

# Habitats Regulations Assessment



## Dorstone Neighbourhood Area

October 2015

## Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14 Consultation - October 2015

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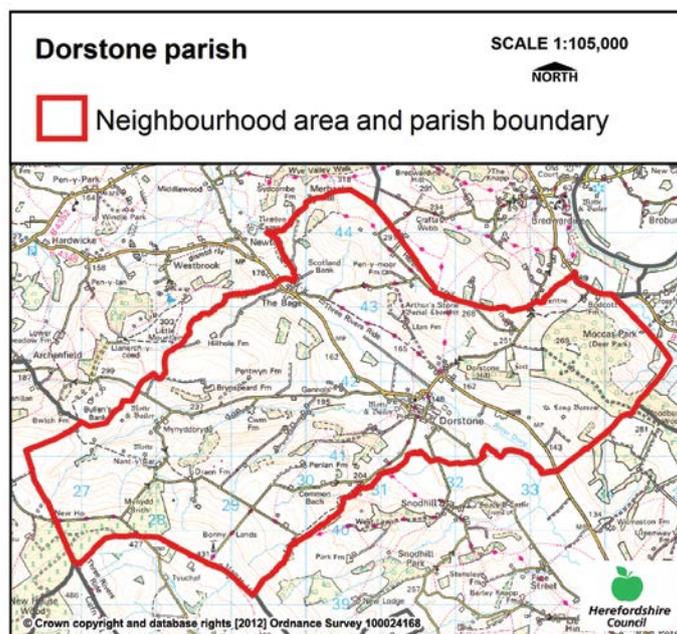
Appendix 1 Initial Screening Report (May 2013)

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## 1 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 Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have a significant effect on any European site(s).
- 1.2 Dorstone Parish Council is producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan for whole administrative area of Dorstone parish, in order to set out the vision, objectives and policies for the development of the parish up to 2031 (Draft plan October 2015 being assessed).
- 1.3 The NDP has not allocated sites but 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 the Proposed Main Modification Addendum B (July 2015) and ensures that there will not be any significant impacts upon Natura 2000 sites.
- 1.4 The map below shows Dorstone Neighbourhood Area and parish boundary.



## 2 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 neighbourhood plan, Dorstone Parish

Council is required by law to carry out an assessment known as “Habitats Regulations Assessment”. 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 Methodology

3.1 As the Dorstone Neighbourhood 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 Neighbourhood Plan 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 (14 May 2014) (Appendix 1) found that the River Wye SAC is located less than 1km away from the northern edge of the Dorstone Neighbourhood Area. However, some northern parts of the neighbourhood area are within the hydrological catchment of the River Wye, therefore a full screening assessment is required. Figure 2 below highlights the location of River Wye SAC in relation to the neighbourhood area.



- 4.2 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 Core Strategy. 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 within existing water discharge permits would not be likely to have a significant effect upon the River Wye SAC. Work is currently ongoing with DCWW to ensure that sufficient permitted headroom exists and or measure can be put in place in the Dorstone Sewerage treatment works (STW) to accommodate the specific growth highlighted within the Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan.
- 4.3 For full details of the River Wye's attributes which contribute to and define their integrity and vulnerable data see Appendix 1 of the Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan Initial Screening Report (Full report in Appendix 1 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 Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan may affect site integrity.
- 4.4 Options for initial policy choices (See appendix 2) have been assessed to determine their environmental impact for each option that could impact the River Wye SAC. The alternative options were concerning the delineation of the settlement boundary for the village of Dorstone. The village itself is outside of the hydrological catchment of the River Wye,

therefore any of the options regarding managing the future growth of the village would not have a direct impact of the catchment. The HRA screening matrix of emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan can be found in appendix 3.

## **5 Description of the Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan**

- 5.1 The Draft Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan (October 2015) presents detailed policies for development in the Neighbourhood Area, which is equivalent to the administrative parish boundary, up to 2031.
- 5.2 The neighbourhood plan 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:
- Objective 1: Managing housing growth
  - Objective 2: promoting of farming and small businesses
  - Objective 3: Tourism
  - Objective 4: Infrastructure
  - Objective 5: Local carbon and energy consumption
  - Objective 6: Conservation, heritage, landscape and wildlife
  - Objective 7: Flooding
  - Objective 8: Community facilities
- 5.3 The Neighbourhood Plan also sets out 11 general policies on topics based on the objective headings above as follows:
- Policy H1: Settlement Boundary: Dorstone Village
  - Policy H2: Housing site criteria
  - Policy H3: Housing design criteria
  - Policy H4: Delivery of affordable housing
  - Policy E1: Small businesses, farming and employment
  - Policy IN1: Infrastructure
  - Policy T1: Tourism
  - Policy RE1: Renewable energy
  - Policy ENV1: Conservation, heritage and landscape
  - Policy F1: Flooding
  - Policy CF1: Community facilities
- 5.4 Section 9 of the Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan highlights the review and monitoring process proposed for the plan during the plan period until 2031. It is proposed that a formal review of the plan is undertaken in 2020.

5.5 A draft consultation is planned to be undertaken in line with Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations, any amendments or changes suggested as part of this assessment would need to be considered as part of the review of comments received to this consultation.

## **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. It should be noted however, that neighbourhood plans cannot be made if like significant effects occur.

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 the Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan does not go over and beyond the requirements set out in the Core Strategy this review will also be substantial for the NDP. Adjacent neighbourhood plans (Cusop, Peterchurch, Clifford, Wyese and Vowchurch Group) are, this stage in their production, also collectively no going over and beyond the requirements set out within the Core Strategy for their area.

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 Dorstone 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.

Table1

Red	There are likely to be significant effects
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Green	Significant effects are unlikely
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- 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 Local Plan (Core Strategy), was 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 which require good practice measures. The Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan will safeguard any proposal or development against detrimental impact on the environment within Policy H2, Policy ENV1 and Policy F1. The Neighbourhood Plan will do this by ensuring there is no adverse impact on the environment, landscape, habitats and biodiversity; development is located to avoid flooding area of the Pont-y-Weston and River Dore; there is no detrimental impact to conservation area; and reducing the need to travel.

## 8 Timing for adoption

- 8.1 The Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) is in its final stages. The Inspector's report was received on the 29 September and this indicated that the plan was sound. It is anticipated that the Core Strategy will be adopted in mid-October 2015. Given the current draft stage of the Dorstone Neighbourhood Development Plan, whilst producing the HRA reports and screening matrix, it has been assumed that the Core Strategy is adopted before the Dorstone Neighbourhood Development Plan.

## 9 Conclusions from the Screening Matrix

- 9.1 None of the Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan policies (October 2015) were concluded to be likely to have a significant likely effect on the River Wye SAC. This is primarily because the majority of the parish / neighbourhood area lies outside of the hydrological catchment of the River Wye. Some suggestions have been made to three policies to strengthen the policy wording but this is in connection with the effects of flooding on the River Dore which is not part of the hydrological catchment of the River Wye. Based on assumptions and information contained within the Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan, Herefordshire Core Strategy and the Pre-submission version and Proposed Main Modification Addendum B of the HRA for the Core Strategy all of the NDP policies were found to be unlikely to result in a significant likely effect on the River Wye SAC.
- 9.3 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 Dorstone area to continue to treat the water from the amount of housing provided for in the Core Strategy policies. Continuing work is required with DCWW to ensure that sufficient headroom remains

and a potential feasibility study may be required to assess any further upgrade requirements. 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.

- 9.5 It is unlikely that the Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan will have any in-combination effects with any Plans from neighbouring parishes due to the level of growth proposed is of the same that is proposed for the Golden Valley Housing Market Area in the Herefordshire Core Strategy and all of the proposed housing will be of a small scale.
- 9.6 It is therefore concluded that the **Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan will not have a likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC.**
- 9.7 Any further amendments to the policies (post October 2015) will be rescreened if required and an addendum to this report will be produced to accompany the submission plan.

# Appendix 1

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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)**

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<b>Neighbourhood Area:</b>	Dorstone Neighbourhood Area
<b>Parish Council:</b>	Dorstone Neighbourhood Area
<b>Neighbourhood Area Designation Date:</b>	07/09/2012

#### **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 Parish boundary is less than 1km away from the River Wye
Is the Neighbourhood Area in the hydrological catchment of the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC?	Y	The east of the Parish is within the River Wye hydrological catchment
If yes above, does the Neighbourhood Area have mains drainage to deal with foul sewage?	Y	Mains drainage at Dorstone

**Downton Gorge SAC:**

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of Downton Gorge SAC?	N	Downton Gorge is 30.9km away from the Parish
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**River Clun SAC:**

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

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of the SAC boundary?	N	The Usk Bat Sites are 24.1km away from 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	The Parish is 38km away from the Wye Valley & 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 Parish is 31km 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 Dorstone 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 Dorstone 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.

<b>SEA features</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Explanation</b>	<b>SEA required</b>
Air Quality Management Areas	0	There are no AQMA's within the Parish	N
Ancient Woodland	11	Woodbury Hill Wood; Dorstone Hill Wood; Drain Wood/Nant Y Bar Dingle; there are also 8 sites unlabelled	Y
Areas of Archaeological Interest	0	No AAI's in the Parish	N
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	0	No AONB's within the Parish	N
Conservation Areas	1	Dorstone Village is designated as a Conservation Area	Y
European Sites	1	The River Wye is 1km away from the Parish boundary	Y
Flood Areas		Flood Zones 2 & 3 run from the south east of the Parish, around Dorstone village and out to the west towards Mynddbyrdd	Y
Listed Buildings	Numerous	There are numerous listed buildings throughout the Parish	Y
Local Sites (SWS/SINCS/RIGS)	10 (SWS)	Vagar Hill Wood, Field near Mynnd Brith, Moccas Park and adjoining woodland, Bach Dingle, Roadside bank opposite Llanafon Farm, Little Mountain and Newhouse Wood, Golden Well, Mill Wood and Greta Wood, Asper Wood, Nant Y Bar Dingle	Y
Long distance footpaths/trails	2	Herefordshire Trail; Three Rivers Ride	Y
Mineral Reserves	0	No Minerals Reserves Sites within the Parish	N
National Nature Reserve	1	Moccas Park in the east of the Parish	Y
Registered & unregistered parks and gardens	1 Registered	Moccas Court to the east of the Parish	Y
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	7	Motte Castle 230m north west of Nant Y Bar, Dorstone Village Cross, Motte Castle and associated occupation and agricultural remains at Mynnd Birth, Motte Castle 150m east of Tump House Farm, Arthurs Stone Neolithic Chamber 450m south west of Mount Pleasant, Promontory Fort on Dorstone Hill, Long Barrow 260m north west of Cross Lodge	Y
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	2	Moccas Park (Favourable (part) Unfavourable Recovering (part)) River Wye (Unfavourable Recovering) (border)	Y

**Decision Notification:**

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

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

**Assessment date: 14/05/2013**

**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.

<b>Downton Gorge</b>
<b>Site Features:</b> <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines
<b>Vulnerability data:</b> 10km for air quality associated with poultry units or other intensive agricultural practices.
<b>River Clun</b>
<b>Site Features:</b> Freshwater pearl mussel <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>
<b>Vulnerability data:</b> Water quality is important to maintain the site feature. Parishes either side of the River Clun will be affected.
<b>River Wye</b>
<b>Site Features:</b> 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>
<b>Vulnerability data:</b> 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: <a href="http://www.environmentagency.gov.uk/static/documents/Business/Otters_the_facts.pdf">http://www.environmentagency.gov.uk/static/documents/Business/Otters_the_facts.pdf</a> 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.

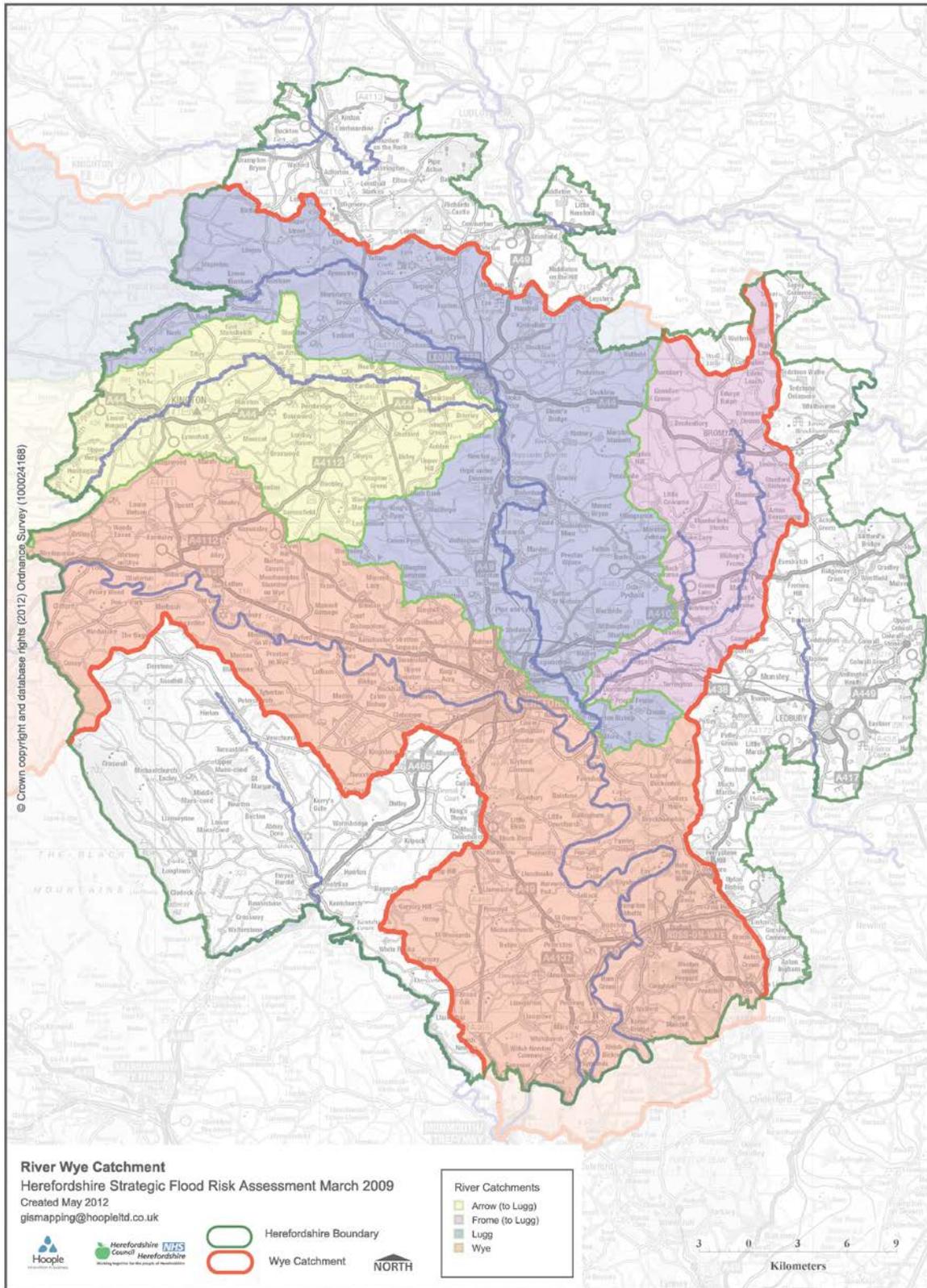
Greater Horseshoe Bat: Large buildings, pasture, edge of mixed deciduous woodland and hedgerows. Mixed land-use especially south-facing slopes, favours beetles, moths and insects they feed on. During the winter they depend on caves, abandoned mines and other underground sites for undisturbed hibernation. 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



# Appendix 2

HRA Report – Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan (October 2015) - HRA Screening of Emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan Options

Date option screening undertaken: **September 2014**

Core Strategy HRA version: **Pre-submission Herefordshire Core Strategy (May 2014)**

NDP options	HRA Screening of Emerging NDP options				
	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the option	Likely effect if objective/option/policy implemented. Could they have Likely Significant Effects (LSE) on European Sites? (Yes/No, with reasons)	European Sites potentially affected	Mitigation measures to be considered, as necessary, through redraft of option and to be considered as part of Appropriate Assessment	Could the policy have likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account?)
<i>Option 1</i> <i>Reintroduction of the settlement boundary</i>	Small scale proportionate growth within a defined settlement boundary area	The River Wye does not flow near the village of Dorstone. The Pont-Y Weston and the River Dore both flow into the River Monnow and therefore not part of the River Wye catchment.  A small area to the north of the neighbourhood area is within the hydrological catchment of the River Wye but this is not affected by this option.	n/a	n/a	n/a
<i>Option 2</i> <i>No settlement boundary</i>	Small scale proportionate growth where the location would be determined by a criteria based policy	The River Wye does not flow near the village of Dorstone.  The Pont-Y Weston and the River Dore both flow	n/a	n/a	n/a

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HRA Report – Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan (October 2015) - HRA Screening of Emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan Options

		<p>into the River Monnow and therefore not part of the River Wye catchment.</p> <p>A small area to the north of the neighbourhood area is within the hydrological catchment of the River Wye but this is not affected by this option.</p>			
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# Appendix 3

HRA Report – Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan (October 2015) - HRA Screening of Emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan Objectives and Policies

Date undertaken: **October 2015**

Core Strategy HRA version: **Pre-submission Core Strategy (May 2014) and Proposed Modifications Addendum B (July 2015)**

NDP objectives, policies	HRA Screening of Emerging NDP objectives 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?	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 - Housing	Promoting sustainable limited growth	N/A	N/A	N/A	No; this objective will not lead to development; rather it acknowledges that limited growth will occur in line with the Core Strategy within the village of Dorstone which is outside of the hydrological catchment of the River Wye.
Policy DNP H1 – Settlement boundary: Dorstone village	Small scale proportionate growth within the settlement boundary of Dorstone.	The River Wye does not flow through the parish but a small area to the north is within the catchment area.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	Criteria within the policy highlights development should take place within the settlement boundary and outside of flood	No: this policy will allow for the small scale sustainable growth of Dorstone village in line with

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HRA Report – Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan (October 2015) - HRA Screening of Emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan Objectives and Policies

				<p>zones from the Pont-y-Weston and River Dore.</p> <p>Therefore development under this policy is outside of the hydrological catchment of the River Wye.</p> <p>The implementation of the Core Strategy policies SD3 and SD4 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.</p>	<p>Core Strategy policy RA1/RA2. Additional policy criteria are in place in both the Core Strategy and the Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan to avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.</p>
<p>Policy DNP H2 – Housing site criteria</p>	<p>Housing criteria within the settlement boundary of Dorstone.</p>	<p>The River Wye does not flow through the parish but a small area to the north is within the catchment area.</p>	<p>River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC</p>	<p>Criteria within the policy highlights development should take place within the settlement boundary and outside of flood zones from the Pont-y-Weston and River Dore.</p>	<p>No: this policy will allow for the small scale sustainable growth of Dorstone village in line with Core Strategy policy RA1/RA2.</p>

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				<p>Therefore development within the settlement boundary under this policy is outside of the hydrological catchment of the River Wye.</p> <p>There is uncertain as to the impacts upon the River Wye SAC regarding the exception part of the policy as this is dependent on the location. However the policy would result in very small scale growth.</p> <p>The implementation of the Core Strategy policies SD3 and SD4 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.</p>	
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<p>Policy DNP H3 Housing design criteria</p>	<p>Housing design criteria to support policies H1 to H2</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>No: the policy would not itself lead to development; instead it relates to the design criteria for development. This refers to measure to reduce surface water run-off and flood prevention measures.</p>
<p>Policy DNP H4 – Delivery of affordable housing</p>	<p>Policy to support the delivery of affordable housing in line with Core Strategy policy H2.</p>	<p>Some small scale housing development.  Housing, infrastructure development Possible increase in recreation 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.</p>	<p>River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC</p>	<p>Criteria within the Dorstone NDP policy H2 highlights development should be outside of flood zones from the Pont-y- Weston and River Dore. Measure set out within the Core Strategy policies and Dorstone NDP policy F1 should help to avoid adverse impacts upon the European site.  Improved water efficiency measures, metering and addressing leakages in supply may</p>	<p>No: this policy would allow for small affordable housing schemes and supports the Core Strategy Policy H2. These would be in areas not normally released for housing. However there are additional policy criteria in place in both the Core Strategy and the Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan to avoid or</p>

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				<p>help to mitigate any additional pressure placed on the water supply as a result of new developments.</p> <p>The implementation of the Core Strategy policies SD3 and SD4 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.</p>	mitigate any likely significant effects.
Objective – Small businesses, farming and employment	Support for employment opportunities within the parish.	N/A	N/A	N/A	No; this objective in itself does not lead to development but supports further employment opportunities within the parish.
Policy DNP E1 – Small business and	Encouragement of small local business start-ups, working from home and	Employment and infrastructure development.	River Wye (including the	The Core Strategy policy LD2 will aim to help avoid any adverse	No: this policy is seeking to allow further working for

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farming	farm diversification primarily in conversion, extensions.	Possible vehicular movements and demand for water abstraction and treatment.	River Lugg) SAC	<p>impacts on the River Wye for new employment or businesses 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 Core Strategy policy SD1 should help to mitigate potential impacts relating to non-physical disturbances.</p> <p>The implementation of Core Strategy policies SD3 and SD4 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</p>	<p>home and small scale businesses. This may have a positive effect on reducing the need to travel.</p> <p>There are policy safeguards within Core Strategy policies that will help mitigate potential likely significant effects.</p>
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				<p>Nutrient Management Plan.</p> <p>This Dorstone NDP policy should help to reducing the extent to which people need to travel to work especially in connection with policies to improve network connections.</p> <p>Although the River Wye does not pass through the parish, additional policy criteria could be added to strengthen the avoidance locations which could have an adverse impact on the natural environment especially River Wye.</p>	
<p>Objective– Infrastructure</p> <p>Encourage and facilitate mobile and broadband coverage</p>	<p>Encouragement for full mobile and internet coverage during the plan period.</p>	N/A	N/A	N/A	<p>No; this objective would not lead to development itself but seeks to support full network coverage in Dorstone parish during the plan period.</p>

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<p>Policy IN1 – Infrastructure</p> <p>Favourable consider additional technology application subject to siting and scale</p>	<p>This could result in additional masts and transmitter facilities within the parish.</p>	<p>Depending on location could be physical disturbance.</p> <p>Uncertain as to the impacts upon the River Wye SAC dependent on the location of development, however the policy could result in some small scale infrastructure.</p>	<p>River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC</p>	<p>Although the River Wye does not pass through the parish, additional policy criteria could be added to strengthen the avoidance locations which could have an adverse impact on the River Wye hydrological catchment.</p>	<p>No; the policy itself will not lead to development but provided the criteria by which any development proposal will be adjudged.</p> <p>A number of policy safeguards exist both within the Core Strategy and the Dorstone NDP. With the additional wording, likely significant effects can be avoided or mitigated against.</p>
<p>Objective – Tourism</p> <p>Capitalise upon current and future tourism opportunities</p>	<p>Additional visitor numbers, increase traffic, increased abstraction and demand for water use.</p>	<p>Potential increase in visitor numbers to the parish could have an effect on the River Wye</p>	<p>River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC</p>	<p>Measures are included in both the Core Strategy and the Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan to help relieved any increased pressure on the River Wye for recreation purposes.</p> <p>Improved water efficiency measures, metering and addressing</p>	<p>No; the policy emphasises the importance of natural environment. Although visitor and tourism activity may increase within the parish, sufficient policy safeguards are in place to ensure the sensitivity of the</p>

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				<p>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>	<p>River Wye is mitigated from likely significant harm.</p>
<p>Policy DNP T1 – Tourism</p> <p>Criteria policy for tourism development; scale, environmental, access, cycle ways, paths , parking</p>	<p>Additional visitor numbers, increase traffic, increased abstraction and demand for water use.</p>	<p>Potential increase in visitor numbers to the parish could have an effect on the River Wye</p>	<p>River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC</p>	<p>Measures are included in both the Core Strategy and the Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan to help relieved 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</p>	<p>No; the policy emphasises the importance of natural environment. 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.</p>

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				specifically address issues relating to water quality in the River Wye.	
Objective – Renewable energy	Support for transition to a low carbon economy.	N/A	N/A	N/A	No; this objective would not lead to development itself but seeks to ensure that any development would contribute to transition to low carbon.
Policy DNP RE1 – Renewable energy	Policy is aiming to encourage the provision of low or zero carbon infrastructure	Depending on type and location of infrastructure;  Physical damage or disturbance  Non-physical disturbance such as noise	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Measures included within policy SD2 of the Core Strategy should help to mitigate potential impacts relating to non-physical disturbances.  <b>The policy itself refers to ensuring no harm to the character or appearance of the parish or surrounding landscape. 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</b>	No; this policy could result in the development of renewable energy infrastructure which depending on location could have potential effect on the River Wye. However, sufficient policy safeguards are in place within the Core Strategy and with the inclusion of additional wording within the Dorstone NDP policy to avoid or mitigate any

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				<p><b>RE1.</b></p> <p>Good practice construction techniques including noise suppression measures, hours of operation may help to mitigate potential adverse effects during construction.</p>	likely significant effects on the River Wye.
Objective – Conservation, heritage and landscape	Encouragement of sustainable development which preserves and protects 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 and protect Dorstone’s landscape, environment and habitats.
Policy DNP CHL1 – Conservation, heritage and 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 avoidance locations which could have an adverse impact on the natural environment	No: this objective will not lead to new development rather it aims to ensure that all development proposed will conserve and enhance

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				especially River Wye.	Dorstone's landscape, environment and habitats.
Objective – Environment flooding	Seeks to reduce impacts of flooding within the parish	N/A	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	This policy should help to mitigate potential adverse effects of future development on designated areas by ensuring that development happens in sustainable non flood risk locations.	No, the policy itself will not lead to development, instead it relates to the criteria used for permitting development in suitable locations. The policy is aiming to reduce development in flood risk areas thus reducing the impact on the water environment.
Policy DNP F1 – Flooding	Aims to reduce the impact of flooding	N/A	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	Although the River Wye does not flow through the parish, the Pont-y-Weston and River Dore are within the Wye catchment.  This policy should help to mitigate potential adverse effects of future development on designated areas by	The policy itself will not lead to development, instead it relates to the criteria used for permitting development in suitable locations. The policy is aiming to reduce development in flood risk areas

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				ensuring that development happens in sustainable non flood risk locations.	thus reducing the impact on the water environment.
Objective- Community facilities	Encourage and enhance the use of community facilities.	N/A	N/A	N/A	No; this objective will not lead to new development but seeks to encourage the retention and enhancement of existing community facilities.
Policy DNP CF1 – Community facilities	Encourage and enhance the use of community facilities.	N/A	N/A	N/A	No: this policy in itself would not result in new development rather it relates to the safeguarding and enhancement of existing community facilities.