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

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

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (d)

Neighbourhood Area:	Woolhope Neighbourhood Area
Parish Council:	Woolhope Parish Council
Neighbourhood Area Designation Date:	28/08/2015

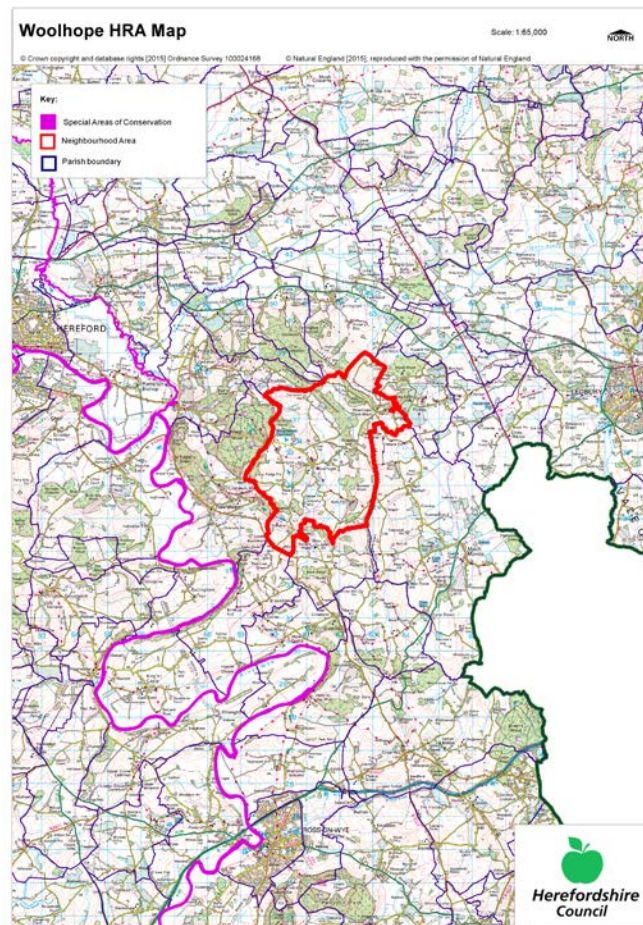
Introduction

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

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

HRA Initial Screening

Map showing relationship of Neighbourhood Area with European Sites (not to scale)



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

Does the Neighbourhood Area have the River Wye (including the River Lugg) in or next to its boundary?	N	The River Wye/Lugg is 1.25km away from the Parish
Is the Neighbourhood Area in the hydrological catchment of the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC?	Y	The Parish is within the hydrological catchment of the River Wye.
If yes above, does the Neighbourhood Area have mains drainage to deal with foul sewage?	Y	There is mains drainage at Woolhope.

Downton Gorge SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of Downton Gorge SAC?	N	Downton Gorge is 39.6km away from the Parish.
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River Clun SAC:

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

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of any of the individual sites that make up the Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites?	N	Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites are 13.8km away from the 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 are 18.1km away from the Parish.
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HRA Conclusion:

The assessment above highlights that European Sites will need to be taken into account in the future Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Woolhope 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 Woolhope Neighbourhood Area and would need to be taken into account within a Strategic Environmental Assessment. In addition, the NDP will also need to consider the other SEA topics set out in Guidance Note 9a to ensure that the plan does not cause adverse impacts.

SEA features	Within Neighbourhood Area		Bordering Neighbourhood Area	
	Total number	Name(s)	Total number	Name(s)
Ancient Woodland	11	Sharpnag Wood; Nurdens Wood/Canwood Knoll; Park Coppice; Priggles Wood; Green Hill Coppice; Beans Butt Wood; Busland and Jones Wood; Knowle Wood; Siege Wood; Lea & Pagets Wood; The Grove.	12	Lyndalls & Wittlebury Wood; Rock Cottage Wood; Carey & Capler Woods; Nover Wood; Fownhope Park & West Wood; Dormington Wood; Swillow Wood; East Wood; Mains Wood; Priors Court Wood; The Pendleholes; Fernhope Wood.
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	1	Wye Valley AONB.	0	-
Conservation Areas	1	Woolhope.	0	-
Flood Areas	Flood Zones 2 and 3 in the south of the Parish.			
Geoparks	0	-	0	-
Listed Buildings	There are numerous Listed Buildings within the Parish.			
Mineral Reserves	11	Perton Quarry to Sheepcote Hill to Woolhope Cockshoot; The Plantation to Devereux Park to Winslow Mill to Busland Wood to Sapness House; Green Hill Coppice to Hoppers Oak to Hoar	3	Limburies Wood and Joanshill Farm; Mangerdine, north east of Mordiford; Nover Wood.

		Wood to Newbury Lodge, Yatton; Sollars Hope to Whittlebury Farm to Foxhalls; Siege Wood to Round Wood, Sollars Hope; Pagets Wood, Fownhope to Lower Buckenhill to Sollars Hope; Mordiford to Fownhope to Lower Buckenhill; Woolhope to Sharpnage Wood; East of Mordiford to Fownhope; Haugh Wood Gate; Between Crooked Oak and Broadmoor Farm.		
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	0	-	0	-
Nature Trails	2	Wye Valley Walk; Three Choirs Walk.	1	Herefordshire Trail.
Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS)	0	-	0	-
Registered Parks and Gardens	0	-	0	-
Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM)	1	Churchyard Cross in St Georges Churchyard.	7	Churchyard Cross in St Michaels Churchyard; Capler Camp; Moated site 360m north of Joanshill Farm; Cherry Hill Camp; Ethelberts Camp; Roman Villa east of The Rectory, Putley.
Sites of Importance in Nature Conservation (SINCs)	0	-	0	-
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	0	-	1	River Wye
Special Wildlife Sites (SWS)	14	Woodland along Canwood Knoll; Roadside verge near Bent Orchards; Fields at Woolhope Cockshoot; Roadside verge near Black House; Woodlands on the western slope of Marcle Hill; Woodlands along Marcle Hill and Ridge Hill;	13	Woodland along Seager Hill; Fields near Checkley Chapel; Checkley Common; Putley Common and surrounding woodland; Rushall Road Cutting; Lower Walton Road Cuttings;

		Tack Wood; Sutton Hill Wood; Lea, Pagets and Buckenhill Woods; Wessington Pasture; Haugh Wood and adjoining woodland; Sharpnage Wood; Broadmoor Common; Pentaloe Brook.		Lyndalls and Wittlebury Woods; Birch and Rattle Hill Woods; Woods along River Wye from Capler Camp; Woodlands and grasslands above Fownhope; Scutterdine Quarry; East Wood; Whitfield and Slade Coppices.		
Unregistered parks and gardens	2	Wessington Court; Devereux Park.	5	Putley Court; Hall Court, Kynaston; Fownhope Court; Brockhampton, by Ross; Old Sufton.		
			SSSI Status		SSSI Status	
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	3	Orchid Bank, Winslow Mill; Sharpnage Wood; Lea & Pagets Wood.	Favourable. Unfavourable Recovering. Favourable; Unfavourable Recovering; Unfavourable Declining.	10	Haugh Wood; River Wye; Little Hill; Scutterdine Quarry; Common Hill; Cherry Hill Wood; Birch Wood; Capler Wood; Mains Wood; Woodshuts Wood.	Favourable. Unfavourable Recovering. Unfavourable No Change. Favourable. Favourable; Unfavourable Recovering; Unfavourable Declining. Unfavourable Recovering. Favourable. Favourable. Unfavourable Declining. Unfavourable Recovering.

Decision Notification:

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

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

Assessment date: 07/08/2015

Assessed by: James Latham

Appendix 1: European Sites

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

Downton Gorge
Site Features: <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines
Vulnerability data: 10km for air quality associated with poultry units or other intensive agricultural practices.

River Clun
Site Features: Freshwater pearl mussel <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>
Vulnerability data: Water quality is important to maintain the site feature. Parishes either side of the River Clun will be affected.

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

Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites
Site Features: Annex II species that are a primary reason for site selection: Lesser horseshoe bat <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.