

Habitats Regulations Assessment



**How Caple, Sollers Hope & Yatton
Group Neighbourhood Area**

July 2017

HOW CAPLE SOLLERS HOPE AND YATTON HRA

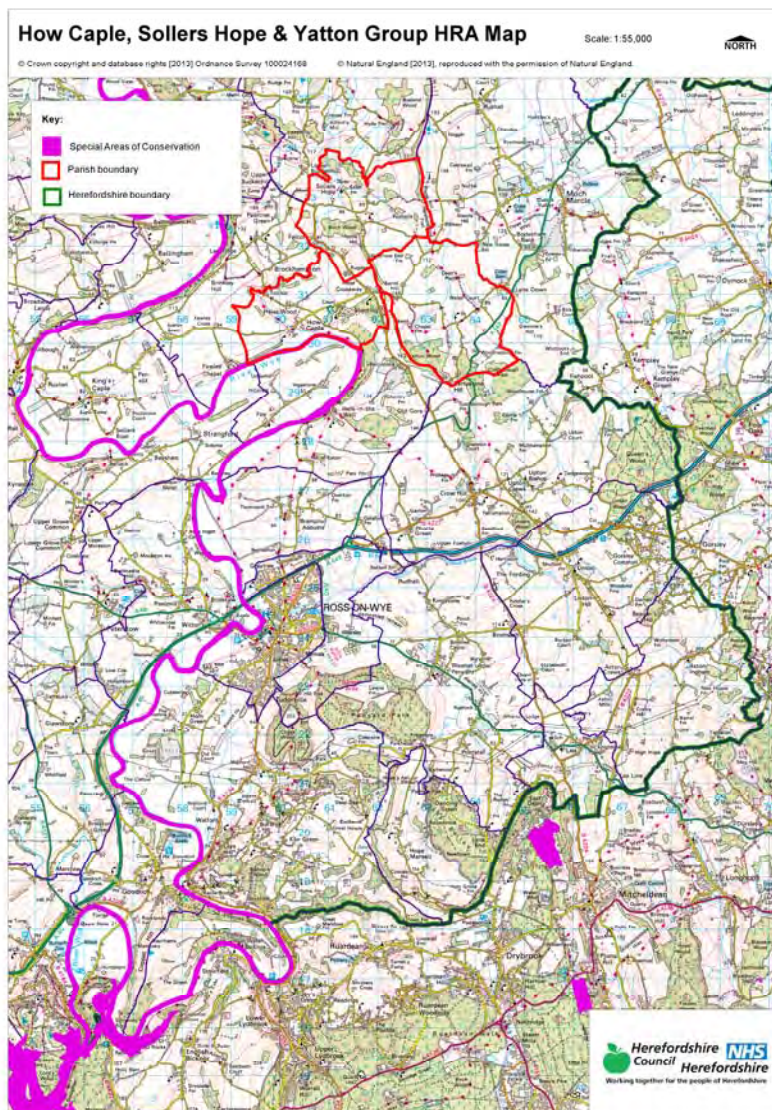
HRA Screening Assessment

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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 Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have a significant effect on any European site(s).
- 1.2 How Caple Sollers Hope and Yatton Parish Council are producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan for How Caple Sollers Hope and Yatton 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 How Caple Sollers Hope and Yatton Plan July 2017.
- 1.3 The NDP is criteria based and does not allocate sites as How Caple Sollers Hope and Yatton are not identified as places for sustainable growth, therefore housing growth will be limited throughout the Neighbourhood Area. The plan provides general policies that clarify and provide 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. 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 2015) and ensures that there will not be any significant impacts upon Natura 2000 sites.
- 1.4 The map below shows How Caple Sollers Hope and Yatton Neighbourhood Area with the European Sites highlighted.



2 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, How Caple Sollers Hope and Yatton 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 Methodology

- 3.1 As the How Caple Sollers Hope and Yatton 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 Results of the Initial Screening Report and options

- 4.1 The initial Screening report (14/10/13) found that the How Caple Sollers Hope and Yatton NDP area is in the hydrological catchment area of the River Wye SAC and the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat sites SAC. This falls within the western half of the Neighbourhood Area and 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 How Caple Sollers Hope and Yatton Plan Initial Screening Report. The Initial Screening Report, October 2013, can be found in Appendix 4 of this HRA report. This enabled therefore analysis of how the potential impacts of the How Caple Sollers Hope and Yatton Plan 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 listed are all on a small scale and are unlikely to have a significant impact on the SAC.
- 4.4 As How Caple Sollers Hope and Yatton Plan 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 Description of the How Caple Sollers Hope and Yatton Plan Neighbourhood Plan

- 5.1 The Draft How Caple Sollers Hope and Yatton Plan presents 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 six objectives of how this will be achieved. The objectives cover the following topics:

Environment
Employment
Housing
Roads and Traffic
Community Facilities
Infrastructure

- 5.3 The NDP also sets out 5 general policies on various topics based on the objective headings above, these include:

Environment ENV1
Housing HSG1
Economy ECON1
Community Facilities CF1
Infrastructure INF1

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. In addition, in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulation

2012 an 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). 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 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 How Caple Sollers Hope and Yatton 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 or Wye Valley Bat Sites 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 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 during and after construction phases, such as more efficient use of water, reduction in waste and encouragement of recycling. The provision and encouragement of use of more sustainable transport measures when improving the transport infrastructure, will also help to reduce car traffic around the parish and surrounding areas.

8 Conclusions from the Screening Matrix

- 8.1 None of the Draft How Caple Sollers Hope and Yatton Plan (July 2017) policies were concluded to be likely to have a significant effect on the River Wye SAC or impact on the Wye Valley Woodlands SAC. Based on assumptions and information contained within the How Caple Sollers Hope and Yatton Plan, Herefordshire Core Strategy and the Pre-submission version of the HRA for the Core Strategy all of the NDP policies were found to be unlikely to result in significant effects on the River Wye SAC.
- 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. In a number of cases the policies also included measures to help support the natural environment, including biodiversity and 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.
- 9.3 The plan does not allocate sites or settlement boundaries for How Caple, Sollers Hope or Yatton. This has been screened and due to the scale, location and nature of the development it is considered to have an unlikely detrimental impact on the River Wye SAC and Wye Valley Bat sites SAC. However impact can be assessed further at planning application stage.

- 8.4 Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) has stated for the Core Strategy that there is sufficient existing permitted headroom in the Sewerage Treatment works serving the Ross area to continue to treat the water from the amount of housing provided for in the Core Strategy policies. 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.
- 8.5 It is unlikely that the How Caple Sollers Hope and Yatton Plan 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.
- 8.6 It is therefore concluded that the **How Caple Sollers Hope and Yatton Plan will not have a likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC or on the Wye Valley Bat sites SAC.**
- 8.7 Any further amendments to policies (post July 2017) will be rescreened if required and an addendum to this report will be produced.

Appendix 1

How Caple Sollers Hope and Yatton Options

1. Do nothing

2. No allocation of sites stick to criteria based policy

Appendix 2

Table 1: HRA Screening of Emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan Options

Parish Council Name: How Caple Sollers Hope and Yatton

NDP Title: How Caple Sollers Hope and Yatton Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Date undertaken: July 2017

NDP objectives, options 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 objective/option/policy implemented. Could they have Likely Significant Effects (LSE) on European Sites? (Yes/No, with reasons)	European Sites potentially affected (Refer to Initial Screening)	Mitigation measures to be considered, as necessary, through redraft of objective/option/policy and to be considered as part of Appropriate Assessment	Could the policy have likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account?)
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.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC	N/A	N/A
No allocation of sites stick to criteria based policy	Housing development Increase in transport and facility use Increase in water and sewage waste production and water consumption Small scale proportionate growth where the location would be determined by a criteria based policy.	Less certain in comparison to allocating sites and settlement boundary, as to the impact on the European sites as dependant on the location of the development.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC	Specific environmental issues could be investigated during the site search and be positively addressed within the policy wording. 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.

Appendix 3

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

Parish Council Name: How Caple Sollers Hope and Yatton

NDP Title: How Caple Sollers Hope and Yatton Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Date undertaken: July 2017

NDP objectives, options 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 objective/option/policy implemented.	European Sites potentially affected	Mitigation measures to be considered, as necessary	Could the policy have likely significant effects on European sites
Objectives					
HOB1	This objective strives to improve existing communications infrastructure within How Caple, Sollers Hope and Yatton.	Unlikely to have a significant effect on the River Wye SAC.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC	N/A	This objective is unlikely to have an effect on the River Wye SAC and Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC
HOB2	Promotes measures to support productive and efficient farming and small businesses.	Due to the scale of potential development it is unlikely to have a significant effect on the River Wye SAC.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC	N/A	This objective is unlikely to have an effect on the River Wye SAC and Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.
HOB3	Promotes attracting suitable opportunities for tourism. Recognises importance of tourism and agriculture to the parish economy.	No. New businesses and employment opportunities will be encouraged to start in the parish and existing businesses, particularly in tourism and agriculture will be supported. More people	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC	N/A	This objective is unlikely to have an effect on the River Wye SAC and Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC

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		may be able to work from home.			
HOB4	Seeks provision of sustainable of houses, associated with farming and small rural businesses.	No. New housing in the parish will be energy efficient, use sustainable energy and designed to a high standard.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC	N/A	This objective is unlikely to have an effect on the River Wye SAC and Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC
HOB5	Maintain unique character and heritage of the Neighbourhood area. Careful management of development and protection of the built and natural environments.	Unlikely to have a significant effect on the River Wye SAC.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC	N/A	This objective is unlikely to have an effect on the River Wye SAC and Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC
HOB6	This objective aims to ensure traffic flow and congestion without causing damage to the environment.	Unlikely to have a significant effect on the River Wye SAC.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC	N/A	This objective is unlikely to have an effect on the River Wye SAC and Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC
How Caple Sollers Hope and Yatton Policies					
Policy ENV1	Protect, maintain or enhance the environment. Seek to protect woodlands and hedgerows. New plantings encouraged. Utilisation of redundant buildings.	This policy should ensure that: The local environment is maintained or enhanced; social cohesiveness and the local economy is supported; local infrastructure, including roads and highways,	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC	No, this policy itself can help safeguard the parish against un sustainable development and aims to minimise impact on existing infrastructure and the existing built and natural	No: this policy will not directly lead to development. But intends to protect and preserve the natural and built environment.

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	<p>Protection of Heritage sites.</p> <p>Encouragement of domestic scale renewable energy projects.</p>	<p>suffers no detrimental impacts and housing is centred on existing settlements.</p>		<p>environment.</p>	
Policy HSG1	<p>Limited rural growth in line with Core Strategy policies.</p> <p>Development of homes for agricultural diversification and rural enterprises.</p> <p>Sustainable re use of redundant farm buildings.</p> <p>Extensions permitted.</p> <p>Traditional materials use in building construction.</p>	<p>Due to the scale of potential development it is unlikely to have a significant effect on the River Wye SAC.</p>	<p>River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC</p> <p>Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC</p>	<p>There are safeguards within the Core Strategy and NDP to help mitigate detrimental effects caused from new development.</p>	<p>No. This policy supports limited housing growth with HCSHY. Development will be of a minimal scale and unlikely to have a significant impact on the SACs. Further assessment of SAC impact of housing development on Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites can be determined at planning application stage.</p>
Policy ECON1	<p>Policy to ensure that proposals related to business activity are of an appropriate scale and use and will not have a detrimental impact upon the character and setting of the parish and its assets, including its highways.</p> <p>Proposals for agricultural diversification will be supported.</p>	<p>Only businesses that are considered compatible with the setting of the parish and compatible with core agricultural businesses will be able to base themselves here.</p>	<p>River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC</p> <p>Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC</p>	<p>There are safeguards within the Core Strategy and NDP to help mitigate detrimental effects caused from new development.</p>	<p>No: This policy supports small scale rural businesses. Due to the size and nature of schemes this is unlikely to have a significant impact on the SAC, however this can be further determined at planning application stage when details are known.</p>
Policy CF1	<p>Policy in support of proposals that improve the range of facilities and services providing they meet certain criteria.</p>	<p>The community's current facilities, assets and services will remain viable and continue to exist. New ones will be</p>	<p>River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC</p> <p>Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites</p>	<p>There are safeguards within the Core Strategy and NDP to help mitigate detrimental effects</p>	<p>No. This policy will not directly lead to development but encourages additional services to the</p>

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	Seeks to protect and promote the improvement of existing services, assets and facilities. Particular emphasis is given to up keeping the churchyard and supporting small trading outlets.	encouraged and promoted. Hence more people will be able to meet their needs within the community.	SAC	caused from new development.	community have a minimal effect for traffic generation and nonphysical disturbances. Therefore unlikely to have a detrimental impact on the SACs.
Policy INF1	Policy to support new developments include high speed broadband, and proposals that provide high quality communication throughout the parish will be supported providing they meet certain criteria.	New developments will enable residents to access high speed broadband for both domestic and work use, and the parish as a whole could benefit from a similar service providing it is provided in a way that does not adversely impact upon the character of the area, or the setting of the village and its assets. There will be more pedestrians and cyclists being able to travel in safety around the parish. Public transport will be available.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC	There are safeguards within the Core Strategy and NDP to help mitigate detrimental effects caused from new development.	No. This policy will not directly lead to development instead it promotes improving existing communication infrastructure. Therefore unlikely to have a detrimental impact on the SACs.

Appendix 4

**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)

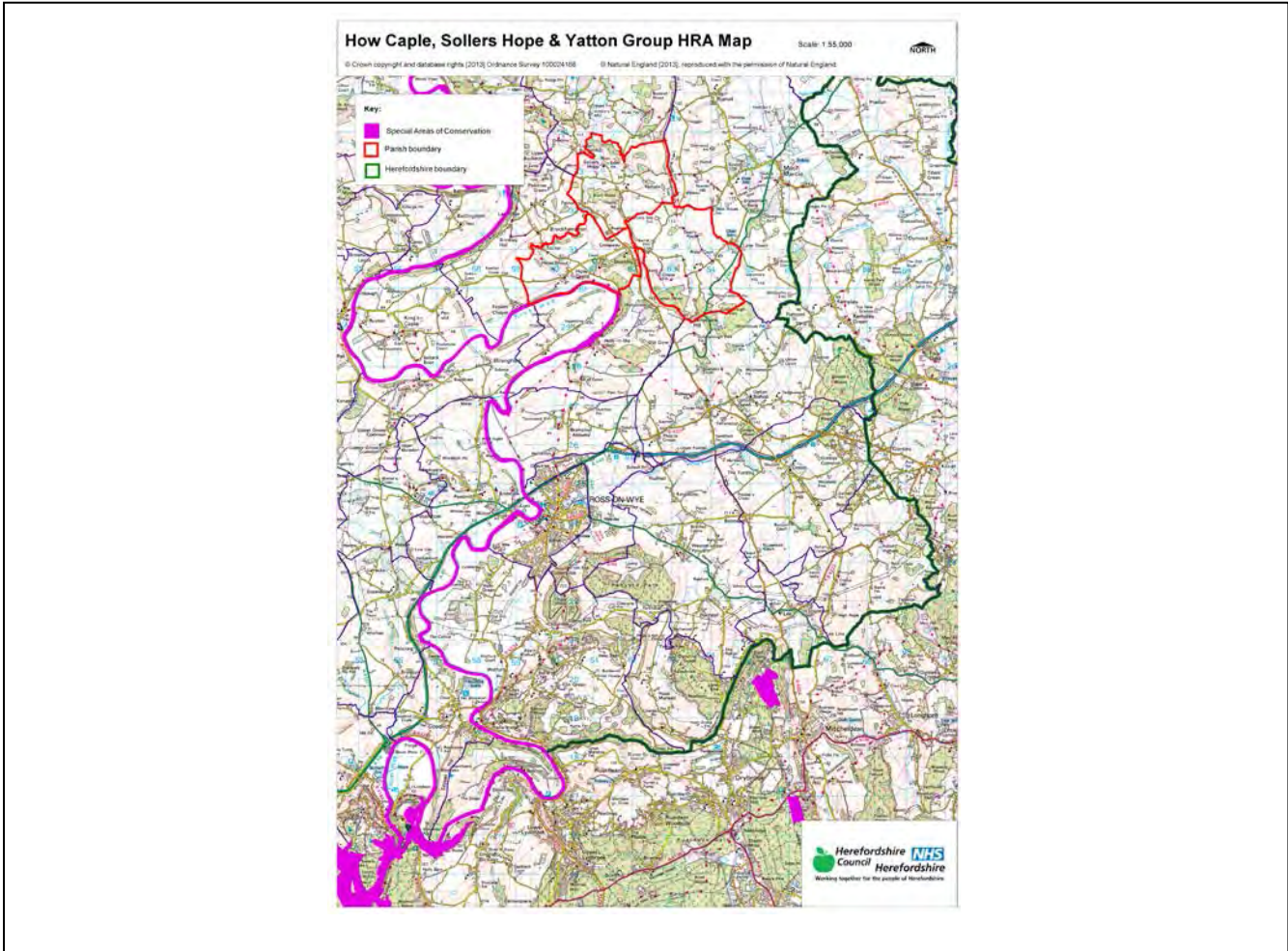
Neighbourhood Area:	How Caple, Sollers Hope & Yatton Group Neighbourhood Area
Parish Council:	How Caple, Sollers Hope & Yatton Group Parish Council
Neighbourhood Area Designation Date:	04/10/2013

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 runs along the southern borders of How Caple Parish
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	There is mains drainage at Crossway How Caple

Downton Gorge SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of Downton Gorge SAC?	N	Downton Gorge is 43km away from the Group 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 Group Parish
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Usk Bat Sites SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of the SAC boundary?	N	Usk Bat Sites are 41.1km 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?	Y	The Group Parish are 9.4km 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 Group Parish is 15.7km 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 How Caple, Sollers Hope & Yatton 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

Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites 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 How Caple, Sollers Hope & Yatton Group Neighbourhood Area and would need to be taken into account within a Strategic Environmental Assessment. In addition, the NDP will also need to consider the other SEA topics set out in Guidance Note 9a to ensure that the plan does not cause adverse impacts.

SEA features	Total	Explanation	SEA required
Air Quality Management Areas	0	There are no AQMA's within the Group Parish	N
Ancient Woodland	10	Wigleys Wood; Lyndor Wood; Lyndalls and Wittlebury Wood; Long Wood; The Grove; Round Wood; Rock Cottage Wood; Yatton Wood; Coldborough Park; 1 unlabelled site along the eastern boundary of Sollers Hope Parish	Y
Areas of Archaeological Interest	0	There are no AAls within the Parish	N
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	1	The western side of both Sollers Hope and Yatton Parishes and the whole of How Caple Parish are within the Wye Valley AONB	Y
Conservation Areas	0	There are no Conservation Areas within the Group Parish	N
European Sites	1	River Wye	Y
Flood Areas		Flood Zones 2 and 3 run south of How Caple Parish along the River Wye. Also from north to south in Sollers Hope Parish along a brook which flows into the River Wye. There are also Flood Zones in Yatton entering the parish from the east and running until Welsh Court and continuing north towards Dean's Place	Y
Listed Buildings	Numerous	There are numerous Listed Buildings throughout the Group Parish	Y
Local Sites (SWS/SINCS/RIGS)	10 (SWS)	Woodland along Marcle Hill & Ridge Hill; Sutton Hill Wood (border); Lyndalls & Wittlebury Woods; Birch & Rattle Hill Woods; Yatton Wood; Coldborough Park; Lindor & How Caple Woods, west of The Stocking; Bayton Grove; River Wye; Tack Wood (border)	Y
Long distance footpaths/trails	3	Herefordshire Trail; Wye Valley Walk; Three Choirs Way	Y
Mineral Reserves	7	Dean's Place to Newhouse Farm, Yatton; Green Hill Coppice to Hoppers Oak to Hoar Wood to Newbury Lodge, Yatton; Sollers Hope to Wittlebury Farm to Foxalls; Siege Wood to Round Wood, Sollers Hope; Paget's Wood, Fownhope to Lower Buckenhill to Sollers Hope; Underhill, south of River Wye and How Caple, opposite Fawley Chapel (border);	Y

		The Plantation to Devereux Park to Winslow Mill to Busland Wood to Sapness House (border)	
National Nature Reserve	0	There are no NNRs within the Group Parish	N
Registered & Unregistered parks and gardens	1 registered 4 Unregistered	Registered: Homme House (border) Unregistered: How Caple Court; Perrystone Court (border); Eaton Tregoz (border); Brockhampton, by Ross (border)	Y
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	3	Churchyard cross in St Michaels Churchyard; Chapel at Chapel Farm; Dyke on south side of Yatton Wood (border)	Y
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	2	Birch Wood (Favourable); River Wye (Unfavourable Recovering)	Y

Decision Notification:

The initial screening highlights that the Neighbourhood Development Plan for the How Caple, Sollers Hope & Yatton Group Neighbourhood Area:

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

Assessment date: 15/08/2013

Assessed by: James Latham

Appendix 1: European Sites

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

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

