plan (September 2015) presents detailed policies for development in the Neighbourhood Area, which is equivalent to the administrative parish boundary, up to 2031.
- 5.2 The neighbourhood plan sets out the vision or aim for the Parish over the plan period and objectives of how this will be achieved. The objectives cover the following topics:

- Objective 1 – proportionate growth of Peterchurch village
- Objective 2 – suitable range of tenure, type and size to meet all needs
- Objective 3 – enhance role as a local centre
- Objective 4 – promote local employment and tourism
- Objective 5 – promote sustainable development and protecting environmental assets
- Objective 6 – tackle traffic and transport issues
- Objective 7 – cross boundary issues

5.3 The Neighbourhood Plan also sets out 13 general policies and four specific allocation policies on topics based on the objective headings above as follows:

- Policy P1 New housing development in Peterchurch village
- Policy P1/1 Land adjoining Hawthorn Rise
- Policy P2 New housing development in the countryside
- Policy P3 Rural exception housing
- Policy P4 Ensuring an appropriate range of tenures, types and sizes of houses
- Policy P5 Peterchurch village centre
- Policy P6 Peterchurch schools
- Policy P6/1 Improved school car parking
- Policy P7 Promoting local employment and tourism
- Policy P8 Old Forge Industrial Area
- Policy P8/1 Extension to Old Forge Industrial Area
- Policy P9 Landscape
- Policy P10 Green spaces and infrastructure
- Policy P10/1 Land off Bazeley Lane
- Policy P11 Heritage assets
- Policy P12 Dark Skies
- Policy P13 Traffic and Transport

5.4 A draft consultation is planned to be undertaken in line with Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations, any amendments or changes suggested as part of this assessment would need to be considered as part of the review of comments received to this public consultation.

6 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. It should be noted however, that neighbourhood plans cannot be made if like significant effects occur.
- 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). It is seen that as the Peterchurch Neighbourhood Plan does not go over and beyond the requirements set out in the Core Strategy this view will also be substantial for the NDP. Adjacent neighbourhood plans (Dorstone, Wyese Group and Vowchurch and District Group) are, this stage in their production, also not going over and beyond the requirements set out within the Core Strategy for their area.
- 6.3 The HRA for the Core Strategy also identifies that both the Water Cycle Study for Herefordshire, which indicates the potential for planned water abstraction requirements combined with pressures on European Sites from the Core Strategy policies, and the work on the Nutrient Management Plan, to ensure the favourable conservation status of the SAC in respect of phosphate levels as soon as possible and at the latest by 2027, have both been considered as part of the in-combination assessment.

7 Assessment of the ‘likely significant effects’ of the Peterchurch 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 emerging Peterchurch 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 table 2 within 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 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 individually, which is consistent with current guidance documents. The results from the HRA report for the Pre-submission version of the Herefordshire Core Strategy, was also taken into consideration.

7.4 Mitigation of some of the identified potential effects could be achieved through implementation of the other policies within the NDP which require good practice measures. The Peterchurch Neighbourhood Plan will safeguard any proposal or development against detrimental impact on the environment through Policy P1, Policy P9 and Policy P10. The Neighbourhood Plan will do this by ensuring there is no adverse impact on the landscape and environmental assets; development criteria seeking to locate development to avoid the flooding area of the River Dore or include measures to mitigate against further flooding; and policies to reduce the need to travel.

8 Timescales for adoption

8.1 The Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) is in its final stages. The Inspectors Report has been received indicating that the document is sound and it is anticipated that the Core Strategy will be adopted in mid-October 2015. Therefore, it is clear that the Core Strategy will be adopted prior to the Peterchurch Neighbourhood Plan and this has been taken into account whilst producing the screening matrix.

9 Conclusions from the Screening Matrix

9.1 None of the Peterchurch Neighbourhood Plan policies (September 2015 version) were concluded to be likely to have a significant likely effect on the River Wye SAC. This is primarily because much of the parish/ neighbourhood area lies outside of the hydrological catchment of the River Wye SAC. Some suggestions have been made to strengthen the policy wording but this is in connection with the effects of flooding on the River Dore which is not part of the hydrological catchment of the River Wye. Based on assumptions and information contained within the Peterchurch Neighbourhood Plan, Herefordshire Core Strategy and the Pre-submission version /Proposed Modifications Addendum of the HRA for the Core Strategy, all of the NDP policies were found to be unlikely to result in a significant likely effect on the River Wye SAC.

8.2 Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) has stated for the Core Strategy that there is currently no existing capacity with regards to permitted headroom in the Sewerage Treatment works serving the Peterchurch area to continue to treat the water from the amount of housing provided for in the Core Strategy policies. Continuing work is required with DCWW to ensure that sufficient headroom can be provided through improvements and a potential feasibility study may be required to assess any further upgrade requirements. 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.

8.3 It is unlikely that the Peterchurch Neighbourhood Plan will have any in-combination effects with any Plans from neighbouring parishes.

- 8.4 It is therefore concluded that the **Peterchurch Neighbourhood Plan will not have a likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC.**
- 8.5 Any further amendments to the policies (post September 2015 version) will be rescreened if required and an addendum to this report will need to be produced to accompany the submission plan.

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)

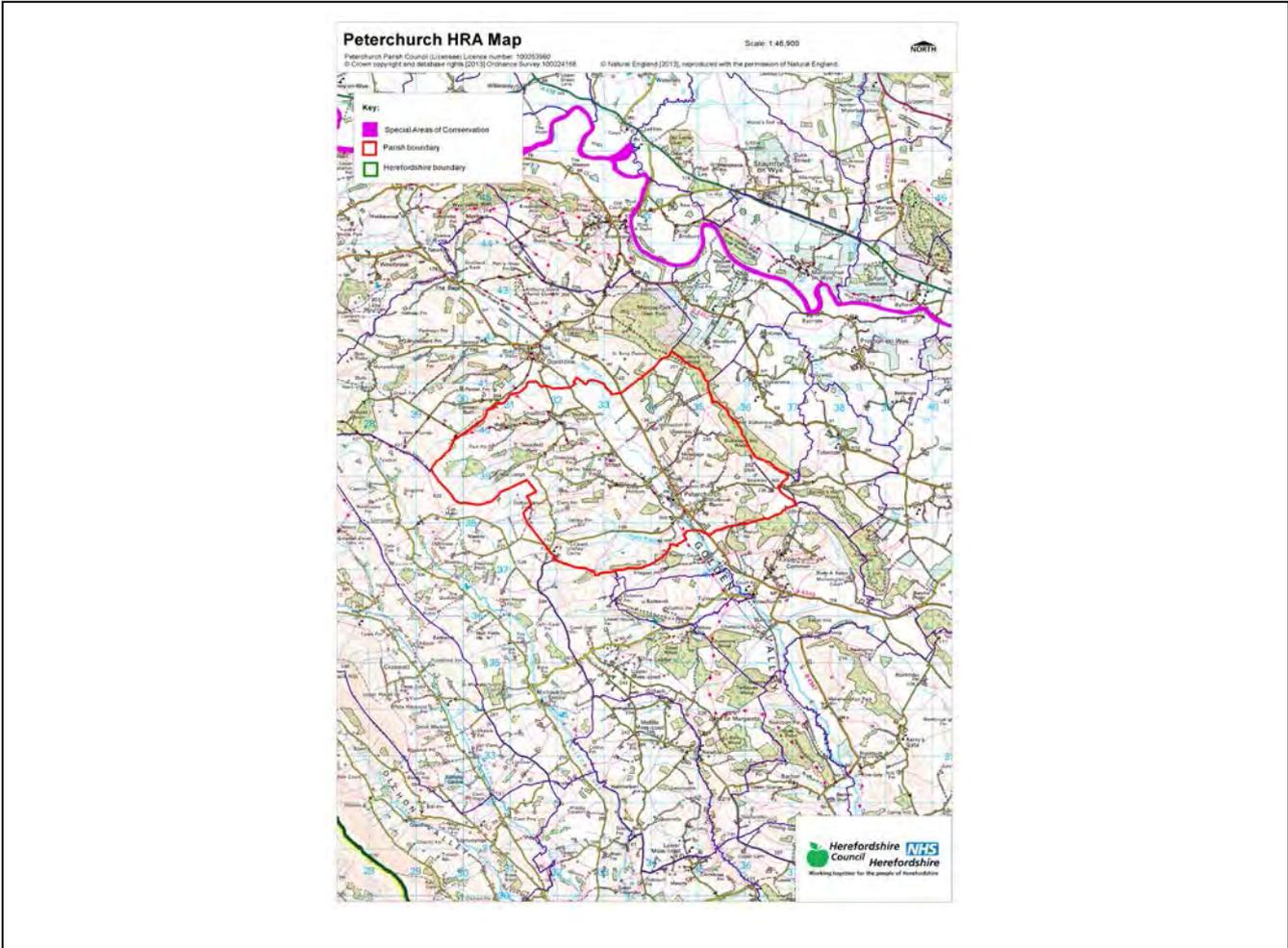
Neighbourhood Area:	Peterchurch Neighbourhood Area
Parish Council:	Peterchurch Parish Council
Neighbourhood Area Designation Date:	06/12/2012

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 1.87km away from the Parish border
Is the Neighbourhood Area in the hydrological catchment of the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC?	Y	The east of the Parish is within the River Wye hydrological catchment area.
If yes above, does the Neighbourhood Area have mains drainage to deal with foul sewage?	Y	There is mains drainage at Peterchurch

Downton Gorge SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of Downton Gorge SAC?	N	Downton Gorge is 32.49km 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 24.5km 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 33.5km 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 29.25km away from the Wye Valley Woodlands
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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 Peterchurch 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 Peterchurch 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 Parish	N
Ancient Woodland	14	Woodbury Hill Wood, Crick Dee Wood, Ton Wood, Mount Sill Wood, Birchpark Wood (border), Barnetts Hill Wood (border), Lower Park Wood (border), Hinton Wood, Greens Wood (border), Hom Brow, Wallstone Wood, Park Wood, Twyn Coed, Sawpit Wood	Y
Areas of Archaeological Interest	0	There are no AAI's within the Parish	N
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	0	There are no AONB's within the Parish	N
Conservation Areas	0	There are no Conservation Areas within the Parish	N
European Sites	0	There are no SACs within the Parish	N
Flood Areas		Flood Zones 2 and 3 follow the River Dore through the Parish	Y
Listed Buildings	Numerous	There are numerous listed buildings scattered throughout the Parish	Y
Local Nature Trails	2	The Herefordshire Trail, Three Rivers Ride	Y
Local Sites (SWS/SINCS/RIGS)	2 (SWS)	Moccas Park & adjoining woodlands, Greens & Wallstone Woods and Whitehall Coppice	Y
Long distance footpaths/trails (e.g. Herefordshire Trail)	2	See Local Nature Trails above	Y
Mineral Reserves	0	There are no Minerals Reserves sites within the Parish	N
National Nature Reserve	1	Moccas Park (border)	Y
Registered & unregistered parks and gardens	1 Registered 1 Unregistered	Registered: Moccas Court (border) Unregistered: Tyberton Court (border)	Y
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	2	Shell Keep Castle and associated fishponds at Snodhill; Motte Castle, Post Medieval House and Garden remains east of Urishay Castle Farm	Y
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	1	Moccas Court (Favourable (part) Unfavourable Recovering (part)) (border)	Y

Decision Notification:

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

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

Assessment date: 24/05/2013

Assessed by: James Latham

Appendix 1: European Sites

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

Downton Gorge
Site Features: <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines
Vulnerability data: 10km for air quality associated with poultry units or other intensive agricultural practices.
River Clun
Site Features: Freshwater pearl mussel <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>
Vulnerability data: Water quality is important to maintain the site feature. Parishes either side of the River Clun will be affected.
River Wye
Site Features: Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation. Transition mires and quaking bogs. White-clawed (or Atlantic Stream) crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> . Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> . Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i> . River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> . Twaite shad <i>Alosa fallax</i> . Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> . Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i> . Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> . Allis shad <i>Alosa alosa</i>
Vulnerability data: Proximity: Developments should not be within 100m of the designated bank. Some developments beyond 100m may also have impacts based on proximity and these issues should be addressed where possible when developing NDP policy and choosing site allocations. Water Quality: Within the whole catchment of the River Wye, which includes the River Lugg, mains drainage issues with regards to water quality are being resolved through the Core Strategy / Local Plan and development of a Nutrient Management Plan. Welsh Water should be consulted to ensure that the proposed growth will be within the limit of their consents. Otters: "An otter will occupy a 'home range', which on fresh waters usually includes a stretch of river as well as associated tributary streams, ditches, ponds, lakes and woodland. The size of a home range depends largely on the availability of food and shelter, and the presence of neighbouring otters. On rivers, a male's home range may be up to 40km or more of watercourse and associated areas; females have smaller ranges (roughly half the size) and favour quieter locations for breeding, such as tributary streams. Otters without an established home range are known as 'transients'. They are mostly juveniles looking for a territory of their own, or adults that have been pushed out of their territories. Transient otters may use an area for a short while, but they will move on if conditions are not suitable or if they are driven away by resident otters. Transients will have been important in extending the range of otters, but they are very difficult to identify from field signs. Within a home range an otter may use many resting sites. These include above-ground shelters, such as stands of scrub or areas of rank grass, and underground 'holts' – for example, cavities under tree roots and dry drainage pipes." (Source: EA website: http://www.environmentagency.gov.uk/static/documents/Business/Otters_the_facts.pdf accessed 09/04/2013)

Usk Bat Site

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

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

Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites

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

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

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

NDPs closest to the European Site will need to consider:

Woodland habitat buffer.

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

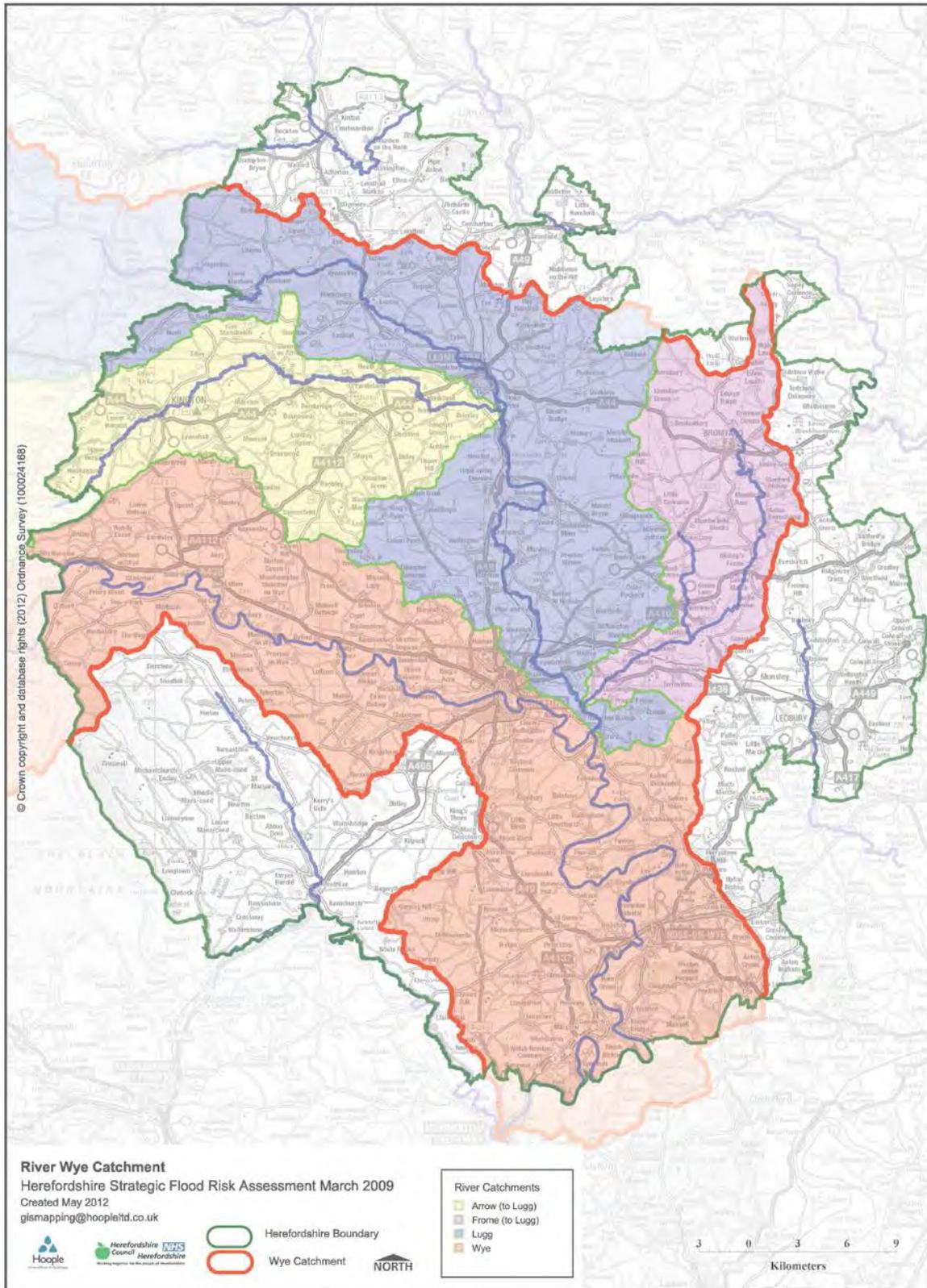
Greater Horseshoe Bat: Large buildings, pasture, edge of mixed deciduous woodland and hedgerows. Mixed land-use especially south-facing slopes, favours beetles, moths and insects they feed on. During the winter they depend on caves, abandoned mines and other underground sites for undisturbed hibernation.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

Wye Valley Woodlands

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

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

Appendix 2: Wye Catchment Map



Appendix 2

Table 1: HRA Screening of Emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan Options

Parish Council Name: Peterchurch Parish Council

NDP Title: Peterchurch Neighbourhood Development Plan 2031 (Reg14 Consultation Draft – September 2015)

Date undertaken: September 2015

Core Strategy HRA version: Pre-submission Core Strategy (May 2014) and Proposed Modifications Addendum B (July 2015)

NDP options	HRA Screening of Emerging NDP options				
	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the option	Likely effect if option implemented. Could they have Likely Significant Effects (LSE) on European Sites?	European Sites potentially affected	Mitigation measures to be considered, as necessary, through redraft of option and to be considered as part of Appropriate Assessment	Could the policy have likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account?)
Option 1 Do nothing	Not producing a neighbourhood plan would result in any future growth decisions within the parish being made based on the strategic policies within the Core Strategy. Proportional housing and employment growth in accordance with the Core Strategy.	Pre-submission Core Strategy HRA has examined the likely significant effects of the Core Strategy rural policies in May 2014 and concluded that there are no LSE but acknowledges the role of neighbourhood plans to provide additional certainty.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC. Parts of the east and north of the parish are with the hydrological catchment of the River Wye. The SAC is not within the parish itself.	n/a	n/a
Option 2 Allocate sites for	Allocation of sites for housing or other uses	Pursuing this option would give greater	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	n/a	No; policy criteria can be added to any

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housing	would give certainty to future development. Specific environmental issues could be investigated during the site search and be positively addressed within the policy wording.	certainty over future development within the area particularly within the River Wye catchment. If required mitigation criteria can be added to site allocations policies to ensure no likely significant effect would occur			allocation policy to mitigate. The majority of the village, where likely proportionate growth would be located is outside of the catchment area for the River Wye.
Option 3 Manage future housing using a settlement boundary	The designation of a settlement boundary will give additional certainty and help define those areas considered as the built form and open countryside. This can aid the direction of further growth to maintain the quality of the landscape and surroundings. There is less certainty as any growth will 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 any likely effects. However the majority of the village is outside of the catchment for the River Wye	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	n/a	No; policy criteria can be added to any settlement boundary criteria policy to mitigate. The majority of the village, where likely settlement boundary would be drawn is outside of the catchment area for the River Wye.
Option 4 Allocate site and identify a settlement boundary	Allocation of sites for housing or other uses would give certainty to future development. Specific environmental issues could be	Pursuing this option would give greater certainty over future development within the area particularly within the River Wye catchment. If	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	n/a	No; policy criteria can be added to any allocation policy to mitigate. The majority of the village, where likely proportionate growth and settlement

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	<p>investigated during the site search and be positively addressed within the policy wording. The designation of a settlement boundary will give additional certainty and help define those areas considered as the built form and open countryside</p>	<p>required mitigation criteria can be added to site allocations policies. However the majority of the village where proportional growth and the settlement boundary are likely to be located are outside of the River Wye catchment area.</p>			<p>boundary would be located is outside of the catchment area for the River Wye.</p>
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Appendix 3

Table 2: HRA Screening of Emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan Objectives and Policies

Parish Council Name: **Peterchurch Parish Council**

NDP Title: **Peterchurch Neighbourhood Development Plan (Reg14 Consultation Draft – September 2015)**

Date undertaken: **September 2015**

Core Strategy HRA version: **Pre-submission Core Strategy (May 2014) and Proposed Modifications Addendum B (September 2015)**

NDP objectives, policies	HRA Screening of Emerging NDP objectives and policies				
	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the objective/option/policy	Likely effect if objective/option/policy implemented. Could they have Likely Significant Effects (LSE) on European Sites?	European Sites potentially affected	Mitigation measures to be considered, as necessary, through redraft of objective/option/policy.	Could the policy have any likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account)?
Objective 1 – promoting proportionate growth in Peterchurch	Promoting sustainable limited growth	N/A	N/A	N/A	No; this objective will not lead to development; rather it acknowledges that limited sustainable growth will occur in line with the Core Strategy within the village of Peterchurch.
Policy P1 – New housing development in Peterchurch village	Small scale proportionate growth within or adjacent to the settlement boundary of	The River Wye does not flow through the parish but an area to the north and east of the village area within the catchment	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	Criteria within the policy highlights development should take place within the settlement boundary and not at any significant	No: this policy will allow for the small scale sustainable growth of Peterchurch village in line with

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	Peterchurch.	<p>area.</p> <p>Uncertain as to the impacts upon the River Wye SAC dependent on the specific location of development, however the policy would result in small scale growth.</p> <p>Housing, employment and infrastructure development Possible increase in recreation activities, vehicular movements and demand for water abstraction and treatment.</p>		<p>flood risk from the River Dore.</p> <p>Measure set out within the Core Strategy policies should help to avoid adverse impacts upon the European site.</p> <p>Improved water efficiency measures, metering and addressing leakages in supply may help to mitigate any additional pressure placed on the water supply as a result of new developments.</p> <p>The implementation of the Core Strategy policies SD3 and SD4 should help to avoid adverse impacts in relation to hydrological regimes at the River Wye. Water quality in the River Wye SAC is also specifically addressed through the Nutrient Management Plan produced by Natural England and the Environment Agency.</p>	<p>Core Strategy policy RA1/RA2. Additional policy criteria are in place in both the Core Strategy and the Peterchurch Neighbourhood Plan to avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.</p>
Policy P1/1 – Land at	Outline planning application for up to 89	n/a	n/a	This outline application pre-dates the drafting of	No; this application /proposal is outside of

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Hawthorn Rise	homes			the neighbourhood plan. Detailed work regarding any flood risk assessment or drainage assessment will be undertaken as part of the outline or full application. Therefore policy is included to reflect the current status.	the hydrological catchment of the River Wye
Policy P2 – new housing development in the countryside	Outside of settlement boundary limited development in accordance with Core Strategy policy RA3/4	The River Wye does not flow through the parish but some of the area is within the catchment area. Uncertain as to the impacts upon the River Wye SAC dependent on the location of development, however the policy would result in very small scale growth.	N/A	N/A	No: this policy reiterates the criteria within the Core Strategy policies RA3, RA4 and RA5. Any resulting development will be very small scale. Additional Core Strategy and Peterchurch Neighbourhood Plan policies will avoid any likely significant effects.
Policy P3 – Rural exception housing	Policy to support the delivery of affordable housing in line with Core Strategy policy H2.	Some small scale housing development. Housing, infrastructure development Possible increase in recreation activities, vehicular movements and demand for water abstraction and treatment. Uncertain as to the	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	Measure set out within the Core Strategy policies should help to avoid adverse impacts upon the European site. Improved water efficiency measures, metering and addressing leakages in supply may help to mitigate any	No: this policy would allow for small affordable housing schemes and supports the Core Strategy Policy H2. These would be in areas not normally released for housing. However there are additional

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		impacts upon the River Wye SAC dependent on the location of development, however the policy would result in small scale growth.		<p>additional pressure placed on the water supply as a result of new developments.</p> <p>The implementation of the Core Strategy policies SD3 and SD4 should help to avoid adverse impacts in relation to hydrological regimes at the River Wye. Water quality in the River Wye SAC is also specifically addressed through the Nutrient Management Plan produced by Natural England and the Environment Agency.</p>	policy criteria in place in both the Core Strategy and the Peterchurch Neighbourhood Plan to avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.
Objective 2 – suitable tenure, type and size	Promotes suitable range of housing for all local need	n/a	n/a	n/a	No; this objective in itself would not lead to development but promote range and max criteria.
Policy P4 – ensuring an appropriate range of tenures, types and sizes of houses	Promote suitable range and mix of housing to meet all needs	n/a	n/a	n/a	No; this policy would not lead to development itself but provides a criteria to ensure that schemes have a mix of tenure, type and size to ensure all the needs of the community are

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					met.
Objective 3 – enhance Peterchurch as local centre		n/a	n/a	n/a	No; this objective in itself would not result in new development rather it relates to the safeguarding and enhancement of existing community facilities and services.
Policy P5 – Peterchurch village centre	Protecting existing services. Criteria for new retail, commercial and community facilities.	The River Wye does not flow through the parish but an area to the east and north of the village is within the catchment area. Uncertain as to the impacts upon the River Wye SAC dependent on the location of any development, however the policy would result in small scale growth	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	The implementation of the Core Strategy policies SD3 and SD4 should help to avoid adverse impacts in relation to hydrological regimes at the River Wye. Water quality in the River Wye SAC is also specifically addressed through the Nutrient Management Plan produced by Natural England and the Environment Agency.	No; this policy would only lead to small scale village retail, commercial or community facilities and potential within areas outside of the hydrological catchment of the River Wye. Additional policy safeguards exist within the Core Strategy and the Peterchurch Neighbourhood plan to mitigate any potential likely significant effects
Policy P6 – Peterchurch schools	Additional car parking proposed within the flood zone for the River Dore. Increased hard standing and potential surface runoff. Additional playing	Areas highlighted within the policy are outside of the hydrological catchment of the River Wye SAC. The additional car parking is however potentially within the flood zone for the River Dore.	n/a	The additional car parking is likely to be located outside of the hydrological catchment of the River Wye. However, this could lead to additional flooding issues surrounding the	No; the proposals are not within the hydrological catchment of the River Wye.

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	pitches and footpaths, increase recreational use.			<p>River Dore. The policy does refer to the requirement for measures to alleviate the risk of flash flooding.</p> <p>Additional flood risk assessment work maybe required with the Environment Agency regarding the proposal.</p> <p>Additional recreation is proposed at Bazeley Lane. This is outside of the catchment of the River Wye and River Dore.</p>	
Objective 4 – Employment and Tourism	Support for employment opportunities and the promotion of tourism within the parish.	Additional visitor numbers, increase traffic, increased abstraction and demand for water use. Potential increase in visitor numbers to the parish could have an effect on the Rive Wye	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	<p>Measures are included in both the Core Strategy and the Peterchurch Neighbourhood Plan to help relieved any increased pressure on the River Wye for recreation or tourism purposes.</p> <p>The implementation of the Nutrient Management Plan will specifically address issues relating to water quality in the River Wye.</p>	No; this objective in itself will not lead to development but support further employment and tourism opportunities.
Policy P7 – Promoting	Additional visitor	The River Wye does not	River Wye (including	Measures are included in	No; the policy

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<p>local employment and tourism</p>	<p>numbers, increase traffic, increased abstraction and demand for water use.</p>	<p>flow through the parish but an area to the east and north of the village is within the catchment area.</p> <p>Uncertain as to the impacts upon the River Wye SAC dependent on the location of any development.</p> <p>Potential increase in visitor numbers to the parish could have an effect on the River Wye Employment and infrastructure development.</p> <p>Possible vehicular movements and demand for water abstraction and treatment.</p>	<p>River Lugg) SAC</p>	<p>the Core Strategy will help relieved any increased pressure in the River Wye for recreation purposes.</p> <p>Improved water efficiency measures, metering and addressing leakage in supply will help mitigate any additional pressures in water supply.</p> <p>The implementation of Core Strategy policies SD3 and SD4 should also help to avoid any adverse impacts in relation to the hydrological regimes at the River Wye.</p> <p>The implementation of the Nutrient Management Plan will specifically address issues relating to water quality in the River Wye.</p> <p>The Core Strategy policy LD2 will aim to help avoid any adverse impacts on the River Wye for new employment or</p>	<p>emphasises the importance of natural environment. Although visitor and tourism activity may increase within the parish sufficient policy safeguards are in place to ensure the sensitivity of the River Wye is mitigated from likely significant harm</p>
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				<p>businesses uses.</p> <p>Measures within Core Strategy policy SD1 should help to mitigate potential impacts relating to non-physical disturbances.</p> <p>Although the River Wye does not pass through the parish, additional policy criteria could be added to strengthen the avoidance locations which could have an adverse impact on the natural environment especially River Wye catchment.</p>	
Policy P8 & P8/1 – Old Forge Industrial Area	Continuing use of the site for employment and an proposed extension to the employment area.	<p>This area is outside of the hydrological catchment for the River Wye. However it is within an area liable to flooding from the River Dore.</p> <p>Employment and infrastructure development.</p> <p>Possible vehicular movements and demand for water abstraction and treatment.</p>	n/a	<p>The additional employment area is to be located outside of the hydrological catchment of the River Wye.</p> <p>However, this could lead to additional flooding issues surrounding the River Dore. The policy does refer to the requirement for measures to alleviate the risk of flooding both to the site and adjacent</p>	No; this proposal is outside of the hydrological catchment of the River Wye.

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				areas. Additional flood risk assessment work maybe required with the Environment Agency regarding the proposal.	
Objective 5 – sustainable development, protecting environmental assets	Encouragement of sustainable development which preserves and protects green spaces and landscape and heritage	n/a	n/a	n/a	No: this objective will not lead to new development rather it aims to ensure that all development proposed will conserve and protect Peterchurch’s green spaces, landscape and heritage.
Policy P9 - landscape	Seeks to ensure all development protects landscape of the Golden Valley	n/a	n/a	Although the River Wye does not pass through the parish, additional policy criteria could be added to strengthen the avoidance locations which could have an adverse impact on the natural environment especially River Wye and its catchment.	No: this objective will not lead to new development rather it aims to ensure that all development proposed will conserve and enhance Peterchurch’s landscape, environment, heritage and habitats.
Policy P10 – green spaces and infrastructure	Protection of green infrastructure and green spaces	n/a	n/a	n/a	No; this is not a policy which will lead to development but one which will seek to protect green spaces and green

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					infrastructure
Policy P10/1 – Land off Bazeley Lane	A specific proposal to provide sports and recreation pitches	n/a	n/a	n/a	No; this is within an area outside of the hydrological catchment of the River Wye.
Policy P11 – heritage assets	Protection of statutory and non statutory heritage assets	n/a	n/a	n/a	No; this policy is concerning heritage assets within the parish.
Policy P12 – dark skies	Criteria to manage lighting associated with development	n/a	n/a	n/a	No; this is not a policy which would lead to development but one which would manage any lighting which accompanied the development.
Objective 6 – traffic and transport	Requirement to address traffic and transport issues within the parish	n/a	n/a	n/a	No; this objective will not lead to development in itself but provide an address traffic and transport issues associated with development
Policy P13 – traffic and transport	Improved cycling, walking, horse riding and public transport links. Also additional car parking near church.	The River Wye does not flow through the parish but an area to the north and east of the village area within the catchment area. Uncertain as to the	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC		No; this policy would only lead to some small scale sustainable transport links and predominately within areas outside of the hydrological

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		<p>impacts upon the River Wye SAC dependent on the specific location of improved links, however the policy would result in small scale sustainable transport links.</p> <p>Possible increase in recreation activities and vehicular movements associated with car parking.</p>			<p>catchment of the River Wye. Additional policy safeguards exist within the Core Strategy to mitigate any potential likely significant effects</p>
Objective 7 – cross boundary issues	Commitment to address cross boundary issues within neighbouring parish councils.	n/a	n/a	n/a	No; this is not a land use policy which will lead to development.