

Environmental Report

Report for:

**Little Birch and Aconbury
Neighbourhood Area**

September 2017



Little Birch Parish and Aconbury Parish meeting Environmental Report

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Non-technical summary

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

The environmental appraisal of the Little Birch and Aconbury NDP has been undertaken in line with the Environmental Assessment of Plan and Programmes Regulations 2004. Stage A of the SEA process involved Scoping and Stage B provided a review and analysis of the NDP. Stage C involved preparing an Environmental Report and Stage D comprises a formal consultation on both this and the Draft Plan itself.

The Little Birch Parish and Aconbury Parish Meeting has undertaken to prepare an NDP and this process has been subject to environmental appraisal pursuant to the SEA Directive. The Group Parish comprises of Little Birch Parish and Aconbury Parish Meeting they are situated several miles south of Hereford. The main connection to Hereford is via the A49 trunk road which passes through the area to the west of Aconbury Hill.

The Draft Little Birch and Aconbury NDP includes 3 objectives and it is intended that these objectives will be delivered by 11 criteria based planning policies; no site allocations are proposed here. The plan is criteria based with one settlement boundary designated for Aconbury.

The parish are rural in nature, with development focused at Little Birch village and the village of Aconbury. Little Birch village has a dispersed rather than nucleated character, with services including a village hall, public transport, the Castle Inn public house and St. Mary's church. Aconbury is a much smaller settlement in an isolated position north east of Aconbury Hill, with no nearby services save for a bus route. Away from these settlements, there are scattered groups of houses, wayside dwellings, and farms.

Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening has been carried out as the Group Parish falls within the catchment for the River Wye (including River Lugg). The River Wye (SAC) is European sites (Special Area of Conservation). The HRA assesses the potential effects of the NDP on the River Wye SAC.

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

Once made (adopted) by Herefordshire Council, the effects of the policies within the Little Birch and Aconbury NDP will be monitored annually via the Council's Annual Monitoring Report (AMR).

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report forms the draft Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Little Birch and Aconbury Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP).
- 1.2 The Little Birch and Aconbury NDP does not propose any site allocations, although Little Birch and Aconbury village is identified within table 4.14 which is targeted for proportional levels of growth in Policy RA1 of the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy). The NDP will, however, provide general policies for guiding future development across the parish as a whole. The NDP proposes a settlement boundary for Aconbury but uses criteria base to determine the settlement for Little Birch. Little Birch and Aconbury have an overall housing target of 18, 4 have been completed therefore leaves 14 for the group parish to find.

Purpose of the SEA

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

Parish Neighbourhood Plan Context

- 1.6 Little Birch Parish and Aconbury Parish Meeting comprises the Parishes of Little Birch and Aconbury. The Group Parish lies several miles south of Hereford and is linked to Hereford via the A49 trunk road. There are several green lanes or Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs) in both Little Birch and Aconbury, and numerous other public rights of way.
- 1.7 The parish is rural in nature with the majority of the households spread throughout the parish, with small clusters of dwellings in Little Birch and Aconbury. The population in 2011 was 306 in 120 households, with a population density of 0.3 persons per hectare. Local employment is largely linked to agriculture or forestry, or is otherwise provided through the established farm enterprises and local services.
- 1.8 The neighbourhood area boasts many natural features, including being within the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Little Birch and Aconbury has 4 Local Wildlife Sites and 4 Ancient Woodlands. There are numerous built heritage assets, too, including listed buildings, 1 Scheduled Monuments and non-designated assets.
- 1.9 The vision for Little Birch and Aconbury in 2031 is as follows:
- Little Birch and Aconbury will be rural parishes where the natural and historic environments are protected, where all ages can enjoy a good quality of life, where community life thrives and where there are homes, businesses, and facilities to meet the needs of vibrant, rural communities.
- 1.10 Little Birch and Aconbury have three NDP objectives, they are:
- Objective 1: Housing development. The Plan will ensure that new housing contributes to a viable and balanced community by setting planning policies to: Demonstrate the delivery of housing to meet the requirements of the Local Plan Core Strategy.

Encourage new housing to provide a mix of properties to meet community needs.
Define the extent of the settlements of Little Birch and Aconbury.

- Objective 2: Economic and social development. The Plan will provide opportunities for economic and social development by: Supporting rural diversification and developments providing employment. Working to improve electronic communications. Supporting renewable energy. Supporting the retention of existing community facilities and new provision.
- Objective 3: development respects the character of adjoining development and the wider area. Supporting modern design approaches that make a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness.

Context of Neighbourhood Plans

- 1.11 NDPs are a relatively new type of planning document that form a key part of the Government's localism agenda. They enable local communities to develop plans that reflect local aspirations, in accordance with strategic policies.
- 1.12 The Little Birch and Aconbury NDP must therefore conform to national planning policy set within the NPPF and strategic level local policy including the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy).
- 1.13 The Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) was adopted on the 16th October 2015.
- 1.14 Paragraph 216 of the NPPF and Planning Protecting the environment. The Plan will ensure that the local environment is protected by: Providing for the protection, conservation and enhancement of the local natural, historic and built environment in accordance with Local Plan Core Strategy policies. Ensuring that new Practice Guidance set out the weight that may be given to relevant policies in emerging plans, including NDPs, and indicated that weight may be given to relevant policies in emerging NDPs according to:
- The stage of preparation of the emerging plan (the more advanced the preparation, the greater the weight that may be given);
 - The extent to which there are unresolved objections to relevant policies (the less significant the unresolved objections, the greater the weight that may be given); and
 - The degree of consistency of the relevant policies in the emerging plan to the policies in this Framework (the closer the policies in the emerging plan to the policies in the Framework, the greater the weight that may be given).
- 1.15 This part of the NPPF is reinforced by Planning Practice Guidance published in March 2014, which is Little Birch and Aconbury that an emerging NDP may be a material planning consideration once it has reached submission/local authorities publication stage (Regulation 16). This is reinforced by recent ministerial statements and case law (West Sussex), all of which have demonstrated that an emerging NDP may be a material consideration at the Regulation 16 stage¹.
- 1.16 Table 4.20 and 4.21 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) lists Little Birch and Aconbury among the settlements which it considers to be sustainable locations for growth. This growth will enable development that has the ability to bolster existing service provision, improve facilities and infrastructure and meet the needs of the communities concerned.
- 1.17 Once made (adopted) by Herefordshire Council, the Little Birch and Aconbury NDP will have a role in guiding future development proposals within the Parish, by setting out policies against which planning applications will be determined.

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

Structure of SEA

1.19 The structure of the document is as follows:

- Section 2 – Explains the SEA methodology and summarises the comments received in respect of the SEA Scoping Report
- Section 3 - Introduces the Little Birch and Aconbury Neighbourhood Plan objectives and the SEA framework
- Section 4 - Appraises the objectives contained within the Neighbourhood Plan against the SEA framework
- Section 5 - Appraises the options considered within the Neighbourhood Plan against the SEA framework
- Section 6 – Appraises the policies contained within the Neighbourhood Plan against the SEA framework
- Section 7 – Discusses the implementation and monitoring of the Neighbourhood Plan
- Section 8 - Concludes the SEA report by outlining next steps

2.0 Methodology

2.1 The SEA process comprised several stages and which are summarised, in some detail, below.

2.2 Stage A involved 4 tasks and culminated in a Scoping Report:

- *Task A1:* Identified and reviewed relevant policies, plans and programmes and environmental protection objectives from European, National and Local sources.
- *Task A2:* Collected baseline information to provide a picture of past, present and likely future conditions within the area. This helped to establish indicators which will be used to monitor the effects and performance of the Little Birch and Aconbury NDP.
- *Task A3:* Focused on the environmental issues identified from the baseline, highlighting key issues and problems within the neighbourhood area.
- *Task A4:* Used the information gathered from Tasks A1-A3 to develop a set of SEA objectives, sometimes referred to as the 'sustainability framework'.
- *Task A5:* Collated the results of Tasks A1-A4 within a Scoping Report, a document which was subject to a statutory 5 week consultation.

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

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

2.4 Stage C involved preparing an Environmental Report. This report presents information compiled during Stage B of the SEA process and constitutes the Draft Environmental Appraisal of the NDP. It accompanies the Draft Plan during its formal Regulation 14

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

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

Scoping Report Consultation

- 2.6 With regard to the SEA scoping assessments, documents A1 to A4 were completed by a Herefordshire Council Planning Officer and sent to the Parish Council for comment, in readiness for a 5 week consultation with statutory bodies, pursuant to the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.
- 2.7 After the document was approved by the Parish Council, the Little Birch and Aconbury SEA Scoping Report was available to four² statutory bodies for consultation from 12th April to 17th May 2017.

Consultation outcomes from Statutory Consultees

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

Natural England: Recommends that additional baseline data be sourced in respect of geodiversity and geological conservation in relation to designated features. NE also recommended reference to landscape characterisation studies.

Historic England: Have no substantive objection to the contents of the documents.

Environment Agency: No comments received

Natural Resources Wales: No comments received

3.0 The SEA Framework

- 3.1 As mentioned previously, Stage A of the SEA identifies and reviews relevant policies, plans and programmes and environmental protection objectives from European, National and Local sources (refer to Table A1 in Appendix 2 for details of those documents that were reviewed in completing Stage A of SEA on the Little Birch and Aconbury NDP).
- 3.2 The requirement to undertake this 'context review' is contained in Annexes 1(a) and (e) of the SEA Directive which states that an Environmental Report should include:

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

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

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

Policy context

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

- *Herefordshire Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP) 2013-2015* - Sets out the Council's strategy for supporting economic growth, social inclusion and reducing the environmental impacts of transport, as well as the program of investment for the period April 2013 to April 2015.
- *Understanding Herefordshire Report (2014)* - Important to understand the place such as the local economy natural and built environment in which people live, Little Birch and Aconbury and work as part of understanding their quality of life. Enable development for economy and housing to required levels and growth should be supported by sustainable transport measures.
- *Malvern Hills AONB Management Plan 2009-2014 (2009)* - Identifies the issues and challenges facing the special features of the area and contains 24 guiding principles and 46 strategic objectives which will help address them.
- *Wye Valley AONB management Plan 2009-2014 (2009)* - The Management Plan is the prime document which sets out the vision for the area and the priorities for its management.
- *Herefordshire Economic Development Strategy 2011-2016* - Aims to increase the economic wealth of Herefordshire by setting out proposals and to support business growth up to 2016.
- *Herefordshire Employment Land Study (2012)* - Includes employment land assessments for the plan period 2011-2031. The study includes Quantitative and Qualitative assessments of employment land, assessment of market demand and need, as well as providing forecasts and recommendations for future employment need over the plan period.
- *Herefordshire Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) (2009)* - The SHLAA aims to justify site allocations in plans by:
 - Identifying sites which are capable of delivering housing development
 - Assessing sites for their housing potential; and
 - Predicting when a site could be developed for housing.
- *Herefordshire Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) (2013)* - Builds on an earlier Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) developed for Herefordshire and Shropshire. Its purpose is to inform the Local Plan's policies regarding housing need and demand (for market and affordable housing) within each of the 7 Housing Market Areas (HMAs) in Herefordshire between 2011 and 2031.
- *Herefordshire Local Housing Requirements Study (2012)* - Technical assessment of the housing market and potential future local housing requirements which supports planning policy regarding the amount of growth, housing tenure and housing type needed within Herefordshire up to 2031.
- *Herefordshire Rural Housing Background Report (2013)* - Provides the justification for the proportional housing growth targets outlined in the Core Strategy
- *Herefordshire Draft Gypsies and Travellers Assessment (2013)* - Assesses the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers across Herefordshire.
- *Herefordshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan (2007)* - Focuses conservation efforts on the areas within Herefordshire that will result in the greatest benefit for ecological networks, habitats and species.

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

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

SEA Objectives and baseline characteristics

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

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

11	To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk
12	To conserve soil resources and quality
13	To minimise the production of waste
14	To improve the health of the population
15	To reduce crime and nuisance
16	To conserve natural and manmade resources

- 3.8 The SEA objectives detailed above conform to the SEA Directive, and are derived from the Sustainability Appraisal undertaken for the Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy 2011-2031.
- 3.9 Baseline information gathered during Stage A of the SEA process provided details of the current environmental characteristics of the neighbourhood area and the status of its natural assets and features (refer to Appendix 2). This information was analysed as part of Task B2 of SEA, which looked at the extent to which the emerging NDP policies will help or obstruct these characteristics.
- 3.10 Following the completion of Task B2 of SEA it was apparent that the largest environmental issue within the Group Parish has an impact on the County as a whole is water quality; the River Wye (including the River Lugg), though currently meeting all its conservation objectives, will require effective management, in order to ensure that the quality of water does not deteriorate to the point that nutrient targets are missed further downstream.
- 3.11 The NDP does not propose that sites be allocated for development and contains only criteria-based policies. On this basis, the delivery of the NDP should not exacerbate existing problems regarding water quality or have an unacceptable adverse impact.
- 3.12 Baseline characteristics within the SEA detail the current environmental status of environmental characteristics in the neighbourhood plan area from different sources. The source of Baseline Information used in Table A2 in Appendix 2, and analysed in Table B2 can be found in Appendix 4 Baseline characteristics in relation to the Little Birch and Aconbury NDP SEA objectives can be found in appendix 4.
- 3.13 There are three objectives for which there is no local baseline data available and therefore this provides a limitation on the baseline data and whether the NDP policies are able to move towards or away from this data, this also means that there are no future trends to link the SEA objective too.

4.0 Assessing the NDP Objectives

- 4.1 The following are objectives listed in the NDP that aim to realise the vision for Little Birch and Aconbury in 2031:
- Objective 1: Housing development. The Plan will ensure that new housing contributes to a viable and balanced community by setting planning policies to: Demonstrate the delivery of housing to meet the requirements of the Local Plan Core Strategy. Encourage new housing to provide a mix of properties to meet community needs. Define the extent of the settlements of Little Birch and Aconbury.
 - Objective 2: Economic and social development. The Plan will provide opportunities for economic and social development by: Supporting rural diversification and developments providing employment. Working to improve electronic communications. Supporting renewable energy. Supporting the retention of existing community facilities and new provision.

- Objective 3: Protecting the environment. The Plan will ensure that the local environment is protected by: Providing for the protection, conservation and enhancement of the local natural, historic and built environment in accordance with Local Plan Core Strategy policies. Ensuring that new development respects the character of adjoining development and the wider area. Supporting modern design approaches that make a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness.
- 4.2 The table below tests these NDP objectives against the SEA objectives, providing a summary of the results of Task B1 of SEA. The full results are available at Appendix 4 of this report.
- 4.3 The majority of those NDP objectives which have a relationship with the SEA framework are positively compatible with it or have a neutral effect.
- 4.4 Objective 1 and 2 had an uncertain impact on the SEA Objectives 9, 10, 11. This is because at this stage given the lack of detail over the exact locations of schemes that may come to fruition as a result of the implementation of these objectives; however, it is accepted that further development of the planning policies that relate to these objectives would move them towards a compatible outcome.
- 4.5 Task B1 of the SEA did not identify any potential conflicts between the NDP objectives and the SEA framework.

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

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

5.0 Assessing the NDP Options

- 5.1 All options that were considered by Little Birch Parish and Aconbury Parish Meeting during the development of their Plan have been assessed as part of the SEA, the summary matrix of the assessment can be found in Table B2 options these tables are in Appendix 4.
- 5.2 The options covered the topics that are likely to formulate the topics going forward in the Plan. These options were formulated from the questionnaire and public consultation events across the Parish in 2017. The results of which will feed into the identification of the preferred options and ultimately the draft policies.
- 5.3 A 'do nothing' option was also considered by the Group Parish, i.e. not undertaking a Neighbourhood Development Plan, however this was disregarded at an early stage by the Parish Council as it was highlighted within the Parish Plan that the majority of the community would support the work undertaken for a Neighbourhood Plan.

- 5.4 The Little and Aconbury village options all had a generally positive or unknown impact upon the Baseline data and SEA objectives, in particular Option 3 and Option 5 would have the least impact upon the environment and will provide the most certainty for delivering housing. However as the housing target of 18 will be met by existing commitments, development in or adjacent to Little Birch within Aconbury settlement boundary and windfalls. Option 4 was the preferred option to do a criteria based policy and settlement boundary is preferred for Little Birch and Aconbury NDP. This option has an overall positive impact on the baseline objectives and help set out criteria for potential development in Little Birch and definition of a settlement boundary for Aconbury. No conflicting objectives with the SEA baseline data had been found.
- 5.5 Overall all of the options had mainly a positive effect on the SEA objectives and baseline, if the policies that are developed incorporated the elements of the options that are ensuring mitigation of new development and additional details are provided for the location and design of any proposed site then the assessment of the policies should result in a positive result. As these options were generally moving towards the SEA objectives any further alternatives would probably be moving away and therefore no further options are required to be assessed.

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

6.0 Appraisal of the policies

- 6.1 A key part of developing a plan such as the Little Birch and Aconbury NDP is developing a range of options and testing these, so that a preferred way forward can be selected.
- 6.2 Although the Draft NDP identifies a number of key themes or issues which are considered significant to the Group Parish, there were alternative approaches (see above) were considered prior to an informal consultation that took place in respect of an emerging draft plan during the Spring/Summer 2017. Therefore only the following, emerging set of draft policies can be appraised for the purposes of Stage B of the SEA:

- Policy LBA1: Sustainable development
- Policy LBA2: Development needs and requirements
- Policy LBA3 Little Birch village
- Policy LBA4 Development in Little Birch
- Policy LBA5: Development in Aconbury
- Policy LBA6: Rural economic development
- Policy LBA7: Communications and broadband
- Policy LBA8: Renewable energy
- Policy LBA9: Community facilities
- Policy LBA10: Protecting the local environment
- Policy LBA11: Building design

Stage B of SEA

- 6.3 In the context of Task B1 of SEA, the previous section of this report identified that many of the NDP objectives are compatible with the SEA framework, while others had either a neutral impact, no relationship with the SEA objectives or if needed; further information such as location of development. Additional policy safeguards within the NDP and Local Plan (Core Strategy) would help mitigate any possible conflicts.
- 6.4 With regard to Task B2 of SEA, the NDP policies were measured against both the SEA framework and the baseline characteristics identified during Stage A of the process; here, there was no baseline data available in respect of SEA Objectives 3 and 9. Full details of this appraisal are attached at Appendix 4.
- 6.5 The policies largely score as positive or neutral against the SEA objectives and will not, therefore, have an adverse impact on the baseline characteristics or immediate environmental impacts. This is because they are criteria based policies which only consider schemes on their own merits, as and when planning applications are submitted to the local planning authority.
- 6.6 Impact on water quality, water supply and flood risk can be fully assessed further when more details are known, such as location, scale and type of development. This could be determined on an individual basis at planning application stage. Mitigation measures have been included within the Core Strategy and criteria policies within the NDP.

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

- 6.7 The results of Task B3, as shown at Appendix 4, demonstrate that the cumulative impact of the NDP policies over the course of the plan period is generally positive. Although some policies may have a neutral or uncertain impact during the first 5 years of the plan period, there is no reason why they cannot have a positive effect in the medium to long-term due to policy safeguards included in the Local Plan (Core Strategy); these safeguards should avoid or mitigate against unacceptable adverse impacts.
- 6.8 Task B4 of SEA brings together the results of earlier tasks and thus identifies the cumulative impact of the entire of the NDP. This task, which is also attached at Appendix 4, reveals that the objectives and policies contained in the Little Birch and Aconbury NDP are by and large in general conformity with the Local Plan (Core Strategy), which means that the cumulative effect of the plan will contribute to the achievement of the SEA objectives.
- 6.9 None of the NDP policies are considered to be in direct conflict with or propose greater levels of growth and development than strategic policies contained in the Local Plan (Core Strategy), which themselves have undergone a full Sustainability Appraisal.

7.0 Implementation and monitoring

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

8.0 Next steps

- 8.1 This report will be subject to a formal public consultation of 6 weeks duration alongside the Draft Little Birch and Aconbury NDP.
- 8.2 Responses on the Draft NDP will be reviewed and the plan amended where appropriate.
- 8.3 Any changes made to the NDP as a consequence of the Regulation 14 consultation with those who live, work or carry out business in the neighbourhood area, as well as statutory consultation bodies, will trigger a review of the SEA, unless they do not materially affect the outcomes of Stage B of the SEA process.

Appendix 1

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

**The Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations
2015 (Reg. 32)**

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (d)

Neighbourhood Area:	Little Birch & Aconbury Neighbourhood Area
Parish Council:	Little Birch Parish Council and Aconbury Parish Meeting
Neighbourhood Area Designation Date:	24/05/2016

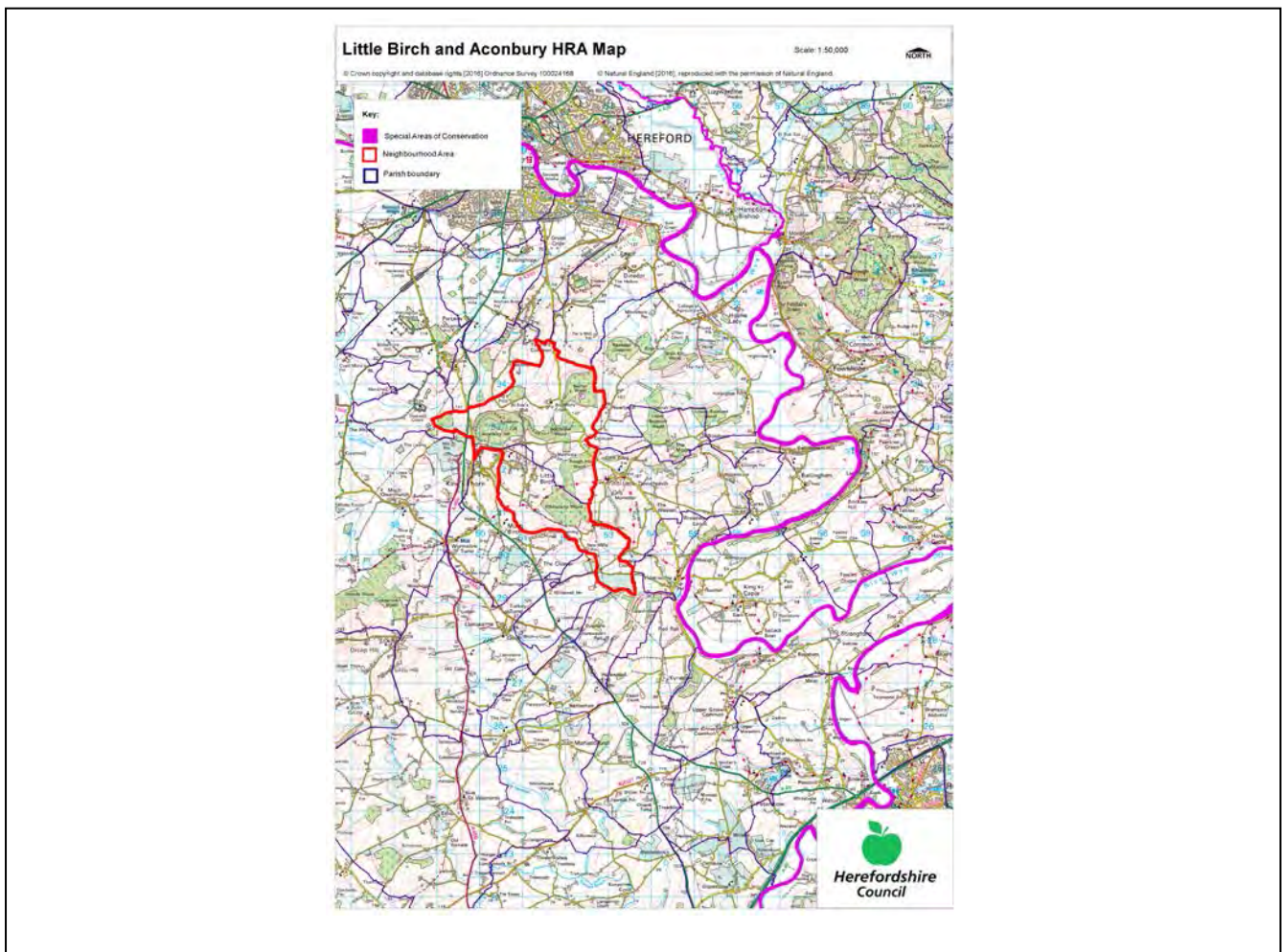
Introduction

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)



River Wye (including the River Lugg) Special Area of Conservation (SAC):

Does the Neighbourhood Area have the River Wye (including the River Lugg) in or next to its boundary?	N	The River Wye is 1km away from the Parishes
Is the Neighbourhood Area in the hydrological catchment of the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC?	Y	The Parishes are within the hydrological catchment of the River Wye.
If yes above, does the Neighbourhood Area have mains drainage to deal with foul sewage?	N	There is no mains drainage in the Parishes

Downton Gorge SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of Downton Gorge SAC?	N	Downton Gorge is 38km away from the Parishes.
---	---	---

River Clun SAC:

Does the River Clun border the Neighbourhood Area	N	River Clun does not border the Parishes.
---	---	--

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	Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites are 14km away from the Parishes.
--	---	--

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	Wye Valley Woodlands are 13km away from the Parishes.
--	---	---

HRA Conclusion:

The assessment above highlights that European Sites will need to be taken into account in the future Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Little Birch and Aconbury 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 Little Birch and Aconbury 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	Within Neighbourhood Area		Bordering Neighbourhood Area	
	Total number	Name(s)	Total number	Name(s)
Ancient Woodland	4	Williams Wood; Nether Wood; Hamptons Rough Wood; Lady Coppice.	12	Pullastone Wood; Hopleys Wood; Reeces Wood; Callow Plantation; Widows Wood; Brick Kiln Wood; Fox Wood; Ballis Wood; Trilloes Court Wood; Weaven Wood; Gwatkins Grove; Elvaston Wood.
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	1	Wye Valley.	0	-
Conservation Areas	0	-	0	-
Flood Areas	Flood Zones 2 and 3 run through the southern part of Little Birch Parish.			
Geoparks	0	-	0	-
Listed Buildings	There are numerous Listed Buildings throughout the Parishes.			
Local Geological Sites (LGS)	0	-	0	-
Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)	4	Williams Wood; Hamptons Rough Wood and The Firs; Woodlands on Aconbury Hill; Athelstans & Rough Hill Wood and The Crickets.	11	Hopleys Wood; Reeces Wood; Roadside Bank near Twyford; Brick Kiln Wood;

				Upper Bolstone Wood and The Belt; Trilloes Wood Court; Ballis Wood; River Wye; Margin of Wriggle Brook near Tressock; Redbrook Meadow, Gwatkins Grove and Grandoos Coppice; Helens Wood.
Mineral Reserves	0	-	0	-
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	0	-	0	-
Nature Trails	2	Herefordshire Trail; Violette Szabo.		
Registered Parks and Gardens	0	-	1	Holme Lacy.
Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM)	1	Aconbury Camp.	3	Churchyard cross in St David's Churchyard; Ringwork 750m west of Grove Farm; Churchyard cross in St Michael's Churchyard.
Sites of Importance in Nature Conservation (SINC)	0	-	0	-
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	0	-	1	River Wye.
Unregistered parks and gardens	0	-	5	Harewood Park; Pennoxstone; Aramstone; Bryngwyn; Lyston House.
			SSSI Status	
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	0	-	-	1 River Wye.
				SSSI Status
				Unfavourable Recovering.

Decision Notification:

The initial screening highlights that the Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Little Birch and Aconbury Neighbourhood Area:

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

Assessment date: 24/05/2016

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."

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

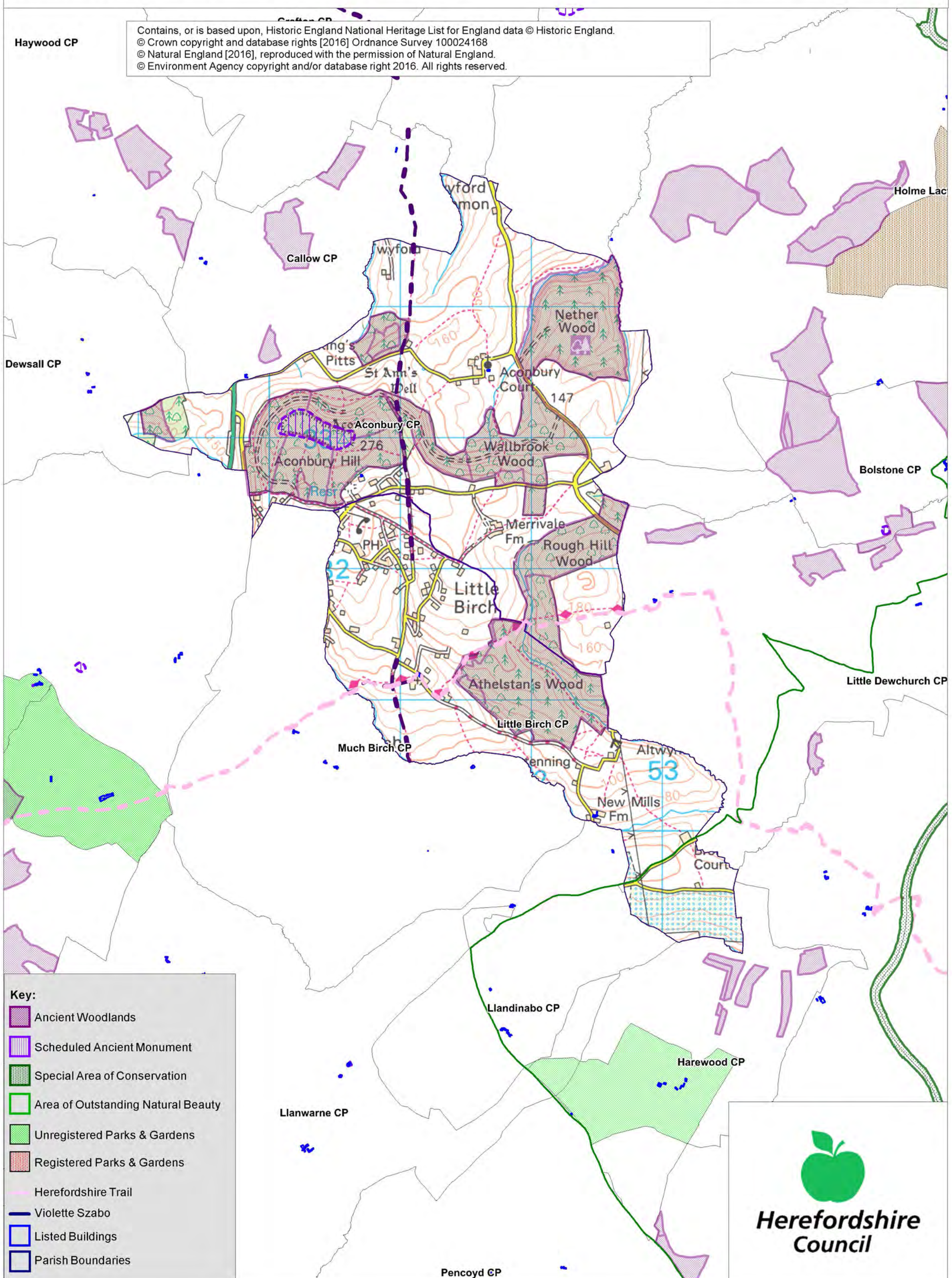
Vulnerability data: Lesser Horseshoe bats are known to migrate between 5km and 10km between their summer and winter roosts. The Lesser Horseshoe Bat is vulnerable to disturbance; light pollution; and habitat loss. Check with the planning ecologist for other issues. NDPs closest to the European Site will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

Little Birch and Aconbury SEA Map 1

Scale: 1:25,000



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Key:

- Ancient Woodlands
- Scheduled Ancient Monument
- Special Area of Conservation
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Unregistered Parks & Gardens
- Registered Parks & Gardens
- Herefordshire Trail
- Violette Szabo
- Listed Buildings
- Parish Boundaries

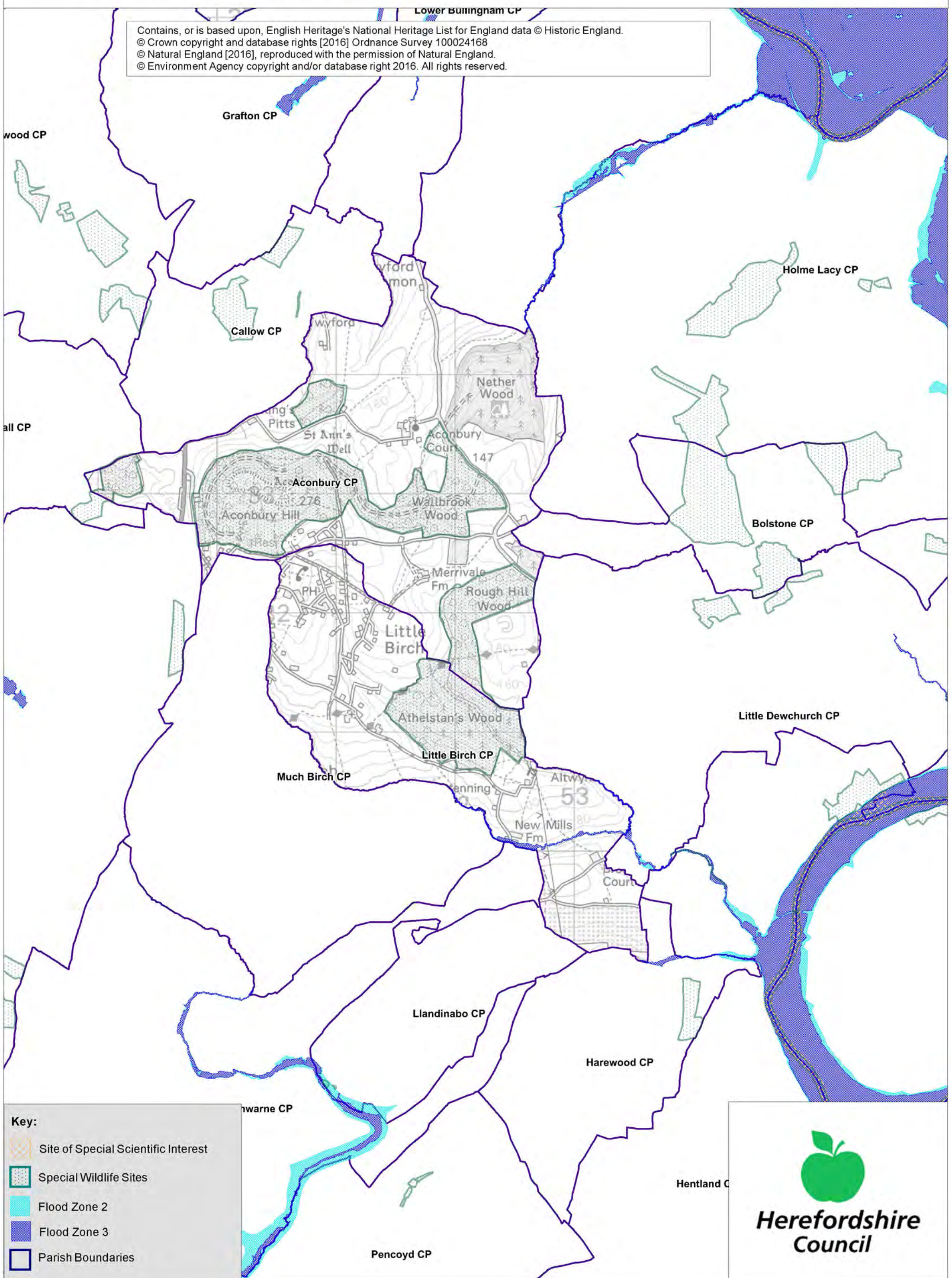
Herefordshire Council

Little Birch and Aconbury SEA Map 2

Scale: 1:27,500



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Key:

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

Herefordshire Council

Appendix 2

Strategic Environmental Assessment



Little Birch & Aconbury Neighbourhood Area

Scoping Report

April 2017



**Herefordshire
Council**

Consultation on the Scoping Report

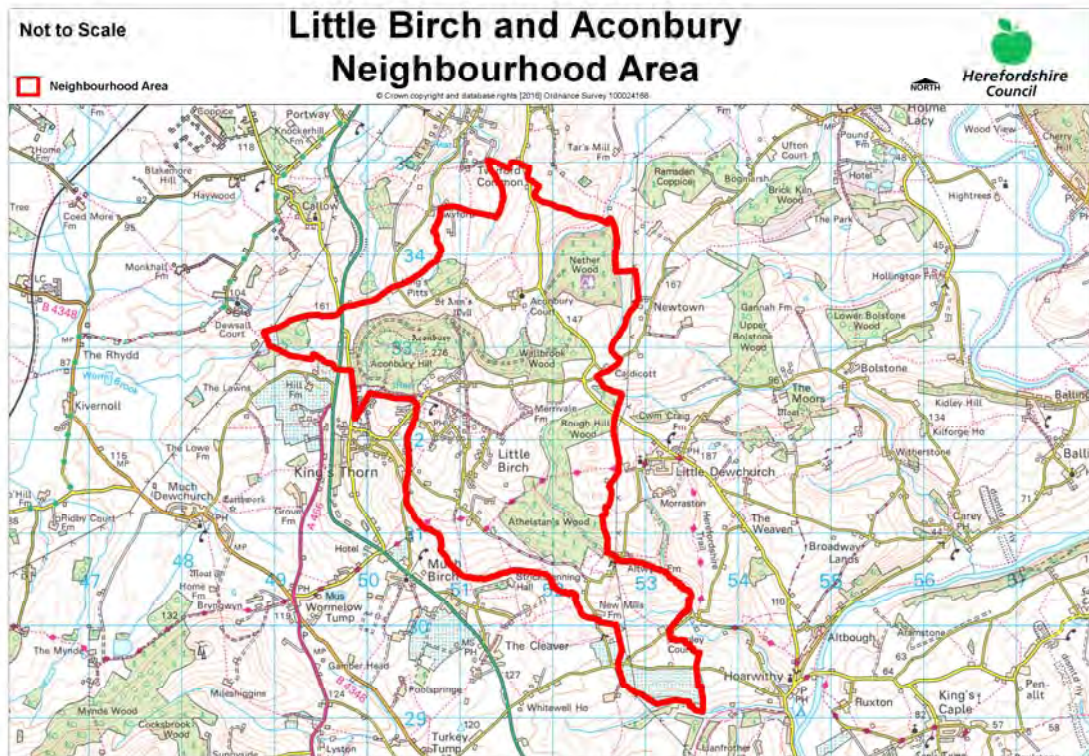
The aim of the consultation process is to involve and engage with statutory consultees and other relevant bodies on the scope of the appraisal. In particular, it seeks to:

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

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

The three consultation bodies are as follows:

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



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

Parish Council Name: Little Birch & Aconbury Parish

Neighbourhood Development Plan Name: Little Birch & Aconbury Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan

Date completed: January 2017

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

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

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
			has numerous parts and supplementary lists and schedules many of which have been amended since publication.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Material assets • Soil 	
The Countryside and Right of Way Act (2000)	Domestic Legislation	2000	Creates a statutory right of access on foot to certain types of open land, to modernise the public rights of way system, to strengthen nature conservation legislation, and to facilitate better management of AONBs.	<p>The Act provides for a new right of access on foot to areas of open land comprising: Mountain (land over 600 metres); Moorland; Heath; Downland; Registered common land.</p> <p>There are provisions to consider extending the right in the future to coastal land, but not woodland despite some early publicity suggesting this.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Soil 	The Neighbourhood Plan should be compliant with all the relevant legislation and regulations.
The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)	Domestic Legislation	2006	Designed to help achieve a rich and diverse natural environment and thriving rural communities through modernised and simplified arrangements for delivering	Provides that any public body or statutory undertaker in England and Wales must have regard to the purpose of conservation of biological diversity in the exercise of their functions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Soil 	The Neighbourhood Plan should be compliant with all the relevant legislation and regulations.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
			Government policy.			
Revised EU Sustainable Development strategy	European Union Strategy	2009	Sets out a single strategy on how the EU will more effectively meet its long-standing commitment to meet the challenges of sustainable development.	Recognises the need to gradually change current unsustainable consumption and production patterns and move towards a better integrated approach to policy making. The Strategy sets overall objectives, targets and concrete actions for seven key priority challenges, predominantly environmental: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change and clean energy; • Sustainable transport • Sustainable production and consumption; • Public health threats; • Better management of natural resources; • Social inclusion, demography and migration; • Fighting global poverty. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Population and human health 	The Neighbourhood Plan should take into account the objectives of the strategy. The aim of sustainable development should be implicit in its approach.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services	National Strategy	2011	Forms part of the UK's Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework by setting out England's contribution towards the UK's commitments under the United Nations Convention of Biological Diversity.	Sets out to halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity 	The NDP should take account of the provisions of the strategy, making the most of opportunities to enhance wildlife habitats or restore degraded ecosystems in the process.
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	National planning policy.	2012	Consolidates the suite of PPG/PPS into one succinct planning policy document.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	The NDP should take into account the relevant policies set within the NPPF.
Planning Practice Guidance	Government Guidance	2014	Provides guidance to local planning authorities and others on the operation of the planning system.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets 	The NDP should take into account the planning guidance provided within these documents.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	
Herefordshire Core Strategy, (adopted) 2011-2031	Development Plan Document (DPD)	2015	Sets out the vision, objectives and policies for the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy), which will guide development across the county up to 2031.	<p>Outlines the emerging suite of countywide planning policies relating to housing, economic development and the environment, which the NDP will need to be in conformity with where relevant.</p> <p>The Core Strategy includes a range of objectives, five of which directly relate to rural areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To meet the housing needs of all sections of the community • To improve access to services in rural areas • To strengthen the economic viability of the villages and their rural hinterlands • To achieve sustainable communities and protect the environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	<p>The NDP should take account of relevant policies set within in the Core Strategy.</p> <p>Where necessary, the NDP should provide services, facilities and employment opportunities that are accessible to both local and neighbouring communities.</p> <p>Little Birch and Aconbury Parish are listed in the Core Strategy under the red Ross-on-Wye HMA as: Little Birch – Figure 4.14 Aconbury– Figure 4.15</p> <p>This means the NDP should take into consideration the criteria set within Policy RA1 and RA2.</p> <p>The neighbourhood plan</p>

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To conserve, promote, utilise and enjoy our natural, built, historic and cultural assets for the fullest benefit of the whole community. <p>To achieve a thriving rural Herefordshire, the Core Strategy seeks to enhance the role the villages have traditionally played in as accessible, sustainable centres for their rural catchments.</p> <p>Little Birch & Aconbury Parish is within the Ross-on-Wye Housing Market Area (HMA). The target for proportionate growth is 14% across the parish.</p>		<p>should allocate a minimum of 18 dwellings combines within Little Birch & Aconbury Parish within the plan period of 2011 to 2031.</p> <p>Completions from 2011 – 2016 and Commitments as at April 1 2016, totalling 2, leaves a minimum figure of 16 dwellings to allocate.</p>

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Herefordshire Local Transport Plan 2016-2031	Corporate	2016	The Local Transport Plan outlines the significant role that transport will play to enable the delivery of the Core Strategy proposals. This sets out the Council's strategy for supporting economic growth, social inclusion and reducing the environmental impacts of transport, as well as the program of investment for the period 2016 to 2031.	<p>The Transport Plan aims to increase highway capacity for new development sites as improve efficiency of existing transport network.</p> <p>The document includes five key objectives, one which plans to enable economic growth connecting new roads with developments. Intrinsic to this is to provide a good quality transport network. The other objectives aim to promote healthy lifestyles with pollution reduction and active travel schemes. Improvements will be made to make journeys easier and safer, ensuring access to services for living in rural areas maximising accessibility.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Climate factors • Population and human health 	The LTP does not explore current transport issues in the Little Birch & Aconbury Parish Neighbourhood Plan area, but any new development proposed through the NDP should seek to reduce the environmental impacts of transport.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Understanding Herefordshire Report	Built and natural environment	2016	<p>Important to understand the place such as the local economy natural and built environment in which people live, learn and work as part of understanding their quality of life</p> <p>Promotion of healthy lifestyle choices.</p> <p>Enable development for economy and housing to required levels.</p> <p>Growth should be supported by sustainable transport measures.</p>	<p>An air quality management plan is in place to tackle this. Destination Hereford project is in place to give locals more sustainable transport options.</p> <p>Sustainable transport measures will also help to promote active lifestyles within Herefordshire.</p>	<p>Improve air quality.</p> <p>Have a more diverse range of transport options.</p>	None identified.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Malvern Hills AONB Management Plan 2014-2019	Corporate	2015	The Management Plan is the prime document which sets out the vision and objectives for the Malvern Hills AONB area and the priorities for its management.	Identifies the issues and challenges facing the special features of the area and contains 21 guiding principles and 14 strategic objectives and 76 policies which will help address them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	The Little Birch & Aconbury Parish Neighbourhood Plan Area is not within or adjacent to the Malvern Hills AONB.
Wye Valley AONB management Plan 2015-2020	Corporate	2015	The Management Plan is the prime document which sets out the vision for the Wye Valley AONB area and the priorities for its management.	Sets out a range of objectives which seek to reconcile the competing interests of the environment, the ecology and the social and economic well-being of the AONB.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	Little Birch & Aconbury Parish Neighbourhood Plan Area is within the Wye Valley AONB. The NDP should take this into account.

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

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Herefordshire Employment Land Study	Evidence	2012	Includes employment land assessments for the plan period 2011-2031. The study includes Quantitative and Qualitative assessments of employment land, assessment of market demand and need, as well as providing forecasts and recommendations for future employment need over the plan period.	<p>This study covers existing employment sites in Hereford, the five market towns and their rural hinterlands.</p> <p>There are no direct employment land allocations within Little Birch & Aconbury Parish at present and so the study does not identify sites which are worthy of continued protection from alternative uses. Nor does it make any recommendations in respect of employment need within the neighbourhood area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Material assets Population and human health 	None of merit.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Herefordshire Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)	Evidence	2015	<p>The HELAA aims to justify site allocations in plans by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying sites which are capable of delivering housing development Assessing sites for their housing potential; and Predicting when a site could be developed for housing. 	There are no allocated SHLAA sites in Little Birch & Aconbury Parish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air Biodiversity Climate factors Cultural heritage and the landscape Flora and fauna Population and human health Soil Water 	The SHLAA assesses the potential availability of land for housing in the wider HMA, however does not directly allocate land for development Little Birch & Aconbury Parish.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Herefordshire Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA)	Evidence	2013	Builds on an earlier Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) developed for Herefordshire and Shropshire. Its purpose is to inform the Local Plan's policies regarding housing need and demand (for market and affordable housing) within each of the 7 Housing Market Areas (HMAs) in Herefordshire between 2011 and 2031	<p>The LHMA uses 7 HMAs as the geography for presenting data.</p> <p>Little Birch & Aconbury Parish falls within the Ross-on-Wye HMA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 55% of households are unable to afford market housing. • There is an annual requirement for 58 affordable dwellings between 2012 and 2017. <p>The study highlights that within the Ross-on-Wye HMA the overall estimated housing need by size 2012-2017 is as follows: 1 Bed – 54.4%, 2 bed – 18.4%, 3 bed – 28.2%, 4 bed- -1.1%.</p> <p>The study identifies that, in rural parts of Ross-on-Wye LHMA, between 2011-2031 there is a need for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,230 market houses • 820 affordable houses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climatic factors • Cultural heritage • Flora and fauna • Population • Soil • Water 	<p>The LHMA provides an indication of housing needs and affordability within the Ross-on-Wye HMA.</p> <p>It provides evidence that could be used to inform policies or market and affordable housing requirements in the NDP.</p>

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Herefordshire Local Housing Requirements Study 2012 (updated in 2014)	Evidence	2014	Technical assessment of the housing market and potential future local housing requirements which supports planning policy regarding the amount of growth, housing tenure and housing type needed within Herefordshire up to 2031.	<p>The delivery of 5,300 homes in the rural areas would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support growth in the rural population by 6% • Increase the number of households by 14.5% <p>Forecasts also predict that growth in the population of the rural areas is likely to be primarily through an increase in those aged over 75.</p> <p>Moderate growth is expected in the 30-44 and 60-74 age brackets.</p> <p>The Local Housing Requirements Study therefore anticipates continuing improvements in life expectancy; significant growth is expected of those in their 80s, with the existing population in their 40s and 50s moving into retirement.</p> <p>As a consequence, the rural areas will face an increasing urgency to provide more 3 bedroom homes, with more 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	<p>This study provides an indication of housing requirements in the rural areas and the Ross-on-Wye HMA.</p> <p>This evidence can be used to inform the content of the Little Birch & Aconbury Parish, which could include policies to facilitate the provision of the right types of homes in the right places.</p>

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
				and 2 bed homes required in the affordable sector.		
Herefordshire Rural Housing Background Report	Evidence	2013	Provides the justification for the proportional housing growth targets outlined in the Core Strategy	<p>The area of Little Birch & Aconbury Parish is made up of split classified areas.</p> <p>Little Birch is classified as a 4.14 settlement and falls within the Ross-on-Wye HMA, which means it is considered a sustainable location for proportional growth of up to 14% across the parish.</p> <p>Aconbury is classified as a 4.15 settlement and falls within the Ross-on-Wye HMA and is also considered a sustainable location for proportional growth of up to 14% across the parish.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	The Little Birch & Aconbury Parish NDP will need to be in conformity with the provisions of Core Strategy Policy RA1 and RA2.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Herefordshire Draft Gypsies and Travellers Assessment	Evidence	2016	Assesses the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers across Herefordshire.	<p>Key findings from the survey of Gypsy and Traveller households in 2012 found that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31% of households surveyed have some sort of accommodation need • Of the 17 households with an accommodation need, 7 had a requirement for at least one additional pitch • 10 households had a requirement for bricks and mortar housing • There is an additional requirement for 7 pitches and 9 units of Registered Social Landlord accommodation within Herefordshire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	The Little Birch & Aconbury Parish NDP must establish whether any of the need identified in this assessment falls within the neighbourhood area and make appropriate provisions for it.
Herefordshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Evidence	2007	Focuses conservation efforts on the areas within Herefordshire that will result in the greatest benefit for ecological networks, habitats and species.	Integrating biodiversity objectives with other environmental, social and economic needs can provide a sustainable living and working environment that benefits both people and nature.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity 	The NDP can help to achieve the LBAP priorities.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Building Biodiversity into the LDF	Evidence	2009	Provides the Council's Local Plan (Core Strategy) with evidence in respect of biodiversity and geodiversity, identifying both opportunities and constraints across Herefordshire.	This document provides useful information in respect of Hereford and the market towns only.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	There is a lack of information about rural areas which means it will be necessary to gather and assess existing biodiversity and geodiversity data, in order to ensure that the Little Birch & Aconbury Parish can overcome any existing constraints and capitalise on opportunities to enhance habitats and their networks.
Herefordshire Green Infrastructure Strategy	Evidence	2010	Develops a framework of natural and culturally important features and functions so that planning for a sustainable future is at the heart of planning within Herefordshire.	Establishes policies and principles for the protection and enhancement of those features and functions that contributes to the environment of Herefordshire across a range of scales.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	The study provides evidence that could be taken into account when preparing policies for the Little Birch & Aconbury Parish .

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Renewable Energy Study	Evidence	2010	Assesses the energy demand within Herefordshire and the ability for the county to accommodate renewable and low carbon energy technologies.	<p>The total energy demand excluding transport for Herefordshire, at that point in time, was calculated as being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrical: 731 GWh/yr • Heat: 1,810 GWh/yr • Total: 2,541 GWh/yr <p>There is scope for all types of renewable energy production.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	The study provides evidence that could be taken into account when preparing policies for the Little Birch & Aconbury Parish NDP .

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Herefordshire Playing Pitch Assessment	Evidence	2012	Produces a strategic framework, audit and assessment and needs analysis of outdoor sports pitches and facilities for Herefordshire. The document arises as a result of a recommendation in the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Sports Facilities Framework to develop local standards for playing fields and sports pitches throughout Herefordshire.	<p>The study updates components of the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Sports Facilities Framework 2010 such as updating population forecasts, setting local standards for synthetic turf pitches and grass playing fields within Herefordshire. It identifies any current gaps in provision, and looks forward to 2031 to assess what facilities are likely to be required by that date.</p> <p>There is an area playing pitch located within Little Birch, known as Little Birch Recreation Ground, however this is categorised as 'no longer in use' (site ref PP209). There are no other community playing pitches within Little Birch & Aconbury Parish.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity Cultural heritage and the landscape Flora and fauna Material assets Population and human health 	<p>The study provides evidence that could be taken into account when preparing policies for the Little Birch & Aconbury Parish NDP.</p> <p>Additional local evidence may be required to identify if there is a need for any secured playing pitch facilities within the Group Parish.</p>
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Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Open Spaces Study	Evidence	2006	The 2006 space audit and assessment of need is a snap shot of the quality, quantity and distribution of open space across Herefordshire.	<p>The study reveals that within the Ross-on-Wye area, to which Little Birch & Aconbury is a part, there is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive under provision of parks and gardens , amenity greenspace and outdoor sport • Extensive over provision of natural and semi natural greenspace • Average provision for children and young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health 	The open space audit and assessment of does not give a specific indication of open space shortfalls and surpluses in Little Birch & Aconbury Parish .

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Play Facilities Study	Evidence	2006	The Play Facilities Study 2012 updates the previous play facilities analysis under the Open Spaces Study 2006 and provides guidance and a framework for the development, delivery and continued sustainability of providing new and improved play facilities for children and young people in Herefordshire to 2031.	Aconbury is listed as having a population of over 500 and therefore requires a local play area. Little Birch is not directly listed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health 	The study provides evidence that could be taken into account when preparing policies for the Little Birch & Aconbury NDP .

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) and Water Cycle Study 2009	Evidence	2009	<p>The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) provides a summary of flood risk in Herefordshire to inform the location of future development.</p> <p>The Water Cycle Study examines how water resources and water supply infrastructure, wastewater treatment, water quality, sewerage and flood risk could constrain growth across Herefordshire.</p>	<p>Little Birch & Aconbury Parish Group lies within the hydrological catchment of the River Wye SAC and in the Wriggle Brook sub-catchment.</p> <p>The SFRA study states that: It has a 35-40% standard run percentage run off by sub catchment. This is potentially highly unsuitable for infiltration source control.</p> <p>A rapid flood response (Tp-time to peak) <5 hours.</p> <p>Little Birch and Aconbury Parish Group is also adjacent to the Lower Wye hydrological catchment. The Lower Wye is the highest catchment area at risk from fluvial flooding. Therefore a holistic integrated approach to flood risk management is required.</p> <p>The Lower Wye has a 20-25% standard run percentage run off by sub catchment. This makes it potentially moderately suitable for infiltration source control.</p> <p>The WCS identifies sites in the Lower Wye and several of its tributaries represent a large, linear ecosystem which acts as an important wildlife corridor, an essential migration route, and a key breeding area for many nationally and internationally important species</p> <p>The lower Wye is identified as a nutrient sensitive water body under the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Material assets • Population and human health • Water 	<p>New development proposed through the Little Birch & Aconbury NDP should be assessed against the capacity of local infrastructure. Where appropriate mitigation measures should be established within the NDP.</p> <p>Up-to-date flood risk information should be gathered from the Environment Agency, in order to ensure that any flood risks are considered when preparing the Little Birch & Aconbury NDP.</p>

Appendix A2 – Baseline information for **Little Birch & Aconbury**

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

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
SEA Topic covered by objective: <i>Biodiversity, flora and fauna</i>							
13. Value, maintain, restore and expand county biodiversity.	Natural environment	Net change in condition of SSSIs across Herefordshire.	<p>The 2011-2013 AMR does not contain updated conservation data.</p> <p>2010/11: 27% of Herefordshire's SSSI land was in favourable condition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no local SSSI's • There is one bordering SSSI – River Wye (Unfavourable Recovering) 	<p>2006: 22%</p> <p>2007: 22%</p> <p>2008: 22%</p> <p>2010: 24 %</p> <p>Proportion of SSSI land that was in unfavourable condition but recovering increased between 2010 and 2012 going from 41% to 65%.</p> <p>Proportion in unfavourable and declining condition had also decreased from 4% to 1%.</p>	<p>% of SSSI land in favourable condition (Increase)</p> <p>% of SSSI land in unfavourable condition but recovering (Increase)</p> <p>% of SSSI land in unfavourable condition and declining (Decrease)</p>	<p>Herefordshire's SSSIs are in extremely poor condition relative to England as whole, where 96.1% of all SSSI land was in favourable condition in April 2014.</p> <p>The proportion of SSSI in unfavourable condition but recovering is greater than England as a whole, where the figure currently stands at 58.6%.</p>	<p>Understanding Herefordshire: An integrated needs assessment</p> <p>NE & DEFRA Website</p>

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

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
13. Value, maintain, restore and expand county biodiversity.	Natural environment	After use of mineral sites especially wildlife habitat creation	<i>There is no countywide or locally specific data available at present.</i>	-	Percentage of opportunities taken	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	-
13. Value, maintain, restore and expand county biodiversity.	Natural environment	Phosphate levels within the River Wye SAC and adjoining tributaries that receive increased phosphates from proportional growth.	Countywide data is available, but this indicator would apply to this Neighbourhood Area, as the parish falls inside the hydrological catchment area for the River Wye SAC.	N/A	N/A	N/A	Nutrient Management Plan

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
13. Value, maintain, restore and expand county biodiversity.	Natural environment	Changes to protected habitats and impacts of species within the Herefordshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan.	<p>The 2013 - 2014 AMR does not contain updated conservation data.</p> <p><i>There is no locally specific data available at present.</i></p>	<p>2010/11: 17 Habitat Action Plans and 14 Species Action Plans are currently in operation across Herefordshire.</p> <p>There are no formal records of any unacceptable adverse impacts on habitats or protected species.</p> <p>Originally 156 Priority Species were identified for inclusion in Herefordshire's LBAP.</p> <p>Similarly Herefordshire's LBAP covered 23 habitats with Action Plans.</p>	<p>To protect and where possible enhance the habitats of protected species identified.</p> <p>No net losses.</p>	Herefordshire Biological Records Centre (HBRC) holds limited data on some individual sites.	Herefordshire Council AMR (2013/14)

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SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
13. Value, maintain, restore and expand county biodiversity.	Natural environment	Changes in the areas of designated nature conservation sites as a consequence of planning permission.	<p>Little Birch & Aconbury Parish Group has:</p> <p>SSSI: 0</p> <p>(Bordering SSSI's: 1 – River Wye)</p> <p>LWS: 4 Williams Wood; Hamptons Rough Wood and The Firs; Woodlands on Aconbury Hill; Athelstans & Rough Hill Wood and The Crickets.</p> <p>(Bordering LWS:11)</p> <p>Hopleys Wood; Reeces Wood; Roadside Bank near Twyford; Brick Kiln Wood; Upper Bolstone Wood and The Belt; Trilloes Wood Court; Ballis Wood; River Wye; Margin of Wriggle Brook near Tressock; Redbrook Meadow, Gwatkins Grove and Grandoos Coppice; Helens Wood.</p> <p>There are no SACs, NNRS, SINCs and LNRs within the parish.</p>	As of 2012, there had been no change in the areas of designated nature conservation sites as a consequence of the planning permissions granted.	To capitalise on opportunities to enhance the areas of value to nature conservation as much as possible.	Herefordshire Biological Records Centre (HBRC) holds limited data on some individual sites.	<p>Herefordshire Council Initial Screening Report for the Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>Little Birch & Aconbury Parish Group 24th May 2016</p>

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
13. Value, maintain, restore and expand county biodiversity.	Natural environment	Proportion of local sites where positive conservation management has or is being implemented.	<p>The neighbourhood area comprises the following types of landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mainly Wooded estate land to the North and mid area of group Area of Timbered Plateau to the East To the West and South there is a mixture of Forest Smallholdings and Dwellings, Wooded Forest and Principle Settled Farmlands 	-	No specific targets identified.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	Herefordshire Landscape Character Assessment (2004 updated 2009)
SEA Topic covered by objectives: <i>Material assets</i>							
14. Use natural resources and energy more efficiently.	Resource consumption and climate change	Maintaining Herefordshire Council's County Site and Monuments Register.	<p>Countywide data would be too large to incorporate into this template.</p> <p>Whilst there is no qualitative, locally specific data available at</p>	-	No specific targets identified, but need to ensure that the register is kept up to date.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	Herefordshire Environmental Records Register (search January 2017).

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
			present, there are numerous scheduled monuments in Little Birch and Aconbury Parish group according to the latest version of the register. The HER database shows 36 in Aconbury and 7 in Little Birch.				

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
14. Use natural resources and energy more efficiently.	Resource consumption and climate change	Monitoring changes to historic landscapes.	<p>Historic Landscape Character assessments have only been undertaken for Hereford City.</p> <p>Rapid townscape Assessments (2010) were only undertaken for Hereford, Ledbury and Ross.</p> <p><i>Urban Fringe Sensitivity Analysis (2010) only considers sites on the urban fringe of Hereford and the five market towns.</i></p>	-	No specific targets identified.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	<p>Historic Landscape Character Assessment for Hereford.</p> <p>Rapid townscape Assessments (2010)</p> <p><i>Urban Fringe Sensitivity Analysis (2010)</i></p>
SEA Topic covered by objective: <i>Population, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</i>							

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
15. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces.	Natural environment	Number of developments meeting and surpassing national design standards.	<i>There is no countywide or locally specific data available at present.</i>	-	No specific targets identified.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	AMR 2013-14
15. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces.	Natural environment	The need for, frequency and outcomes of planning enforcement investigations/ planning appeals concerning aspects of local loss of heritage assets and locally important buildings particularly within a conservation area.	Countywide data would be too large to incorporate into this template. There are no outstanding enforcement actions or appeals concerning local loss of heritage assets and locally important buildings within Little Birch & Aconbury Parish Group.	No historic records of any planning enforcement action or appeals concerning locally important buildings.	To wherever possible improve upon or otherwise maintain current status.	Current status must be verified by Dvt Mgt and Enforcement Officers, but the NDP can help to avoid enforcement action and appeals during the plan period.	Council Dvt Mgt records (searched January 2017)
SEA Topic covered by objective: <i>Climatic Factors</i>							

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

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

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.	Resource consumption and climate	Total CO2 emissions per capita	<p>Latest figure dates back to 2010: 1.61 million tonnes (mtCO²)</p> <p>Domestic emissions accounted for 35 per cent (438,237 tonnes) of Herefordshire's carbon footprint.</p> <p>There is no locally specific data available at present.</p>	<p>Between 2005 and 2010 Herefordshire's total and per capita carbon emission reduced by 7% and 8% respectively; while UK's total and per capita carbon emission reduced by 8% and 12% respectively within the same period. This trend hides an increase in emissions between 2009 and 2010 when total emissions in the county increased by 5% the same as across the UK (+5%).</p>	To reduce the overall carbon emissions.	CO ² emissions produced are decreasing.	<p>Understanding Herefordshire: An integrated needs assessment (June 2013).</p> <p>Understanding Herefordshire: Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (July 2015).</p>

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
SEA Topic covered by objective: <i>Water</i>							
17. Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public wellbeing, the economy and the environment.	Natural environment	Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on flood defence grounds.	2010/11: None 2011/13: Not specified 2013/14: None <i>There is no locally specific data available at present.</i>	There have been no approvals contrary to EA advice since reporting began in 2004.	To have no applications permitted contrary to EA advice.	None identified.	Herefordshire Council AMR (2010/11)
SEA Topic covered by objective: <i>Water, air, soil, material assets</i>							
18. Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources.	Natural environment	Agricultural land usage by quality . LA to monitor the number of hectares of the best and most versatile agricultural land (grades 3a and higher) lost to development.	2011: Majority of land within the neighbourhood area was listed Grade 3 (Good to Moderate) with areas across as Grade 1 (Excellent).	-	Measure the number of hectares of best and most versatile soil lost through development.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	West Midland ALC Map (Natural England 2011).

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
18. Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources.	Natural environment	Percentage of river length assessed as good or very good chemical quality and ecological quality as required by the Water Framework Directive	Latest figures for the county as a whole dates back to 2005 when there was considered to be 84% assessed as good or very good. This represents a decrease in the % since 2002 <i>There is no locally specific data available at present.</i>	Figure steadily improved before going into decline: Herefordshire 1999 85.9%, 2000 89.5%, 2001 92.2%, 2002 91.8%	To ensure that rivers meet their conservation objectives and do not fall below the required standard of quality.	None identified.	The State of Herefordshire (2007) Water Framework Directive (2000)
SEA Topic covered by objective: <i>Soil</i>							
19. Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use.	Built environment	Percentage of all new development completed on previously developed land.	2010/11: 67% 2011-13: 57% 2013-14: 65% <i>There is no locally specific data available at present.</i>	Completions on PDL had risen to 71% by 2005.	To increase the number of homes built on PDL in line with the provisions of national planning policy.	The number of brownfield completions has fallen slightly in recent years, though this is probably the offshoot of tough market conditions.	Herefordshire Council AMR (2010/11),(2011-2013) and (2013-2014)

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
19. Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use.	Built environment	Housing densities in urban and rural areas	<i>There is no countywide or locally specific data available at present.</i>	-	No specific targets identified.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	-
19. Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use.	Built environment	Level of development in urban areas compared to rural.	<i>There is no countywide or locally specific data available at present.</i> This indicator would not be applicable to rural NDPs.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
SEA Topic covered by objective: <i>Cultural heritage</i>							

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's heritage assets, including conservation areas, historic environment and cultural heritage.	Built environment	Number and percentage of listed buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments on Buildings at Risk Register (Historic England).	<p>Up-to-date countywide information will be presented in the next AMR and which is due to be published in 2014. However, this data would be too large to incorporate into this template.</p> <p>There are numerous listed buildings within the parish group.</p> <p>Aconbury Camp is listed as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM)</p> <p>HE Heritage at Risk Register:</p> <p>There are not buildings listed on the register</p>	There were 71 heritage assets in Herefordshire that were considered to be at high risk and included in the Heritage at Risk Register January 2017.	<p>To wherever possible improve upon or otherwise maintain current status.</p> <p>Promote opportunities to improve condition</p> <p>Promote opportunities to achieve the removal of heritage assets from the at risk register.</p>	None identified	Buildings at Risk Register (Historic England; search January 2017)

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's heritage assets, including conservation areas, historic environment and cultural heritage.	Built environment	The need for, frequency and outcomes of planning enforcement investigations/ planning appeals concerning aspects of local loss of heritage assets, locally important buildings within the parish and particularly within a conservation area.	Countywide data would be too large to incorporate into this template. There are no outstanding enforcement actions or appeals concerning local loss of heritage assets locally important buildings particularly within conservation areas within Little Birch & Aconbury Group	No historic records of any planning enforcement action or appeals concerning locally important buildings, does not sit directly within a conservation area.	To wherever possible improve upon or otherwise maintain current status	Current status must be verified by Dvt Mgt and Enforcement Officers, but the NDP can help to avoid enforcement action and appeals during the plan period.	Council Dvt Mgt records (searched January 2017)

Appendix A3 – Environmental issues identified from Little Birch & Aconbury baseline

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

SEA Topic		Environmental issue	SA objectives
1	Air	High reliance upon the private car causing high levels of air pollution and in Hereford in particular	Objective 16
		Need to reduce carbon emissions by encouraging alternative modes of travel.	
2	Biodiversity	Habitats and species of national, regional and local importance are under pressure from the adaptation and diversification of farming and forestry employment.	Objectives 13 & 15
		Habitats and species of national, regional and local importance are under pressure from development	
		Minimise loss of biodiversity and expand opportunities for wildlife everywhere.	
3	Climatic factors	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through planning, design and build.	Objective 16
4	Cultural heritage	There are numerous listed buildings and scheduled Little Birch & Aconbury according to the latest version of the register. There is one SAM listed, Aconbury Camp. All require ongoing protection and many in need of high levels of maintenance.	Objective 20
5	Flora and fauna	Conserve and enhance the character and quality of historic landscapes, including all types of natural flora and fauna.	Objective 15
6	Material assets	How the countryside can continue to be managed in an economically, socially and environmentally beneficial way in the face of continuing pressures on traditional farming.	Objectives 14 & 18
7	Population	Minimise energy waste through good designs, which help to reduce energy consumption and maximise efficiency.	Objective 15
		Need to avoid enforcement investigations/action concerning locally important buildings and those within conservation areas in particular.	
8	Soil	Promoting development of previously developed land and buildings as opposed to greenfield sites or agricultural land of the highest quality.	Objectives 18 & 19

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

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

Appendix A4: SEA Framework

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

Parish Council Name: Little Birch & Aconbury

Neighbourhood Development Plan Name: Little Birch & Aconbury Parish Group Neighbourhood Plan

Date completed: January 2017

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

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

SEA Topics	SA Objective	SEA Objective	Sub-objectives / Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal/site...)	Indicators	Targets
			<p>quality of publicly accessible open space</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve satisfaction of people with their neighbourhoods as places to live • Decrease litter and graffiti in towns and countryside • Result in the loss of open space 	Area resulting in a loss of open space as a result of planning permission	No specific targets identified
Heritage	Value, protect or enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's heritage assets, historic environment and cultural heritage.	To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and culture heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve, protect and enhance heritage assets including conservation areas, listed buildings, archaeological sites and other culturally important features in both urban and rural settings. • Prevent development which is inappropriate in scale, form or design to its setting or to its function or local area. • Encourage development that creates and sustains well-designed, high quality built environments that incorporate green space, encourage biodiversity and promote local 	<p>The need for, frequency and outcomes of planning enforcement investigations/ planning appeals concerning the aspects of local loss of locally important buildings within a conservation area.</p> <p>Number and percentage of listed buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments on Buildings at Risk Register (Historic England).</p> <p>Ensure that Herefordshire Council's Sites and Monuments Register is kept up to date.</p>	<p>To improve upon or otherwise maintain current status.</p> <p>To improve upon or otherwise maintain current status.</p> <p>No specific targets identified, but need to ensure that the register is kept up to date.</p>

SEA Topics	SA Objective	SEA Objective	Sub-objectives / Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal/site...)	Indicators	Targets
			distinctiveness and sense of place. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encourage cleanliness and/or improve the general appearance of the area.		

SEA Topics	SA Objective	SEA Objective	Sub-objectives / Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal/site...)	Indicators	Targets
Air and Climate	<p>Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources.</p> <p>Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.</p>	<p>To improve air quality</p> <p>To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment</p> <p>To reduce contributions to climate change</p> <p>To reduce vulnerability to climate change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise water, air, soil, groundwater, noise and light pollution from current activities and the potential for such pollution. Protect or enhance the quality of watercourses. Provide opportunities to improve soil quality or reduce contaminated land. Reduce the county's contribution to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport, domestic, commercial and industrial sources. Increase the proportion of energy generated from renewable and low carbon sources including by micro-generation, Combined Heat and Power (CHP), district heating and in transportation. 	<p>Transport patronage by mode</p> <p>Number of decentralised energy schemes granted permission.</p> <p>Total CO2 emissions per capita</p>	<p>To increase the take up of alternative modes to the private car.</p> <p>To contribute towards the national target.</p> <p>To reduce the overall carbon emissions.</p>

SEA Topics	SA Objective	SEA Objective	Sub-objectives / Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal/site...)	Indicators	Targets
Water	<p>Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment.</p> <p>Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources.</p>	<p>To improve water quality</p> <p>To provide for sustainable sources of water supply</p> <p>To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce flood risk both presently and taking into account climate change. Prevent inappropriate development of the floodplain, and include flood protection systems. Include sustainable urban drainage systems where appropriate. Minimise water, air, soil, groundwater, noise and light pollution from current activities and the potential for such pollution. Protect or enhance the quality of watercourses. 	<p>Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on flood defence grounds.</p> <p>Percentage of river length assessed as good or very good chemical quality and ecological quality</p> <p>Phosphate levels within the River Wye SAC and adjoining tributaries that receive increased phosphates from proportional growth.</p>	<p>To have no applications permitted contrary to EA advice.</p> <p>To ensure that rivers meet their conservation objectives and do not fall below the required standard of quality as set out in the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>To meet the targets set out in the Nutrient Management Plan (2014)</p>
Soil	<p>Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources.</p> <p>Ensure integrated, efficient and</p>	<p>To conserve soil resources and quality</p> <p>Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise water, air, soil, groundwater, noise and light pollution from current activities and the potential for such pollution. Provide opportunities to improve soil quality or reduce contaminated land. Ensure new developments 	<p>Percentage of all new development completed on previously developed land.</p> <p>Amount of land identified as best and most versatile agricultural land lost to development.</p>	<p>To increase the number of homes built on PDL in line with the provisions of national planning policy.</p> <p>Measure the number of hectares of best and most versatile soil lost through development.</p>

SEA Topics	SA Objective	SEA Objective	Sub-objectives / Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal/site...)	Indicators	Targets
	balanced land use.		are in appropriate locations, optimising the use of previously developed land and buildings, primarily focussed on the urban areas and are accessible by walking, cycling or sustainable transport and/or will increase the share of these transport modes, thereby reducing the need to travel.		
Population and Human Health	Value, protect, enhance or restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces.	To improve health of the population To reduce crime and nuisance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Value, enhance and protect natural environmental assets including AONB's, historic landscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings. Encourage local stewardship of local environments, for example by promoting best practices in agricultural management. Ensure that environmental impacts caused by mineral operations and the transport of minerals are minimised. Promote the use of rural areas and open 	Number of developments meeting and surpassing national design	No specific targets identified.

SEA Topics	SA Objective	SEA Objective	Sub-objectives / Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal/site...)	Indicators	Targets
			space by all, encourage easy non-car based access, and accommodate the needs of disabled users.		
Material Assets	<p>Use natural resources and energy more efficiently.</p> <p>Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources.</p>	To conserve natural and manmade resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximise energy efficiency and minimise the consumption of non-renewable energy i.e. from fossil fuels. • Minimise the consumption of water, land, soil, minerals, aggregates and other raw materials by all? E.g. through integrated transport, sustainable resource-efficient design, local sourcing of food, goods, materials. • Encourage the re-use/enhancement (to high standards of sustainable resource-efficient design) of existing buildings and minimise the need for new build. • Encourage the use of clean technologies and water minimisation techniques. 	<p>The need for, frequency and outcomes of planning enforcement investigations/ planning appeals concerning the aspects of local loss of locally important buildings within a conservation area.</p> <p>Maintaining Herefordshire Council's County Site and Monuments Register.</p> <p>Monitoring changes to historic landscapes.</p> <p>Agricultural land usage by quality</p>	<p>Measure the number of hectares of best and most versatile soil lost through development. No specific targets identified.</p> <p>No specific targets identified, but need to ensure that the register is kept up to date.</p> <p>No specific targets identified.</p> <p>Measure the number of hectares of best and most versatile soil lost through development.</p>

Appendix 3



Historic England

WEST MIDLANDS OFFICE

Mr James Latham
Herefordshire Council
Neighbourhood Planning & Strategic Planning
Planning Services, PO Box 230, Blueschool House
Blueschool Street
Hereford
HR1 2ZB

Direct Dial: 0121 625 6887

Our ref: PL00079682

4 May 2017

Dear Mr Latham

CONSULTATION ON SEA SCOPING REPORTS FOR KILPECK GROUP; LITTLE BIRCH AND ACONBURY; MUCH BIRCH; PIXLEY AND DISTRICT GROUP AND PUTLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS

Thank you for the invitation to comment on the SEA Scoping Reports for the Neighbourhood Plans listed above. We have no substantive objection to the contents of the document.

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

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

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

cc:



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Telephone 0121 625 6870
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Date: 03 May 2017
Our ref: 213119, 213120, 213123, 213124



James Latham,
Neighbourhood Planning and Strategic Planning Teams

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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Mr Latham,

SEA Scoping Reports – Various.

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 12 April 2017 which was received by Natural England on 12 April 2017.

Please accept this general response with notes covering the SEA Scoping Reports for Little Birch & Aconbury, Much Birch, Pixley & District Group, and Putley.

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

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

Further guidance on deciding whether the proposals are likely to have significant environmental effects and the requirements for consulting Natural England on SEA are set out in the [National Planning Practice Guidance](#).

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

Appendix A1 – Plans, policies and programmes

Natural England approves of the plans, policies and programmes listed.

Appendix A2 – Baseline information

Water, air, soil and material assets

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

Soil

Natural England notes and supports the consideration of best and most versatile agricultural land at objective 18.

Appendix A3 – Environmental issues identified from the baseline

We welcome the recognition that development can be a pressure on biodiversity and the inclusion of landscape and soils as environmental issues, as per our previous recommendations in response to other neighbourhood plan SEA Scoping reports

Appendix A4

Under the SEA topic “Nature Conservation (Biodiversity, flora and fauna)” we note and support the inclusion of the target of “no net losses” of biodiversity.

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

Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening

Where a Neighbourhood Plan could potentially lead to significant environmental effects it will be necessary to screen the Plan in relation to the Habitats and Species Regulations (2010), as amended (the ‘Habitats Regulations’). One of the basic conditions that will be tested at Examination is whether the making of the plan is compatible with European obligations and this includes requirements relating to the Habitats Directive.

In relation to the Habitats Regulations, a Neighbourhood Plan cannot progress if the likelihood of significant effects on any European Site, either alone (or in combination with other plans and projects) cannot be ruled out) (see Schedule 2, The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012). Therefore measures may need to be incorporated into the Neighbourhood Plan to ensure that any likely significant effects are avoided in order to secure compliance with the Regulations. A screening exercise should be undertaken if there is any doubt about the possible effects of the Plan on European protected sites. This will be particularly important if a Neighbourhood Plan is to progress before a Local Plan has been adopted and/or the Neighbourhood Plan proposes development which has not been assessed and/or included in the Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Local Plan.

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

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Tom Amos on 02080 260961. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

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

Yours sincerely

Tom Amos
Adviser
Sustainable Development
South Mercia Team

Appendix 4

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

The following matrix appraises the emerging Little Birch and Aconbury NDP Objectives in terms of their SMART criteria and their compatibility with the SEA Objectives. These have been developed from Government guidance on SEA and from the local evidence base gathered for identifying the NDP issues.

SEA Objectives

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

NDP objectives	SEA Objectives																Conclusions	Recommendations	SMART Test of NDP objective	After SMART objectives
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16				
Objective 1: Housing development	0	+	+	0	0	?	0	0	?	?	?	?	?	+	+	0	This objective seeks viable and balanced housing to meet the criteria as set out in the Core Strategy. Overall this objective has a positive and neutral impact on the baseline data .There are a few SEA objectives such as water quality, flood risk and traffic impact can be assessed when more details are known such as location and scale of housing schemes.	Ensure proposed development has some sustainable design elements to reduce environmental impact of new development.	This objective meets all of the SMART criteria except specifying a time frame in which the objective will be achieved; a time frame will strengthen the objective. This is assumed this objective will follow the plan period up to 2031.	No change.
Objective 2: Economic and social development	0	+	+	x	+	+	+	+	?	?	?	+	+	+	+	0	This objective strives to support and provide opportunities for economic and social development in Little Birch and Aconbury. This will include improvement of technologies and renewable energy schemes along with supporting rural diversification and retention of community facilities. Overall this objective has a positive impact on the baseline data. There are a few SEA objectives such as water quality, water supply, flood risk can be assessed when more details are known at planning application stage.	Ensure proposed development considers environmental impact that development causes, ensure it is in line with the SEA Objectives.	This objective meets all of the SMART criteria except specifying a time frame in which the objective will be achieved; a time frame will strengthen the objective. This is assumed this objective will follow the plan period up to 2031.	No change.
Objective 3: Protecting the environment	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	x	+	+	+	+	+	+	This objective seeks to protect and enhance the local environment. Overall the objective has generally a positive effect towards the relevant baseline objectives. This objective will help to mitigate detrimental impact on the built and natural environment caused from development.	None	This objective meets all of the SMART criteria except specifying a time frame in which the objective will be achieved; a time frame will strengthen the objective. This is assumed this objective will follow the plan period up to 2031.	No change.

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

SEA Objectives	Baseline carried over from Stage A
<p>1- To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)</p> <p>2- To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes</p> <p>3- To improve quality of surroundings</p> <p>4- To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and culture heritage</p> <p>5- To improve air quality</p> <p>6- To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment</p> <p>7- To reduce contributions to climate change</p> <p>8- To reduce vulnerability to climate change</p> <p>9- To improve water quality</p> <p>10- To provide for sustainable sources of water supply</p> <p>11- To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk</p> <p>12- To conserve soil resources and quality</p> <p>13- To minimise the production of waste</p> <p>14- To improve health of the population</p> <p>15- To reduce crime and nuisance</p> <p>16- To conserve natural and manmade resources</p>	<p>1-The 2011-2013 AMR does not contain updated conservation data.2010/11: 27% of Herefordshire's SSSI land was in favourable condition. There are no SSSIs in the group parish itself but there is one bordering SSSI – River Wye (Unfavourable Recovering). The 2011-2013 AMR does not contain updated conservation data. 2010/11: 17 Habitat Action Plans and 14 Species Action Plans are currently in operation across Herefordshire. Little Birch and Aconbury has: 4 Ancient Woodland, 7 LWS and within Wye Valley AONB. The River Wye is 1km away from the Parishes and no NNRs and SINCs within the parish.</p> <p>2-There are no outstanding enforcement actions or appeals concerning locally important buildings within Little Birch and Aconbury. There are no conservation areas within Little Birch and Aconbury.</p> <p>3-In terms of Little Birch and Aconbury, the study reveals Aconbury is listed as having a population of over 500 and therefore requires a local play area. Little Birch is not directly listed.</p> <p>4-Whilst there is no qualitative, locally specific data available at present, there is one scheduled monument Aconbury camp, with a further three SAMs on the border of the Parish, according to the latest version of the register.</p> <p>5-Between 2005 and 2010 Herefordshire's total and per capita carbon emission reduced by 7% and 8% respectively; while UK's total and per capita carbon emission reduced by 8% and 12% respectively within the same period. This suggests that air quality is improving.</p> <p>6-% of Herefordshire residents who travel to work by: Car: 70.1%, Foot: 14.7%,Bicycle: 4.3%,Bus: 2%, Train: 0.8%,Motorbike: 0.8%,Taxi: 0.3%,Other: 7%.</p> <p>7-Herefordshire latest figure of CO2 emissions per capita-dates back to 2010: 1.61 million tonnes (mtCO²)</p> <p>8-Reduce the risk of flooding-There have been no approvals contrary to EA advice since reporting began in 2004.The 2011-2013 AMR does not contain updated conservation data.</p> <p>9-Percentage of river length assessed as good or very good chemical quality and ecological quality as required by the Water Framework Directive. Latest figure dates back to 2005: 84%.</p> <p>10-Little Birch and Aconbury group parish falls into the Herefordshire Conjunctive Use Water Resource Zones (WRZs), one of 6 zones covering Herefordshire. 39% of demand is from non-household use.</p> <p>11-Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on flood defence grounds. The 2011-2013 AMR does not contain updated conservation data.</p> <p>12-Around the villages of Little Birch and Aconbury the majority of land within the neighbourhood area was listed Grade 3 (Good to Moderate) with areas across as Grade 1 (Excellent).. Percentage of all new development completed on previously developed land.2010/11: 67%2011-13: 57%.</p> <p>13,14,15,16-There are numerous listed buildings within the parish and one SAM. No SAMs are currently recorded in the Buildings at Risk Register. The Parish Area has the following landscape types: Mainly Wooded estate land to the North and mid area of group, Area of Timbered Plateau to the East, To the West and South there is a mixture of Forest Smallholdings and Dwellings, Wooded Forest and Principle Settled Farmlands.</p>

NDP Policies	SEA objectives																Summary in relation to baseline	Overall commentary and any initial cumulative effects/ Recommendations	Conformity with Core Strategy
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
Baseline	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
Policy LBA1: Sustainable development	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	This policy has mainly a positive impact on the baseline data. This policy will promote sustainable development in Little Birch and Aconbury. This policy ensures development is in keeping with the natural and built environment and will help safeguard the environment against unsuitable development.	Overall this policy meets the SEA baseline. There are mitigation measures within the Core Strategy and Neighbourhood Plan to alleviate effects from development.	This policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy LBA2: Development needs and requirements	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	x	x	x	+	+	+	+	+	This policy defines the extent of Aconbury mainly a positive impact on the baseline data. This policy promotes sustainable development in the settlement of Aconbury. This policy will help to distinguish between the settlement and open countryside and help development grow in a sustainable way in keeping with the villages settlement pattern. This policy also attempts to define Little Birch, but not allocate a settlement boundary due to its dispersed nature of the settlement.	Overall this policy meets the SEA baseline objectives as it will only lead to small scale development focused with a defined settlement boundary for Aconbury. It may help if Little Birch settlement is clarified further by drafting up a settlement boundary. Environmental safeguard and mitigation measures are available in policies within the Core Strategy SS1, LD2, and SD3 and SD4. Environmental protection can be found within the NDP polices	This policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy LBA3 Little Birch village	?	?	?	x	?	0	0	0	?	?	?	+	+	+	+	?	This policy development in Little Birch has a mixed impact on the baseline data. Water quality and usage, traffic impact and flood risk can be assessed when further details are known at application stage. The settlement is not clearly defined in the map, and there is no settlement boundary to distinguish what the settlement is. Residential curtilages have been listed but not mapped, mapping these may help clarify where proportionate growth should go.	The policy could be identify the lands listed further to define how housing as a 4.14 identified area for proportionate growth will be met in and around Little Birch. This could be clarified with a suitable boundary or by identifying these areas clearly on a map. It may help to illustrate the existing character of the settlement pattern further.	-
Policy LBA4 Development in Little Birch	+	+	+	x	+	0	0	0	?	?	?	+	+	+	+	+	This policy development in Little Birch has a neutral and positive impact on the baseline data. Water quality and usage, traffic impact and flood risk can be assessed when further details are known.	Overall this policy meets the SEA baseline objectives as it will only lead to small scale development focused with a defined settlement for Little Birch. This includes design criteria for development to adhere to, to ensure that future development is in keeping with the existing built landscape.	This policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy LBA5: Development in Aconbury	+	+	+	x	+	0	0	0	?	?	?	+	+	+	+	+	This policy development in Aconbury has a neutral and positive impact on the baseline data. Water quality and usage, traffic impact and flood risk can be assessed when further details are known.	Overall this policy meets the SEA baseline objectives as it will only lead to small scale development focused with a defined settlement boundary for Aconbury in line with policy RA2 of the Core Strategy.	This policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy LBA6: Rural economic	0	+	+	x	+	+	0	0	?	?	?	+	+	+	+	0	This policy protecting existing rural areas of employment and encouraging new development in business is positive as it will help to reduce the need to travel and enable	Overall this policy is compatible with the sea baseline data. This policy supports new small scale employment development, in particular supports new rural development in line with Core	This policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the

development																	additional opportunities to work from home. Criteria within the NDP, has been included which would aim to safeguard environmental character and quality. Impact on water quality, water sources and flood risk can be further assessed at planning application stage.	Strategy polices E2, E3, E4 and RA5 and RA6 This policy also promotes infrastructure provision for high speed broadband and relevant communication networks.	purposes of the SEA.
Policy LBA7: Communicati ons and broadband	0	+	+	x	+	+	+	+	x	x	x	+	+	+	+	0	Overall this policy communications and broadband delivery of local infrastructure has mainly a positive impact on the baseline data. Criteria within the NDP, has been included which would aim to safeguard environmental character and quality.	Overall this policy meets the SEA baseline. There are mitigation measures within the Core Strategy and Neighbourhood Plan to alleviate effects from communications and broadband development.	This policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy LBA8: Renewable energy	0	+	+	x	+	+	+	+	x	x	x	+	+	+	+	0	Overall this policy renewable energy has mainly a positive and neutral impact towards the relevant SEA objectives. This policy supports renewable energy within the parish. Criteria within the NDP, has been included which would aim to safeguard environmental character and quality.	Overall this policy meets the SEA baseline. There are mitigation measures within the Core Strategy and Neighbourhood Plan to alleviate effects from renewable energy development.	This policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy LBA9: Community facilities	0	+	+	x	0	0	x	x	x	x	x	+	+	+	+	0	This policy is positive as it will encourage the continuing use of existing facilities thus contributing to the village character and heritage environment. It will also reduce the need to travel to other area for facilities reducing the impact of climate change.	Overall this policy is compatible with the SEA baseline. This policy would not lead to development itself but contains criteria to safeguard existing community facilities within Little Birch and Aconbury.	This policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy LBA10: Protecting the local environment	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	This policy protecting the local environment is compatible with the Core Strategy and has mainly a positive impact on the baseline data. Criteria within the NDP, has been included which would aim to safeguard environmental character and quality.	Overall this policy meets the SEA objectives and the requirements in the Core Strategy. This policy will help mitigate impact caused from potential development on natural and built environment. This policy is conformity with Core Strategy policies LD1, LD2, LD3 and LD4.	This policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy LBA11: Building design	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	Overall the policy is compatible with the baseline data. Criteria within this policy ensures new development will be appropriate to Little Birch and Aconbury's character in terms of scale design and materials.	This policy would not lead to development itself but contains criteria for development to be in keeping with the existing built and natural environment and is in conformity to policies LD1, LD2, LD3 and LD4.	This policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.

NDP Options	SEA objectives																Summary in relation to baseline	Overall commentary and any initial cumulative effects/ Recommendations	Conformity with Core Strategy													
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16																
Baseline	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16																
Option 1- Do nothing																	x	x	x											Do nothing option is essential not to produce a neighbourhood plan and rely on the criteria policies within the Core Strategy to guide further development. Specific policies and proposals for the parishes would not exist until a Rural Areas Development Plan Document is drafted.	All developments would need to be in conformity with the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy has been subject to a Sustainability Appraisal and policies met the SEA objectives.	n/a

<p>Option 2- To do a criteria based policy.</p>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	<p>Criteria based policy does not give the same level of certainty as the other options as it will be more reactionary than proactive in terms of growth proposals. However provide criteria is added to the policy to safeguard or mitigate against any harm, the option will have a positive effect on the baseline.</p>	<p>Criteria would need to be included within the policy to safeguard against effects on any SEA objectives. Further determination of environmental impact can be assessed at planning application stage.</p>	<p>This option would meet the Core Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA</p>
<p>Option 3 -To allocate sites in the plan.</p>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	<p>Allocation of sites for housing or other uses would give certainty to future development. Specific environmental issues could be investigated during the site search and be positively addressed within the policy wording. This option could have a positive effect on the baseline.</p>	<p>Pursuing this option would give greater certainty over future development within the area particularly within Little Birch and Aconbury, where proportional growth is expected. If required mitigation criteria can be added to site allocations policies to ensure all SEA objectives are achieved.</p>	<p>This option would meet the Core Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA.</p>
<p>Option 4- Criteria policy and settlement boundary.</p>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	<p>The designation of a settlement boundary will give additional certainty and help define those areas considered as the built form and open countryside. This can aid the direction of further growth to maintain the quality of the landscape and surroundings. There is less certainty over the positive effects on the baseline as any growth with be adjudged by criteria based policy.</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. Criteria would need to be included within the policy to safeguard against effects on any SEA objectives.</p>	<p>This option would meet the Core Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA.</p>
<p>Option 5- Criteria policy/ settlement boundary/ allocate sites.</p>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	<p>Allocation of sites for housing or other uses would give certainty to future development. Specific environmental issues could be 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 This option could have a positive effect on the baseline.</p>	<p>Pursuing this option would give greater certainty over future development within the area particularly within Little Birch and Aconbury, where proportional growth is expected. If required mitigation criteria can be added to site allocations policies to ensure all SEA objectives are achieved.</p>	<p>This option would meet the Core Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA.</p>

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

Key:

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

Policy LBA1: Sustainable development

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only promote sustainable development in line with Core Strategy.	None identified.
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only promote sustainable development in line with Core Strategy.	None identified.

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

To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only promote sustainable development in line with Core Strategy.	None identified.
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only promote sustainable development in line with Core Strategy.	None identified.
To improve air quality	0	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only promote sustainable development in line with Core Strategy.	None identified.
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	0	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only promote sustainable development in line with Core Strategy.	None identified.
To reduce contributions to climate change	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only promote sustainable development in line with Core Strategy.	None identified.

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

To reduce vulnerability to climate change	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only promote sustainable development in line with Core Strategy.	None identified.
To improve water quality	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only promote sustainable development in line with Core Strategy.	None identified.
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only promote sustainable development in line with Core Strategy.	None identified.
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only promote sustainable development in line with Core Strategy.	None identified.
To conserve soil resources and quality	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only promote sustainable development in line with Core Strategy.	None identified.
To minimise the production of waste	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only promote	None identified.

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

				sustainable development in line with Core Strategy.	
To improve health of the population	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only promote sustainable development in line with Core Strategy.	None identified.
To reduce crime and nuisance	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only promote sustainable development in line with Core Strategy.	None identified.
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only promote sustainable development in line with Core Strategy.	None identified.
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	Overall this policy has a positive effect on the baseline objectives and is in conformity with the Core Strategy. Short, medium and long term will have a positive impact on the baseline as this policy promotes sustainable development in design and development.				

Policy LBA2: Development needs and requirements

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

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

	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	0	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with the proportional growth within the Core Strategy.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with the proportional growth within the Core Strategy.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
To improve quality of surroundings	0	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with the proportional growth within the Core Strategy.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with the proportional growth within the	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1,

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

cultural heritage				Core Strategy.	LD2 and LD4.
To improve air quality	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with the proportional growth within the Core Strategy.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with the proportional growth within the Core Strategy.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and MT1.
To reduce contributions to climate change	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with the proportional growth within the Core Strategy.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2, SS6, SS7 and SD3.
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with the proportional growth within the Core Strategy.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2, SS6, SS7 and SD3.
To improve water	X	X	X	N/A	N/A

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

quality					
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	X	X	X	No relationship	N/A
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	X	X	X	No relationship	N/A
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with the proportional growth within the Core Strategy.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
To minimise the production of waste	0	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with the proportional growth within the Core Strategy.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
To improve health of the population	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with the proportional growth within the Core Strategy.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.

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

To reduce crime and nuisance	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with the proportional growth within the Core Strategy.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
To conserve natural and manmade resources	0	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with the proportional growth within the Core Strategy.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	Overall this policy development needs and requirements has mainly a positive and neutral impact towards the relevant SEA objectives in the short, medium and long term.				

Policy LBA3 Little Birch village

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

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

		years)			
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	?	?	?	Uncertain impact on the baseline objectives, this can be clarified when further details are known.	The settlement is not clearly defined in the map, and there is no settlement boundary to distinguish what the settlement is. Residential curtilages have been listed but not mapped, mapping these may help clarify where proportionate growth should go.
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	?	?	?	Uncertain impact on the baseline objectives, this can be clarified when further details are known.	The settlement is not clearly defined in the map, and there is no settlement boundary to distinguish what the settlement is. Residential curtilages have been listed but not mapped, mapping these may help clarify where proportionate growth should go.
To improve quality of surroundings	?	?	?	Uncertain impact on the baseline objectives, this can be clarified when further details are known.	The settlement is not clearly defined in the map, and there is no settlement boundary to distinguish what the settlement is. Residential curtilages have been listed but not mapped, mapping these may help clarify where proportionate growth should go.
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	X	X	X	No relationship	n/a

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

To improve air quality	?	?	?	Uncertain impact on the baseline objectives, this can be clarified when further details are known.	The settlement is not clearly defined in the map, and there is no settlement boundary to distinguish what the settlement is. Residential curtilages have been listed but not mapped, mapping these may help clarify where proportionate growth should go.
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives. Small scale development is unlikely to have a significant impact on the SEA baseline data.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and MT1.
To reduce contributions to climate change	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives. Criteria within the NDP and Core Strategy can help to reduce climate change contributions.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2, SS6, SS7 and SD3.
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives. Criteria within the NDP and Core Strategy can help to reduce climate change vulnerability.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2, SS6, SS7 and SD3.
To improve water quality	?	?	?	Uncertain impact on the baseline objectives, this can be clarified when further details are known.	The settlement is not clearly defined in the map, and there is no settlement boundary to distinguish what the settlement is. Residential curtilages have

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

					been listed but not mapped, mapping these may help clarify where proportionate growth should go.
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	?	?	?	Uncertain impact on the baseline objectives, this can be clarified when further details are known.	The settlement is not clearly defined in the map, and there is no settlement boundary to distinguish what the settlement is. Residential curtilages have been listed but not mapped, mapping these may help clarify where proportionate growth should go.
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	?	?	?	Uncertain impact on the baseline objectives, this can be clarified when further details are known.	The settlement is not clearly defined in the map, and there is no settlement boundary to distinguish what the settlement is. Residential curtilages have been listed but not mapped, mapping these may help clarify where proportionate growth should go.
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
To minimise the production of waste	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.

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

To improve health of the population	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
To reduce crime and nuisance	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
To conserve natural and manmade resources	?	?	?	Uncertain impact on the baseline objectives, this can be clarified when further details are known.	The settlement is not clearly defined in the map, and there is no settlement boundary to distinguish what the settlement is. Residential curtilages have been listed but not mapped, mapping these may help clarify where proportionate growth should go.
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	Overall this policy has mainly an uncertain and neutral impact towards the relevant SEA objectives in the short, medium and long term. The policy could be identify the lands listed further to define how housing as a 4.14 identified area for proportionate growth will be met in and around Little Birch. This could be clarified with a suitable boundary or by identifying these areas clearly on a map. It may help to illustrate the existing character of the settlement pattern further.				

Policy LBA4 Development in Little Birch

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)	Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
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B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives. This policy includes criteria within the policy to safeguard existing biodiversity, flora and fauna.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives. This policy includes criteria within the policy to safeguard existing townscape and landscape.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives. This policy includes criteria within the policy to improve quality of surroundings.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	X	X	X	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	-

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

To improve air quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and has a positive impact on the baseline data.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and has a neutral impact on the baseline data.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and MT1.
To reduce contributions to climate change	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and has a neutral impact on the baseline data.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2, SS6,SS7 and SD3.
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and has a neutral impact on the baseline data.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2, SS6, SS7 and SD3.
To improve water quality	?	?	?	Impact of water quality is uncertain at this stage and could be defined later in the planning application stage, on a case by case basis.	Mitigation measures are covered in the NDP and Core Strategy.
To provide for sustainable sources of	?	?	?	Impact of water supply is uncertain at this stage and could be defined later in the planning application	Mitigation measures are covered in the NDP and Core Strategy.

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

water supply				process, on a case by case basis.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	?	?	?	Impact of flood risk is uncertain at this stage and could be defined later in the planning application process, on a case by case basis.	Mitigation measures are covered in the NDP and Core Strategy.
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
To minimise the production of waste	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
To improve health of the population	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
To reduce crime and nuisance	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.

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

To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	Overall this policy has mainly a positive and neutral impact towards the relevant SEA objectives in the short, medium and long term. Water quality, sustainable sources of water supply and flood risk are uncertain at this stage as further details are needed to make a full assessment of the impact towards the SEA baseline.				

Policy LBA5: Development in Aconbury

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and has a positive impact on the baseline data.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.

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

To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and has a positive impact on the baseline data.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and has a positive impact on the baseline data.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	X	X	X	No relationship	N/A
To improve air quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and has a positive impact on the baseline data.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and MT1.

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To reduce contributions to climate change	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2, SS6,SS7 and SD3.
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2, SS6, SS7 and SD3.
To improve water quality	?	?	?	Impact of water quality is uncertain at this stage and could be defined later in the planning application stage, on a case by case basis.	Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2, SD3 and SD4.
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	?	?	?	Impact of water supply is uncertain at this stage and could be defined later in the planning application process, on a case by case basis.	Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2, SD3 and SD4.
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	?	?	?	Impact of flood risk is uncertain at this stage and could be defined later in the planning application process, on a case by case basis.	Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2, SD3 and SD4.
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new

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

				objectives.	development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
To minimise the production of waste	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
To improve health of the population	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
To reduce crime and nuisance	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	Overall this policy has mainly a positive and neutral impact towards the relevant SEA objectives in the short, medium and long term. Water quality, sustainable sources of water supply and flood risk are uncertain at this stage as further details are needed to make a full assessment of the impact towards the SEA baseline.				

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

Policy LBA6: Rural economic development

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	0	0	+	The principles of this policy are compatible with Core Strategy policy E3 and RA5. Policy safeguards exist which will help avoid or mitigate against impacts on the natural environment.	Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	The principles of this policy are compatible with Core Strategy policy E3 and RA5. Policy safeguards exist which will help avoid or mitigate against impacts on the natural environment.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and LD4.
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	The principles of this policy are compatible with Core Strategy policy E3 and RA5. Policy safeguards exist which will help avoid or mitigate against impacts	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and LD4.

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

				on the natural environment.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	X	X	X	No relationship	None identified.
To improve air quality	0	+	+	The principles of this policy are compatible with Core Strategy policy E3 and RA5. Policy safeguards exist which will help avoid or mitigate against impacts on the natural environment.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	0	+	+	The principles of this policy are compatible with Core Strategy policy E3 and RA5. Policy safeguards exist which will help avoid or mitigate against impacts on the natural environment.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and MT1.
To reduce contributions to climate change	0	0	0	The principles of this policy are compatible with Core Strategy policy E3 and RA5. Policy safeguards exist which will help avoid or mitigate against impacts on the natural environment.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2, SS6,SS7 and SD3.
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	0	0	0	The principles of this policy are compatible with Core Strategy policy E3 and RA5. Policy	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new

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

				safeguards exist which will help avoid or mitigate against impacts on the natural environment.	development particularly policies LD1, LD2, SS6, SS7 and SD3.
To improve water quality	?	?	?	Impact of water quality is uncertain at this stage and could be defined later in the planning application stage, on a case by case basis.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2, SD3 and SD4.
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	?	?	?	Impact of water supply is uncertain at this stage and could be defined later in the planning application process, on a case by case basis.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2, SD3 and SD4.
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	?	?	?	Impact of flood risk is uncertain at this stage and could be defined later in the planning application process, on a case by case basis.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2, SD3 and SD4.
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	The principles of this policy are compatible with Core Strategy policy E3 and RA5. Policy safeguards exist which will help avoid or mitigate against impacts on the natural environment.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
To minimise the production of waste	+	+	+	The principles of this policy are compatible with Core Strategy policy E3 and RA5. Policy safeguards exist which will help	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1,

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

				avoid or mitigate against impacts on the natural environment.	LD2 and SD3.
To improve health of the population	+	+	+	The principles of this policy are compatible with Core Strategy policy E3 and RA5. Policy safeguards exist which will help avoid or mitigate against impacts on the natural environment.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
To reduce crime and nuisance	+	+	+	The principles of this policy are compatible with Core Strategy policy E3 and RA5. Policy safeguards exist which will help avoid or mitigate against impacts on the natural environment.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
To conserve natural and manmade resources	0	0	0	The principles of this policy are compatible with Core Strategy policy E3 and RA5. Policy safeguards exist which will help avoid or mitigate against impacts on the natural environment.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	Overall this policy has mainly a positive and neutral impact towards the relevant SEA objectives. Water quality, sustainable sources of water supply and flood risk are uncertain at this stage as further details are needed to make a full assessment of the impact towards the SEA baseline.				

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

Policy LBA7: Communications and broadband

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and moves towards the SEA baseline.	Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and moves towards the SEA baseline.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and LD4.
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and moves towards the SEA baseline.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and LD4.

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

To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	X	X	X	No relationship	N/A
To improve air quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and moves towards the SEA baseline.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and moves towards the SEA baseline.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and MT1.
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and moves towards the SEA baseline.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2, SS6,SS7 and SD3.
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and moves towards the SEA baseline.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2, SS6, SS7 and SD3.

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To improve water quality	X	X	X	No relationship	N/A
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	X	X	X	No relationship	N/A
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	X	X	X	No relationship	N/A
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and moves towards the SEA baseline.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
To minimise the production of waste	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and moves towards the SEA baseline.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
To improve health of the population	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and moves towards the SEA baseline.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
To reduce crime and nuisance	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and moves towards the	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1,

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

				SEA baseline.	LD2 and SD3.
To conserve natural and manmade resources	0	0	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and moves towards the SEA baseline.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	Overall this policy has mainly a positive and neutral impact towards the relevant SEA objectives in the short, medium and long term.				

Policy LBA8: Renewable energy

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	This policy will help support renewable energy schemes in the neighbourhood area, this will over time help mitigate energy consumption in the area.

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

To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	This policy will help support renewable energy schemes in the neighbourhood area, this will over time help mitigate energy consumption in the area.
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	This policy will help support renewable energy schemes in the neighbourhood area, this will over time help mitigate energy consumption in the area.
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	X	X	X	No relationship	N/A
To improve air quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	This policy will help support renewable energy schemes in the neighbourhood area, this will over time help mitigate energy consumption in the area.
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	This policy will help support renewable energy schemes in the neighbourhood area, this will over time help mitigate energy consumption in the area.
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	This policy will help support renewable energy schemes in the neighbourhood area, this will over time help mitigate energy consumption in the area.

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

To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	This policy will help support renewable energy schemes in the neighbourhood area, this will over time help mitigate energy consumption in the area.
To improve water quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	This policy will help support renewable energy schemes in the neighbourhood area, this will over time help mitigate energy consumption in the area.
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	X	X	X	No relationship	N/A
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	X	X	X	No relationship	N/A
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	This policy will help support renewable energy schemes in the neighbourhood area, this will over time help mitigate energy consumption in the area.
To minimise the production of waste	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	This policy will help support renewable energy schemes in the neighbourhood area, this will over time help mitigate energy consumption in the area.
To improve health of the population	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	This policy will help support renewable energy schemes in the neighbourhood area, this will over time help mitigate energy consumption in the area.

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

To reduce crime and nuisance	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	This policy will help support renewable energy schemes in the neighbourhood area, this will over time help mitigate energy consumption in the area.
To conserve natural and manmade resources	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	This policy will help support renewable energy schemes in the neighbourhood area, this will over time help mitigate energy consumption in the area.
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	Overall this policy has mainly a positive and neutral impact towards the relevant SEA objectives in the short, medium and long term.				

Policy LBA9: Community facilities

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

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To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	0	0	0	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the community facilities in the Little Birch and Aconbury Neighbourhood Area.	This policy helps to safeguard community facilities for the people of Little Birch and Aconbury. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and LD4.
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the community facilities in the Little Birch and Aconbury Neighbourhood Area.	Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and LD4.
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the community facilities in the Little Birch and Aconbury Neighbourhood Area.	This policy helps to safeguard community facilities for the people of Little Birch and Aconbury. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and LD4.
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	X	X	X	No relationship	N/A
To improve air quality	0	0	0	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the community facilities in the Little Birch and Aconbury Neighbourhood Area.	This policy helps to safeguard community facilities for the people of Little Birch and Aconbury. None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies

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					LD1, LD2 and SD3.
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	0	0	0	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the community facilities in the Little Birch and Aconbury Neighbourhood Area.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and MT1.
To reduce contributions to climate change	X	X	X	No relationship	N/A
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	X	X	X	No relationship	N/A
To improve water quality	X	X	X	No relationship	N/A
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	X	X	X	No relationship	N/A
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	X	X	X	No relationship	N/A
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the community facilities in the Little Birch and Aconbury Neighbourhood Area.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.

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To minimise the production of waste	+	+	+	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the community facilities in the Little Birch and Aconbury Neighbourhood Area.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
To improve health of the population	+	+	+	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the community facilities in the Little Birch and Aconbury Neighbourhood Area.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
To reduce crime and nuisance	+	+	+	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the community facilities in the Little Birch and Aconbury Neighbourhood Area.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
To conserve natural and manmade resources	0	0	0	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the community facilities in the Little Birch and Aconbury Neighbourhood Area.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	Overall this policy has mainly a positive and neutral impact towards the relevant SEA objectives in the short, medium and long term.				

Policy LBA10: Protecting the local environment

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

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	++	++	++	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the landscape, environment and habitats.	Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and LD4.
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the landscape, environment and habitats.	Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and LD4.
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the landscape, environment and habitats.	Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and LD4.
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and	+	++	++	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the landscape, environment and	Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies

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

cultural heritage				habitats.	LD1, LD2 and LD4.
To improve air quality	+	+	+	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the landscape, environment and habitats.	This policy helps to safeguard community facilities for the people of Little Birch and Aconbury. None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the landscape, environment and habitats.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and MT1.
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the landscape, environment and habitats.	None identified.
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the landscape, environment and habitats.	None identified.
To improve water quality	+	+	+	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the landscape, environment and habitats.	None identified.

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

To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	+	+	+	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the landscape, environment and habitats.	None identified.
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the landscape, environment and habitats.	None identified.
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the landscape, environment and habitats.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
To minimise the production of waste	+	+	+	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the landscape, environment and habitats.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
To improve health of the population	+	+	+	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the landscape, environment and habitats.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
To reduce crime and nuisance	+	+	+	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the landscape, environment and habitats.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2

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

					and SD3.
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	++	++	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the landscape, environment and habitats.	None identified. Policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy will help to alleviate impact caused from new development particularly policies LD1, LD2 and SD3.
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	Overall this policy has mainly a positive and neutral impact towards the relevant SEA objectives in the short, medium and long term.				

Policy LBA11: Building design

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

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

To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and moves towards the SEA baseline. This is a criteria based policy which seeks to improve design of new development.	None identified. This policy would not lead to development itself but contains criteria for development to be in keeping with the existing built and natural environment and is in conformity to policies LD1, LD2, LD3 and LD4.
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and moves towards the SEA baseline. This is a criteria based policy which seeks to improve design of new development.	None identified. This policy would not lead to development itself but contains criteria for development to be in keeping with the existing built and natural environment and is in conformity to policies LD1, LD2, LD3 and LD4.
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and moves towards the SEA baseline. This is a criteria based policy which seeks to improve design of new development.	None identified. This policy would not lead to development itself but contains criteria for development to be in keeping with the existing built and natural environment and is in conformity to policies LD1, LD2, LD3 and LD4.
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and moves towards the SEA baseline. This is a criteria based policy which seeks to improve design of new development.	None identified. This policy would not lead to development itself but contains criteria for development to be in keeping with the existing built and natural environment and is in conformity to policies LD1, LD2, LD3 and LD4.

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

To improve air quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and moves towards the SEA baseline. This is a criteria based policy which seeks to improve design of new development.	None identified. This policy would not lead to development itself but contains criteria for development to be in keeping with the existing built and natural environment and is in conformity to policies LD1, LD2, LD3 and LD4.
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	0	0	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and moves towards the SEA baseline. This is a criteria based policy which seeks to improve design of new development.	None identified. This policy would not lead to development itself but contains criteria for development to be in keeping with the existing built and natural environment and is in conformity to policies LD1, LD2, LD3 and LD4.
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and moves towards the SEA baseline. This is a criteria based policy which seeks to improve design of new development.	None identified. This policy would not lead to development itself but contains criteria for development to be in keeping with the existing built and natural environment and is in conformity to policies LD1, LD2, LD3 and LD4.
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and moves towards the SEA baseline. This is a criteria based policy which seeks to improve design of new development.	None identified. This policy would not lead to development itself but contains criteria for development to be in keeping with the existing built and natural environment and is in conformity to policies LD1, LD2, LD3 and LD4.

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

To improve water quality	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and moves towards the SEA baseline. This is a criteria based policy which seeks to improve design of new development.	None identified. This policy would not lead to development itself but contains criteria for development to be in keeping with the existing built and natural environment and is in conformity to policies LD1, LD2, LD3 and LD4.
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and moves towards the SEA baseline. This is a criteria based policy which seeks to improve design of new development.	None identified. This policy would not lead to development itself but contains criteria for development to be in keeping with the existing built and natural environment and is in conformity to policies LD1, LD2, LD3 and LD4.
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and moves towards the SEA baseline. This is a criteria based policy which seeks to improve design of new development.	None identified. This policy would not lead to development itself but contains criteria for development to be in keeping with the existing built and natural environment and is in conformity to policies LD1, LD2, LD3 and LD4.
To conserve soil resources and quality	0	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and moves towards the SEA baseline. This is a criteria based policy which seeks to improve design of new development.	None identified. This policy would not lead to development itself but contains criteria for development to be in keeping with the existing built and natural environment and is in conformity to policies LD1, LD2, LD3 and LD4.

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

To minimise the production of waste	0	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and moves towards the SEA baseline. This is a criteria based policy which seeks to improve design of new development.	None identified. This policy would not lead to development itself but contains criteria for development to be in keeping with the existing built and natural environment and is in conformity to policies LD1, LD2, LD3 and LD4.
To improve health of the population	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and moves towards the SEA baseline. This is a criteria based policy which seeks to improve design of new development.	None identified. This policy would not lead to development itself but contains criteria for development to be in keeping with the existing built and natural environment and is in conformity to policies LD1, LD2, LD3 and LD4.
To reduce crime and nuisance	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and moves towards the SEA baseline. This is a criteria based policy which seeks to improve design of new development.	None identified. This policy would not lead to development itself but contains criteria for development to be in keeping with the existing built and natural environment and is in conformity to policies LD1, LD2, LD3 and LD4.
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and moves towards the SEA baseline. This is a criteria based policy which seeks to improve design of new development.	None identified. This policy would not lead to development itself but contains criteria for development to be in keeping with the existing built and natural environment and is in conformity to policies LD1, LD2, LD3 and LD4.

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

Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	Overall this policy has a positive effect on the baseline objectives and is in conformity with the Core Strategy. The policy will help to safeguard local green spaces for the short, medium and long term.
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Key:

++ Move significantly towards	+ Move towards marginally	-- Move away Significantly	- Move away marginally	0 Neutral	? Uncertain	X No relationship
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SEA Objective / Objective / Policy	1. To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	2. To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	3. To improve quality of surroundings	4. To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and culture heritage	5. To improve air quality	6. To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	7. To reduce contributions to climate change	8. To reduce vulnerability to climate change	9. To improve water quality	10. To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	11. To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	12. To conserve soil resources and quality	13. To minimise the production	14. To improve health of the population	15. To reduce crime and nuisance	16. To conserve natural and manmade resources
Objective 1	0	+	+	0	0	?	0	0	?	?	?	?	?	+	+	0
Objective 2	0	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	?	?	?	+	+	+	+	0
Objective 3	++	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	++
Policy LBA1: Sustainable development	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+
Policy LBA2: Development needs and requirements	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	X	X	X	+	+	+	+	+
Policy LBA3: Little Birch village	?	?	?	X	?	0	0	0	?	?	?	+	+	+	+	?
Policy LBA4: Development in Little Birch	+	+	+	X	+	0	0	0	?	?	?	+	+	+	+	+
Policy LBA5: Development in Aconbury	+	+	+	X	+	0	0	0	?	?	?	+	+	+	+	+
Policy LBA6: Rural economic development	0	+	+	X	+	+	0	0	?	?	?	+	+	+	+	0
Policy LBA7: Communications	0	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	X	X	X	+	+	+	+	0

and broadband																
Policy LBA8: Renewable energy	0	+	+	x	+	+	+	+	x	x	x	+	+	+	+	0
Policy LBA9: Community facilities	0	+	+	x	0	0	x	x	x	x	x	+	+	+	+	0
Policy LBA10: Protecting the local environment	++	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	++
Policy LBA11: Building design	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+
Summary of effects of whole plan on each SEA Objective	Overall the Neighbourhood Plan policies and objectives have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data. And are in general conformity with the Core Strategy Overall all of the policies and objectives meet the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA. Policies and objectives strive to preserve and maintain natural and built historic environment that can help mitigate impact from the housing policies. This plan ensures appropriate sized development is developed this may help mitigate the effect of development. Water supply and flood risk issues in each proposed housing scheme can be determined at planning application stage, and will be tested on a case by case basis.															
Cumulative effects of whole plan (1 + 2 + 3...)	Overall this has had a positive effect on the SEA baseline data. Overall the unknown areas require further detail such as location, scale and size of development, therefore are likely to be determined at planning application/ proposal stage.															
Commentary for significant cumulative effects	No significant cumulative effects have been identified.															

Appendix 5

Little Birch and Aconbury Options

Option 1 -Do nothing
Option 2 -To do a criteria based policy.
Option 3 -To allocate sites in the plan.
Option 4 - Criteria policy and settlement boundary.
Option 5 - Criteria policy/settlement boundary/allocate sites.

Appendix 6

Template C2: SEA Quality Assurance Checklist

Parish Council Name: Little Birch and Aconbury

Neighbourhood Development Plan Name: Little Birch and Aconbury NDP

Date completed: September 2017

Objectives and context	Where are the points covered in Neighbourhood Development Plan SEA (insert chapter, section, page references, as necessary)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Neighbourhood Development Plan's purpose and objectives are made Little Birch and Aconbury. • The Neighbourhood Area's environmental issues and constraints, including acknowledgement of those in the Local Plan (Core Strategy) SA, where relevant, and local environmental protection objectives, are considered in developing objectives and targets. • SEA objectives are Little Birch and Aconbury set out and linked to indicators and targets where appropriate. • Links with other locally related plans, programmes and policies are identified, explained and acknowledgement for those set out in the SA of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) is given, where relevant. • Conflicts that exist between SEA objectives; between SEA and Neighbourhood Development Plan objectives; and between SEA objectives and other local plan objectives are identified and described. 	<p>Chapter 1.6 – 1.10</p> <p>Chapter 2 methodology, chapter 3 and tables A2 and A3</p> <p>Chapter 3 paragraph 3.5 and 3.7</p> <p>Chapter 3, paragraph 3.1</p> <p>Chapter 3</p>
<p>Scoping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory Consultees are consulted in appropriate ways and at appropriate times on the content and scope of the Environmental Report. • The assessment focuses on significant issues. • Technical, procedural and other 	<p>Chapter 2, paragraphs 2.6-2.9</p> <p>Chapter 2 and chapter 4</p> <p>Chapter 2</p> <p>Chapter 2, chapter 4 and chapter 5</p>

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

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

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

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