

Habitats Regulations Assessment

Report for:

Allensmore Neighbourhood Area

April 2019



Allensmore HRA

HRA Screening Assessment

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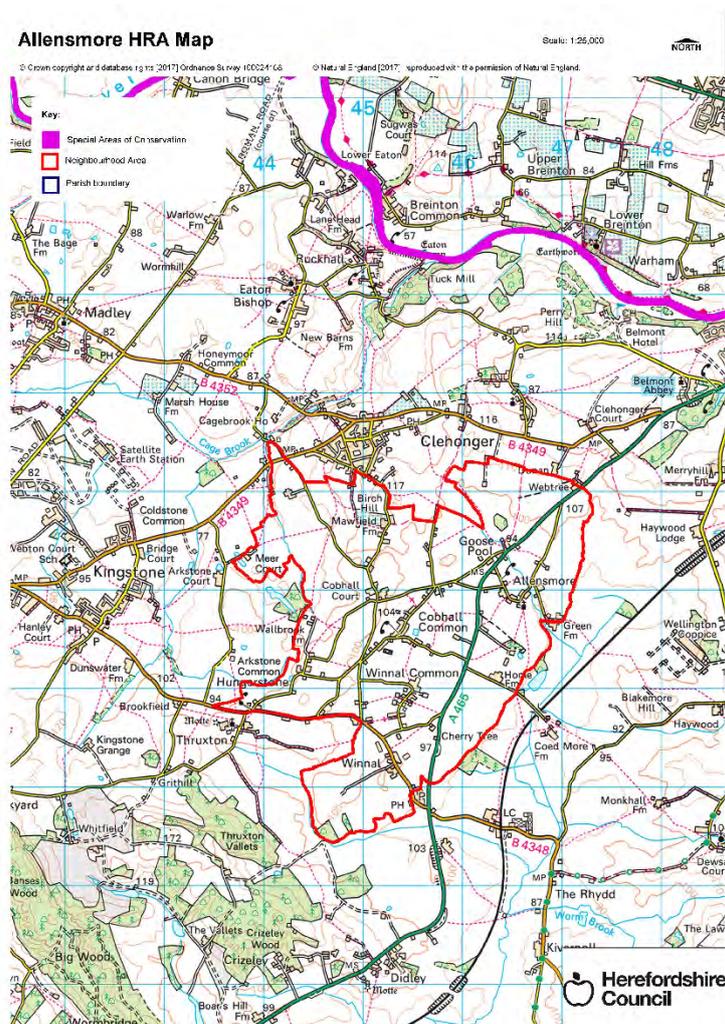
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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Screening Assessment relates to a Neighbourhood Development Plan that is considered to be in general conformity with higher level strategic plans, such as the Herefordshire Core Strategy and the National planning Policy Framework. The screening stage involves assessing broadly whether the Draft Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have a significant effect on any European site(s).
- 1.2 Allensmore Parish Council is producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Allensmore Parish, in order to set out the vision, objectives and policies for the development of the Parish up to 2031. This HRA reviews the Draft Allensmore Neighbourhood Plan May 2019.
- 1.3 The NDP has 8 criteria based policies with one policy with site allocations. It provides general policies that clarify and provide detail to the policies within the Herefordshire Core Strategy therefore it requires a high level screening assessment to build upon the HRA Screening Assessment Report for the Herefordshire Core Strategy. This high level screening assessment should be read in combination with the Herefordshire Pre-submission publication of the Local Plan-Core Strategy Habitat Regulations Assessment Report (April 2014) and ensures that there will not be any significant impacts upon Natura 2000 sites.
- 1.4 The map below shows Allensmore neighbourhood Area with the European Site highlighted.



2 The requirement to undertake Habitats Regulations Assessment of neighbourhood plans

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

3 Methodology

- 3.1 As the Allensmore NDP is not directly connected with the management of any European sites, and includes proposals for development which may affect European sites, it is necessary under Regulation 102(1)(a) of the Habitats Regulations 2010 to undertake screening for likely significant effects on European sites.
- 3.2 The HRA of neighbourhood plans is undertaken in stages and should conclude whether or not a proposal or policy in a neighbourhood plan would adversely affect the integrity of the site in question. This is judged in terms of the implications of the plan for a site's 'qualifying features' (i.e. those Annex I habitats, Annex II species, and Annex I bird populations for which it has been designated) and are measured with reference to the conservation objectives for those qualifying features as defined by Natural England.
- 3.3 The first process is to undertake an initial screening report to determine the need to undertake the requirement for a HRA, this initial screening identifies whether the Plan could impact upon any European site that could be within the Neighbourhood Area or nearby.
- 3.4 If a European Site is within the Neighbourhood Area or the Neighbourhood Area could impact upon a European site then this will need to be taken into account and a full screening assessment will need to be undertaken.

- 3.5 The full screening stage consists of a description of the plan, identification of potential effects on European Sites, assessing the effects on European Sites (taking into account potential mitigation provided by other policies in the plan). For Neighbourhood Plans the outcome should demonstrate there are no likely effects upon the European sites. If any likely effects occur then there will need to be amendments to the NDP made and be re-screened until all likely effects have been mitigated.

4 Results of the Initial Screening Report and options

- 4.1 The initial Screening report (**26 July 2017**) found that the Neighbourhood Area is in the hydrological catchment of the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC. Therefore a full screening assessment is required. The west of the Parish is in the hydrological catchment.
- 4.2 For full details of the River Lugg and River Wye SAC attributes which contribute to and define their integrity and vulnerable data see Appendix 1 of the Allensmore Initial Screening Report. The Initial Screening Report, (**26 July 2017**), can be found in Appendix 3 of this HRA report. This information made it possible to identify the features of each site which determine site integrity, as well as the specific sensitivities of each site, therefore enabling later analysis of how the potential impacts of the Allensmore Neighbourhood Plan may affect site integrity.
- 4.3 The initial options for the NDP were assessed to determine their environmental impact that could affect the River Wye SAC. Of the 2 options put forward the no NDP option was not considered viable for the Parish. The remaining option proposed growth through site allocations, however any additional infill would all be within the proportional growth targets of the Core strategy and are therefore unlikely to have a significant impact on the SAC.
- 4.4 As Allensmore progresses from options onto their NDP policies, the Plan will need to identify ways in which the least effect on the River Wye SAC could be achieved, alongside taking forward the preferred option from the consultation from the community. A list of the options assessed can be found in Appendix 1, and the Assessment matrix for the options can be found Appendix 2.

5 Description of the Allensmore Neighbourhood Development Plan

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

Objective 1	Housing
Objective 2	The Environment
Objective 3	Farming and Other Businesses
Objective 4	Community Facilities and Infrastructure

- 5.3 The NDP also sets out 8 policies on various topics based on the objective headings above and also for the villages, these include:

Policy A1	Protecting and Enhancing Local Landscape Character
Policy A2	Protecting and Enhancing Local Wildlife
Policy A3	Proposed Site Allocations
Policy A4	Criteria for Development in Settlement Boundaries
Policy A5	Housing Mix
Policy A6	Conversion of Former Agricultural Buildings
Policy A7	Drainage, Flooding and Sewage
Policy A8	Protecting the Church and Village Hall and Supporting Investment in Improved Facilities

6 Identification of other plans and projects which may have ‘in-combination’ effects

- 6.1 Regulation 102 of the Habitats Regulations 2010 requires an appropriate assessment where a land use plan (not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site) is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. In addition, in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulation 2012 a NDP cannot have a significant effect on any European Site whether alone or in combination with another Plan.
- 6.2 There are a number of potentially relevant plans and projects which may result in in-combination effects with the Core Strategy across Herefordshire, these plans have been reviewed and can be found in Appendix 2 of the pre-submission publication of the Herefordshire Local Plan – Core Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment (May 2014). It is seen that as this NDP does not go over and beyond the requirements set out in the Core Strategy this review will also be substantial for the NDP.
- 6.3 The HRA for the Core Strategy also identifies that both the Water Cycle Study for Herefordshire, which indicates the potential for planned water abstraction requirements combined with pressures on European Sites from the Core Strategy policies, and the work on the Nutrient Management Plan, to ensure the favourable conservation status of the SAC in respect of phosphate levels as soon as possible and at the latest by 2027, have both been considered as part of the in-combination assessment.

7 Assessment of the ‘likely significant effects’ of the Allensmore NDP

- 7.1 As required under Regulation 102 of the Habitats Regulations 2010, a screening assessment has been undertaken to identify the ‘likely significant effects’ of the NDP. A screening matrix was prepared in order to identify whether any of the policies in the Plan would be likely to have a significant effect on the River Wye SAC.
- 7.2 The findings of the screening matrix can be found in the Screening Matrix in Appendix 2 of this report. Colour coding was used to record the likely impacts of the policies on the European site and its qualifying habitats and species as shown in the table 1 below.

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

- 7.3 The Screening matrix took the approach of screening each policy individually, which is consistent with current guidance documents. The results from the HRA report for the pre-

submission version of the Herefordshire Core Strategy were also taken into consideration.

- 7.4 Implementation of the other policies within the NDP, which require good practice measures during and after construction phases, such as more efficient use of water, reduction in waste and encouragement of recycling will help to address any further environmental impact. The provision and encouragement of use of more sustainable transport measures when improving the transport infrastructure have been clearly identified and will also help to reduce car traffic around the parish and surrounding areas.

8 Conclusions from the Screening Matrix

- 8.1 None of the Draft Allensmore Neighbourhood Plan (May 2019) policies were concluded to be likely to have a significant effect on the River Wye SAC. Based on assumptions and information contained within the Allensmore Parish Plan, Herefordshire Core Strategy and the Pre-submission version / proposed modifications addendum of the HRA for the Core Strategy all of the NDP policies were found to be unlikely to result in significant effects on the River Wye.
- 8.2 In many cases this is because the policy itself would not result in development, i.e., it related instead to criteria for development. In a number of cases the policies also included measures to help support the natural environment, including biodiversity and therefore no significant effect conclusion could be reached. In addition, these policies have the potential to mitigate some of the possible adverse effects arising from other policies.
- 8.3 The plan is mainly criteria based plan but allocates 7 sites (Policy A3).
- 8.4 There is no mains drainage in the Neighbourhood Area. The impact of water abstraction and quality can be determined at planning application stage on a case by case basis. Policy SD4 of the Core Strategy and Policy indicate that development would not be permitted if wastewater treatment and water quality cannot be assured. The preparation of the Nutrient Management Plan for the River Wye SAC should ensure that development within Herefordshire which can be accommodated within existing water discharge permits would not be likely to have a significant effect upon the River Wye SAC.
- 8.5 It is unlikely that the Allensmore Plan will have any in-combination effects with any Plans from neighbouring parish councils as the level of growth proposed is the same as that proposed for the Housing Market Area in the Herefordshire Core Strategy and all of the proposed housing sites will be of a small scale and in line with the proportional growth specified in the Core Strategy.
- 8.6 It is therefore concluded that the Allensmore Parish NDP will not have a likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC and Parish Councillors will welcome the conclusion as to no likely significant effect.
- 8.7 Any further amendments to policies (post May 2019) will be rescreened if required and an addendum to this report will be produced.

Appendix 1

Appendix 1 – Allensmore HRA (Reg 14)

Options Considered

April 2019

Option 1 - Accommodating the level of housing growth required through settlement boundaries and allocations
Option 2 - Not to prepare an NDP

Appendix 2

HRA Screening of Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan Policies**Parish: Allensmore****Date undertaken: April 2019**

NDP objectives and policies	HRA Screening of final NDP objectives and policies				
	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the objective/option/policy	Likely effect if option implemented. Could they have Likely Significant Effects (LSE) on European Sites?	European Sites potentially affected	Would it be possible that it would result in any LSE?	Requirement for an Appropriate Assessment
Objective 1 – Housing	To develop policies, within the framework of Herefordshire's Core Strategy, which deliver proportionate growth, and which ensure that new housing development preserves and enhances aspects that people value, and makes optimum use of sustainable technologies whilst meeting the current and future needs of both residents and businesses.	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site. All developments are required to meet the criteria of Policy SD4.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	No	No: Scale and extent of development is in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and this policy will not lead to development itself. Policy criteria exist within the NDP and Core Strategy (SD4) required to be met for any development to receive planning permission.
Objective 2 – The Environment	To ensure that all housing and business development preserves, and, where possible,	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site. All developments are	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	No	No: Scale and extent of development is in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy)

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	enriches the character of the parish and protects the landscape, so that its impact on the environment is minimised, with particular reference to water, sewage and soil management, as well as energy and water conservation.	required to meet the criteria of Policy SD4.			and this policy will not lead to development itself. Policy criteria exist within the NDP and Core Strategy (SD4) required to be met for any development to receive planning permission.
Objective 3 – Farming and Other Business	To encourage new business initiatives which promote the economic well-being of the parish provided that they are in scale with, and sensitive to, the rural character of the locality and any adverse effect on residents' wellbeing or the environment is minimal.	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site. All developments are required to meet the criteria of Policy SD4.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	No	No: Scale and extent of development is in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and this policy will not lead to development itself. Policy criteria exist within the NDP and Core Strategy (SD4) required to be met for any development to receive planning permission.
Objective 4 – Community Facilities and Infrastructure	To sustain and enhance existing community facilities whilst supporting investment in safe and appropriate new infrastructure as needed and desired by residents and businesses.	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site. All developments are required to meet the criteria of Policy SD4	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	No	No: Scale and extent of development is in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and this policy will not lead to development itself. Policy criteria exist within the NDP and Core Strategy

					(SD4) required to be meet for any development to receive planning permission.
OPTIONS					
Option 1	Accommodating the level of housing growth required through settlement boundaries and allocations Increase in vehicle traffic. Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment.	Allocation of small sites for housing would give certainty to future development. It is unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site. All developments are required to meet the criteria of Policy SD4.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	No	No, policy criteria exist within the NDP and Core Strategy (SD4) required to be meet for the development to receive planning permission.
Option 2	Not to prepare an NDP	It is unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site. All developments are required to meet the criteria of Policy SD4.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC.	No	No, policy criteria exist within the NDP and Core Strategy (SD4) required to be meet for the development to receive planning permission.
POLICIES					
Policy A1	Protecting and Enhancing Local Landscape Character	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	No	No: this policy itself will not lead to development, instead

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		the European Site.			it relates to criteria based objective.
Policy A2	Protecting and Enhancing Local Wildlife	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	No	No: this policy itself will not lead to development, instead it relates to criteria based objective.
Policy A4	Criteria for Development in Settlement Boundaries	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	No	No, implementation of Core Strategy policy SD4, LD2, SD1 and to grant planning permission will ensure water quality issues are addressed as well as being in line with Core Strategy Policies.
Policy A5	Housing Mix	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site. All developments are required to meet the criteria of Policy SD4 which seeks to ensure water quality of the SAC is not detrimentally effected.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	No	No, implementation of Core Strategy policy SD4, LD2, SD1, H3 will be required to grant planning permission and this will ensure water quality issues are addressed.
Policy A6	Conversion of Former Agricultural Buildings	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site. All developments are	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	No	No, implementation of Core Strategy policy SD4, LD2, SD1 and to grant planning

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		required to meet the criteria of Policy SD4 which seeks to ensure water quality of the SAC is not detrimentally effected.			permission will ensure water quality issues are addressed as well as being in line with Core Strategy Policies.
Policy A7	Drainage, Flooding and Sewage	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site. All developments are required to meet the criteria of Policy SD4 which seeks to ensure water quality of the SAC is not detrimentally effected.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	No	No: this policy itself refers to the River Wye SAC and other priority species and habitats. Implementation of Core Strategy policy SD4, LD2, SD1 and to grant planning permission will ensure water quality issues are addressed as well as being in line with Core Strategy Policies
Policy A8	Protecting the Church and Village Hall and Supporting Investment in Improved Facilities	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site. All developments are required to meet the criteria of Policy SD4 which seeks to ensure water quality of the SAC is not detrimentally effected.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	No	No, implementation of Core Strategy policy SD4, LD2, SD1 and to grant planning permission will ensure water quality issues are addressed.

SITES					
Policy A3 – Proposed Site Allocations					
Site 1	<p>Cats Whiskers Boarding Cattery, Winnal, 0.07 ha, proposed 1 dwelling</p> <p>Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment.</p> <p>Increase in vehicle traffic.</p>	<p>Allocation of a site for housing would give certainty to future development. It is unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site. All developments are required to meet the criteria of Policy SD4.</p>	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	No	<p>No, implementation of Core Strategy policy SD4, LD2, SD1 and to grant planning permission will ensure water quality issues are addressed.</p>
Site 4	<p>Willoughby Cottage Garden, Winnal, 0.25ha, 1 proposed dwelling</p> <p>Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment.</p> <p>Increase in vehicle traffic.</p>	<p>Allocation of a site for housing would give certainty to future development. It is unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site. All developments are required to meet the criteria of Policy SD4.</p>	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	No	<p>No, implementation of Core Strategy policy SD4, LD2, SD1 and to grant planning permission will ensure water quality issues are addressed.</p>
Site 6	<p>Church Road, Allensmore. 0.25 ha, proposed two dwellings.</p> <p>Increased demand for water abstraction and</p>	<p>Allocation of a small site for housing would give certainty to future development. It is unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site. All</p>	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	No	<p>No, implementation of Core Strategy policy SD4, LD2, SD1 and to grant planning permission will ensure water quality issues</p>

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	sewage treatment. Increase in vehicle traffic.	developments are required to meet the criteria of Policy SD4.			are addressed.
Site 14	South of Winnal Farm, Winnal. 1.48ha, 13 proposed dwellings. Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment. Increase in vehicle traffic.	Allocation of a site for housing would give certainty to future development. It is unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site. All developments are required to meet the criteria of Policy SD4.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	No	No, implementation of Core Strategy policy SD4, LD2, SD1 and to grant planning permission will ensure water quality issues are addressed.
Site 15	Cobhall Lane, Cobhall Common, 0.56ha, 5 proposed dwellings. Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment. Increase in vehicle traffic.	Allocation of a site for housing would give certainty to future development. It is unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site. All developments are required to meet the criteria of Policy SD4.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	No	No, implementation of Core Strategy policy SD4, LD2, SD1 and to grant planning permission will ensure water quality issues are addressed.
Site 20	Cobhall Common, 1.07 ha, proposed 9 dwellings Increased demand for	Allocation of a site for housing would give certainty to future development. It is	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	No	No, implementation of Core Strategy policy SD4, LD2, SD1 and to grant planning

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	<p>water abstraction and sewage treatment.</p> <p>Increase in vehicle traffic.</p>	<p>unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site. All developments are required to meet the criteria of Policy SD4.</p>			<p>permission will ensure water quality issues are addressed.</p>
Site 16	<p>Court Plocks – Barn Conversion, 0.05ha, 1 conversion</p> <p>Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment.</p> <p>Increase in vehicle traffic.</p>	<p>Allocation of a site for housing would give certainty to future development. It is unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site. All developments are required to meet the criteria of Policy SD4.</p>	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	No	<p>No, implementation of Core Strategy policy SD4, LD2, SD1, RA3 and to grant planning permission will ensure water quality issues are addressed.</p>

Appendix 3

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:	Allensmore Neighbourhood Area
Parish Council:	Allensmore Parish Council
Neighbourhood Area Designation Date:	26 May 2017

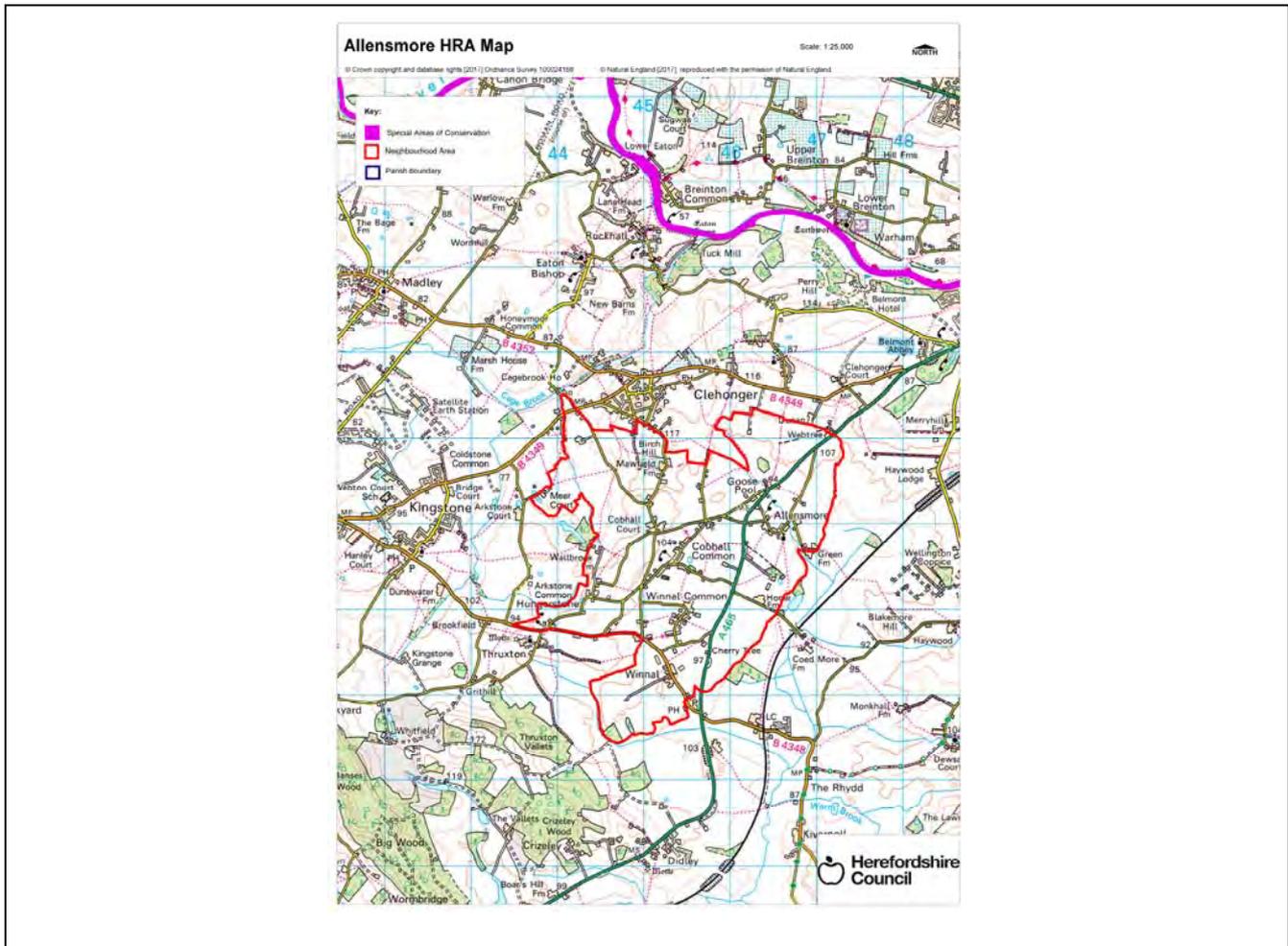
Introduction

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 approx. 2km away from the neighbourhood area
Is the Neighbourhood Area in the hydrological catchment of the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC?	Y	The western part of the neighbourhood area is within the hydrological catchment of both 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 neighbourhood area.

Downton Gorge SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of Downton Gorge SAC?	N	Downton Gorge is 35km away from neighbourhood area
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River Clun SAC:

Does the River Clun border the Neighbourhood Area	N	The River Clun does not border the neighbourhood area
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Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of any of the individual sites that make up the Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites?	N	The Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites are 24km away from the neighbourhood area
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Wye Valley Woodlands SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of any of the individual sites that make up the Wye Valley Woodlands Site?	N	The Wye Valley Woodlands are 20km away from the neighbourhood area
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HRA Conclusion:

The assessment above highlights that European Sites will need to be taken into account in the future Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Allensmore Neighbourhood Area and a Full HRA Screening will be required.

European Site

(List only those which are relevant)

River Wye (including the River Lugg) Special Area of Conservation (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 Allensmore 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	1	Bullocks Wood.	12	Wallbrook Wood; Ruckhall Wood; Priors Shell Wood; Old Hill Wood; Newton Coppice; Veddoes Copse; Knockerhill Wood; Callow Plantation; Square Wood; Vallets Wood; Thruxton Vallets; Heirons Wood.
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	0	-	0	-
Conservation Areas	0	-	0	-
Flood Areas	Flood Zones 2 and 3 are not within the neighbourhood area.			
Geoparks	0	-	0	-
Listed Buildings	There are numerous listed buildings within the neighbourhood area.			
Local Geological Sites (LGS)	0	-	0	-
Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)	1	Pond at Allensmore Court.	11	Pond at Allensmore Court; Littlemarsh Common; Honeymoon Common;

				Cagebrook Valley and Woodlands; Clehonger village pond; Hayleasow Wood, Newton Coppice & Spring Grove; Knockerhill Wood and adjoining Woodland; Arkstone Common; Whitfield; Kingstone Common; Cage Brook.		
Mineral Reserves	7	Hunderton Rough to Clehonger to Allensmore; Courtlands Farm; Cobhall Farm; Cobhall Common; Whitehouse Kennels; Small area north west of Green Farm; Home Farm.	0	-		
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	0	-	0	-		
Nature Trails	0	-	0	-		
Registered Parks and Gardens	0	-	1	Whitfield.		
Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM)	0	-	1	Thrupton Tump, a motte castle at Thrupton Court.		
Sites of Importance in Nature Conservation (SINC)	0	-	0	-		
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	0	-	0	-		
Unregistered parks and gardens	1	Allensmore Court.	2	Belmont House; Cagebrook House.		
			SSSI Status		SSSI Status	
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	0	-	-	2	Littlemarsh Common; Cagebrook Valley.	Unfavourable Declining; Favourable;

						Unfavourable No Change; Unfavourable Declining.
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Decision Notification:

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

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

Assessment date: 26 July 2017

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. 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.