

Habitats Regulations Assessment



Callow & Haywood Group Neighbourhood Area

November 2014

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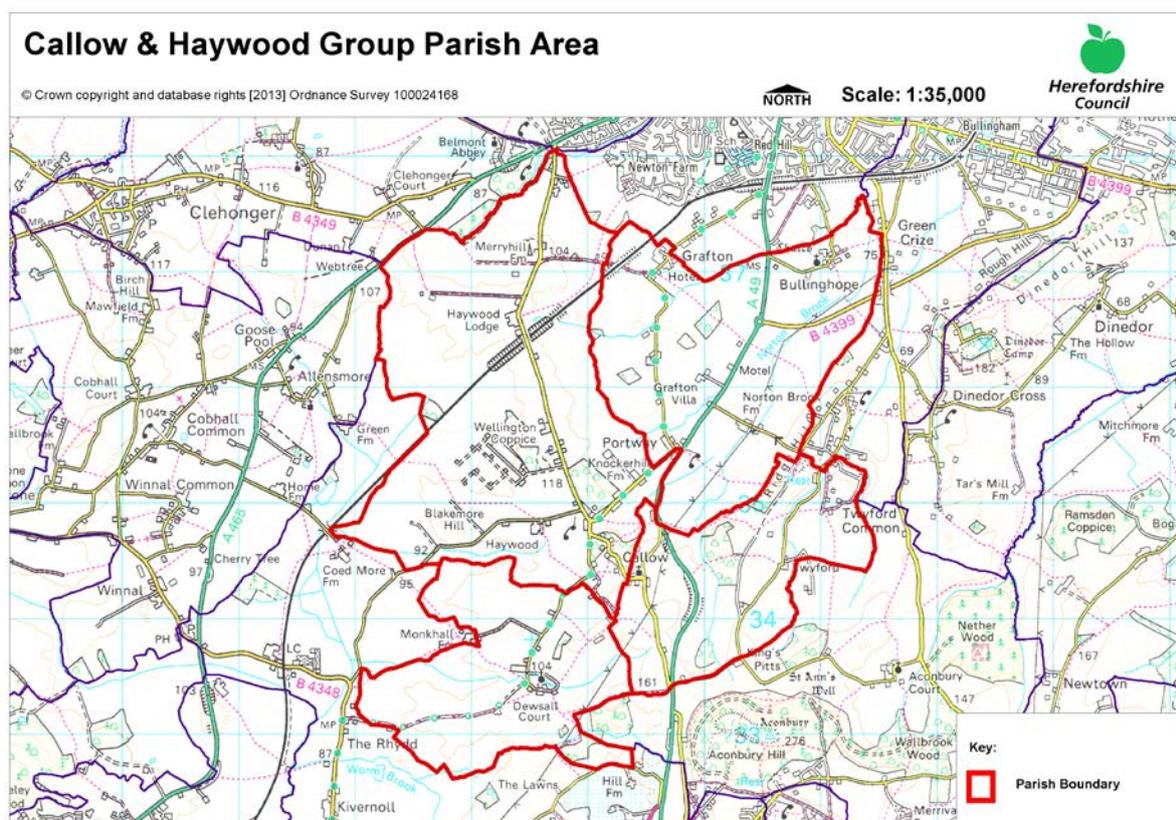
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Appendix 1: Initial SEA Screening Report (November 2013)

Appendix 2: Screening of policy matrix

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This Screening Assessment relates to a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) that is considered to be in general conformity with higher level strategic plans, such as the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the National Planning Policy Framework. The screening stage involves assessing broadly whether the Draft Callow and Haywood NDP is likely to have a significant effect on any European site(s).
- 1.2 Callow and Haywood Group Parish Council is preparing an NDP for whole administrative area of the Group Parish, in order to set out the vision, objectives and policies for its development of the Parish up to 2031 (Draft plan November 2014, being assessed).
- 1.3 The NDP has not allocated sites but provides general policies that clarify and add locally specific detail to the policies within the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy). Therefore it requires a high level screening assessment to build upon the HRA Screening Assessment Report undertaken in respect of strategic policies.
- 1.4 This high level screening assessment, which should be read in conjunction with the Pre-submission publication of the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) and Habitat Regulations Assessment Report (May 2014), ensures that there will not be any significant impacts upon Natura 2000 sites.
- 1.4 The map below shows Callow and Haywood Group Neighbourhood Area and parish boundary.



2.0 The requirement to undertake Habitats Regulations Assessment of plans

2.1 The requirement to undertake HRA of development/neighbourhood plans was confirmed by the amendments to the “Habitats Regulations” published for England and Wales in July 2007 and updated in 2013. Therefore when preparing its NDP, Callow and Haywood Group Parish Council is required to carry out an assessment known as “Habitats Regulations Assessment” pursuant to Reg 32 Schedule 2 Neighbourhood Planning Regulations.

2.2 Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive provides that:

‘Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the [European] site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.’

2.3 HRA is an impact-led assessment and refers to the assessment of the potential effects of a development plan on one or more European sites, including Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs):

- **SPAs** are classified under the European Council Directive ‘on the conservation of wild birds’ (79/409/EEC; Birds Directive) for the protection of **wild birds and their habitats** (including particularly rare and vulnerable species listed in Annex 1 of the Birds Directive, and migratory species).
- **SACs** are designated under the Habitats Directive and target **particular habitats** (Annex 1) and/or species (Annex II) identified as being of European importance.
- **Ramsar sites** support internationally important wetlands habitats

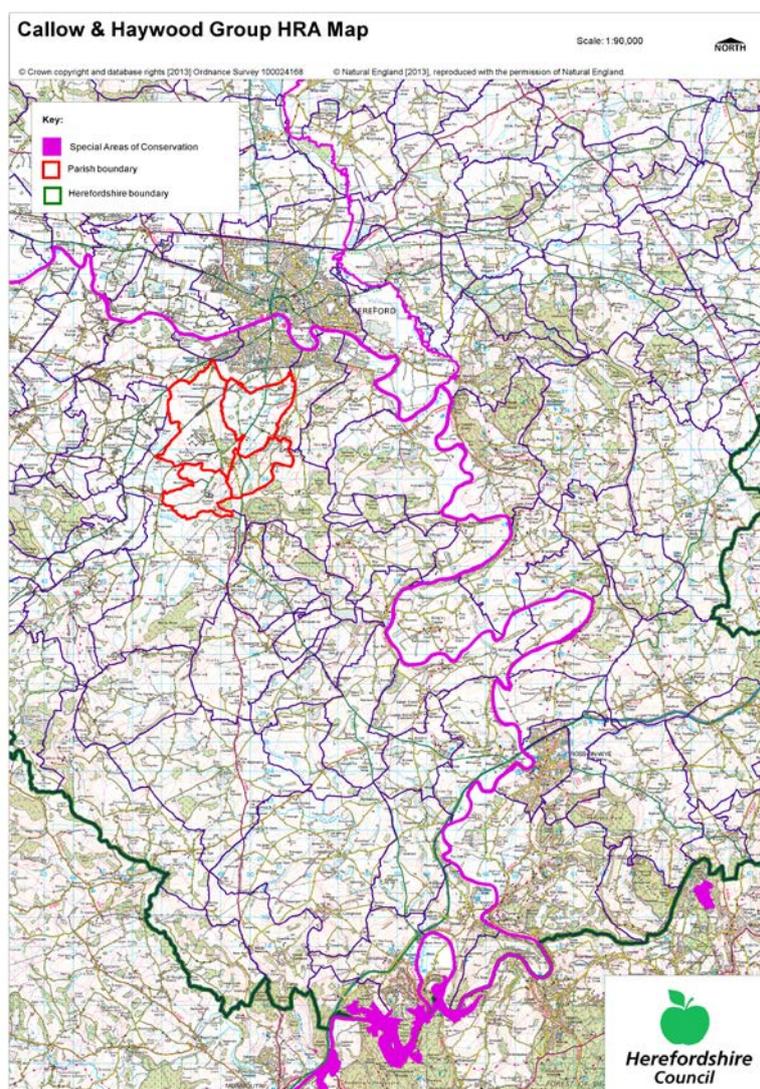
2.4 For ease of reference during HRA, general practice has been that these three designations are collectively referred to as either **Natura 2000** or **European sites**. This means that a Screening Assessment is carried out with regard to the Conservation Objectives of the European Sites and with reference to other plans or projects to identify if any significant effect is likely for any European Site.

3.0 Methodology

- 3.1 As the Callow and Haywood 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 NDPs 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 NDP would 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 must 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). In the context of NDPs, the outcome should demonstrate there are no likely effects upon the European sites. If any likely effects occur there will be a need to make amendments to the NDP, which will then have re-screened until all likely effects have been mitigated.

4.0 Results of the Initial Screening Report and options

- 4.1 The initial Screening Report (23 November 2013) shown in Appendix 1 revealed that the River Wye SAC is located less than 1km away from the northern edge of the Callow and Haywood neighbourhood area and therefore a full screening assessment would be required.
- 4.2 The following map highlights the location of River Wye SAC in relation to the neighbourhood area.



- 4.3 European sites can be sensitive to changes in water quantity and quality. As outlined within the Habitat Regulation Assessment to the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy), the water supply in this area comes from Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) and no likely significant effects on European sites as a result of changes in water quality are expected in relation to the proportional growth outlined with the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy).
- 4.4 In relation to water quality, the preparation of the Nutrient Management Plan for the River Wye SAC should ensure that developments within the area can be accommodated by existing water discharge permits and would not be likely to have a significant effect upon the River Wye SAC.

- 4.5 For full details of the River Wye's attributes which contribute to and define their integrity and vulnerable data see Appendix 1 of the Callow and Haywood Initial Screening Report (Full report in Appendix 1 of this HRA report).
- 4.6 The NDP objectives and policies (refer to Appendix 2) have been assessed to determine their environmental impact on the River Wye SAC. There is no evidence that alternative options were considered prior to launching into the drafting of the plan and consequently it was impossible to undertake this element of the assessment.

5.0 Description of the Callow and Haywood NDP

- 5.1 The Draft Callow and Haywood NDP presents criteria based policies for development in the neighbourhood area, which is equivalent to the administrative parish boundary, up to 2031.
- 5.2 The NDP sets out the vision for the Parish over the plan period and objectives of how this will be achieved. The objectives cover the following topics:
- Traffic, transport and access
 - Environment and sustainability
 - Facilities and services
 - Housing
 - Leisure and tourism
 - Work training and the local economy
- 5.3 The Neighbourhood Plan also sets out 9 general policies on themes based on the objective headings above:
- Policy CH1: Protecting and enhancing the rural landscape
 - Policy CH2: Building and transport design principles
 - Policy CH3: Local heritage list
 - Policy CH4: Protecting the sensitive landscapes
 - Policy CH5: Managing new business development in former agricultural buildings
 - Policy CH6: Supporting tourism and local business development in Callow and Haywood
 - Policy CH7: New communication technologies and energy saving
 - Policy CH8: Provision and protection of local community facilities
 - Policy CH9: Local needs housing

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

- 6.1 Regulation 102 of the Habitats Regulations 2010 requires an appropriate assessment where a land use plan (not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site) is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. It should be noted, however, that NDP cannot be Made (adopted) if likely significant effects occur.
- 6.2 There are a number of potentially relevant plans and projects which may result in in-combination effects with the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy), and these plans have been reviewed and can be found at Appendix 2 of the Pre-submission publication of the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) Habitats Regulations Assessment (May 2014).
- 6.3 It is seen that as the Callow and Haywood NDP does not allocate sites for development and does contain policies which would result in greater levels of development than envisaged by strategic policies, as set out in the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy), this review will suffice for the purposes of the NDP. Adjacent neighbourhood plans (Cleghonger, Lower Bullingham, Belmont Rural, and to a lesser extent Dinedor) are at varying stages of their production, but none go over and above the requirements set within the Local Plan (Core Strategy) for their area at this stage.
- 6.4 The HRA for the Local Plan (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 plan’s 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.

7.0 Assessment of the 'likely significant effects' of the Callow and Haywood 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 NDP 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 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 and objective individually, which is consistent with current guidance documents. The results from the HRA report for the Pre-submission version of the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) were also taken into consideration.
- 7.4 Mitigation of some of the identified potential effects could be achieved through implementation of the other policies within the NDP and the Local Plan (Core Strategy). The Callow and Haywood NDP will safeguard any proposal or development against detrimental impact on the environment within Policies CH1, CH2 and CH4.

8.0 Conclusions from the Screening Matrix

- 8.1 None of the Callow and Haywood NDP objectives and policies (November 2014) were concluded to be likely to have a significant likely effect on the River Wye SAC. Some suggestions have been made in respect of five policies, as it is considered that the policy wording could be strengthened to ensure that any potential effects on the River Wye are taken into account. Based on assumptions and information contained within the Callow and Haywood NDP, Herefordshire Local (Core Strategy) and the Pre-submission version of the HRA for the Local Plan (Core Strategy) all of the NDP policies were found to be unlikely to result in significant effects on the River Wye SAC.
- 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 several cases the policies also included measures to help support the natural environment including biodiversity. In addition, to conserve community facilities and heritage, and therefore no significant effect conclusion could be reached. These policies have the potential to mitigate some of the possible adverse effects arising from other policies.
- 8.3 It is unlikely that the Callow and Haywood NDP will have any in-combination effects with any Plans from neighbouring parishes, as no sites are allocated for development.
- 8.4 Therefore it is concluded that the **Callow and Haywood NDP will not have a likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC.**
- 8.5 Any further amendments to the policies (post November 2014) will be re-screened if required and an addendum to this report will be produced.

NDP objectives	HRA Screening of NDP objectives and policies				
	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the objective/policy	Likely effect if objective/policy implemented. Could they have Likely Significant Effects on European Sites? (Yes/No, with reasons)	European Sites potentially affected	Mitigation measures to be considered, as necessary, through redraft of objective/option/policy.	Could the policy have any likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account)?
Objective 1 ¹ (Aim 1)	Encouragement of sustainable development which protects or enhances the landscape, environment and habitats.	N/A	N/A	N/A	No, this objective will not lead to new development; rather it aims to ensure that all development proposed will conserve or protect Callow and Haywood's landscape, environment and habitats.
Objective 2 (Aim 1)	Promoting measures to ensure the rural character of the Group Parish remains	N/A	N/A	N/A	No, this objective will not lead to development itself but will seek to improve the landscape qualities of the neighbourhood area.
Objective 3 (Aim 1)	Continuing the thread of strategic policies by avoiding development in open countryside and urban sprawl	N/A	N/A	N/A	No, this objective will not lead to development; rather it acknowledges that limited growth will occur across the neighbourhood area in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy).
Objective 4 (Aim 1)	Reductions in the potential impacts of large scale proposals, including the proposed Southern Link Road by utilising creative solutions	N/A	N/A	N/A	No, this objective aims to reduce the impact of development proposals and large schemes in particular by ensuring that they incorporate measures which soften their appearance.
Objective 5 (Aim 1)	Designation of the Group Parish as an AONB	N/A	N/A	N/A	No, as strictly speaking this is not considered to be a land use matter.
Objective 1 (Aim 2)	Roll out of sustainable transport initiatives	N/A	N/A	N/A	No, this objective will not lead to development itself but will look to ease the pressures between the community and transport throughout the Group Parish.
Objective 2 (Aim 2)	Some small scale housing development via change of use of agricultural buildings.	Housing, infrastructure development and possible increase in recreational activities, vehicular movements and demand for water abstraction and treatment. Uncertain as to the impacts upon the River Wye SAC dependent on the location of development, however the policy would result in small scale growth.	River Wye (including River Lugg (SAC))	Measures set within the relevant Local Plan (Core Strategy) policies and Callow and Haywood NDP Policies CH1, CH2 and CH4 should help to avoid adverse impacts on the European site.	No, although this objective would allow for small scale housing schemes and supports the Local Plan (Core Strategy) Policy RA2, there are additional policy criteria in place in both the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the Callow and Haywood NDP to avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.

¹ Refer to Draft Plan for Policy Criteria

NDP objectives	HRA Screening of NDP objectives and policies				
	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the objective/policy	Likely effect if objective/policy implemented. Could they have Likely Significant Effects on European Sites? (Yes/No, with reasons)	European Sites potentially affected	Mitigation measures to be considered, as necessary, through redraft of objective/option/policy.	Could the policy have any likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account)?
Objective 3 (Aim 2)	Support for employment opportunities within the parish.	Employment and infrastructure development.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	This policy should help to reduce the extent to which people need to travel to work especially in connection with policies to improve network connections. Policy LD2 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) will aim to avoid any adverse impacts on the River Wye for new employment or businesses uses.	No: this objective may have a positive effect on reducing the need to travel and there are policy safeguards within Local Plan (Core Strategy) policies that will help mitigate potential likely significant effects.
Objective 4 (Aim 2)	Roll out of high speed broadband for all residents.	N/A	N/A	N/A	No, this objective will not lead to development itself and will encourage the uptake of mobile working to the benefit of transport concerns and air quality. There are safeguards within policy to ensure that disruption caused by the siting of proposals is minimised.
Objective 5 (Aim 2)	Encourage and enhance the use of community facilities, as well as facilitating new provision.	New community facilities	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	Policy LD2 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) will aim to help avoid any adverse impacts on the River Wye for new community uses.	No, this objective could result in the development of new community facilities or the loss of existing provision to new uses, which depending on location could have potential effect on the River Wye. However, sufficient policy safeguards are in place within the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and with the inclusion of additional wording in the Callow and Haywood NDP policy to avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects on the River Wye.
NDP Policies					
Policy CH1: Protecting and enhancing the rural landscape	Seeks to ensure all development protects landscape, heritage, and the environment.	N/A	N/A	Although the River Wye does not pass through the parish, additional policy criteria could be added to strengthen the requirements for development at locations which could have an adverse impact on the natural environment, especially River Wye.	No, as the policy will not lead to new development; rather it aims to ensure that all development proposed will conserve or enhance Callow and Haywood's landscape, environment and habitats.

NDP objectives	HRA Screening of NDP objectives and policies				
	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the objective/policy	Likely effect if objective/policy implemented. Could they have Likely Significant Effects on European Sites? (Yes/No, with reasons)	European Sites potentially affected	Mitigation measures to be considered, as necessary, through redraft of objective/option/policy.	Could the policy have any likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account)?
Policy CH2: Building and transport design principles	Policy sets out design criteria for all prospective developments, including transport schemes	N/A	N/A	N/A	No, as the policy would not itself lead to development; instead it relates to the design criteria for development. This refers to measures to reduce light pollution and avoid damage to wildlife habitats.
Policy CH3: Local heritage list	Policy requires all proposals concerning assets on the as yet un-adopted heritage list to demonstrate how they will preserve or enhance the asset. This includes non-designated heritage assets	N/A	N/A	N/A	No, as the policy merely seeks to ensure that greater checks and balances are placed on proposals that directly involve heritage assets, including those which are not subject to any formal designation, at the planning application stage.
Policy CH4: Protecting the sensitive landscape assets in the urban fringe	Policy identifies a range of sensitive landscapes in which development proposals would be required to provide a greater level of impact analysis.	N/A	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	The policy itself refers to ensuring no urbanisation of the landscape identified. Although the River Wye does not flow through the parish, this policy could be strengthened by including reference to the European site specifically within Policy CH4.	No, as the policy merely emphasises the importance of avoiding urban sprawl and enhancing landscapes which have been identified as being sensitive.
Policy CH5: Managing new business development in former agricultural buildings.	Policy encourages the provision and development of small local business start-ups and farm diversification primarily in conversion, extensions.	Employment and infrastructure development. Possible vehicular movements and demand for water abstraction and treatment.	Rive Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	This policy should help to reduce the extent to which people need to travel to work especially in connection with policies to improve network connections. Policy LD2 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) will aim to help avoid any adverse impacts on the River Wye for new employment or businesses uses.	No: this policy is seeking to allow further small scale businesses. This may have a positive effect on reducing the need to travel. There are policy safeguards within Local Plan (Core Strategy) policies that will help mitigate potential likely significant effects.

NDP objectives	HRA Screening of NDP objectives and policies				
	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the objective/policy	Likely effect if objective/policy implemented. Could they have Likely Significant Effects on European Sites? (Yes/No, with reasons)	European Sites potentially affected	Mitigation measures to be considered, as necessary, through redraft of objective/option/policy.	Could the policy have any likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account)?
				<p>Improved water efficiency measures, metering and addressing leakages in the supply may help to mitigate any additional pressures on the water supply as a result of new development.</p> <p>Measures within Policy SD1 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) should help to mitigate potential impacts relating to non-physical disturbances.</p> <p>The implementation of Policies SD3 and SD4 within the Local Plan (Core Strategy) should also help to avoid any adverse impacts in relation to the hydrological regimes at the River Wye. Water Quality in the River Wye is also being specifically addressed through the Nutrient Management Plan.</p> <p>Although the River Wye does not pass through the parish, additional policy criteria could be added to strengthen the avoidance of development at locations which could have an adverse impact on the natural environment especially River Wye.</p>	

NDP objectives	HRA Screening of NDP objectives and policies				
	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the objective/policy	Likely effect if objective/policy implemented. Could they have Likely Significant Effects on European Sites? (Yes/No, with reasons)	European Sites potentially affected	Mitigation measures to be considered, as necessary, through redraft of objective/option/policy.	Could the policy have any likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account)?
Policy CH6: Supporting tourism and local business development in Callow and Haywood	Additional visitor numbers, increased traffic, increased abstraction and demand for water use.	Potential increase in visitor numbers to the parish could have an effect on the Rive Wye.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	<p>Measures are included in both the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the Callow and Haywood NDP to help relieve any increased pressure in the River Wye for recreation purposes.</p> <p>Improved water efficiency measures, metering and addressing leakage in supply will help mitigate any additional pressures in water supply.</p> <p>The implementation of the Nutrient Management Plan will specifically address issues relating to water quality in the River Wye.</p>	No, as the policy emphasises the importance of natural environment and water supply. Although visitor and tourism activity may increase within the parish, sufficient policy safeguards are in place to ensure the sensitivity of the River Wye is mitigated from likely significant harm.
Policy CH7: New communication technologies and energy saving	<p>Encouragement for full mobile and internet coverage during the plan period and energy saving measures.</p> <p>This could result in additional masts and transmitter facilities within the parish.</p>	Depending on type and location of infrastructure: Physical damage or disturbance and or non-physical disturbance such as noise.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	<p>Measures included within Policy SD2 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) should help to mitigate potential impacts relating to non-physical disturbances.</p> <p>The policy itself refers to ensuring no harm to the character or appearance to highly sensitive landscapes within the parish. Although the River Wye does not flow through the parish, this policy could be strengthened by including reference to the European site specifically within Policy CH7.</p> <p>Good practice construction techniques including noise suppression measures, hours of operation may help to mitigate potential adverse effects during construction.</p>	No, as this policy could result in the development of renewable energy infrastructure which depending on its location could have potential effect on the River Wye. However, sufficient policy safeguards are in place within the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and with the inclusion of additional wording in the Callow and Haywood NDP policy to avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects on the River Wye.

NDP objectives	HRA Screening of NDP objectives and policies				
	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the objective/policy	Likely effect if objective/policy implemented. Could they have Likely Significant Effects on European Sites? (Yes/No, with reasons)	European Sites potentially affected	Mitigation measures to be considered, as necessary, through redraft of objective/option/policy.	Could the policy have any likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account)?
Policy CH8: Provision and protection of local community facilities.	Encourage and enhance the use of community facilities, as well as facilitating new provision.	New community facilities. Possible vehicular movements and demand for water abstraction and treatment.	Rive Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	<p>Policy LD2 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) will aim to help avoid any adverse impacts on the River Wye for new community uses.</p> <p>Improved water efficiency measures, metering and addressing leakages in the supply may help to mitigate any additional pressures on the water supply as a result of new development.</p> <p>Measures within Policy SD1 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) should help to mitigate potential impacts relating to non-physical disturbances.</p> <p>The implementation of Policies SD3 and SD4 within the Local Plan (Core Strategy) should also help to avoid any adverse impacts in relation to the hydrological regimes at the River Wye. Water Quality in the River Wye is also being specifically addressed through the Nutrient Management Plan.</p> <p>Although the River Wye does not pass through the parish, additional policy criteria could be added to strengthen the avoidance of development at locations which could have an adverse impact on the natural environment especially the River Wye.</p>	No, although this policy could result in the development of new community facilities or the loss of existing provision to new uses, which depending on location could have potential effect on the River Wye. However, sufficient policy safeguards are in place within the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and with the inclusion of additional wording in the Callow and Haywood NDP policy to avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects on the River Wye.

NDP objectives	HRA Screening of NDP objectives and policies				
	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the objective/policy	Likely effect if objective/policy implemented. Could they have Likely Significant Effects on European Sites? (Yes/No, with reasons)	European Sites potentially affected	Mitigation measures to be considered, as necessary, through redraft of objective/option/policy.	Could the policy have any likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account)?
Policy CH9: Local needs housing	Policy to support the delivery of small market housing to meet the needs of local people in line with Local Plan (Core Strategy) Policy RA2.	Some small scale housing development. Housing, infrastructure development and possible increase in recreational activities, vehicular movements and demand for water abstraction and treatment. Uncertain as to the impacts upon the River Wye SAC dependent on the location of development, however the policy would result in small scale growth.	Rive Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	Measures set within the relevant Local Plan (Core Strategy) policies and Callow and Haywood NDP Policies CH1, CH2 and CH4 should help to avoid adverse impacts on the European site. Improved water efficiency measures, metering and addressing leakages in supply may help to mitigate any additional pressure placed on the water supply as a result of new developments. The implementation of Policies SD3 and SD4 within the Local Plan (Core Strategy) should help to avoid adverse impacts in relation to hydrological regimes at the River Wye. Water quality in the River Wye SAC is also specifically addressed through the Nutrient Management Plan produced by Natural England and the Environment Agency.	No: this policy would allow for small scale housing schemes and supports the Local Plan (Core Strategy) Policy RA2. In any event, there are additional policy criteria in place in both the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the Callow and Haywood NDP to avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.

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

The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulation 2012 (Reg. 32)

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (d)

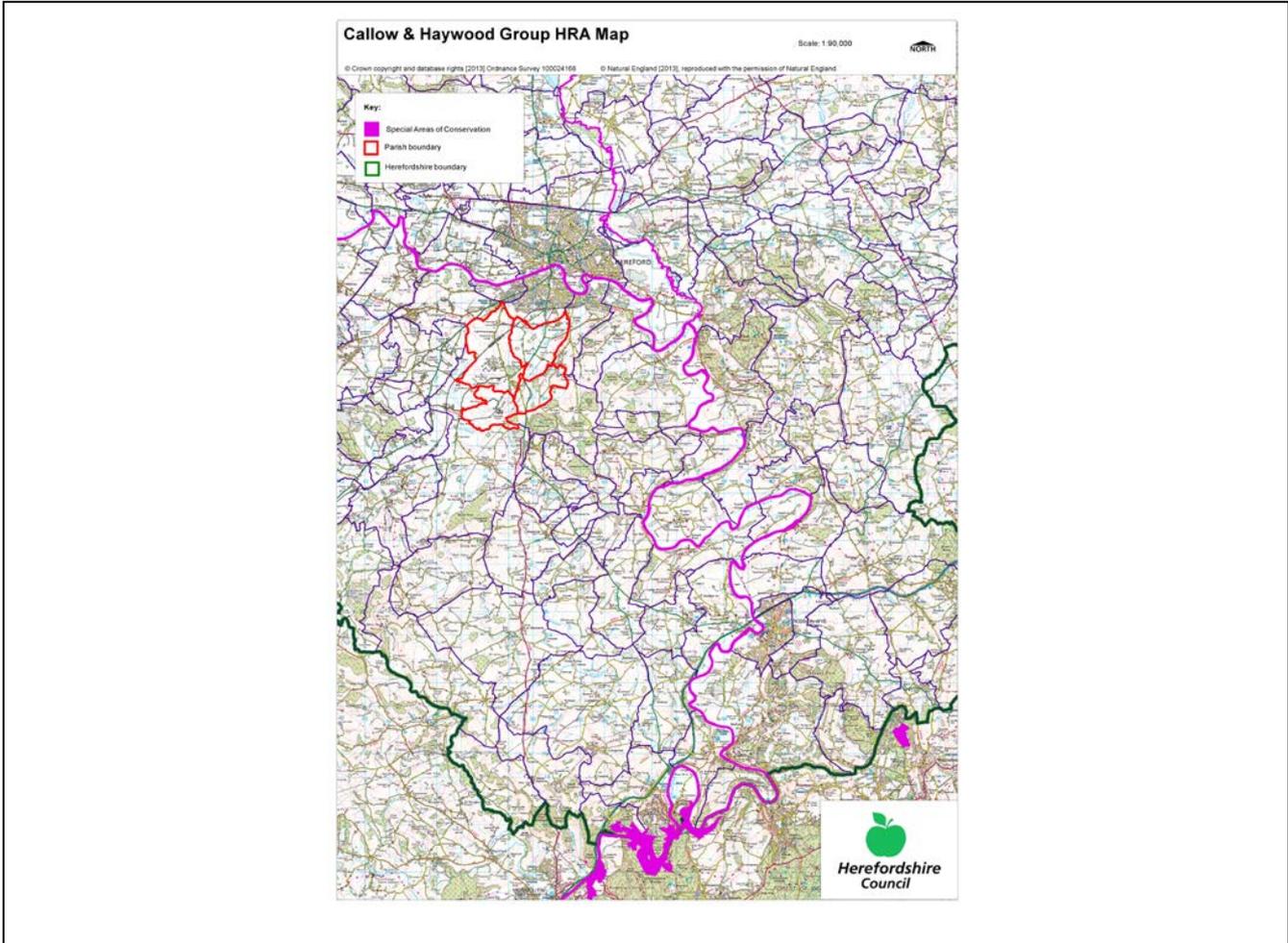
Neighbourhood Area:	Callow & Haywood Group Neighbourhood Area
Parish Council:	Callow & Haywood Group Parish Council
Neighbourhood Area Designation Date:	25/11/13

Introduction

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

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

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



Initial HRA Screening

River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC:

Does the Neighbourhood Area have the River Wye (including the River Lugg) in or next to its boundary?	N	The River Wye SAC is 0.7km away from the Group Parish
Is the Neighbourhood Area in the hydrological catchment of the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC?	Y	The Group Parish is within the hydrological catchment of the River Wye
If yes above, does the Neighbourhood Area have mains drainage to deal with foul sewage?	Y	Grafton and Haywood Parishes are served by Hereford

Downton Gorge SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of Downton Gorge SAC?	N	Downton Gorge is 35.4km away from the Group Parish
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River Clun SAC:

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

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of the SAC boundary?	N	Usk Bat Sites are 31.8km away from the Group Parish
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Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of any of the individual sites that make up the Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites?	N	The Group Parish is 19.7km away from Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites
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Wye Valley Woodlands SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of any of the individual sites that make up the Wye Valley Woodlands Site?	N	The Group Parish is 19.5km away from the Wye Valley Woodlands
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HRA Conclusion:

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

European Site

(List only those which are relevant from above)

River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC

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

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

SEA features	Total	Explanation	SEA required
Air Quality Management Areas	0	There are no AQMAs within the Parish	N
Ancient Woodland	10	Veddoes Copse; Newton Coppice; Reeces Wood; Knockerhill Wood; Callow Plantation; Hopleys Wood; Pullastone Wood; Hamptons Rough Wood (border); Williams Wood (border) Nether Wood (border)	Y
Areas of Archaeological Interest	0	There are no AAls within the Group Parish	N
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	0	There are no AONBs within the Group Parish	N
Conservation Areas	0	There are no Conservation Areas within the Group Parish	N
European Sites	0	There are no SACS within the Group Parish	N
Flood Areas		Flood Zones 2 and 3 follow Norton Brook and also a stream to the west of the Group Parish	Y
Listed Buildings	Numerous	There are numerous Listed Buildings scattered throughout the Group parish	Y
Local Sites (SWS/SINCS/RIGS)	10 (SINC) 12 (SWS)	SINC: Newton Farm Wet Woodland (border); Meadow south of St Johns Cottage (border); Newton Brook (border); Belmont Pool and environs (border); Pond north of Newton Farm Open Space (border); Active railway south of Wye (border); Grafton House orchard (border); Withy Brook (border); Land north of Withy Brook (border); Great Western Way (border) SWS: Hayleasow Wood, Newton Coppice and Spring Grove; Belmont Wood and Hunderton Rough (border); Clehonger village pond (border); Knockerhill Wood and adjoining woodland; Pool at Allensmore Court (border); Reeces Wood; Roadside bank near Twyford; Hopleys Wood; Hampton Rough and The Firs; Williams Wood (border); Woodlands on Aconbury Hill (border); Helens Wood (border)	Y
Long distance footpaths/trails	1	Violette Szabo	Y
Mineral Reserves	7	Ross Road (border); Whitehouse Kennels (border); Hunderton Rough to Clehonger to Allensmore; Courtlands Farm (border); Cobhall Farm (border);	Y

		Cobhall small area north west of Green Farm (border); Home Farm (border)	
National Nature Reserve	0	There are no NNRs within the Group Parish	N
Registered & Unregistered parks and gardens	2 Unregistered	Allensmore Court (border); Belmont House	Y
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	6	Bullingham Old Church; Churchyard cross in St Michaels churchyard; Aconbury Camp (border); Dinedor Camp (border); Site of medieval village (border); Lower Bullingham deserted medieval village (border)	Y
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	0	There are no SSSIs within the Group Parish	N

Decision Notification:

The initial screening highlights that the Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Callow & Haywood Group Neighbourhood Area:

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

Assessment date: 22/10/2013

Assessed by: James Latham

Appendix 1: European Sites

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

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

Usk Bat Site

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

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

Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites

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

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

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

NDPs closest to the European Site will need to consider:

Woodland habitat buffer.

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

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

Wye Valley Woodlands

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

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

Appendix 2: Wye Catchment Map

