

Habitats Regulations Assessment



Eardisley Group Neighbourhood Area

October 2014

HRA Screening Assessment

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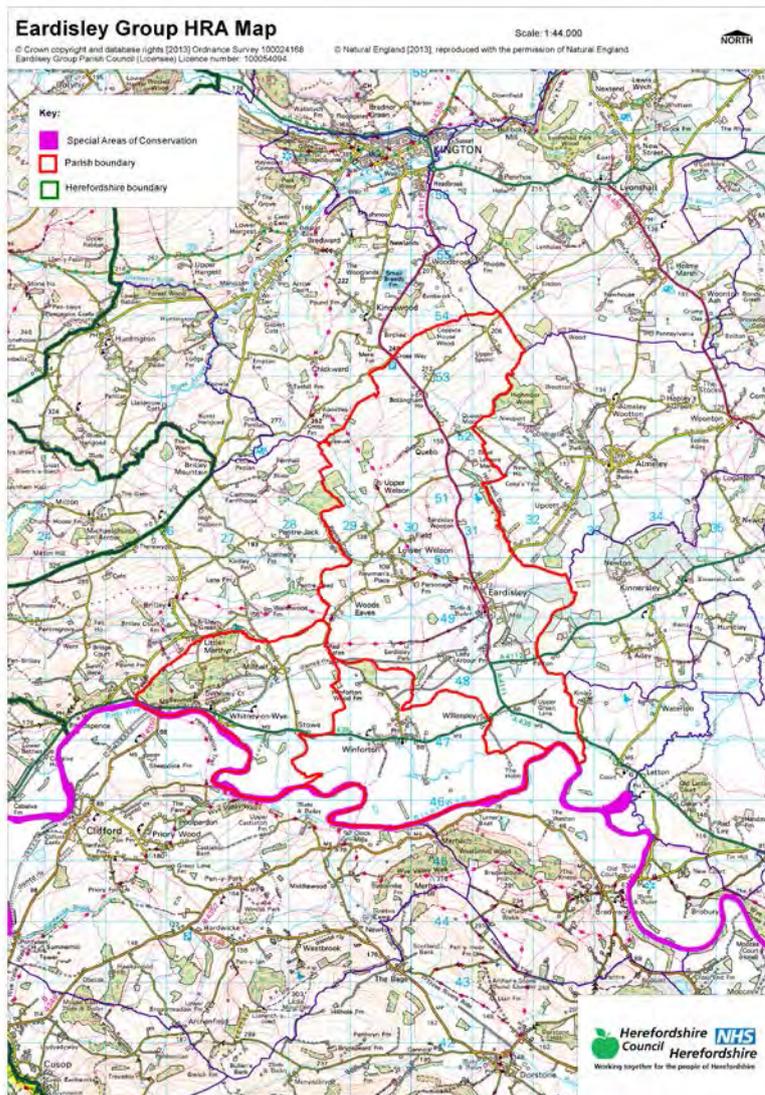
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1 Introduction

- 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 Eardisley Group Parish Council is producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Eardisley Group 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 Eardisley Group Plan September 2014.
- 1.3 The NDP allocates small scale sites and provides general policies that clarify and provide detail to the policies within the Herefordshire Core Strategy therefore it requires a high level screening assessment to build upon the HRA Screening Assessment Report for the Herefordshire Core Strategy. This high level screening assessment should be read in combination with the Herefordshire Pre-submission publication of the Local Plan-Core Strategy Habitat Regulations Assessment Report (May 2014) and ensures that there will not be any significant impacts upon Natura 2000 sites.
- 1.4 The map below shows Eardisley Group 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, Eardisley Group 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 Eardisley Group Plan is not directly connected with the management of any European sites, and includes proposals for development which may affect European sites, it is necessary under Regulation 102(1)(a) of the Habitats Regulations 2010 to undertake screening for likely significant effects on European sites.
- 3.2 The HRA of neighbourhood plans is undertaken in stages and should conclude whether or not a proposal or policy in a neighbourhood plan would adversely affect the integrity of the site in question. This is judged in terms of the implications of the plan for a site's 'qualifying features' (i.e. those Annex I habitats, Annex II species, and Annex I bird populations for which it has been designated) and are measured with reference to the conservation objectives for those qualifying features as defined by Natural England.
- 3.3 The first process is to undertake an initial screening report to determine the need to undertake the requirement for a HRA, this initial screening identifies whether the Plan could impact upon any European site that could be within the Neighbourhood Area or nearby.
- 3.4 If a European Site is within the Neighbourhood Area or the Neighbourhood Area could impact upon a European site then this will need to be taken into account and a full screening assessment will need to be undertaken.

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

4 Results of the Initial Screening Report and options

- 4.1 The initial Screening report (April 2013) found that the River Wye SAC is located to the south of the Neighbourhood Area and therefore a full screening assessment is required.
- 4.2 For full details of the River Wye's attributes which contribute to and define their integrity and vulnerable data see Appendix 1 of the Eardisley Group Plan Initial Screening Report. The Initial Screening Report, April 2013, can be found in Appendix 4 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 Eardisley Group Neighbourhood Plan may affect site integrity.
- 4.3 The initial options for the NDP were assessed to determine their environmental impact that could affect the River Wye SAC. Overall the majority of the options proposing any growth appear to depend on location and scale in relation to environmental impact. The remainder of the options that are not directly linked to new development proposals either offer mitigation methods for the new potential development or will not have any impact upon the River Wye SAC.
- 4.4 As Eardisley progresses from options onto their NDP policies, the Plan will need to identify ways in which the least effect on the River Wye SAC could be achieved, alongside taking forward the preferred options from the consultation from the community. If a majority of these options are taken forward either as standalone policies or in combination with other options then the mitigation from these options will help to counter balance the effect of all new development within the Parish. Particularly the following Sustainability options S1 and S3, Traffic and Transport options T8, T10, T11 and T12, the Environment options E1, E2, E3, E5, E6, E9, E10, and E11. The Communities option C8, Housing option H4, and Jobs and the Economy option J1, J2, J6 and J7. These options support not only low carbon schemes but also ways to reduce overall traffic generation, promote existing brownfield sites and existing properties and reduce flood risk. 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 Eardisley Group Neighbourhood Plan

- 5.1 The Draft Eardisley Group Plan presents detailed policies for development in the Neighbourhood Area, which is equivalent to the group parish boundary, up to 2031. The first part of the Plan introduces the Plan and its preparation and discusses the background to each of the villages.
- 5.2 The NDP then details the vision for the Group Parish over the Plan period and objectives of how this will be achieved. The objectives cover the following topics:
- Sustainability
 - Traffic and transport
 - Environment
 - Community Facilities
 - Housing
 - Jobs and the Economy
 - Enabling mixed use development
- 5.3 The NDP also sets out 22 general policies on various topics based on the objective headings above and also for each of the villages, these include:

- Policy SD1 – Sustainable Development
- Policy T1 – Traffic Measures within the villages
- Policy T2 – Transport requirements related to development
- Policy T3 – Promotion of sustainable transport measures
- Policy E1 – Flooding
- Policy E2 – Historic Assets and village character
- Policy E3 – Energy Conservation and renewable energy
- Policy E4 – Green infrastructure
- Policy C1 – New or additional services and facilities
- Policy C2 – Developer contributions
- Policy H1 – Housing numbers
- Policy H2 – Settlement strategy
- Policy H3 – Affordable housing
- Policy H4 – New Homes in Eardisley
- Policy H5 – New homes in Winforton
- Policy H6 – New homes in Whitney-on-Wye
- Policy H7 – Criteria for housing development in Eardisley Group
- Policy J1 – New technology and sustainable economic growth
- Policy J2 – Small scale work premises
- Policy J3 – Retention and provision of employment sites
- Policy EMD1 – Enabling mixed use development

5.4 Section 11 of the Plan describes the Risk assessment that could threaten delivery and achievement for the Vision. Whilst Section 12 discusses the implementation and monitoring of the NDP.

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 Eardisley Group Plan NDP

7.1 As required under Regulation 102 of the Habitats Regulations 2010, a screening assessment has been undertaken to identify the ‘likely significant effects’ of the NDP. A screening matrix was prepared in order to identify whether any of the policies in the Plan would be likely to have a significant effect on the River Wye SAC.

7.2 The findings of the screening matrix can be found in the Screening Matrix in Appendix 3 of this report. Colour coding was used to record the likely impacts of the policies on

the European site and its qualifying habitats and species as shown in the table 1 below.

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

- 7.3 The Screening matrix took the approach of screening each policy individually, which is consistent with current guidance documents. The results from the HRA report for the pre-submission version of the Herefordshire Core Strategy was also taking into consideration.
- 7.4 Mitigation of some of the identified potential effects could be achieved through implementation of the other policies within the NDP which require good practice measures during and after construction phases, such as more efficient use of water, reduction in waste and encouragement of recycling. The provision and encouragement of use of more sustainable transport measures 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 Eardisley Group Plan(September 2014) policies were concluded to be likely to have a significant effect on the River Wye SAC. Based on assumptions and information contained within the Eardisley Group Plan, Herefordshire Core Strategy and the Pre-submission version of the HRA for the Core Strategy all of the NDP policies were found to be unlikely to result in significant effects on the River Wye SAC.
- 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 For those policies that were referring to sites and site allocations that would result in development and could potentially have some impact upon the River Wye SAC, it was determined that due to the location of these sites, i.e. not directly on the River Banks or adjacent to a watercourse that feeds into the River, and due to the scale of the site being small (no larger than 15 homes in Eardisley, 9 homes in Winforton and 5 in Whitney on Wye) and at the scale of growth that is required by the Herefordshire Core Strategy and no more, that these sites would not have an appreciable effect on the River Wye SAC, i.e that they were not likely to be significant.
- 8.4 Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) has stated for the Core Strategy that there is sufficient existing permitted headroom in the Sewerage Treatment works serving the Kington area to continue to treat the water from the amount of housing provided for in the Core Strategy policies. In addition, the preparation of the Nutrient Management Plan for the River Wye SAC should ensure that development within Herefordshire which can be accommodated within existing water discharge permits would not be likely to have a significant effect upon the River Wye SAC.
- 8.5 It is unlikely that the Eardisley Group Plan will have any in-combination effects with any Plans from neighbouring parish council due to the level of growth proposed is of the same that is proposed for the Kington Housing Market Area in the Herefordshire Core Strategy and all of the proposed housing sites will be of a small scale.
- 8.6 It is therefore concluded that the Eardisley Group Neighbourhood Plan will not have a likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC.
- 8.7 Any further amendments it policies (post September 2014) will be rescreened if required and an addendum to this report will be produced.

Appendix 1

Options Displayed at Open Days – Feb/Mar 2014

Sustainability

Option S1 - living within the planet's environmental limits

Promote movement towards a low-carbon economy which includes local food production, high standards of energy conservation and the use of renewable energy

Option S2 - ensuring a strong, healthy and just society

Promote the creation of communities that are sufficiently balanced in age, work and facilities to be able to thrive into the future.

Option S3 - achieving a sustainable economy

The Plan will promote measures for attracting employers and young families to the Eardisley Group area, to create supply and demand within the local economy.

Option S4 - promoting good governance

Promote and model proactive, inclusive and open working in all local government / parish council and voluntary group matters.

Option S5 - using sound science responsibly

Make sure the rationale for decisions made and actions taken concerning the future of our communities is based on strong scientific evidence as well as on local people's views and values.

Traffic and Transport Options

Option T1

Create a safe drop off & parking area behind the school in Eardisley.

Option T2

Create car parks in each of the villages as they become necessary for the benefit of residents and businesses.

Option T3

Install 'village gateways' at both ends of each village.

Option T4

Pursue all opportunities to increase safety for pedestrians and motorists, for example, by means of 3-2-1 signage at both ends of each village, and by reduced speed limits.

Option T5

Wherever appropriate, provide new or extended pavements and paths enabling residents of all ages and abilities to walk, cycle or ride mobility vehicles safely from their homes to village centres and other community amenities, minimising the use of private cars and supporting the use of community transport.

Option T6

Continue to pursue longer term measures that will decrease traffic congestion in Eardisley and decrease traffic speed in Whitney.

Option T7

Require new housing developments to have a minimum rate of two off-road parking spaces per dwelling and adequate road width or separate provision for visitor parking.

Option T8 Design car parks and driveways associated with new developments to have permeable surfaces to reduce surface water run-off and contribute to flood reduction measures.

Appendix 1

Option T9 Install 'islands' with internally illuminated bollards to increase pedestrian safety when people cross the A438 in Whitney.
Option T10 Require developers to include pedestrian, mobility vehicle and cycle links between new homes and village amenities, designed to minimise the use of private cars and support the use of community transport.
Option T11 Make determined effort with existing transport providers to improve bus services to Group Villages, possibly in co-operation with other local parishes, and with Kington and Hay.
Option T12 Set up a local minibus service or similar business, to serve the Group parishes and surrounding area.

The Environment

Option E1 Research and take appropriate flood alleviation measures in Whitney.
Option E2 Pursue the stalled Environment Agency flood alleviation scheme for Eardisley.
Option E3 Design and construct housing and other development in flood sensitive areas in such a way as to reduce the overall level of flood risk both within the site and in the surrounding area
Option E4 Take steps to provide enhanced protection for historic buildings in the villages, using expertise of agencies like English Heritage.
Option E5 Provide developers with a design brief to protect the character and density of each village while building houses and other buildings that minimise the use of energy
Option E6 Require all development proposals with the exception of the conversion of listed historic buildings to have a minimum energy efficiency standard equivalent to Level 4 of the Code for Sustainable Homes (DCLG 2006).
Option E7 Support, subject to scale and suitability, proposals for individual and community-scale energy from hydro-electricity, solar photovoltaic panels, local biomass facilities, (anaerobic digestion) or wood fuel products.
Option E8 Enlarge Eardisley's settlement boundary slightly. Create a suitable settlement boundary around Winforton. Design protective policies around Whitney.
Option E9 Enhance the protection of Designated Sites and Habitats in the 3 Parishes
Option E10

Appendix 1

Protect, improve and develop Green Spaces in the three Parishes. Seek contribution from new housing developments for the provision of new recreational open space in line with standards set out by Herefordshire Council.

Option E11

Require new developments to retain features of high nature conservation or landscape value, including mature trees, species-rich hedgerows, ponds and existing areas of woodland, and to plant native arboreal species local to the area.

Option E12

Promote allotment sites – meeting or exceeding Herefordshire Council’s standards

Communities

Option C1

Make every effort in terms of attracting employment to the area, building homes people can afford and providing good facilities for the youngest to the oldest, to redress the age balance in our communities and make them genuinely sustainable.

Option C2

Co-operate with local services, promoting the improvement of their facilities where necessary, to help them to serve our communities well.

Option C3

Promote the improvement of existing facilities and amenities provided to meet the needs of local residents of all ages, businesses and visitors, and the development of new ones where there is need.

Option C4

Promote interdependency among the three communities by the development of a cycleway joining the villages, so that residents of each village may benefit from the other villages’ employment and amenities without using cars.

Option C5

Promote the inclusion of people of every age and ability in the community, by maintaining high standard paths and pavements, and making access to community buildings easy.

Option C6

Support the development in Whitney of a facility providing care for elderly people, and in Eardisley of a facility providing pre-school and after school care for children.

Option C8

Create a phased approach to development within the Plan period; check for the ongoing approval of the community periodically.

Housing Options

Option H1 - Low

Appendix 1

Build the lowest requirement of houses in each village.

Option H2 - Medium

Build 45-50 homes in Eardisley, 14 in Winforton, and 15 in Whitney plus benefits.

Option H3 - High

Build 60-80 houses in Eardisley and proportional in each of the other villages

Option H4

Embed a design statement for developers in the Neighbourhood Plan to ensure we:

1. preserve the character of our villages
2. determine the quality of house and community design
3. promote best practice in energy efficiency

The statement will specify criteria for:

- Road width; pavements; off-road parking
- Garden sizes; garages and other storage
- Footpaths and cycle-ways to village amenities
- Permissible house styles; design mix; heights; minimum space standards; building materials
- Energy-efficiency standards
- And others

Option H5

Build a good mix of affordable homes – low-cost market, part rent/part buy, special needs, employment-related, and rented, so that families are attracted to live here and have choice about their housing.

Jobs and the Economy

Option J1

Pursue the installation of hidden mobile phone or wireless antennas to serve Eardisley Group business and residential users.

Option J2

Pursue the installation of super-fast broadband in the Group area, to serve both business and residential users.

Option J3

Attract investment to build flexible craft / light industry premises preferably on brownfield sites or in converted buildings in each of the villages.

Option J4

Address the issue of punitive business rates in rural areas with the Council.

Option J5

Actively seek agriculture / tourism- related and other employers for whom locating their businesses in the Group area could give positive benefit. Also seek to attract sustainable technology and other businesses that could boost local development and provide higher-than-average salaries.

Option J6

Provide live-work premises for local people.

Option J7

Appendix 1

Advertise and encourage the benefits of working from home.

Option J8

Attract developers who will build homes that young families can afford, and advertise them well in the Herefordshire housing market.

Appendix 2

Table 1: HRA Screening of Emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan Objectives, Options and Policies

Parish Council Name: Eardisley Group

NDP Title: Eardisley Group Plan

Date undertaken: 10/03/2014

NDP objectives, options policies	HRA Screening of Emerging NDP objectives, options and policies				
	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the objective/option/policy	Likely effect if option implemented. Could they have Likely Significant Effects (LSE) on European Sites? (Yes/No, with reasons) <i>(If no, progress on to next objective/option/policy. If yes, progress on to next set of columns in row)</i>	European Sites potentially affected	Mitigation measures to be considered, as necessary, through redraft of objective/option/policy and to be considered as part of Appropriate Assessment	If recommendations are implemented, would it be possible that it would result in no LSE? (Yes/No with reasons)
Option S1	Promote sustainability and the use of renewable energy	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Option S2	Create balanced communities	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Option S3	Measures to attract employment into the area and young families	No	N/A	N/A	N/A

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Option S4	Good working practices between parties	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Option S5	Ensuring scientific evidence for decisions	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Option T1	Increase in parking	No	N/A	N/A	Scale and extent of such development is unlikely to be significant
Option T2	Increase in parking	No	N/A	N/A	Scale and extent of such development is unlikely to be significant
Option T3	Gateways at either end of Eardisley village	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Option T4	Increased signage Speed limits on roads	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Option T5	New paths / extended pavements around villages	No	N/A	N/A	Scale and extent of such development is unlikely to be significant
Option T6	Measures to decrease traffic congestion in Eardisley and traffic speed in Whitney	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Option T7	Minimum of two off road parking spaces for developments	No	N/A	N/A	Scale and extent of such development is unlikely to be significant

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Option T8	Measures to hard surfaces (car parks etc) to reduce run off and flood risk	No	N/A	N/A	Will be a suitable mitigation technique to off set any impact from other developments
Option T9	Traffic islands to reduce speed in Whitney	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Option T10	Provide additional links between villages for more sustainable modes of transport	No	N/A	N/A	Scale and extent of such development is unlikely to be significant
Option T11	Improve bus services to group villages	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Option T12	Set up community transport scheme	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Option E1	Flood alleviation measures Some development disturbance	No	N/A	N/A	Scale and extent of such development is unlikely to be significant. In the short term some disturbance may affect the River Wye SAC but in the long term will benefit the European site.
Option E2	Flood alleviation scheme for Eardisley	No	N/A	N/A	Likely to have a long term positive impact upon the River Wye SAC. Will provide mitigation against other potential

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					development.
Option E3	Design mitigation methods for development in flood sensitive areas	No	N/A	N/A	This would act as mitigation towards all new development as it will be design criteria to reduce the overall impact
Option E4	Protection of historic buildings in the villages	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Option E5	Provide design briefs to protect character and density of each village, including minimise use of energy	No	N/A	N/A	This would act as mitigation towards all new development as it will be design criteria to reduce the overall impact
Option E6	Ensure all development has minimum energy efficiency standards	No	N/A	N/A	This would act as mitigation towards all new development as it will be design criteria to reduce the overall impact
Option E7	Community and individual renewable energy schemes	Potential disturbance if large scale and depending upon location	River Wye SAC	Good practice techniques for construction may help to eliminate disturbance during construction phases. Ensure future policy balances out the scale of promoted schemes and	Impact would depend upon location and scale. Need to ensure sufficient safeguards are in place to prevent significant effect occurring. Scale of individual schemes unlikely to have an

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				avoid the location to close to the River Wye SAC or its tributaries.	impact.
Option E8	Enlarging the settlement boundaries	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Option E9	Enhance protection of designated sites and habitats	No	N/A	N/A	This would act as mitigation towards all new development
Option E10	Protect, improve and develop green spaces	No	N/A	N/A	This would act as mitigation towards all new development
Option E11	Retain features of high nature conservation or landscape value	No	N/A	N/A	This would act as mitigation towards all new development
Option E12	Promote allotment sites	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Option C1	Attract employment to the area and providing good facilities	Potential Physical disturbance depending upon location and type of employment Increased traffic levels	River Wye SAC	Good practice techniques for construction may help to eliminate disturbance during construction phases. Ensure future policy balances out the scale of promoted schemes and avoid the location to close to the River Wye SAC or its tributaries.	Impact would depend upon location and scale. Need to ensure sufficient safeguards are in place to prevent significant effect occurring.

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Option C2	Co-operate with local services to improve facilities	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Option C3	Promote improvement of existing facilities and amenities	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Option C4	Promote interdependency by cycleways and reducing car use	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Option C5	Promote inclusion of the whole community by maintaining paths and footways and make buildings accessible to all	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Option C6	Provide care facility for elderly in Whitney Provide facility of pre-school and after school care for children	Disturbance and physical damage potential depending upon location Increased traffic levels	River Wye SAC	Good practice construction techniques. Utilise mitigation methods that other options are proposing and include within the policy, particularly sustainable design and energy efficient buildings	The scale and location of these new facilities will be key. Mitigation methods provided by the other options put forward would need to be incorporated into a proposed policy.
Option C8	Create phased approach development	No	N/A	N/A	This will have some mitigation effect upon any new development as it will reduce the overall disturbance to the River

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Appendix 2

					Wye SAC
Option H1	Low housing numbers to meet requirements for Core Strategy	Physical disturbance Non physical such as noise and light pollution Interruption to hydrological regimes Air pollution Increased traffic levels	River Wye SAC	Good practice construction techniques. Utilise mitigation methods that other options are proposing and include within the policy, particularly sustainable design and energy efficient buildings Improved water efficiency methods	The scale and location of these new facilities will be key. Mitigation methods provided by the other options put forward would need to be incorporated into a proposed policy. This option is not over and above the Core Strategy requirements so would have the least impact and damaging long term effect
Option H2	Medium housing numbers approx. 45-50 in Eardisley, 14 in Winforton and 15 in Whitney	Physical Disturbance Non physical such as noise and light pollution Interruption to hydrological regimes Air pollution Increased traffic levels	River Wye SAC	Good practice construction techniques. Utilise mitigation methods that other options are proposing and include within the policy, particularly sustainable design and energy efficient buildings Improved water efficiency methods	The scale and location of these new facilities will be key. Mitigation methods provided by the other options put forward would need to be incorporated into a proposed policy.
Option H3	High housing numbers 60-80 houses in Eardisley and	Physical disturbance	River Wye SAC	Good practice construction	The scale and location of these new houses will be

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	proportional in each of the other villages.	<p>Non physical such as noise and light pollution</p> <p>Interruption to hydrological regimes</p> <p>Air pollution</p> <p>Increased traffic levels</p>		<p>techniques.</p> <p>Utilise mitigation methods that other options are proposing and include within the policy, particularly sustainable design and energy efficient buildings</p> <p>Improved water efficiency methods</p>	<p>key. Mitigation methods provided by the other options put forward would need to be incorporated into a proposed policy.</p> <p>Due to the potential scale of new development this option would have the highest impact</p>
Option H4	Design statement for developers to promote best practice for energy efficiency; quality of houses and character of villages	No	N/A	N/A	This would act as mitigation towards all new development
Option H5	Mix of affordable homes across the parish	<p>Physical disturbance</p> <p>Non physical such as noise and light pollution</p> <p>Interruption to hydrological regimes</p> <p>Air pollution</p> <p>Increased traffic levels</p>	River Wye SAC	<p>Good practice construction techniques.</p> <p>Utilise mitigation methods that other options are proposing and include within the policy, particularly sustainable design and energy efficient buildings</p> <p>Improved water efficiency methods</p>	The scale and location of these new houses will be key. Mitigation methods provided by the other options put forward would need to be incorporated into a proposed policy.

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Option J1	Installation of hidden mobile phone / wireless antennas	No	N/A	N/A	Scale of development will not lead to significant effect
Option J2	Installation of super fast broadband	No	N/A	N/A	Scale of development will not lead to significant effect
Option J3	Build flexible craft /light industrial premises on brownfield land or converted buildings	No	N/A	N/A	Due to use of existing buildings and brownfield unlikely to have a significant effect on the River Wye SAC, particularly as it will be small scale development. Any new development on greenfield will need to ensure mitigation methods are in place from the other options to ensure minimum disturbance during construction phases
Option J4	Business rates in rural areas	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Option J5	Seek tourism and agricultural related employers. Seek to attract sustainable technology businesses	Increased traffic Physical disturbance Non physical such as noise and light pollution	River Wye SAC	Good practice construction techniques. Utilise mitigation methods that other options are proposing and include within the policy,	The scale and location of these employers will be key. Mitigation methods provided by the other options put forward would need to be incorporated into a

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		<p>Interruption to hydrological regimes</p> <p>Air pollution</p>		<p>particularly sustainable design and energy efficient buildings</p> <p>Ensure future policy balances out the scale of promoted schemes and avoid the location to close to the River Wye SAC or its tributaries.</p> <p>Improved water efficiency methods</p>	<p>proposed policy.</p>
Option J6	Provide live/work premises	<p>Physical disturbance</p> <p>Non physical such as noise and light pollution</p> <p>Interruption to hydrological regimes</p>	River Wye SAC	<p>Good practice construction techniques.</p> <p>Utilise mitigation methods that other options are proposing and include within the policy, particularly sustainable design and energy efficient buildings</p> <p>Ensure future policy balances out the scale of promoted schemes and avoid the location to close to the River Wye SAC or its tributaries.</p> <p>Improved water efficiency</p>	<p>The scale and location of these ne live/work units will be key. Mitigation methods provided by the other options put forward would need to be incorporated into a proposed policy.</p>

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				methods	
Option J7	Encourage home working	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Option J8	Builds homes for young families	Physical disturbance Non physical such as noise and light pollution Interruption to hydrological regimes Air pollution	River Wye SAC	Good practice construction techniques. Utilise mitigation methods that other options are proposing and include within the policy, particularly sustainable design and energy efficient buildings Improved water efficiency methods	The scale and location of these new houses will be key. Mitigation methods provided by the other options put forward would need to be incorporated into a proposed policy.

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Table 1: HRA Screening of Emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan Objectives, Options and Policies

Parish Council Name: Eardisley Group

NDP Title: Eardisley Group Plan Draft Plan

Date undertaken: September 2014

Core Strategy HRA version: Pre-Submission version of the Core Strategy

NDP objectives, options policies	HRA Screening of Emerging NDP objectives, options and policies				
	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the objective/option/policy	Likely effect if objective/option/policy implemented. Could they have Likely Significant Effects (LSE) on European Sites? (Yes/No, with reasons) <i>(If no, progress on to next objective/option/policy. If yes, progress on to next set of columns in row)</i>	European Sites potentially affected	Mitigation measures to be considered, as necessary, through redraft of objective/policy and to be considered as part of Appropriate Assessment	Could the policy have likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account?)
<i>Objective 1 - Sustainability – to ensure that the manner in which development takes place in the three Eardisley Group communities, over the Plan Period, results in</i>	<i>Promoting sustainable development measures to be in place for all developments</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>No. This will not lead to development but will ensure that new development coming forward under the NDP contributes to sustainable</i>

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<i>genuine sustainability and resilience, enabling people of all ages to pull together towards the future, in communities that are fit for living, working and playing.</i>					development.
<i>Objective 2 - Traffic and transport – to address community concerns about the level and speed of traffic to ensure traffic generated by development can be accommodated successfully; and to promote measures to support sustainable transport by reducing the need to travel by car in order to make roads safer for pedestrians and motorists in each of the three Group villages and elsewhere in the Group parishes over the Plan period.</i>	Development of transport infrastructure such as car park for Eardisley and sustainable transport methods	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 through the Parish.
<i>Objective 3 - Environment – To address community concerns about: the potential for flooding; the</i>	Promoting measures to ensure the historic, cultural and ecological heritage of the Parish remains or is	N/A	N/A	N/A	No this objective will not lead to development itself but will seek to improve the

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<i>preservation of historic buildings, archaeological sites, and the intrinsic character of each of the villages; the need to conserve and produce energy wherever possible; and the need to offer enhanced protection for habitats and other recognised and protected ecological features, and green spaces in the Eardisley Group Parishes.</i>	enhanced.				environment that currently exists within the Neighbourhood area.
<i>Objective 4 – Community Facilities – The Plan will promote improvement of services and further development of facilities for all ages in the communities, including facilities for children’s day care and for care of elderly residents, cycle links among and within villages and improved communications networks</i>	Promote improvement of services and facilities for all members of the community	N/A	N/A	N/A	No This objective will not seek to provide development but more to enhance the facilities that are currently in existence and to ensure there are sustainable transport routes in place.
<i>Objective 5: Housing – To enable managed housing growth in the 3 parishes; to ensure the provision of</i>	Ensuring that any new housing development is energy efficient and does not impact upon the	N/A	N/A	N/A	No this objective will not seek to provide development but ensuring that all

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<i>energy efficient housing that is appropriately designed for people at each stage of life, and in harmony with the character of our communities; to provide all types of affordable housing, with preference given to local people, mixed with open market housing.</i>	character of the village				development is built to the highest standards and energy efficiency.
<i>Objective 6: Jobs and Economy – To remove barriers and improve the facilities and conditions for business in Eardisley Group so that employers can see real benefits in locating or expanding here, and working age residents can choose to work in the area</i>	Improve the existing facilities for businesses and encourage the community to work in the parish to help reduce travel	N/A	N/A	N/A	No this objective is not likely to lead to development but ensure that existing development is of the highest quality and to encourage those that live within the community to also work in the community thereby reducing the need to travel.
<i>Objective 7: Enabling mixed use Development – The objective of this policy seeks to address a wide number the Plan's objectives – supporting those for jobs and the</i>	Improve an area of brownfield, encouraging sustainable development for housing, employment and community facilities.	N/A	N/A	N/A	No. Although this objective relates specifically to a site in the plan, it does not directly lead to development itself. However this objective

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<i>economy, community facilities, housing and sustainability – and addressed through partnership with developers during the period of the plan where suitable opportunities are available.</i>					seeks to combine all of the other objectives to ensure a robust and sustainable site
<i>Policy SD1 – Sustainable Development</i>	Promote sustainable development measures for all new development across the county	N/A	N/A	N/A	No. This policy will not lead to development; rather it aims to ensure that new development coming forward under the other NDP policies contributes to sustainable development across the county.
<i>Policy T1 – Traffic Measures within Villages</i>	Development of transport infrastructure such as drop off point for school children in Eardisley and traffic management measures	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC	N/A	N/A	No. This policy is not likely to lead to development but rather it aims to provide traffic management.
<i>Policy T2 – Transport requirements related to development</i>	Development of transport infrastructure such as car park and drop off point for school children utilising permeable surfaces	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC	N/A	N/A	No. This policy is not likely to lead to development but rather it aims to provide transport requirements for any new developments to ensure

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					more sustainability.
<i>Policy T3 – Promotion of sustainable transport measures</i>	Development of transport infrastructure such as car park for Eardisley and sustainable transport methods	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC	N/A	N/A	No. This policy is not likely to lead to development but rather it aims to provide sustainable traffic measures to reduce the effect of transport on the environment.
<i>Policy E1 – Flooding</i>	N/A	No Likely Significant effect on the River Wye SAC	N/A	N/A	No. This policy will not lead to new development; but rather it will ensure that any new development has no or little impact upon surface water flooding or fluvial flooding due to the mitigation methods encouraged. This policy will also ensure that within flood zones 2 and 3 new development should not be permitted.
<i>Policy E2 – Historic Assets and village character</i>	N/A	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC	N/A	N/A	No. This policy will not lead to new development; rather it aims to ensure that any

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					development proposed within the Neighbourhood Area will conserve and enhance the local Historic Assets and local distinctiveness.
<i>Policy E3 – Addressing carbon reduction</i>	Development of renewable energy infrastructure	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC	N/A	N/A	No, most of this policy will not lead to development, rather it sets out criteria aiming to ensure that new development reduces Eardisley group parish’s contribution to climate change. The policy could however result in the development of renewable energy infrastructure but this is unlikely to have a significant effect on the River Wye SAC.
<i>Policy E4 – Green Infrastructure</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	The measures in this policy to conserve and enhance biodiversity across the Parish should help to provide mitigation against the potential adverse impacts of new developments	No. This policy will not lead to new development; rather it specifically aims to ensure that any development proposed will conserve, restore and enhance habitats, natural green space,

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					local ecological features and networks. As such this policy could help to provide mitigation against the potential of other NDP policies.
<i>Policy C1 – New or additional services and facilities</i>	Development of social and community facilities and infrastructure	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC		The measures in this policy will help to ensure that any potential adverse impact will be mitigated against. In addition the measures set out in other policies within the NDP will mitigate against any potential adverse impact.	No. The scale and extent of such development is not likely to be significant. In addition, this policy will not itself lead to policy, instead it relates to the criteria for any new community development, which ensures that mitigation methods are put in place for any adverse impacts that may arise.
<i>Policy C2 – Developer contributions to new facilities</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No. The policy will not itself lead to development, instead it relates to how CIL funding should be spent within the Parish, as a result of other policies.
<i>Policy H1 – Housing Numbers</i>	Housing development Increased vehicle traffic Increased demand for	Uncertain as to the impact upon the River Wye SAC depending upon location of development	River Wye SAC	The measures set out in the Core Strategy policies and also the NDP policies should help to avoid	No. This policy highlights the number of houses to be developed within the three villages over the

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	water abstraction and sewage treatment			adverse impacts upon 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 development.	Plan period. This figure remains within the figure set out in the Core Strategy RA2 policy and therefore is not over and above the proposed. Although it is acknowledged that there will be an increase in the demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment the Core Strategy has identified that there is sufficient headroom and capacity for the additional houses over the plan period.
<i>Policy H2 – Settlement Strategy</i>	Highlights the boundaries for the village core's of where development would be acceptable	No significant effect upon the River Wye	N/A	N/A	No. The policy would itself not lead to development; instead it relates to criteria for where the village core is and therefore where development is demonstrated as acceptable.
<i>Policy H3 – Affordable Housing</i>	N/A	No significant effect on the River Wye SAC	N/A	N/A	No. The policy would itself not lead to development; instead it relates to criteria for development, i.e. the

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					proportion of affordable housing development to be provided within the overall housing development, the effects of which are assessed separately under other policies.
<i>Policy H4 – New Homes in Eardisley</i>	<p>Housing development</p> <p>Increased vehicle traffic</p> <p>Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment</p>	<p>Uncertain as to the impact upon the River Wye SAC depending upon location of development.</p> <p>The policy does allocate a site at the Land at The Glebe, of 1.3 ha with approx. 15 dwellings.</p>	River Wye SAC	<p>The measures set out in the Core Strategy policies and also the NDP policies should help to avoid adverse impacts upon the European site.</p> <p>Improved water efficiency measures, metering and addressing leakages in supply may help to mitigate any additional pressure placed on the water supply as a result of new development.</p> <p>The criteria in the site allocation part of the policy does detail mitigation measures that should be implemented to reduce the risk of flooding and to protect protected species.</p>	<p>No. This policy only identifies one small site for development as well as providing criteria that any new development must adhere to.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that some impact could occur due to the new development however the development is small scale and therefore the impact will not be as great. The policy also sets out measures to help reduce the impact, alongside mitigation through other policies in the Plan.</p> <p>The additional pressure on water abstraction and treatment it has been</p>

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					confirmed by DCWW that there are sufficient water resources to meet the increases in demand. Whilst there may be not currently sufficient capacity at the sewage treatment works serving the area to accommodate this level of growth the Nutrient Management Plan being produced by Environment Agency and Natural England has concluded that measures can be implemented to allow the level of growth proposed without compromising the achievement of phosphate targets in the River Wye.
<i>Policy H5 – New homes in Winforton</i>	Housing development Increased vehicle traffic Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment	Uncertain as to the impact upon the River Wye SAC depending upon location of development The policy does allocate a site on land to the rear of Courtlands Farm, 0.5 ha for	River Wye SAC	The measures set out in the Core Strategy policies and also the NDP policies should help to avoid adverse impacts upon the European site. Improved water efficiency measures, metering and	No. This policy only identifies one small site for development as well as providing criteria that any new development must adhere to. It is acknowledged that some impact could occur

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		<p>approx. 9 dwellings.</p>		<p>addressing leakages in supply may help to mitigate any additional pressure placed on the water supply as a result of new development.</p>	<p>due to the new development however the development is small scale and therefore the impact will not be as great. The policy also sets out measures to help reduce the impact, alongside mitigation through other policies in the Plan.</p> <p>The additional pressure on water abstraction and treatment it has been confirmed by DCWW that there are sufficient water resources to meet the increases in demand. Whilst there may be not currently sufficient capacity at the sewage treatment works serving the area to accommodate this level of growth the Nutrient Management Plan being produced by Environment Agency and Natural England has concluded that measures can be implemented to allow the level of growth</p>
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					proposed without compromising the achievement of phosphate targets in the River Wye.
<i>Policy H6 – New homes in Whitney-on-Wye</i>	<p>Housing development</p> <p>Increased vehicle traffic</p> <p>Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment</p>	Uncertain as to the impact upon the River Wye SAC depending upon location of development	River Wye SAC	<p>The measures set out in the Core Strategy policies and also the NDP policies should help to avoid adverse impacts upon the European site.</p> <p>Improved water efficiency measures, metering and addressing leakages in supply may help to mitigate any additional pressure placed on the water supply as a result of new development.</p>	<p>No. This policy does not specifically identify sites for development but instead provides criteria that any new development must adhere to. It is acknowledged that some impact could occur due to the new development however the development is small scale and therefore the impact will not be as great. The policy also sets out measures to help reduce the impact, alongside mitigation through other policies in the Plan.</p> <p>The additional pressure on water abstraction and treatment it has been confirmed by DCWW that there are sufficient water resources to meet</p>

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					the increases in demand. Whilst there may be not currently sufficient capacity at the sewage treatment works serving the area to accommodate this level of growth the Nutrient Management Plan being produced by Environment Agency and Natural England has concluded that measures can be implemented to allow the level of growth proposed without compromising the achievement of phosphate targets in the River Wye.
<i>Policy H7 – Criteria for Development in Eardisley Group</i>	N/A	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC	N/A	This policy should help to mitigate the potential effects of future development, by ensuring sustainable methods are used and waste and recycling are specifically handled.	No. This policy is unlikely to lead to development, instead it relates to criteria for development.
<i>Policy J1 – New technology and sustainable Economic</i>	New infrastructure for Broadband development	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC	N/A	This policy should help to mitigate the potential impacts of other NDP	No. Although this policy may lead to some new development this will be

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<i>growth</i>				policies in relation to increased traffic, and new large scale business developments due to reducing the extent to which people need to travel for work.	small scale to allow for the implementation of high speed broadband across the Parish. This in turn can allow new types of businesses to occupy the Parish and also allow for home working, thereby reducing the need vehicle traffic travelling across the County.
<i>Policy J2 – Small Scale work premises</i>	Small work premises attached to homes Increase in home working	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC	N/A	This policy should help to mitigate the potential impacts of other NDP policies in relation to increased traffic and large scale business developments due to reducing the extent to which people need to travel for work.	No. Although this policy encourages some development it is of small scale and to be linked to the person’s residential property or to encourage home working thereby reducing the need to travel in both instances. There are measures in other policies in the Plan that will help to mitigate against any negative impact the policy may have.
<i>Policy J3 – Retention and provision of employment</i>	Retaining existing employment sites	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC	N/A	This policy should help to mitigate against the potential impacts of other	No. Although this policy leads to some development, and could

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<p><i>sites</i></p>	<p>New light and general industry, office and business operations</p> <p>Some increase in vehicle traffic</p> <p>Increase in emissions from development</p>			<p>policies as it is encouraging brownfield use, retaining existing sites and ensuring all schemes are sustainable, re using redundant buildings and reducing flood risk.</p>	<p>result in an increase in vehicle movement as additional employment opportunities become more readily available. However, the policy itself encourages the retention of existing employment site, re use of redundant buildings and the use of sustainable proposals for any new development thereby mitigating against any negative impact. There are also other policies in the Plan that will help to mitigate against the proposals.</p>
<p><i>Policy EMD1 – Enabling mixed use development</i></p>	<p>New housing development</p> <p>New community facilities</p> <p>Retaining existing employment site</p> <p>New light and general industry, office and business operations</p> <p>Some increase in vehicle traffic</p>	<p>No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>This policy should help to mitigate against the potential impacts of other policies as it is upon brownfield, retaining an existing employment site and ensuring all schemes upon this are sustainable and reducing the risk of flood risk through design and mitigation methods.</p> <p>Other policies within the</p>	<p>No. Although this policy leads to some development, and could result in an increase in vehicle movement as additional employment opportunities become more readily available. However, the policy itself encourages the retention of existing employment site and the use of sustainable</p>

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	<p>Increase in emissions from development</p> <p>Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment</p>			<p>NDP will help to mitigate against any increase in traffic and waste through the development of the site.</p>	<p>proposals for any new development thereby mitigating against any negative impact. There are also other policies in the Plan that will help to mitigate against the proposals.</p> <p>The additional pressure on water abstraction and treatment it has been confirmed by DCWW that there are sufficient water resources to meet the increases in demand. Whilst there may be not currently sufficient capacity at the sewage treatment works serving the area to accommodate this level of growth the Nutrient Management Plan being produced by Environment Agency and Natural England has concluded that measures can be implemented to allow the level of growth proposed without compromising the achievement of</p>
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					phosphate targets in the River Wye.
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**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)

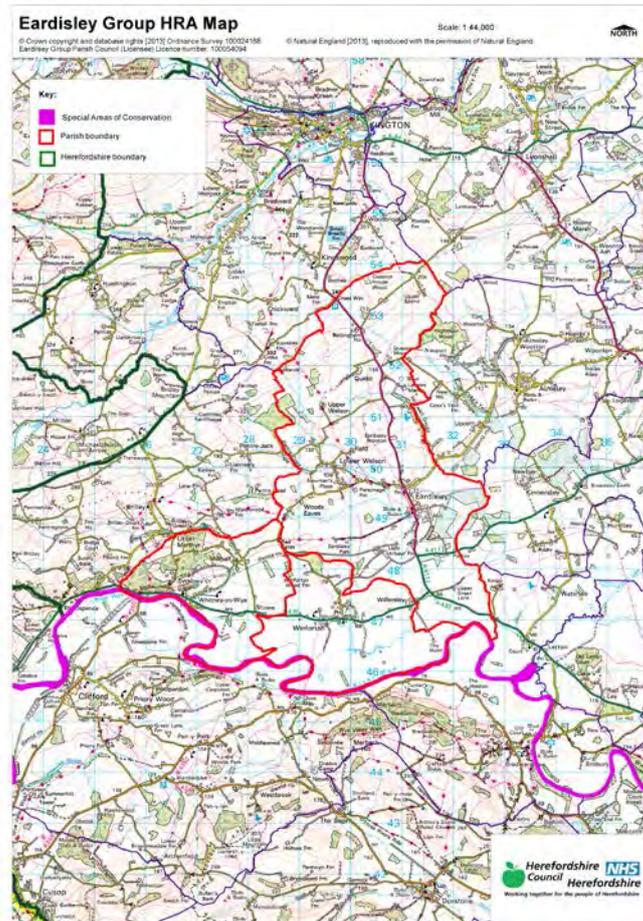
Neighbourhood Area:	Eardisley Group Neighbourhood Area
Parish Council:	Eardisley Group Parish Council
Neighbourhood Area Designation Date:	10th April 2013

Introduction

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

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

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



Initial HRA Screening

River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC:

Does the Neighbourhood Area have the River Wye (including the River Lugg) in or next to its boundary?	Y	The River Wye borders each of the three Parishes which make up the group
Is the Neighbourhood Area in the hydrological catchment of the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC?	Y	Yes, 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	Yes, at Eardisley

**Appendix 4
Downton Gorge SAC:**

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of Downton Gorge SAC?	N	Downton Gorge is 22.1km away from Eardisley Group Parish
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River Clun SAC:

Does the Neighbourhood Area include: Border Group Parish Council or Leintwardine Group Parish Council?	N	Eardisley Group is not within the Parishes listed
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Usk Bat Sites SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of the SAC boundary?	N	Usk Bat Sites is 30.6km 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	Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites are 42km away from the Group Parish
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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	Wye Valley Woodlands is 36.8km away from the Group Parish
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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 Eardisley 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

Appendix 4

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

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

SEA features	Total	Explanation	SEA required
Air Quality Management Areas	0	There are no AQMA's within the Group Parish	N
Ancient Woodland	14	Kiln Ground Wood; Arbour Coppice; Bearcroft Coppice & Upper Welson Wood; Castleton Hill Wood (border); Welsh Wood Dingle (border); Pentre Coed Dingle (border); Ashen Coppice (border); Fernhill Wood (border); Elsdon Wood (border); Birches Coppice (border); Highmoor Wood (border); Rough Moors (border); Cockshut Coppice (border); Longclose Coppice (border); Winforton Wood; Rhydspence Plantation (border); Benfield Park (border)	Y
Areas of Archaeological Interest	0	No AAI's within the Group Parish	N
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	0	No AONB's within the Group Parish	N
Conservation Areas	1	Eardisley Village is a Conservation Area	Y
European Sites	1	River Wye borders the Group Parish to the south	Y
Flood Areas		Flood Zones 2 & 3 cover the southern part of the Group Parish, and also the Southern part of Eardisley Parish up to and including Eardisley Village	Y
Listed Buildings	Numerous	Numerous Listed Buildings throughout the Group Parish	Y
Local Nature Trails	1	The Herefordshire Trail runs through the western part of Whitney on Wye Parish and also through Eardisley Parish	Y
Local Sites (SWS/SINCS/RIGS)	29 (SWS)	Winforton Church; Nicholas Common; Winforton Wood; Woodlands & Meadow south of Brilley; Meadow adjacent to Woodbine Villa; Lower field at Welson; Upper Welson Marsh; Quebb Meadow; Holywell Dingle; Highmoor Wood; Bushy Hazels & Cwmma Moors; Welsh Wood Dingle; Meadow adjacent to Winforton Wood & Lady Arbour Farm; River Wye; Meadow adjacent to Brilley Chapel; Land at Woodside, Brilley (border); Sunny Bank Meadow (border); Land at The Nursery, Rhydspence (border); Rhydspence Plantation and adjoining sites (border); Land adjacent to old track	Y

Appendix 4		to Pentre Coed Farm (border); Field at Fernhall (border); Queest Moor; Pool near Oldcastle (border); Field near Birches Farm (border); Land at Chickward x 3 (border)	
Long distance footpaths/trails (e.g. Herefordshire Trail)	1	See Local Nature Trails above	Y
Mineral Reserves	0	No Minerals Sites within the Group Parish	N
National Nature Reserve	0	There are no NNR's within the Group Parish	N
Registered & unregistered parks and gardens	1 registered. 7 unregistered	Registered: Nieuport (border). Unregistered: Lemoore; Winforton House; Whitney Court; Letton Court (border); Clifford Deer Park (border); Elsdon (border); Lynhales (border)	Y
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	6	The Camp earthwork; Eardisley Castle; Motte & Bailey north of Oldcastle (border); Mound north of Cwmma Farm (border); Churchyard cross in St Mary's Churchyard (border); Mound south of Woodbrook (border)	Y
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	5	Quebb Meadows (Unfavourable Recovering); Upper Welson Marsh (Unfavourable Recovering); Bushy Hazels & Cwmma Moor (Favourable); River Wye (Unfavourable Recovering); The Sturts (Unfavourable Recovering) (border)	Y

Decision Notification:

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

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

Assessment date: 13/05/2013 re-screened 22/08/2013

**Assessed by:
James Latham**

Appendix 4

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>Callitriche-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)

Appendix 4

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, <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines. Annex II species of primary reason for site selection: Lesser horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> , 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 <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> . Greater horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>
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 <i>Asperulo-Fagetum</i> , <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines, <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles. Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection: Lesser horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> , 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

