

# Environmental Report



## Marden Neighbourhood Area

November 2015

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## **Non-technical summary**

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is an important part of the evidence base which underpins Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP), as it is a systematic decision support process, aiming to ensure that environmental assets, including those whose importance transcends local, regional and national interests, are considered effectively in plan making.

Marden Parish Council has undertaken to prepare an NDP and this process has been subject to environmental appraisal pursuant to the SEA Directive. Marden is a relatively large parish to the north of Hereford city, covering an area of 1,396 hectares.

The Submission version of the Marden NDP includes 7 objectives, which are designed to deliver the overarching vision on the ground, and it is intended that these objectives will be supported by 13 criteria based planning policies and associated site allocations. A range of alternative options were considered prior to reaching a decision over the format of the draft plan. The draft plan was consulted upon twice as 6 policies were updated to reflect changes to the Core Strategy rural policies and the initial consultation responses received.

The environmental appraisal of the Marden NDP has been undertaken in line with the Environmental Assessment of Plan and Programmes Regulations 2004. Stage A of the SEA process involved Scoping and Stage B provided a review and analysis of the NDP. Stage C involved preparing an Environmental Report and Stage D comprises a formal consultation on both this and the Draft Plan itself.

Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening has been carried out as the parish falls within the catchment for the River Lugg, which is a European site (Special Area of Conservation). The HRA assesses the potential effects of the NDP on the River Wye SAC.

On the whole, it is considered that the Marden NDP is in general conformity with both national planning policy contained in the National Planning Policy Framework and strategic policies set within the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy). Nor does it propose any growth that would be over and above that prescribed by strategic policies. Changes have been made a number of policies to increase the safeguards against detrimental effects on the natural environment, therefore no further changes to the NDP are recommended as a result of the SEA.

Once made (adopted) by Herefordshire Council, the effects of the policies within the Marden NDP will be monitored annually via the Council's Authority Monitoring Report (AMR).

## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report forms the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Marden Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP).
- 1.2 The Marden NDP provides general policies for guiding future development across the parish as a whole. Settlement boundaries have been defined for Marden, Litmarsh, The Vault and Burmarsh. Within the village of Marden, these are supported by proposed site allocations to meet proportional levels of growth in Policy RA2 of the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy).

### Purpose of the SEA

- 1.3 SEA is a requirement of EC Directive 2001/42/EC (the SEA Directive) which requires the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment to ensure that the proposals in that plan or programme contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.
- 1.4 The Directive was transposed into domestic legislation through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 and which applies to plans with significant environmental effects.
- 1.5. A screening opinion was carried out on the Marden NDP and it concluded that due to the range of environmental designations in and around the parish, there may be significant environmental effects and consequently an SEA would be required.

### Marden Neighbourhood Development Plan Context

- 1.6 Marden is one of the largest parishes in Herefordshire which covers 1,396 hectares and has a high population density relative to Herefordshire as a whole; 0.93 persons per hectare compared to 0.8 people per hectare (Herefordshire).
- 1.7 Marden Parish includes a number of hamlets including Burmarsh, Urdimash, The Vault, Venn's Green, The Vern and Litmarsh, with further housing scattered around the parish. Marden village is situated about a mile east of the main A49 Hereford-Leominster road some six miles north of Hereford.
- 1.8 The neighbourhood area boasts many natural features. The River Lugg, which is part of the River Wye Special Area of Conservation (SAC) runs along the western border of the parish, with 7 Special Wildlife Sites and 3 Sites of Scientific Interest either within or bordering the parish. There are numerous built heritage assets, too, including listed buildings, 3 Scheduled Monuments and non-designated assets.
- 1.9 The vision for Marden in 2031 is as follows:

*“By 2031 Marden will have grown proportionally and will remain a rural parish and village. It will continue to have a strong sense of identity and have a vibrant village centre. The smaller surrounding hamlets and the countryside will have been protected from over-development”.*

*“Marden will have a mix of open market and affordable housing, of high quality, sustainable homes satisfying all needs and age ranges. The nature and scale of housing and commercial development will have enhanced our rural appearance, feel and identity and protected the countryside. Necessary services – retail, service, school, community, care, sport & leisure, a dedicated multi-use community centre, public transport etc. – will be provided and supported locally. There will be opportunities for working from home as well as locally, in activities that positively enhance our natural environment. Continuing agricultural and other business activities in the Parish will also enhance our natural and built environment. Access to the countryside will be improved and enhanced to support exercise, health and wider wellbeing”.*

#### 1.10 The 7 NDP objectives which underpin this vision are:

1. To deliver a vibrant village centre through a level of housing growth that is proportionate to the size and scale of Marden village and the surrounding countryside so that it retains its rural character.
2. To ensure that housing development in the surrounding hamlets of Litmarsh, Burmarsh, The Vault and other hamlets is managed appropriately.
3. To ensure all new development is informed by best practices current at the time of development and is designed to be in keeping with the surrounding character of the parish while promoting a heterogeneous appearance.
4. To ensure that new housing is provided in a suitable range of tenures, types, sizes, affordability ranges and is flexible in usage so that local people of all ages can continue to live in the parish in a suitable home, whilst families are attracted to the area and local housing needs are met.
5. To ensure that Marden has the appropriate local and community facilities to support present demand, future projected growth and demographic change. Developments must make a positive and tangible impact on the range and availability of community facilities and infrastructure by creating a focal point for the village.
6. To welcome employment opportunities including working from home while ensuring current, new or expanded businesses within the parish are sympathetic to the environment or residential amenity.
7. To ensure that the natural and built environment of the parish is protected and enhanced for future generations through sustainable development by protecting key environmental and heritage assets (e.g. green spaces and landscapes, natural environment designations) and taking account of constraints.

#### **Context of Neighbourhood Plans**

- 1.11 NDPs are a relatively new type of planning document that form a key part of the Government's localism agenda. They enable local communities to develop plans that reflect local aspirations, in accordance with strategic policies.
- 1.12 The Marden NDP must therefore conform to national planning policy set within the NPPF and strategic level local policy including the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy).
- 1.13 The Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) was adopted on 16 October 2015.
- 1.14 Paragraph 2016 of the NPPF and Planning Practice Guidance set out the weight that may be given to relevant policies in emerging plans, including NDPs, and indicated that weight may be given to relevant policies in emerging NDPs according to:
  - The stage of preparation of the emerging plan (the more advanced the preparation, the greater the weight that may be given);
  - The extent to which there are unresolved objections to relevant policies (the less significant the unresolved objections, the greater the weight that may be given); and
  - The degree of consistency of the relevant policies in the emerging plan to the policies in this Framework (the closer the policies in the emerging plan to the policies in the Framework, the greater the weight that may be given).
- 1.15 This part of the NPPF is reinforced by Planning Practice Guidance published in March 2014, which is clear that an emerging NDP may be a material planning consideration once it has reached submission/local authorities publication stage (Regulation 16). This is reinforced by

recent ministerial statements and case law (West Sussex), all of which have demonstrated that an emerging NDP may be a material consideration at the Regulation 16 stage<sup>1</sup>.

- 1.17 Table 4.15 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) lists Marden among the settlements which it considers to be sustainable locations for proportional growth in line with the provisions of Policy RA2. The settlements of Litmarsh, Burmarsh and The Vault are listed at Table 4.16 of the plan among the settlements which are considered sustainable locations for growth which acknowledged the form, layout and character of the settlements in line with RA2.
- 1.18 Once made (adopted) by Herefordshire Council, the Marden NDP will have a role in guiding future development proposals within the parish, by setting out policies against which planning applications will be determined.

### **Structure of SEA**

- 1.19 The structure of the document is as follows:
- Section 2 – Explains the SEA methodology and summarises the comments received in respect of the SEA Scoping Report
  - Section 3 - Introduces the Marden NDP objectives and the SEA framework
  - Section 4 - Appraises the objectives set within the NDP against the SEA framework
  - Section 5 - Appraises the options set within the NDP against the SEA framework
  - Section 6 – Appraises the policies set within the NDP against the SEA framework
  - Section 7 – Discusses the implementation and monitoring of the NDP
  - Section 8 - Concludes the SEA report by outlining next steps

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<sup>1</sup> For the avoidance of doubt, this NDP is currently at the Draft Plan Stage (Regulation 14) and cannot, therefore, be given weight in reaching decisions on planning applications

## 2.0 Methodology

2.1 The SEA process comprised several stages and which are summarised, in some detail, below.

2.2 Stage A involved 4 tasks and culminated in a Scoping Report:

- *Task A1:* Identified and reviewed relevant policies, plans and programmes and environmental protection objectives from European, National and Local sources.
- *Task A2:* Collected baseline information to provide a picture of past, present and likely future conditions within the area. This helped to establish indicators which will be used to monitor the effects and performance of the Marden NDP.
- *Task A3:* Focused on the environmental issues identified from the baseline, highlighting key issues and problems within the neighbourhood area.
- *Task A4:* Used the information gathered from Tasks A1-A3 to develop a set of SEA objectives, sometimes referred to as the 'sustainability framework'.
- *Task A5:* Collated the results of Tasks A1-A4 within a Scoping Report, a document which was subject to a statutory 5 week consultation.

2.3 Stage B involved 4 tasks and assessed the effects of the NDP.

- *Task B1:* Tested NDP Objectives against the SEA Objectives
- *Task B2:* Developed and refined the NDP policies.
- *Task B3/B4:* Predicted and evaluated the significant effects of the NDP

2.4 Stage C involved preparing an Environmental Report. This report presents information compiled during Stage B and Stage D of the SEA process and constitutes the Environmental Appraisal of the NDP. It accompanies the Submission version of the Plan during its formal Regulation 16 consultation with people who live, work and carry out businesses in the neighbourhood area, as well as statutory bodies listed in the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

### Scoping Report Consultation

2.5 With regard to the SEA scoping assessments, documents A1 to A4 were completed by a Herefordshire Council Planning Officer and sent to the Parish Council for comment, in readiness for a 5 week consultation with statutory bodies, pursuant to the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

2.6 After the document was approved by the Parish Council, the Marden SEA Scoping Report was available to four<sup>2</sup> statutory bodies for consultation from 15 August to 19 September 2014.

### Consultation outcomes from Statutory Consultees

2.8 The consultation resulted in 2 responses, both of which are attached at Appendix 3.

2.9 Both responses were collated and incorporated within this document where relevant.

**Natural England:** Approved of the documents reviewed as part of SEA Task A1. Also recommend that additional baseline data be sourced in respect of agricultural land. The

<sup>2</sup> Statutory consultation bodies: Natural England; English Heritage; Environment Agency Natural Resources Wales

response is clear that a full HRA screen should be carried out due to proximity of the River Wye Special Area of Conservation.

*Response: Comments duly noted.*

**English Heritage:** No substantive objections; advised that the comments are substantively the same as those made in respect of scoping reports that were consulted on previously.

*Response: Comments duly noted.*

**Environment Agency:** No comments received

**Natural Resources Wales:** No comments received



### 3.0 The SEA Framework

3.1 As mentioned previously, Stage A of the SEA identifies and reviews relevant policies, plans and programmes and environmental protection objectives from European, National and Local sources (refer to Table A1 in Appendix 2 for details of those documents that were reviewed in completing Stage A of SEA on the Marden NDP).

3.2 The requirement to undertake this 'context review' is contained in Annexes 1(a) and (e) of the SEA Directive which states that an Environmental Report should include:

*"...an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes" and*

*"...the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation"*

#### Policy context

3.3 The Marden NDP will deliver the Local Plan (Core Strategy) at parish level by adding locally specific detail to strategic policies. As a consequence, the Scoping Report for the NDP was based on the context review Herefordshire Council undertook for its Local Plan (Core Strategy).

3.4 The results of this assessment (context review) provide the source of the local baseline data and have been incorporated into the SEA framework. It should be noted that:

- No list of policies, plans and programmes can ever be exhaustive and that Herefordshire Council has selected those considered to be of particular relevance to the planning system;
- New or revised plans and policies can emerge during the SEA process

3.5 The following plans, policies and programmes have been reviewed and, where appropriate, incorporated within the SEA Framework objectives:

- *The EC Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010)* - These regulations transpose the Habitats Directive in England, Wales and to a limited extent Scotland by ensuring that activities are carried out in accordance with the Habitats Directive, which is to protect biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and species of wild flora and fauna.
- *The EC Water Framework Directive (2000)* - Commits all EU member states to achieve good qualitative and quantitative status of all water courses by 2015
- *The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)* - The major legal instrument for wildlife protection in Britain, although other significant acts have been passed since. It has numerous parts and supplementary lists and schedules many of which have been amended since publication.
- *Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (2011)* - Forms part of the UK's Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework by setting out England's contribution towards the UK's commitments under the United Nations Convention of Biological Diversity.
- *The Countryside and Right of Way Act (2000)* - Creates a statutory right of access on foot to certain types of open land, to modernise the public rights of way system, to strengthen nature conservation legislation, and to facilitate better management of AONBs

- *The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)* - Designed to help achieve a rich and diverse natural environment and thriving rural communities through modernised and simplified arrangements for delivering Government policy.
- *Revised EU Sustainable Development strategy (2009)* - Sets out a single strategy on how the EU will more effectively meet its long-standing commitment to meet the challenges of sustainable development.
- *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2012)* - Consolidates the suite of PPG/PPS into one succinct planning policy document.
- *Planning Practice Guidance (2013)* - Sets out the vision, objectives and policies for the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy), which will guide development across the county up to 2031.
- *Herefordshire Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP) 2013-2015* - Sets out the Council's strategy for supporting economic growth, social inclusion and reducing the environmental impacts of transport, as well as the program of investment for the period April 2013 to April 2015.
- *Understanding Herefordshire Report (2014)* - Important to understand the place such as the local economy natural and built environment in which people live, learn and work as part of understanding their quality of life. Enable development for economy and housing to required levels and growth should be supported by sustainable transport measures.
- *Malvern Hills AONB Management Plan 2014-2018 (2014)* - Identifies the issues and challenges facing the special features of the area and contains 24 guiding principles and 46 strategic objectives which will help address them.
- *Wye Valley AONB management Plan 2014-2018 (2014)* - The Management Plan is the prime document which sets out the vision for the area and the priorities for its management.
- *Herefordshire Economic Development Strategy 2011-2016* - Aims to increase the economic wealth of Herefordshire by setting out proposals and to support business growth up to 2016.
- *Herefordshire Employment Land Study (2012)* - Includes employment land assessments for the plan period 2011-2031. The study includes Quantitative and Qualitative assessments of employment land, assessment of market demand and need, as well as providing forecasts and recommendations for future employment need over the plan period.
- *Herefordshire Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) (2009)* - The SHLAA aims to justify site allocations in plans by:
  - Identifying sites which are capable of delivering housing development
  - Assessing sites for their housing potential; and
  - Predicting when a site could be developed for housing.
- *Herefordshire Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) (2013)* - Builds on an earlier Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) developed for Herefordshire and Shropshire. Its purpose is to inform the Local Plan's policies regarding housing need and demand (for market and affordable housing) within each of the 7 Housing Market Areas (HMAs) in Herefordshire between 2011 and 2031.

- *Herefordshire Local Housing Requirements Study (2012)* - Technical assessment of the housing market and potential future local housing requirements which supports planning policy regarding the amount of growth, housing tenure and housing type needed within Herefordshire up to 2031.
- *Herefordshire Rural Housing Background Report (2013)* - Provides the justification for the proportional housing growth targets outlined in the Core Strategy
- *Herefordshire Draft Gypsies and Travellers Assessment (2013)* - Assesses the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers across Herefordshire.
- *Herefordshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan (2007)* - Focuses conservation efforts on the areas within Herefordshire that will result in the greatest benefit for ecological networks, habitats and species.
- *Building Biodiversity into the LDF (2009)* - Provides the Council's Local Plan (Core Strategy) with evidence in respect of biodiversity and geodiversity, identifying both opportunities and constraints across Herefordshire.
- *Herefordshire Green Infrastructure Strategy (2010)* - Develops a framework of natural and culturally important features and functions so that planning for a sustainable future is at the heart of planning within Herefordshire.
- *Renewable Energy Study (2010)* - Assesses the energy demand within Herefordshire and the ability for the county to accommodate renewable and low carbon energy technologies.
- *Herefordshire Playing Pitch Assessment (2012)* - Produces a strategic framework, audit and assessment and needs analysis of outdoor sports pitches and facilities for Herefordshire. The document arises as a result of a recommendation in the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Sports Facilities Framework to develop local standards for playing fields and sports pitches throughout Herefordshire.
- *Open Spaces Study (2006)* - The 2006 space audit and assessment of need is a snap shot of the quality, quantity and distribution of open space across Herefordshire.
- *Play Facilities Study (2012)* - The Play Facilities Study 2012 updates the previous play facilities analysis under the Open Spaces Study 2006 and provides guidance and a framework for the development, delivery and continued sustainability of providing new and improved play facilities for children and young people in Herefordshire to 2031.
- *Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) and Water Cycle Study (2009) and Addendum (2015)* - The SFRA provides a summary of flood risk in Herefordshire to inform the location of future development. The Water Cycle Study examines how water resources and water supply infrastructure, wastewater treatment, water quality, sewerage and flood risk could constrain growth across Herefordshire.

3.6 Appendix 1 of the Marden Plan Scoping Report provides additional detail on the Plans, Policies and Programmes mentioned above and identifies the implications for the SEA and NDP.

### **SEA Objectives and baseline characteristics**

3.7 The SEA objectives that were used at Stages A and B of the process are listed in the following table.

SEA Objective	
1	To maintain or enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)
2	To maintain or enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes
3	To improve the quality of surroundings
4	To conserve or where appropriate enhance the historic environment and culture heritage
5	To improve air quality
6	To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment
7	To reduce contributions to climate change
8	To reduce vulnerability to climate change
9	To improve water quality
10	To provide for sustainable sources of water supply
11	To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk
12	To conserve soil resources and quality
13	To minimise the production of waste
14	To improve the health of the population
15	To reduce crime and nuisance
16	To conserve natural and manmade resources

- 3.8 The SEA objectives detailed above conform to the SEA Directive, and are derived from the Sustainability Appraisal undertaken for the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) 2011-2031.
- 3.9 Baseline information gathered during Stage A of the SEA process provided details of the current environmental characteristics of the neighbourhood area and the status of its natural assets and features (refer to Appendix 2). This information was analysed as part of Task B2 of SEA, which looked at the extent to which the emerging NDP policies will help or obstruct these characteristics. There are four objectives for which there is no local baseline data available and therefore this provides a limitation on the baseline data and whether the NDP policies are able to move towards or away from this data, this also means that future trends cannot be predicted.
- 3.10 Following the completion of Task B2 of SEA it was apparent that the largest environmental issue within the parish, and which has an impact on the County as a whole, is water quality; the River Wye, though currently meeting all its conservation objectives, will require effective management, in order to ensure that the quality of water does not deteriorate to the point that nutrient targets are missed further downstream.
- 3.11 The NDP proposes that two sites be allocated for development and contains supporting policies, as well as a range of criteria-based policies. However, the delivery of the NDP should not exacerbate existing problems regarding water quality or have an unacceptable adverse impact. Additional policy criteria have been added to a number of policies following the initial draft consultation and responses from Natural England. This has strengthened these policies with regards to the natural environment. This position is reinforced by the conclusions set within the Habitat Regulations Assessment Report (August 2015 and October 2015).

## 4.0 Assessing the NDP Objectives

4.1 The following objectives, as set out in the NDP, aim to realise the vision for Marden in 2031:

1. To deliver a vibrant village centre through a level of housing growth that is proportionate to the size and scale of Marden village and the surrounding countryside so that it retains its rural character.
2. To ensure that housing development in the surrounding hamlets of Litmarsh, Burmarsh, The Vault and other hamlets is managed appropriately.
3. To ensure all new development is informed by best practices current at the time of development and is designed to be in keeping with the surrounding character of the parish while promoting a heterogeneous appearance.
4. To ensure that new housing is provided in a suitable range of tenures, types, sizes, affordability ranges and is flexible in usage so that local people of all ages can continue to live in the parish in a suitable home, whilst families are attracted to the area and local housing needs are met.
5. To ensure that Marden has the appropriate local and community facilities to support present demand, future projected growth and demographic change. Developments must make a positive and tangible impact on the range and availability of community facilities and infrastructure by creating a focal point for the village.
6. To welcome employment opportunities including working from home while ensuring current, new or expanded businesses within the parish are sympathetic to the environment or residential amenity.
7. To ensure that the natural and built environment of the parish is protected and enhanced for future generations through sustainable development by protecting key environmental and heritage assets (e.g. green spaces and landscapes, natural environment designations) and taking account of constraints.

4.2 The table below tests these NDP objectives against the SEA objectives, providing a summary of the results of Task B1 of SEA. The full results are available at Appendix 5 of this report.

4.3 The majority of those NDP objectives which have a relationship with the SEA framework are positively compatible with it or have a neutral effect.

4.4 It is impossible to appraise the full implications of NDP objectives 5 and 6 at this stage given the lack of detail over the exact locations of schemes that may come to fruition as a result of the implementation of these objectives (i.e. new or expanded community facilities and business premises on existing employment land); however, it is accepted that the planning policies that relate to these objectives would move them towards a compatible outcome given their development criteria.

4.5 Task B1 of the SEA identified the following potential conflicts between the NDP objectives and the SEA framework:

- NDP Objective 5 conflicts with SEA Objectives 5/6/7/8
- NDP Objective 6 conflicts with SEA Objectives 5/6/7/8

4.6 The potential conflicts listed above can be largely attributed to the possible rise in vehicular movements in remote locations once the NDP objectives have been realised on the ground and the attendant impacts on air quality and both contributions and vulnerability to climate change.

Key:	
+	Compatible
-	Possible conflict
0	Neutral
X	No relationship between objectives
?	Unclear, more information needed

NDP objectives	SEA objectives															
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Objective 1	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	+	0	+	?	x	x	+
Objective 2	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	+	0	+	?	x	x	+
Objective 3	+	+	+	+	+	x	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	x	+
Objective 4	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	?	?	?	?	x	x	x
Objective 5	?	?	?	?	-	-	-	-	0	0	?	?	x	+	x	?
Objective 6	?	?	?	?	-	-	-	-	0	0	?	?	x	+	x	?
Objective 7	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	x	+	x	+

## 5.0 Assessing the NDP Options

5.1 All options that were considered by the NDP steering group during the development of their plan have been assessed as part of the SEA and the summary matrix of the assessment can be found in Table B2 at Appendix 4.

5.2 The options covered were as follows;

- Allocate sites for housing
- Manage future housing using a settlement boundary
- Allocate sites and identify a settlement boundary.
- Manage future housing through a development management policy.

5.3 A 'do nothing' option was also considered, i.e. not undertaking an NDP, however this was disregarded at an early stage by the Parish Council as it was considered the majority of the community would support the work undertaken for an NDP.

5.4 The option of designating a settlement boundary and allocated sites was chosen. This was favourable in terms of the SEA objectives. Criteria based policies have been included, too, though these do not give the same level of certainty as the other options, as they are more reactionary than proactive in terms of growth proposals. However, the option will have a positive effect on the baseline, provided that criteria are added to the policies to safeguard or mitigate against any harm.

NDP Policies	Baseline Data/SEA Objectives															
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Option 1	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x
Option 2	++	++		++	++	+	++	++	++	+	++	+				++
Option 3	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
Option 4	++	++		++	++	+	++	++	++	+	++	+				++
Option 5	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+

## 6.0 Appraisal of the policies

- 6.1 A key part of developing a plan such as the Marden NDP is developing a range of options and testing these, so that a preferred way forward can be selected. An initial draft plan consultation was undertaken in January 2015. The plan has been revised to take into account changes to the Core Strategy as a result of 'main modifications' and responses received during this initial draft consultation period. 7 policies have been revised and these have been reassessed with Appendix 4.
- 6.2 The plan has been organised with a set of general overarching policies for the whole neighbourhood area and these emerging set of draft policies have been appraised for the purposes of Stage B of the SEA:
- Policy M1: Scale and type of new housing development in Marden village
  - Policy M2: Scale and type of new housing development in designated hamlets
  - Policy M3: Scale and type of new housing development in the countryside
  - Policy M4: General design principles
  - Policy M5: Ensuring an appropriate range of tenures, types and sizes of houses
  - Policy M6: Protection/extension of local community facilities
  - Policy M7: New local employment opportunities
  - Policy M8: Supporting, enhancing and protecting existing local employment
  - Policy M9: Supporting development of communications infrastructure
  - Policy M10: Protection of local greenspaces
  - Policy M11: Landscape character
  - Policy M12: Flood Risk and Surface water runoff
  - Policy M13: Public rights of way/connectivity

### Stage B of SEA

- 6.3 In the context of Task B1 of SEA, the previous section of this report identified that many of the NDP objectives are compatible with the SEA framework, while others had either a neutral impact, no relationship with the SEA objectives or if needed; further information such as location of development. Additional policy safeguards within the NDP and Local Plan (Core Strategy), subject to EiP outcome, would help mitigate any possible conflicts.
- 6.4 With regard to Task B2 of SEA, the NDP policies were measured against both the SEA framework and the baseline characteristics identified during Stage A of the process; here, there was no baseline data available in respect of SEA Objectives 3, 13, 14 and 15. Full details of this appraisal are attached at Appendix 4/5.
- 6.5 The policies largely score as positive against the SEA objectives and will not, therefore, have an adverse impact on the baseline characteristics or immediate environmental impacts. This can be largely attributed to the fact that many are criteria based policies which only consider schemes on their own merits, as and when planning applications are submitted to the local planning authority. Revisions to a number of policies since the first draft consultation have seen the addition of a number of criteria referencing the River Wye SAC and other biodiversity features.



NDP Policies	Baseline Data/SEA Objectives															
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Policy M1	++	++		+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	?				+
Policy M2	++	+		+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	?				+
Policy M3	+	?		?	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	?				+
Policy M4	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
Policy M5	+	+		+	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x
Policy M6	++	++		++	+	+	+	x	x	x	x	+				++
Policy M7	++	++		++	+	+	+	x	x	x	x	+				++
Policy M8	+	+		+	+	+	+	x	x	x	x	x				x
Policy M9	?	?		?	+	+	+	x	x	x	x	x				x
Policy M10	++	++		++	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	++				++
Policy M11	++	++		++	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	+				+
Policy M12	++	+		+	x	x	x	+	+	++	+	x				x
Policy M13	++	+		+	+	+	+	x	x	x	x	+				+

- 6.6 The results of Task B3, as shown at Appendix 5, demonstrate that the cumulative impact of the NDP policies over the course of the plan period is generally positive. Although some policies may have a neutral or uncertain impact during the first 5 years of the plan period, there is no reason why they cannot have a positive effect in the medium to long-term due to policy safeguards included in the Local Plan (Core Strategy); these safeguards should avoid or mitigate against unacceptable adverse impacts.
- 6.7 Task B4 of SEA brings together the results of earlier tasks and thus identifies the cumulative impact of the entire of the NDP. This task, which is also attached at Appendix 6, reveals that the objectives and policies contained in the Marden NDP are by and large in general conformity with the Local Plan (Core Strategy), which means that the cumulative effect of the plan will contribute to the achievement of the SEA objectives.
- 6.8 None of the NDP policies are considered to be in direct conflict with or propose greater levels of growth and development than strategic policies contained in the Local Plan (Core Strategy), which themselves have undergone a full Sustainability Appraisal.

### Stage D of the SEA

- 6.9 Following the revised draft (Reg14) consultation, a seven policies were refined. Policy M1, M2, M7, M8, M10, M12 and M13.
- 6.10 Four for the amendments to policies are regarding the addition of criteria to safeguard the River Wye SAC. This will only strengthen the plan in this regard. One policy has been refined regarding flooding issues. Three other policies had minor wording changes which clarified the original policy text with regards to density and infill and this would have a positive effect on the landscape and character.

- 6.11 The results of this further assessment is shown at Appendix 9 and reveals that the outcomes Stage B of the SEA process mentioned above were largely unaffected by the refinements to these policies.

## **7.0 Implementation and monitoring**

- 7.1 Herefordshire Council as the Local Planning Authority should make arrangements to monitor the significant effects of implementing a neighbourhood plan.
- 7.2 Indeed, Regulation 17 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 requires the Local Planning Authority to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of any NDP that was subject to SEA, in order to identify unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and to enable appropriate remedial actions.
- 7.3 Accordingly, Herefordshire Council will monitor outcomes from the NDP policies and the results of these will be reported in the Council's Authority Monitoring Report (AMR).
- 7.4 The AMR runs from 1 April to 31 March each year and the topics covered therein include the following:
- Housing delivery;
  - Previously developed land
  - Housing completions
  - Affordable housing conditions
  - Employment land delivery.

## **8.0 Next steps**

- 8.1 This report will be subject to a formal public consultation of 6 weeks duration alongside the Submission version of the Marden NDP.
- 8.2 Any changes made to the NDP as a consequence of this Regulation 16 consultation with those who live, work or carry out business in the neighbourhood area, as well as statutory consultation bodies, will trigger a review of the SEA, unless they do not materially affect the outcomes of the SEA process.

# 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>	Marden Neighbourhood Area
<b>Parish Council:</b>	Marden Parish Council
<b>Neighbourhood Area Designation Date:</b>	14/10/2013

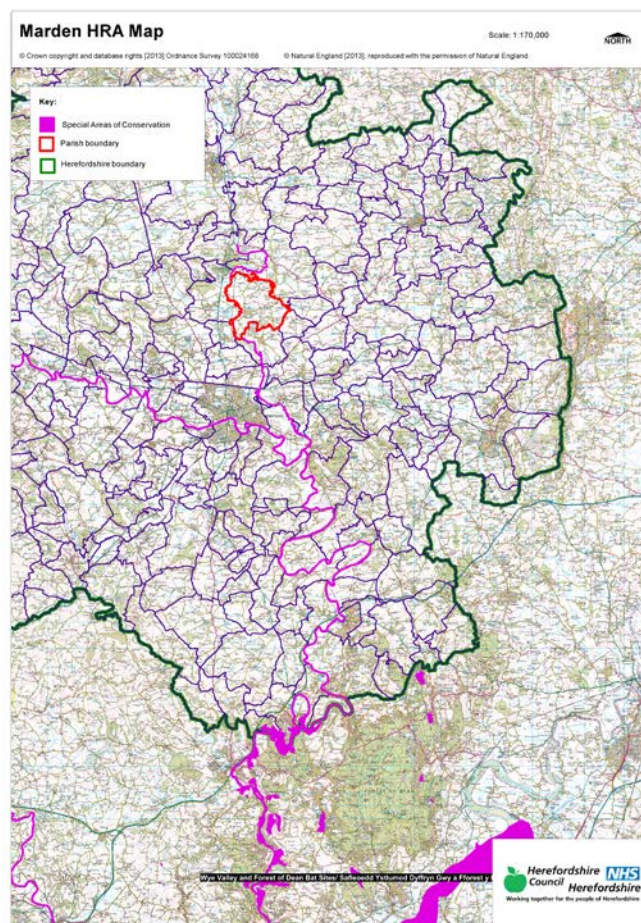
### **Introduction**

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.

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## 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 Lugg runs along the western borders of 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 Lugg
If yes above, does the Neighbourhood Area have mains drainage to deal with foul sewage?	Y	There is mains drainage at Moreton-on-Lugg

#### Downton Gorge SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of Downton Gorge SAC?	N	Downton Gorge is 23.8km away from the Parish
---	---	--

**River Clun SAC:**

Does the Neighbourhood Area include: Border Group Parish Council or Leintwardine Group Parish Council?	N	River Clun does not border the Parish
--	---	---------------------------------------

**Usk Bat Sites SAC:**

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of the SAC boundary?	N	Usk Bat Sites are 43km away from the Parish
--	---	---

**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 28.5km away from Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites
--	---	--

**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 31.4km away from the Wye Valley Woodlands
--	---	---

**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 Marden 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 Marden 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	5	Burling Wood; Venns Wood (border); Long Coppice (border); Wellington Wood (border); Dinmore Hill Wood (border)	Y
Areas of Archaeological Interest	0	There are no AAls within the Parish	N
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	0	There are no AONBs within the Parish	N
Conservation Areas	3	Bodenham (border); Sutton St Nicholas (border); Wellington (border)	Y
European Sites	1	River Lugg	Y
Flood Areas		Flood Zones 2 & 3 run along the northern and western borders of the Parish	Y
Listed Buildings	Numerous	There are numerous Listed buildings throughout the Parish	Y
Local Sites (SWS/SINCs/RIGS)	7 (SWS)	River Lugg; Venns Wood (border); Sutton Hill Gravel Pit (border); Wellington Marsh (border); Wellington Wood and adjoining woodland (border); Dinmore Hill and adjoining woodland (border); Gravel Pits at Bodenham (border)	Y
Long distance footpaths/trails	1	Three Rivers Ride	Y
Mineral Reserves	6	Area 1 Moreton-on-Lugg and Wellington; Upper Paradise Farm to Marden Court, Marden; South of Moreton-on-Lugg (border); Bodenham Moor north west of Maund Bryan (border); East of Burmarsh, west of Sutton Lakes; Area around Wellington constrained by 200m zone and area north of Wellington outside 200m zone	Y
National Nature Reserve	0	There are no NNRs within the Parish	N
Registered & Unregistered parks and gardens	3	Venn Wood; The Vern (border); Dinmore Manor (border)	Y
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	3	Sutton Walls Camp (border); Freens Court Magnates residence, moat and fishponds, Sutton St Michael (border); Deserted Medieval Village, Sutton St Nicholas (border)	Y
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	3	River Lugg (Unfavourable Recovering); Wellington Wood (Unfavourable No	Y

		Change) (border); Dinmore Hill Woods (Favourable (part) Unfavourable Recovering (part)) (border)	
--	--	--	--

**Decision Notification:**

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

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

**Assessment date: 29/08/2013**

**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.

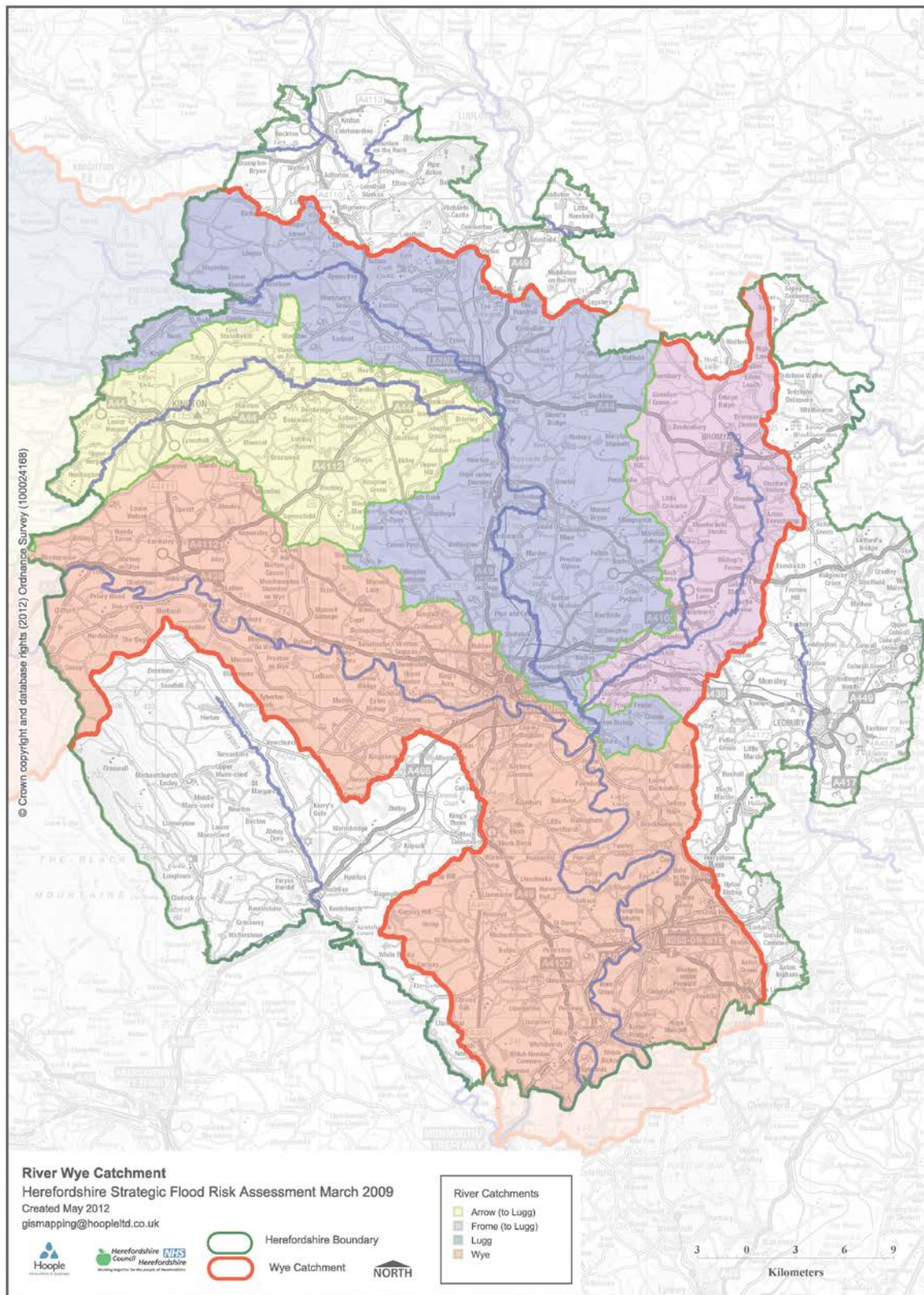
<b>River Wye</b>
<b>Site Features:</b> Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation. Transition mires and quaking bogs. White-clawed (or Atlantic Stream) crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> . Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon 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>
<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)

<b>Usk Bat Site</b>
<b>Site Features:</b> 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.
<b>Vulnerability data:</b> 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.

<b>Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites</b>
<b>Site Features:</b> 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>
<b>Vulnerability data:</b> 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.

<b>Wye Valley Woodlands</b>
<b>Site Features:</b> 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
<b>Vulnerability data:</b> 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



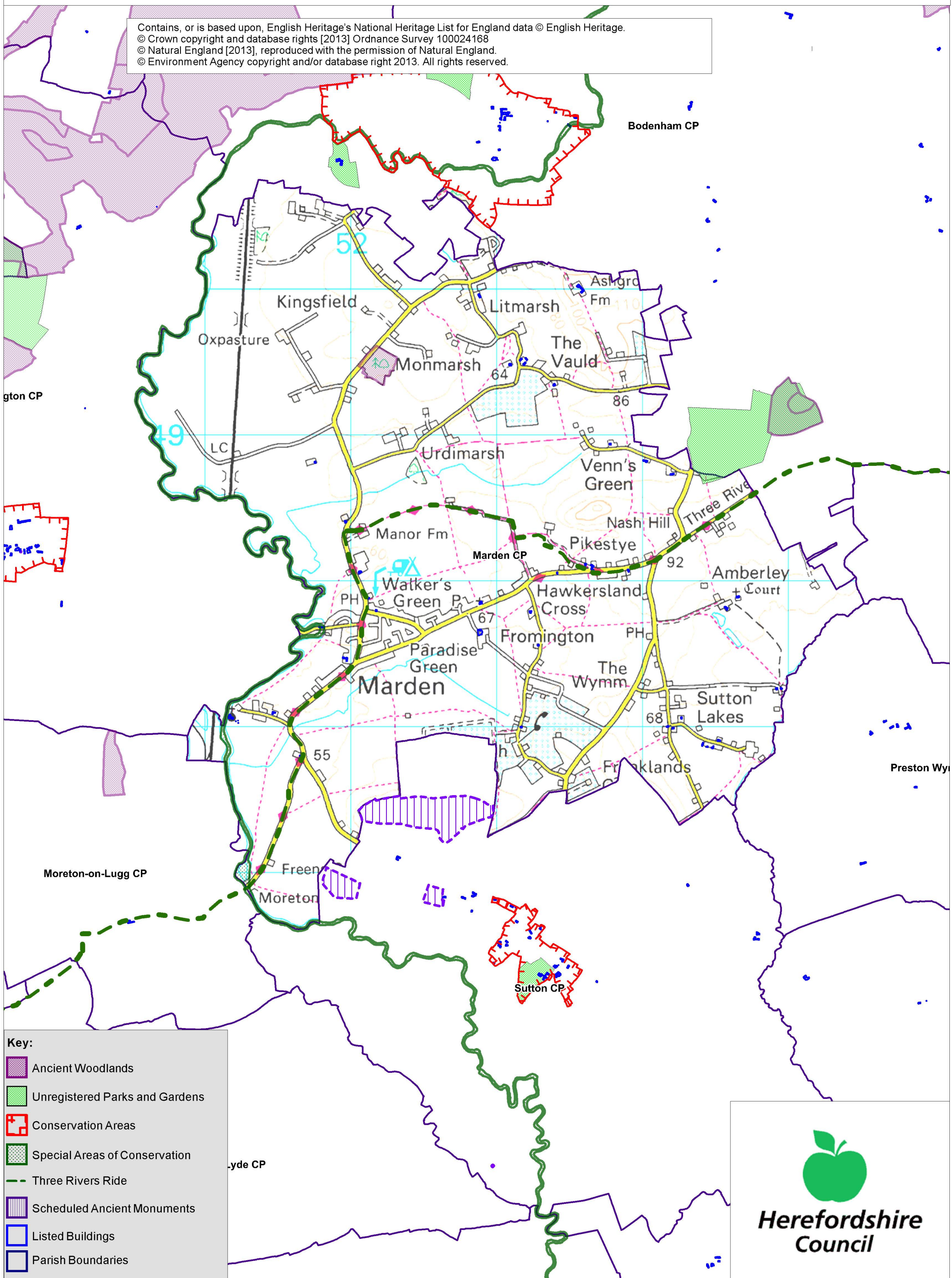


# Marden SEA Map 1









**Scale: 1:22,500**



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**Key:**

-  Ancient Woodlands
-  Unregistered Parks and Gardens
-  Conservation Areas
-  Special Areas of Conservation
-  Three Rivers Ride
-  Scheduled Ancient Monuments
-  Listed Buildings
-  Parish Boundaries



**Herefordshire  
Council**



# Marden SEA Map 2

Scale: 1:22,500



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**Key:**

- Minerals Sites
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- Special Wildlife Sites
- Flood Zone 2
- Flood Zone 3
- Parish Boundaries





# Appendix 2



# Strategic Environmental Assessment



## Marden Neighbourhood Area

Scoping Report

October 2014

## Consultation on the Scoping Report

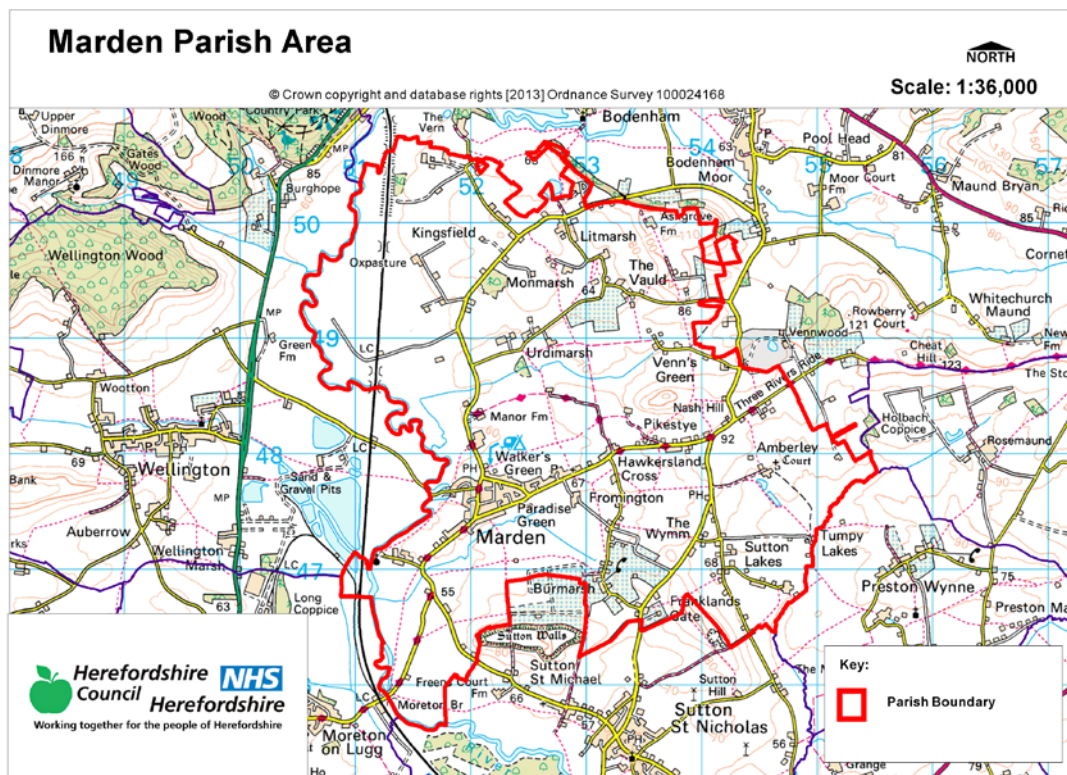
The aim of the consultation process is to involve and engage with statutory consultees and other relevant bodies on the scope of the appraisal. In particular, it seeks to:

- Ensure the SEA is both comprehensive and sufficiently robust to support the Neighbourhood Development Plan during the later stages of full public consultation;
- Seek advice on the completeness of the plan review and baseline data and gain further information where appropriate;
- Seek advice on the suitability of key sustainability issues;
- Seek advice on the suitability of the sustainability objectives.

Comments on this Scoping Report have been invited from the three consultation bodies as required by the SEA regulations, together with the Natural Resources Wales.

The three consultation bodies are as follows:

1. Natural England;
2. English Heritage;
3. Environment Agency.



Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
The EC Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations	European Union Legislation	2010	These regulations transpose the Habitats Directive in England, Wales and to a limited extent Scotland by ensuring that activities are carried out in accordance with the Habitats Directive, which is to protect biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and species of wild flora and fauna.	The Regulations make it an offence (subject to exceptions) to deliberately capture, kill, disturb, or trade in the animals listed in Schedule 2, or pick, collect, cut, uproot, destroy, or trade in the plants listed in Schedule 4. However, these actions can be made lawful through the granting of licenses by the appropriate authorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biodiversity</li> <li>Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> </ul>	The NDP should be compliant with all the relevant legislation and regulations.
The EC Water Framework Directive	European Union	2000	Commits all EU member states to achieve good qualitative and quantitative status of all water courses by 2015.	Aims for 'good status' for all ground and surface waters (rivers, lakes, transitional waters, and coastal waters) in the EU.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water</li> </ul>	The NDP should be compliant with all the relevant legislation and regulations.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)	Domestic Legislation	1981	The major legal instrument for wildlife protection in Britain, although other significant acts have been passed since. It has numerous parts and supplementary lists and schedules many of which have been amended since publication.	The principle mechanism for the legislative protection of wildlife in Great Britain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Soil</li> </ul>	The NDP should be compliant with all the relevant legislation and regulations.
The Countryside and Right of Way Act (2000)	Domestic Legislation	2000	Creates a statutory right of access on foot to certain types of open land, to modernise the public rights of way system, to strengthen nature conservation legislation, and to facilitate better management of AONBs.	<p>The Act provides for a new right of access on foot to areas of open land comprising: Mountain (land over 600 metres); Moorland; Heath; Downland; Registered common land.</p> <p>There are provisions to consider extending the right in the future to coastal land, but not woodland despite some early publicity suggesting this.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Soil</li> </ul>	The NDP should be compliant with all the relevant legislation and regulations.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)	Domestic Legislation	2006	Designed to help achieve a rich and diverse natural environment and thriving rural communities through modernised and simplified arrangements for delivering Government policy.	Provides that any public body or statutory undertaker in England and Wales must have regard to the purpose of conservation of biological diversity in the exercise of their functions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Soil</li> </ul>	The NDP should be compliant with all the relevant legislation and regulations.
Revised EU Sustainable Development strategy	EU Strategy.	2009	Sets out a single strategy on how the EU will better meet its long-standing commitment to meet the challenges of sustainable development.	Recognises the need to gradually change current unsustainable consumption and production patterns and move towards a better integrated approach to policy making. The Strategy sets overall objectives, targets and concrete actions for seven key priority challenges, predominantly environmental.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Climatic factors</li> <li>• Cultural heritage</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population</li> <li>• Soil</li> <li>• Water</li> </ul>	The NDP should take account of the objectives of the strategy, making the aim of sustainable development an integral part of its proposals.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services	National Strategy	2011	Forms part of the UK's Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework by setting out England's contribution towards the UK's commitments under the United Nations Convention of Biological Diversity.	Sets out to halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity</li> </ul>	The NDP should take account of the provisions of the strategy, making the most of opportunities to enhance wildlife habitats or restore degraded ecosystems in the process.
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	National Planning Policy.	2012	Consolidates the suite of PPG/PPS into one succinct planning policy document.	Aims to make the planning system less complex, more accessible and able to promote growth within the ethos of sustainable development. The presumption is in favour of sustainable development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Climatic factors</li> <li>• Cultural heritage</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population</li> <li>• Soil</li> <li>• Water</li> </ul>	The guidance contained within the section on Neighbourhood Planning should be borne in mind during the preparation of the NDP.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Planning Practice Guidance	Government Guidance	2014	Provides guidance to local planning authorities and others on the operation of the planning system.	Offers up-to-date, electronic guidance on every aspect of planning from air quality and design to land stability and rural housing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Climatic factors</li> <li>• Cultural heritage</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population</li> <li>• Soil</li> <li>• Water</li> </ul>	The NPD must be pro-growth and facilitate the provision and development of sustainable development.
Herefordshire Pre Submission Core Strategy 2011-2031	Development Plan Document (DPD)	2014	Sets out the vision, objectives and policies for the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy), which will guide development across the county up to 2031.	Outlines the emerging suite of countywide planning policies relating to housing, economic development and the environment, which the NDP will need to be in conformity with where relevant.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Climatic factors</li> <li>• Cultural heritage</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population</li> <li>• Soil</li> <li>• Water</li> </ul>	<p>The NDP should take account of relevant policies set within the Core Strategy.</p> <p>Where necessary, the NDP should provide services, facilities and employment opportunities that are</p>

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
				<p>The Pre Submission Core Strategy includes a range of objectives, five of which directly relate to rural areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To meet the housing needs of all sections of the community</li> <li>• To improve access to services in rural areas</li> <li>• To strengthen the economic viability of the villages and their rural hinterlands.</li> <li>• To achieve sustainable communities and protect the environment</li> <li>• To conserve, promote, utilise and enjoy our natural, built, historic and cultural assets for the fullest benefit of the whole community</li> </ul>		<p>accessible to both local and neighbouring communities.</p> <p><sup>1</sup>Approximately 87 dwellings will need to be delivered within Marden, though this target is indicative and provides a starting point for work on the NDP.</p>

<sup>1</sup> Figures do not include extant planning permissions from 2011 onwards.



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Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
				<p>To achieve a thriving rural Herefordshire, the Core Strategy seeks to enhance the role the villages have traditionally played in as accessible, sustainable centres for their rural catchments.</p> <p>Seeks proportional growth of up to 18% in Marden (Hereford HMA) over the plan period, subject to EiP outcome.</p>		

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Herefordshire Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2013-2015	Corporate	2013	Sets out the Council's strategy for supporting economic growth, social inclusion and reducing the environmental impacts of transport, as well as the program of investment for the period April 2013 to April 2015.	The document includes three key objectives, one of which seeks to maintain access for rural residents and people without access to a car. Intrinsic to this is the retention of a 'core network' of bus services which focus on journeys between Hereford and the market towns, along with main transport corridors close to larger rural settlements. To this end, the strategy aims to increase the number of bus users by 1.3% (4,700 journeys) by 2015.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air</li> <li>• Climatic factors</li> <li>• Population</li> </ul>	The LTP does not explore current transport issues in the Marden neighbourhood area.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Herefordshire Economic Development Strategy 2011-2016	Corporate	2011	Aims to increase the economic wealth of Herefordshire by setting out proposals and to support business growth up to 2016.	<p>The document outlines the path and direction to foster economic vitality within Herefordshire. Key objectives therefore include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustaining business survival and growth</li> <li>• Increasing wage levels, range and quality of jobs</li> <li>• Having a skilled population to meet future work needs</li> <li>• Developing the county's built infrastructure so enterprise can flourish.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural heritage</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population</li> </ul>	None of merit.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Herefordshire Employment Land Study	Evidence	2012	Includes employment land assessments for the plan period 2011-2031. The study includes Quantitative and Qualitative assessments of employment land, assessment of market demand and need, as well as providing forecasts and recommendations for future employment need over the plan period.	<p>This study covers existing employment sites in Hereford, the five market towns and their rural hinterlands.</p> <p>There are no employment land allocations within Marden at present and so the study does not identify sites which are worthy of continued protection from alternative uses. Nor does it make any recommendations in respect of employment need within the neighbourhood area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population</li> </ul>	None of merit; however it would be appropriate for the NDP to examine employment need locally and if so whether there is any scope for providing employment land and premises.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Herefordshire Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)	Evidence	2009	<p>The SHLAA aims to justify site allocations in plans by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifying sites which are capable of delivering housing development</li> <li>Assessing sites for their housing potential; and</li> <li>Predicting when a site could be developed for housing.</li> </ul>	<p>In terms of Marden, previous SHLAA identifies that 307 additional dwellings could be provided on 7 sites in and around the existing settlement, however it is unlikely that this number would materialise due to significant constraints.</p> <p>Neither existing nor previous versions of SHLAA identify sites within or adjacent to Burmarsh, Litmarsh and the Vault.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Air</li> <li>Biodiversity</li> <li>Climatic factors</li> <li>Cultural heritage</li> <li>Flora and fauna</li> <li>Population</li> <li>Soil</li> <li>Water</li> </ul>	<p>If site allocations are pursued then the Marden NDP should be informed either by SHLAA or an alternative form of housing land assessment, undertaken in line with Guidance Note 21: Site assessment and allocation sites.</p>

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Herefordshire Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA)	Evidence	2013	Builds on an earlier Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) developed for Herefordshire and Shropshire. Its purpose is to inform the Local Plan's policies regarding housing need and demand (for market and affordable housing) within each of the 7 Housing Market Areas (HMAs) in Herefordshire between 2011 and 2031.	<p>The LHMA uses 7 HMAs as the geography for presenting data. Marden falls within the Hereford HMA.</p> <p>Here, the study reveals that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 58% of households are unable to afford market housing.</li> <li>• There is an annual requirement for 417 affordable dwellings between 2012 and 2017.</li> <li>• Higher proportion of the HMA population is of working age (62%) compared to the county average of (61%).</li> <li>• The proportion of the population above retirement age is slightly below average (19% compared to 22% across Herefordshire).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Climatic factors</li> <li>• Cultural heritage</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Population</li> <li>• Soil</li> <li>• Water</li> </ul>	<p>The LHMA provides an indication of housing needs and affordability within the Hereford HMA.</p> <p>It provides evidence that could be used to inform policies or market and affordable housing requirements in the NDP.</p>
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Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Herefordshire Local Housing Requirements Study	Evidence	2012	Technical assessment of the housing market and potential future local housing requirements which supports planning policy regarding the amount of growth, housing tenure and housing type needed within Herefordshire up to 2031.	<p>The delivery of 5,300 homes in the rural areas would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support growth in the rural population by 6%</li> <li>• Increase the number of households by 14.5%</li> </ul> <p>Forecasts also predict that growth in the population of the rural areas is likely to be primarily through an increase in those aged over 75.</p> <p>Moderate growth is expected in the 30-44 and 60-74 age brackets.</p> <p>The Local Housing Requirements Study therefore anticipates continuing improvements in life expectancy; significant growth is expected of those in their 80s, with the existing population in their 40s and 50s moving into retirement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Climatic factors</li> <li>• Cultural heritage</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population</li> <li>• Soil</li> <li>• Water</li> </ul>	<p>This study provides an indication of housing requirements in the rural areas and the Hereford HMA.</p> <p>This evidence can be used to inform the content of the Marden NDP.</p>

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Herefordshire Rural Housing Background Report	Evidence	2013	Provides the background for the proportional housing growth targets outlined in the Core Strategy	The villages within the neighbourhood area are listed among the settlements which are considered to be sustainable locations for growth of up to 18%, in accordance with the EiP outcome.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Climatic factors</li> <li>• Cultural heritage</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population</li> <li>• Soil</li> <li>• Water</li> </ul>	The Marden NDP will need to be in general conformity with the provisions of Local Plan policies concerning the rural areas.



Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Herefordshire Draft Gypsies and Travellers Assessment	Evidence	2013	Assesses the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers across Herefordshire.	<p>Key findings from the survey of Gypsy and Traveller households in 2012 found that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 31% of households surveyed have some sort of accommodation need</li> <li>• Of the 17 households with an accommodation need, 7 had a requirement for at least one additional pitch</li> <li>• 10 households had a requirement for bricks and mortar housing</li> <li>• There is an additional requirement for 7 pitches and 9 units of Registered Social Landlord accommodation within Herefordshire.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Climatic factors</li> <li>• Cultural heritage</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population</li> <li>• Soil</li> <li>• Water</li> </ul>	The Marden NDP should establish whether any of the need identified in this assessment falls within the neighbourhood area and seek appropriate pitches and provision.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Herefordshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Evidence	2007	Focuses conservation efforts on the areas within Herefordshire that will result in the greatest benefit for ecological networks, habitats and species.	Integrating biodiversity objectives with other environmental, social and economic needs can provide a sustainable living and working environment that benefits both people and nature.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biodiversity</li> </ul>	The NDP can help to achieve the priorities set within the LBAP.
Building Biodiversity into the LDF	Evidence	2009	Provides the Council's Local Plan (Core Strategy) with evidence in respect of biodiversity and geodiversity, identifying both opportunities and constraints across Herefordshire.	The study is focused on those parts of the county which are most likely to be subject to development pressures. Therefore, although the study addresses biodiversity interests in and around the peripheries of the city of Hereford, the parish is not covered in great detail.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Air</li> <li>Biodiversity</li> <li>Climatic factors</li> <li>Cultural heritage</li> <li>Flora and fauna</li> <li>Material assets</li> <li>Population</li> <li>Soil</li> <li>Water</li> </ul>	There is a lack of information about rural areas which means it will be necessary to gather and assess existing biodiversity and geodiversity data, in order to ensure that the Marden NDP can overcome any existing constraints and capitalise on opportunities to enhance habitats and their networks.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Urban Fringe Sensitivity Analysis	Evidence	2010	Technical Paper which supports the SHLAA by classifying the landscape sensitivity of the urban fringe on the edges of Hereford and the five market towns.	The document provides useful information in respect of Hereford and the market towns only.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural heritage</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> </ul>	None of merit.
Herefordshire Green Infrastructure Strategy	Evidence	2010	Develops a framework of natural and culturally important features and functions so that planning for a sustainable future is at the heart of planning within Herefordshire.	Establishes policies and principles for the protection and enhancement of those features and functions that contributes to the environment of Herefordshire across a range of scales.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Climatic factors</li> <li>• Cultural heritage</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population</li> <li>• Soil</li> <li>• Water</li> </ul>	The study provides evidence that could be taken into account when preparing policies for the Marden NDP.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Renewable Energy Study	Evidence	2010	Assesses the energy demand within Herefordshire and the ability for the county to accommodate renewable and low carbon energy technologies.	<p>The total energy demand excluding transport for Herefordshire, at that point in time, was calculated as being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electrical: 731 GWh/yr</li> <li>• Heat: 1,810 GWh/yr</li> <li>• Total: 2,541 GWh/yr</li> </ul> <p>There is scope for all types of renewable energy production.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Climatic factors</li> <li>• Cultural heritage</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population</li> <li>• Soil</li> <li>• Water</li> </ul>	The study provides evidence that could be taken into account when preparing policies for the Marden NDP.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Herefordshire Playing Pitch Assessment	Evidence	2012	Produces a strategic framework, audit and assessment and needs analysis of outdoor sports pitches and facilities for Herefordshire. The document arises as a result of a recommendation in the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Sports Facilities Framework to develop local standards for playing fields and sports pitches throughout Herefordshire.	<p>The study updates components of the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Sports Facilities Framework 2010 such as updating population forecasts, setting local standards for synthetic turf pitches and grass playing fields within Herefordshire. It identifies any current gaps in provision, and looks forward to 2031 to assess what facilities are likely to be required by that date.</p> <p>In terms of Marden itself, the study reveals that there is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.56 hectares of playing pitch area</li> <li>• 1.25 (49%) hectares of playing pitch area with secured community access; Marden Playing Fields and Marden Cricket Ground.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Cultural heritage</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population</li> </ul>	The study provides evidence that could be taken into account when preparing policies the Marden NDP.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Open Spaces Study	Evidence	2006	The 2006 space audit and assessment of need is a snap shot of the quality, quantity and distribution of open space across Herefordshire.	<p>The study reveals that within Sutton Walls Ward, to which Marden is a part, there is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive over provision of parks and gardens</li> <li>• Extensive over provision of natural and semi-natural green space</li> <li>• Under provision of amenity green space and outdoor sport</li> <li>• Average provision for children and young people.</li> <li>• Extensive under provision of outdoor sports facilities.</li> </ul> <p>In terms of Marden, no specific sites are identified.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Climatic factors</li> <li>• Cultural heritage</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population</li> </ul>	The open space audit and assessment does not give a specific indication of open space shortfalls and surpluses in the Marden neighbourhood area. However, there may be a need to include a policy which encourages and facilitates the provision of outdoor recreational facilities.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Play Facilities Study	Evidence	2012	The Play Facilities Study 2012 updates the previous play facilities analysis under the Open Spaces Study 2006 and provides guidance and a framework for the development, delivery and continued sustainability of providing new and improved play facilities for children and young people in Herefordshire to 2031.	In terms of Marden, no specific sites are identified.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Climatic factors</li> <li>• Cultural heritage</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population</li> </ul>	None of merit.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) and Water Cycle Study	Evidence	2009	<p>The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) provides a summary of flood risk in Herefordshire to inform the location of future development.</p> <p>The Water Cycle Study (WCS) examines how water resources and water supply infrastructure, wastewater treatment, water quality, sewerage and flood risk could constrain growth across Herefordshire.</p>	<p>The neighbourhood area is situated in the Lugg River catchment and flood zones 2 &amp; 3 run along the northern borders of the parish.</p> <p>Sub-catchments within this zone record a standard percentage run off of 35-40%, which is potentially highly unsuitable for infiltration source control.</p> <p>The area has a very slow flood response (Tp-time to peak) time at around 11 hours.</p> <p>The WCS identifies a significant number of water bodies in the River Lugg catchment that have poor ecological status.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Climatic factors</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population</li> <li>• Water</li> </ul>	<p>New development proposed through the Marden NDP should be assessed against the capacity of local infrastructure.</p> <p>Up-to-date flood risk information should be gathered from the Environment Agency, in order to ensure that any flood risks are considered when preparing the Marden NDP.</p>



**Appendix A2 – Baseline information for Marden**

*N.B. This is based on countywide baseline information with some additions relevant to Marden (in red). Where no locally specific data is available for current status, trends and targets, only countywide data is reported. Any gaps in data may be filled following additional research.*

SA Objective <sup>1</sup>	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
SEA Topic covered by objective: <i>Biodiversity, flora and fauna</i>							
13. Value, maintain, restore or expand county biodiversity.	Natural environment	Net change in condition of SSSIs across Herefordshire.	<b>Condition of SSSIs within Marden:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>River Lugg (Unfavourable but recovering)</li> <li>Wellington Wood (Unfavourable, no change)</li> <li>Dinmore Hill Woods (Part favourable, part unfavourable but recovering)</li> </ul>	Percentage of SSSI land in favourable condition.  2006: 22% 2007: 22% 2008: 22% 2010: 24% 2011: 27%  Proportion of SSSI land that was in unfavourable condition but recovering increased between 2010 and 2012 going from 41% to 65%.	% of SSSI land in favourable condition (Increase)  % of SSSI land in unfavourable condition but recovering (Increase)  % of SSSI land in unfavourable condition and declining (Decrease)	Herefordshire's SSSIs are in extremely poor condition relative to England as whole, where 96.1% of all SSSI land was in favourable condition in April 2014.  The proportion of SSSI in unfavourable condition but recovering is greater than England as a whole, where the figure currently stands at 58.6%.	NE & Defra website (search July 2014).

<sup>1</sup> Derived from the Pre Submission Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Assessment (May 2014)

SA Objective <sup>1</sup>	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
				Proportion in unfavourable and declining condition had also decreased from 4% to 1%.			
13. Value, maintain, restore or expand county biodiversity.	Natural environment	After use of mineral sites especially wildlife habitat creation.	<i>There is no countywide or locally specific data available at present.</i>	-	Percentage of opportunities taken.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	-
13. Value, maintain, restore or expand county biodiversity.	Natural environment	Phosphate levels within the River Wye SAC and adjoining tributaries that receive increased phosphates from proportional growth.	Countywide data is available, but this indicator would not apply to this Neighbourhood Area, as the parish falls outside the catchment area for the River Wye SAC.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

SA Objective <sup>1</sup>	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
13. Value, maintain, restore or expand county biodiversity.	Natural environment	Changes to protected habitats and impacts of species within the Herefordshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan.	<p>The 2011-2013 AMR does not contain updated conservation data.</p> <p><i>There is no locally specific data available at present.</i></p> <p>.</p>	<p>2010/11: 17 Habitat Action Plans and 14 Species Action Plans are currently in operation across Herefordshire.</p> <p>There are no formal records of any unacceptable adverse impacts on habitats or protected species.</p> <p>Originally 156 Priority Species were identified for inclusion in Herefordshire's LBAP.</p> <p>Similarly Herefordshire's LBAP covered 23 habitats with Action Plans.</p>	<p>To protect or enhance the habitats of species identified.</p> <p>Zero net loss of habitats.</p>	Herefordshire Biological Records Centre (HBRC) holds limited data on some individual sites.	-

SA Objective <sup>1</sup>	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
13. Value, maintain, restore or expand county biodiversity.	Natural environment	Changes in the areas of designated nature conservation sites as a consequence of planning permission.	<p><b>Marden has:</b></p> <p><b>SAC: 1<sup>2</sup></b></p> <p><b>SWS: 7</b></p> <p><b>There are no SSSIs, SINClis, NNRs, and LNRs within the parish.</b></p>	As of 2012, there had been no change in the areas of designated nature conservation sites as a consequence of the planning permissions granted.	To capitalise on opportunities to protect or enhance the areas of value to nature conservation.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	NDP SEA/HRA Screening Notification Report (October 2013)
13. Value, maintain, restore or expand county biodiversity.	Natural environment	Proportion of local sites where positive conservation management has or is being implemented.	<p><b>The neighbourhood area comprises the following types of landscape:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Principal settled farmland.</b></li> </ul>	-	No specific targets identified.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	Herefordshire Landscape Character Assessment (2004; updated 2009).

<sup>2</sup> View SEA/HRA Screening Notification Report for further details.

SA Objective <sup>1</sup>	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
SEA Topic covered by objectives: <i>Material assets</i>							
14. Use natural resources and energy more efficiently.	Resource consumption and climate change	Maintaining Herefordshire Council's County Site and Monuments Register.	Countywide data would be too large to incorporate into this template.  Whilst there is no locally specific data available at present, there are numerous archaeological and historic sites in Marden according to the latest version of the register.	-	No specific targets identified, but need to ensure that the register is kept up to date.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	Herefordshire Environmental Records Register (searched July 2014).
14. Use natural resources and energy more efficiently.	Resource consumption and climate change	Monitoring changes to historic landscapes.	<i>Rapid Townscape Assessments (2010) were only undertaken for Hereford, Ledbury and Ross.</i>  <i>Urban Fringe Sensitivity Analysis (2010) only considers sites on the urban fringe of Hereford and the five market towns.</i>	-	No specific targets identified.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations	-

SA Objective <sup>1</sup>	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
SEA Topic covered by objective: <i>Population, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</i>							
15. Value, protect, enhance or restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces.	Natural environment	Number of developments meeting and surpassing national design standards.	<i>There is no countywide or locally specific data available at present.</i>	-	No specific targets identified.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	-

SA Objective <sup>1</sup>	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
15. Value, protect, enhance or restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces.	Natural environment	The need for, frequency and outcomes of planning enforcement investigations/ planning appeals concerning the aspects of local loss of locally important buildings within a conservation area.	There are no conservation areas within the neighbourhood area.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

SA Objective <sup>1</sup>	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
SEA Topic covered by objective: <i>Climatic Factors</i>							
16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.	Resource consumption and climate change.	Transport patronage by mode.	<p>% of Herefordshire residents who travel to work by:</p> <p>Car: 70.1%  Foot: 14.7%  Bicycle: 4.3%  Bus: 2%  Train: 0.8%  Motorbike: 0.8%  Taxi: 0.3%  Other: 7%</p> <p><i>There is no locally specific data available at present</i></p>	The number of people cycling or travelling by bus as the main form transport to get to work declined between 2001 and 2011 – across England and Wales there was little change in either. Walking or driving a car or van on the other hand increased.	To encourage the take up of Less polluting forms of transport.	There are a lack of transport options for many rural communities and therefore high car ownership and dependency – the last decade has seen a 15 per cent increase in household car ownership, although this is not reflected in traffic flows of recent years with volumes in Hereford City and wider county having decreased. The proportion of people working from home increased over the decade from 15 per cent in 2001 to 17 per cent in 2011.	2011 Census



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SA Objective <sup>1</sup>	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.	Resource consumption and climate change.	Number of decentralised energy schemes granted permission.	<i>There is no countywide or locally specific data available at present.</i>	-	To contribute towards the national target.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	-

SA Objective <sup>1</sup>	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.	Resource consumption and climate	Total CO2 emissions per capita	<p>Latest figure dates back to 2010: 1.61 million tonnes (mtCO<sub>2</sub>)</p> <p><i>There is no locally specific data available at present.</i></p>	<p>Between 2005 and 2010 Herefordshire's total and per capita carbon emission reduced by 7% and 8% respectively; while UK's total and per capita carbon emission reduced by 8% and 12% respectively within the same period. This trend hides an increase in emissions between 2009 and 2010 when total emissions in the county increased by 5% the same as across the UK (+5%).</p>	To reduce the overall carbon emissions.	CO <sub>2</sub> emissions produced are decreasing.	Understanding Herefordshire: An integrated needs assessment (June 2013).

SA Objective <sup>1</sup>	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
SEA Topic covered by objective: <i>Water</i>							
17. Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public wellbeing, the economy and the environment.	Natural environment	Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on flood defence grounds.	The 2011-2013 AMR does not contain updated conservation data.  <i>There is no locally specific data available at present.</i>	2010/11: None  There have been no approvals contrary to EA advice since reporting began in 2004.	To have no applications permitted contrary to EA advice.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	-
SEA Topic covered by objective: <i>Water, air, soil, material assets</i>							
18. Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources.	Natural environment	Agricultural land usage by quality	<i>There is no countywide data available at present.</i>  2011: The majority of land within the neighbourhood area was listed Grade 2 (Good) or Grade 3 (Good to Moderate) for its agricultural quality.	-	Measure the number of hectares of best and most versatile soil lost through development.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	West Midland ALC Map (Natural England 2011).

SA Objective <sup>1</sup>	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
18. Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources.	Natural environment	Percentage of river length assessed as good or very good chemical quality and ecological quality as required by the Water Framework Directive	Latest figure dates back to 2005: 84%  <i>There is no locally specific data available at present.</i>	Figure steadily improved before going into decline:  Herefordshire 1999 85.9%, 2000 89.5%, 2001 92.2%, 2002 91.8%	To ensure that rivers meet their conservation objectives and do not fall below the required standard of quality.	None identified.	The State of Herefordshire Report (2007)  Water Framework Directive (2000)
SEA Topic covered by objective: <i>Soil</i>							
19. Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use.	Built environment	Percentage of all new development completed on previously developed land.	2011/13: 57%  <i>There is no locally specific data available at present.</i>	2010/11: 67%  Completions on PDL had risen to 71% by 2005.	To increase the number of homes built on PDL in line with the provisions of national planning policy.	The number of brownfield completions has fallen slightly in recent years, though this is probably the offshoot of tough market conditions.	Herefordshire Council AMR (2011/13)
19. Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use.	Built environment	Housing densities in urban and rural areas	<i>There is no countywide or locally specific data available at present.</i>	-	No specific targets identified.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	-

SA Objective <sup>1</sup>	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
19. Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use.	Built environment	Level of development in urban areas compared to rural.	<i>There is no countywide or locally specific data available at present.</i>	-	No specific targets identified.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	-
SEA Topic covered by objective: <i>Cultural heritage</i>							
20. Value, protect or enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's historic environment and cultural heritage.	Built environment	Number and percentage of listed buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments on Buildings at Risk Register (English Heritage).	<p>The 2011-2013 AMR does not contain updated conservation data.</p> <p><b>There are numerous listed buildings within the parish and 3 SAMs, none of which are currently recorded in the Buildings at Risk Register.</b></p>	In 2011, there were 58 heritage assets in Herefordshire that were considered to be at high risk and included in the Heritage at Risk Register.	<b>To maintain or enhance current status.</b>	<b>None of the incumbent listed buildings or SAMs are considered to be at risk at present.</b>	Buildings at Risk Register (English Heritage; searched July 2014)

SA Objective <sup>1</sup>	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
20. Value, protect or enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's heritage assets, historic environment and cultural heritage.	Built environment	The need for, frequency and outcomes of planning enforcement investigations/ planning appeals concerning the aspects of local loss of heritage assets, locally important buildings across the Parish and particularly within a conservation area.	There are no conservation areas within the neighbourhood area.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

**Appendix A3 – Environmental issues identified from the Marden baseline**

These environmental issues are the same as most of those identified for the Herefordshire Core Strategy<sup>1</sup>

SEA Topic		Environmental issue	SA objectives
1	Air	High reliance upon the private car causing high levels of air pollution and in Hereford in particular	Objective 16
		Need to reduce carbon emissions by encouraging less polluting forms of transport.	
2	Biodiversity	Habitats and species of national, regional and local importance are under pressure from the adaptation and diversification of farming and forestry employment.	Objectives 13 & 15
		Habitats and species of national, regional and local importance are under pressure from development	
		Minimise loss of biodiversity and expand opportunities for wildlife everywhere.	
3	Climatic factors	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through planning, design and build.	Objective 16
4	Cultural heritage	Marden has 3 Scheduled Ancient Monuments and numerous Listed Buildings, all of which require ongoing protection and many in need of high levels of maintenance.	Objective 20
5	Flora and fauna	Conserve and enhance the character and quality of historic landscapes, including all types of natural flora and fauna.	Objective 15
6	Material assets	How the countryside can continue to be managed in an economically, socially and environmentally beneficial way in the face of continuing pressures on traditional farming.	Objectives 14 & 18
7	Population	Minimise energy waste through good designs, which help to reduce energy consumption and maximise efficiency.	Objective 15
		Need to avoid enforcement investigations/action concerning locally important buildings and those within conservation areas in particular.	
8	Soil	Promoting development of previously developed land and buildings as opposed to greenfield sites or agricultural land of the highest quality.	Objectives 18 & 19
9	Water	Issues relating to availability of resources, foul drainage, pollution, and abstraction in a county which supports water dependent biodiversity of international and national importance, given the predicted climate change consequences for water availability and demanding projections for new housing.	Objectives 17 & 18

<sup>1</sup> Derived from the Pre Submission Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Assessment (May 2014) and LDF General Scoping Report (June 2007)

		Steady decline in the chemical quality of rivers over the last 10 years.	
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**Appendix A4 – SEA framework (objectives, indicators and targets)**

SEA Topic(s)	SEA Objective(s)	SA Objective(s)	Sub-objectives/Appraisal Questions	Indicators	Targets
Air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To improve air quality.</li> <li>To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimise water, air, soil, groundwater, noise and light pollution from current activities and the potential for such pollution.</li> <li>Protect and enhance the quality of watercourses.</li> <li>Provide opportunities to improve soil quality or reduce contaminated land.</li> </ul>	Transport patronage by mode.	To encourage the take up of less polluting forms of transport.
Biodiversity, Flora and fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To maintain or enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Value, maintain, restore or expand county biodiversity.</li> <li>Value, protect, enhance or restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect or enhance habitats of international, national, regional or local importance.</li> <li>Protect international, national, regional or locally important terrestrial or aquatic species.</li> <li>Maintain wildlife corridors and minimise fragmentation of ecological areas and green spaces.</li> <li>Manage access to sites in a sustainable way that protects or enhances their nature conservation value.</li> </ul>	Net change in condition of SSSIs across Herefordshire.	% of SSSI land in favourable condition (Increase)  % of SSSI land in unfavourable condition but recovering (Increase)  % of SSSI land in unfavourable condition and declining (Decrease)
				After use of mineral sites especially wildlife habitat creation.	Percentage of opportunities taken.

SEA Topic(s)	SEA Objective(s)	SA Objective(s)	Sub-objectives/Appraisal Questions	Indicators	Targets
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create new appropriate habitats.</li> <li>• Value, enhance and protect natural environmental assets including AONB's, historic landscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings</li> <li>• Encourage local stewardship of local environments, for example by promoting best practices in agricultural management.</li> <li>• Ensure that environmental impacts caused by mineral operations and the transport of minerals are minimised.</li> <li>• Promote the use of rural areas and open space by all, encourage easy non-car based access, and accommodate the needs of disabled users.</li> </ul>	Phosphate levels within the River Wye SAC and adjoining tributaries that receive increased phosphates from proportional growth.	N/A
				Changes to protected habitats and impacts of species within the Herefordshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan.	To protect or enhance the habitats of species identified.  Zero net loss of habitats.
				Changes in the areas of designated nature conservation sites as a consequence of planning permission.	To capitalise on opportunities to enhance the areas of value to nature conservation.
				Proportion of local sites where positive conservation management has or is being implemented.	The number of local sites under positive conservation management (Increase).

SEA Topic(s)	SEA Objective(s)	SA Objective(s)	Sub-objectives/Appraisal Questions	Indicators	Targets
Climatic factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To reduce contributions to climate change</li> <li>To reduce vulnerability to climate change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce the county's contribution to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport, domestic, commercial and industrial sources.</li> <li>Increase the proportion of energy generated from renewable and low carbon sources including by micro-generation, Combined Heat and Power (CHP), district heating and in transportation.</li> </ul>	Number of decentralised energy schemes granted permission.	To contribute towards the national target.
				Total CO2 emissions per capita.	To reduce the overall carbon emissions.

SEA Topic(s)	SEA Objective(s)	SA Objective(s)	Sub-objectives/Appraisal Questions	Indicators	Targets
Cultural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To conserve or enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and cultural heritage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Value, protect or enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's heritage assets, historic environment and cultural heritage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preserve, protect and enhance Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, archaeological remains, and other features and areas of historical heritage and cultural value e.g. locally listed buildings.</li> <li>Prevent development which is inappropriate in scale, form or design to its setting or to its function or local area.</li> <li>Encourage development that creates and sustains well-designed, high quality built environments that incorporate green space, encourage biodiversity and promote local distinctiveness and sense of place.</li> <li>Encourage cleanliness and/or improve the general appearance of the area.</li> </ul>	Number and percentage of listed buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments on Buildings at Risk Register (English Heritage).	To maintain or enhance current status in Marden.
				The need for, frequency and outcomes of planning enforcement investigations/ planning appeals concerning the aspects of local loss of heritage assets, locally important buildings across the Parish and particularly within a conservation area.	N/A

SEA Topic(s)	SEA Objective(s)	SA Objective(s)	Sub-objectives/Appraisal Questions	Indicators	Targets
Material assets Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To conserve natural and man-made resources.</li> <li>To improve the quality of surroundings</li> <li>To maintain or enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use natural resources and energy more efficiently.</li> <li>Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximise energy efficiency and minimise the consumption of non-renewable energy i.e. from fossil fuels.</li> <li>Minimise the consumption of water, land, soil, minerals, aggregates and other raw materials by all? E.g. through integrated transport, sustainable resource-efficient design, local sourcing of food, goods, materials.</li> <li>Encourage the re-use/enhancement (to high standards of sustainable resource-efficient design) of existing buildings and minimise the need for new build.</li> <li>Encourage the use of clean technologies and water minimisation techniques.</li> </ul>	Maintaining Herefordshire Council's County Site and Monuments Register.	No specific targets identified, but need to ensure that the register is kept up to date.
				Monitoring changes to historic landscapes.	No specific targets identified.
				Agricultural land usage by quality	Measure the number of hectares of best and most versatile soil lost through development.

SEA Topic(s)	SEA Objective(s)	SA Objective(s)	Sub-objectives/Appraisal Questions	Indicators	Targets
Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To improve the health and well-being of the population.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Value, protect, enhance or restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Value, enhance and protect natural environmental assets including AONB's, historic landscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings.</li> <li>Encourage local stewardship of local environments, for example by promoting best practices in agricultural management.</li> <li>Ensure that environmental impacts caused by mineral operations and the transport of minerals are minimised.</li> <li>Promote the use of rural areas and open space by all, encourage easy non-car based access, and accommodate the needs of disabled users.</li> </ul>	Number of developments meeting and surpassing national design	No specific targets identified.
				The need for, frequency and outcomes of planning enforcement investigations/ planning appeals concerning the aspects of local loss of locally important buildings within a conservation area.	N/A

SEA Topic(s)	SEA Objective(s)	SA Objective(s)	Sub-objectives/Appraisal Questions	Indicators	Targets
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To conserve soil resources and quality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources.</li> <li>Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimise water, air, soil, groundwater, noise and light pollution from current activities and the potential for such pollution.</li> <li>Provide opportunities to improve soil quality or reduce contaminated land.</li> <li>Ensure new developments are in appropriate locations, optimising the use of previously developed land and buildings, primarily focussed on the urban areas and are accessible by walking, cycling or sustainable transport and/or will increase the share of these transport modes, thereby reducing the need to travel.</li> </ul>	Percentage of all new development completed on previously developed land.	To increase the number of homes built on PDL in line with the provisions of national planning policy.
				Housing densities in urban and rural areas.	No specific targets identified.

SEA Topic(s)	SEA Objective(s)	SA Objective(s)	Sub-objectives/Appraisal Questions	Indicators	Targets
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To improve water quality</li> <li>To provide for sustainable sources of water supply</li> <li>To reduce, avoid and manage flood risk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment.</li> <li>Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce flood risk both presently and taking into account climate change.</li> <li>Prevent inappropriate development of the floodplain, and include flood protection systems.</li> <li>Include sustainable urban drainage systems where appropriate.</li> <li>Minimise water, air, soil, groundwater, noise and light pollution from current activities and the potential for such pollution.</li> <li>Protect and enhance the quality of watercourses.</li> </ul>	Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on flood defence grounds.	To have no applications permitted contrary to EA advice.
				Percentage of river length assessed as good or very good chemical quality and ecological quality.	To ensure that rivers meet their conservation objectives and do not fall below the required standard of quality, as set out in the Water Framework Directive.



# Appendix 3

Date: 15 September 2014  
Our ref: 129491  
Your ref: None



James Latham  
Technical Support Officer  
Neighbourhood Planning, Strategic Planning & Conservation teams  
Herefordshire Council  
[neighbourhoodplanning@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:neighbourhoodplanning@herefordshire.gov.uk)

Customer Services  
Hornbeam House  
Crewe Business Park  
Electra Way  
Crewe  
Cheshire  
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Dear Mr Latham

**Marden Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening**

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 15 August 2014 which was received by Natural England on the same date.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Where Neighbourhood Plans could have significant environmental effects, they may require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) under the Environment Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

Further guidance on deciding whether the proposals are likely to have significant environmental effects and the requirements for consulting Natural England on SEA are set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance at:  
<http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/does-a-neighbourhood-plan-require-a-sustainability-appraisal/>

We welcome the production of this SEA Scoping report. The following comments are intended to further improve the SEA and its usefulness in assessing the Neighbourhood Plan.

**Appendix A1 – Plans, policies and programmes**

Natural England approves of the plans, policies and programmes listed.

**Appendix A2 – Baseline information for Marden Parish**

***Biodiversity, flora and fauna***

Under the indicator “*Net change in condition of SSSIs*”, we welcome the inclusion of data on SSSI's within this neighbourhood plan area.

Under the proposed indicator *“Changes to protected habitats and impacts of species within the Herefordshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan”*, Magic, Defra’s GIS package for environmental assets ([www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk)), could be referred to as a data source. Herefordshire Council’s Annual Monitoring Report has been referred to in other SEA’s.

Baseline information on the landscape and open spaces needs to be included under SA objective 15: *“Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces”*. Reference could be made to the county Landscape Character Assessment.

### ***Water, air, soil and material assets***

This section (or suitable alternative) should include information on geodiversity (see NPPF paragraphs 113 & 117). The baseline and assessment should make reference to geological conservation and the need to conserve, interpret and manage geological sites and features, both in the wider environment and in relation to designated features. The Herefordshire & Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust may be of assistance.

We welcome the inclusion of information on Agricultural Land Classification data against the indicator *“Agricultural land usage by quality”*, as per our previous recommendations in response to other neighbourhood plan SEA Scoping reports.

### ***Soil***

We note that the best and most versatile agricultural land has not been considered here (although it has been as per above). We suggest including an indicator to monitor the hectares of the best and most versatile agricultural land lost to development.

### **Appendix A3 – Environmental issues identified from Marden Parish baseline**

We welcome the recognition that development can be a pressure on biodiversity and the inclusion of landscape and soils as environmental issues, as per our previous recommendations in response to other neighbourhood plan SEA Scoping reports.

### **Appendix A4 – SEA Framework**

We welcome the incorporation of some of the recommendations which we have previously made in response to other neighbourhood plan SEA Scoping Report consultations in the county.

Under the SEA topic *“Air”*, not all of the sub-objectives/indicators are relevant, i.e. water quality, soil and contaminated land are covered.

Under the SEA topic *“Biodiversity, flora and fauna”* and the SEA objective *“Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces”*, landscape quality and open spaces have not been covered in the indicators. Relevant indicators should be added, or will not be possible to monitor the impacts of the plan on the landscape and open space. Reference could be made to the county Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Characterisation studies including Historic Landscape Characterisation if this has been carried out. Applications resulting in the loss of open space could be monitored.

We note that no targets have been identified against the indicator *“After use of mineral sites especially wildlife habitat creation”*; we suggest that perhaps the percentage of opportunities taken could be monitored.

We would also welcome the inclusion of an indicator/target around the impact/benefit to ecological networks (NPPF paragraph 109, 113 and 117).

Under SEA topic “*material assets*”, there are no targets identified against the indicator “*monitoring changes to the historic landscape*”. We suggest that the LPA could monitor the number of applications permitted despite a significant impact on the landscape having been identified.

Under the SEA topic “*Soil*”, we note that the best and most versatile agricultural land has not been considered. We suggest including an indicator to monitor the hectares of the best and most versatile agricultural land lost to development.

### **Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening**

Where a Neighbourhood Plan could potentially lead to significant environmental effects it will be necessary to screen the Plan in relation to the Habitats and Species Regulations (2010), as amended (the ‘Habitats Regulations’). One of the basic conditions that will be tested at Examination is whether the making of the plan is compatible with European obligations and this includes requirements relating to the Habitats Directive.

In relation to the Habitats Regulations, a Neighbourhood Plan cannot progress if the likelihood of significant effects on any European Site, either alone (or in combination with other plans and projects) cannot be ruled out (see Schedule 2, The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012). Therefore measures may need to be incorporated into the Neighbourhood Plan to ensure that any likely significant effects are avoided in order to secure compliance with the Regulations. A screening exercise should be undertaken if there is any doubt about the possible effects of the Plan on European protected sites. This will be particularly important if a Neighbourhood Plan is to progress before a Local Plan has been adopted and/or the Neighbourhood Plan proposes development which has not been assessed and/or included in the Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Local Plan.

We note the recommendation that a full Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening is undertaken due to proximity to the River Wye Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Hayley Fleming on 0300 060 1594. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk).

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours sincerely

Hayley Fleming  
Lead adviser – Planning  
South Mercia Area Team  
(Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull)



## ENGLISH HERITAGE

### WEST MIDLANDS REGION

Neighbourhood Planning Team  
Herefordshire Council  
Planning Services  
PO Box 230  
Blueschool House  
Blueschool Street  
Hereford  
HR1 2ZB.

Our ref:  
Your ref:

Telephone 0121 625 6887  
Fax 0121 625 6820

09 September 2014

Dear Sir or Madam

**CONSULTATION ON SEA SCOPING REPORTS FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS IN: (Brilley; Eardisland; Garway; Kings Capse; Luston; Marden).**

Thank you for your e-mails and the invitation to comment on the SEA Scoping Reports for the Neighbourhood Plans listed above. We have no substantive objection to the contents of the documents. However, having considered the above Neighbourhood Plans please note that our comments and recommendations to you in relation to these remain substantively the same as those which we communicated to you in our letter of the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2014 in response to the first tranche of SEA Scoping Reports. We urge you to refer back to and consider these representations before finalizing the reports in relation to the above Neighbourhood Plans also.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours faithfully

Pete Boland  
Historic Places Adviser  
E-mail: [peter.boland@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:peter.boland@english-heritage.org.uk)

# Appendix 4

**Consultation date: 3 September to 16 October 2015**

*N.B. This consultation feedback is **only** for comments received on the HRA of the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan (January 2015)*

Consultee	Summary of Comments	Response to Comments
Natural England	Natural England welcomes the production of an Environmental Report. Having reviewed the report Natural England confirms that it meets the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) European Directive and national regulations, and that we concur with its conclusions.	Noted
English Heritage / Heritage England	No comments received	
Environment Agency	No comments received	
Natural Resources Wales	No comments received	

# Appendix 5



NDP Objectives versus SEA Objectives (SMART and Compatibility Test)				
SEA Stage B1	Key:	SMART criteria:		<p>The following matrix appraises the emerging Marden NDP Policies in terms of their SMART criteria and their compatibility with the SEA Objectives and Baseline data.</p> <p>These objectives have been developed from both Government guidance on SEA and from the local evidence base gathered for identifying the NDP issues.</p>
+	Compatible/very compatible	<b>S – Specific:</b>	NDP objectives should specify what is intended to be done in detail and should not be open to a wide range of misinterpretations.	
-	Possible conflict	<b>M – Measurable:</b>	It should be possible to monitor NDP objectives in a quantifiable way, by the use of indicators. Indicators should be measurable with limited resource implications.	
0	Neutral	<b>A – Attainable/achievable</b>	NDP objectives should be achievable and deliverable, related to the scale of growth proposed.	
X	No relationship between objectives	<b>R – Realistic:</b>	NDP objectives should relate to the overall vision of the plan. Likewise, chosen indicators should relate to objectives and their outcomes.	
?	Unclear, more information needed	<b>T – Time-Bound:</b>	Objectives should be specific to the NDP period or another specified time-frame. Objectives should be associated with a target and indicators should specify when the target should be achieved.	
<b>SEA Objectives</b>			<b>Baseline carried over from Stage A</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To maintain or enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)</li> <li>To maintain or enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes</li> <li>To improve quality of surroundings</li> <li>To conserve or where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage</li> <li>To improve air quality</li> <li>To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment</li> <li>To reduce contributions to climate change</li> <li>To reduce vulnerability to climate change</li> <li>To improve water quality</li> <li>To provide for sustainable sources of water supply</li> <li>To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk</li> <li>To conserve soil resources and quality</li> <li>To minimise the production of waste</li> <li>To improve the health of the population</li> <li>To reduce crime and nuisance</li> <li>To conserve natural and manmade resources</li> </ol>			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marden has: 1 SAC; 3 SSSI; 7 SWS. There are no SINC's NNRs and LNRs.</li> <li>There are no outstanding enforcement actions or appeals concerning locally important buildings within the parish at present and there are no conservation areas.</li> <li>No baseline data available.</li> <li>There are numerous scheduled monuments across the parish according to the latest version of the County Sites and Monuments Register.</li> <li>Between 2005 and 2010 Herefordshire's total and per capita carbon emission reduced by 7% and 8% respectively; while the UK's total and per capita carbon emission reduced by 8% and 12% respectively within the same period.</li> <li>% of Herefordshire residents who travel to work by: Car: 70.1%, Foot: 14.7; Bicycle: 4.3%,Bus: 2%, Train: 0.8%,Motorbike: 0.8%,Taxi: 0.3%,Other: 7%.</li> <li>Figures on Herefordshire's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions date back to 2010: 1.62 million tonnes (mtCO<sub>2</sub>).</li> <li>Reduce the risk of flooding; there have been no approvals contrary to EA advice since reporting began in 2004.</li> <li>Percentage of river length assessed as good or very good chemical quality and ecological quality as required by the Water Framework Directive. Latest figure dates back to 2005; 84%</li> <li>The neighbourhood area is situated in the River Lugg catchment. Sub-catchments within this zone are one of the most rapid response flood warning systems in the SFRA area, recording standard percentage run off of 35-40%, which is potentially highly unsuitable for infiltration source control. The area has a very slow flood response (Tp-time to peak) time at around 11 hours. The WCS identifies a significant number of water bodies in the River Lugg catchment which have poor ecological status.</li> <li>Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on flood defence grounds; the 2011-2013 AMR does not contain updated conservation data.</li> <li>In 2011 the majority of land within the neighbourhood area was listed Grades 2 (Very Good) and 3 (Good) for its agricultural quality. The number of completions on previously development land (brownfield) during the same year was 67%.</li> <li>No baseline data available.</li> <li>No baseline data available.</li> <li>No baseline data available.</li> <li>There are numerous listed buildings within the parish and 3 SAMs, none of which are currently recorded in the Buildings at Risk Register.</li> </ol>	

NDP Policies	Baseline Data/SEA Objectives																Summary of impact of NDP policy in relation to baseline data	Recommendations	Conformity with Core Strategy
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
<b>Policy M1<sup>1</sup></b> Scale and type of new housing development	++	++		+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	?				+	Overall this policy has mainly a positive impact on the baseline data and the policy will enable the proportional growth indicated within Policy RA1 of the Core Strategy. Additional criteria have been added to safeguard the River Wye SAC.	None.	This policy does not go beyond that within the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA.
<b>Policy M2</b> Scale and type of new housing development in designated hamlets.	++	+		+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	?				+	Overall this policy has mainly a positive impact on the baseline data. The addition of settlement boundary for three villages increased the certainty over where development will take place. This policy will enable the proportional growth as indicated within Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy whilst including additional safeguarding criteria particularly with regards to the River Wye SAC.	None.	This policy does not go beyond that within the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA.
<b>Policy M3</b> Scale and type of new housing development in the countryside.	+	?		?	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	?				+	Overall this policy has mainly a positive impact on the baseline data. There are some unknown locational issues at the stage, however other safeguarding policies exist within both the Core Strategy and NDP to provide adequate mitigation. An additional criteria has been added to the policy to specifically safeguard the River Wye SAC. This policy will enable appropriate small-scale developments in line with Policies H2, RA3 and RA4 of the Core Strategy.	None.	This policy does not go beyond that within the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA.
<b>Policy M4</b> General design principles	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	This policy is compatible with the baseline, as it would not lead to development itself but contains criteria to guide design aspects of proposals.	None.	This policy does not go beyond that within the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA.

<sup>1</sup> Refer to Draft Plan for Policy Criteria

<b>Policy M10</b> Protection of local greenspaces.	++	++		++	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	++				++	Overall the policy is compatible and has a positive impact on the relevant baseline data. Additional criteria have been added to recognise biodiversity and geodiversity.	None.	This policy does meet the Core Strategy's requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
<b>Policy M12</b> Flood Risk and Surface water run-off	++	+		+	X	X	+	++	+	++	++	X				X	This policy would not lead to development itself but contains criteria to safeguard and mitigate against flooding issues, water management and increase green infrastructure.	None.	This policy does meet the Core Strategy's requirements for the purposes of the SEA.

<b>++ Move towards significantly</b>	<b>+ Move towards Marginally</b>	<b>- Move away significantly</b>	<b>- Move away marginally</b>	<b>0 Neutral</b>	<b>? Uncertain</b>	<b>X No relationship</b>
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Policy M1: Scale and type of new housing development						
SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (Cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities	
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)			
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	++	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to proportional growth in line with Policy RA1 of the Core Strategy. Additional criteria has been added to safeguard the River Wye SAC		
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	++	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to proportional growth in line with Policy RA1 of the Core Strategy.		
To improve quality of surroundings	N/A	N/A	N/A			
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	++	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to proportional growth in line with Policy RA1 of the Core Strategy.		
To improve air quality	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to proportional growth in line with Policy RA1 of the Core Strategy.		
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	++	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to proportional growth in line with Policy RA1 of the Core Strategy.		
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	++	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to proportional growth in line with Policy RA1 of the Core Strategy.		
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to proportional growth in line with Policy RA1 of the Core Strategy.		

To improve water quality	?	+	+	House building on allocated sites could place acute pressure on sewerage systems, but this policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to proportional growth in line with Policy RA1 of the Core Strategy. Additional criteria has been added to safeguard the River Wye SAC.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to proportional growth in line with Policy RA1 of the Core Strategy.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to proportional growth in line with Policy RA1 of the Core Strategy.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	?	+	+	Policy safeguards that exist elsewhere within the NDP, namely Criterion I of Policy M4 (brownfield first), should ensure that housing development would not compromise the quality of the best agricultural land in the medium term.	
To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To improve the health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to proportional growth in line with Policy RA1 of the Core Strategy.	
<b>Overall commentary</b>	This policy compliments Policy RA1 of the Core Strategy and would only lead to growth which is proportionate to the size of the village. Policy safeguarding exists to ensure that environmental considerations are taken into account and these have been strengthened within the revised draft plan.				

Policy M2: Scale and type of new housing development in designated hamlets					
SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (Cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		

To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	++	Three settlement boundaries have been added to the revised draft plan, given additional certainty to the location of further small scale growth. Additional policy criteria have been added to safeguard the River Wye SAC.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	?	+	+	Three settlement boundaries have been added to the revised draft plan, given additional certainty to the location of further small scale growth. The policy also contains a range of safeguarding measures and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy.	
To improve quality of surroundings	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	?	+	+	Three settlement boundaries have been added to the revised draft plan, given additional certainty to the location of further small scale growth. The policy also contains a range of safeguarding measures and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy.	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	?	+	+	Three settlement boundaries have been added to the revised draft plan, given additional certainty to the location of further small scale growth. The policy also contains a range of safeguarding measures and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	?	+	+	Three settlement boundaries have been added to the revised draft plan, given additional certainty to the location of further small scale growth. The policy also contains a range of safeguarding measures and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy.	
To improve water quality	?	?	+	Three settlement boundaries have been added to the revised draft plan, given additional certainty to the location of further small scale growth. The policy also contains a range of safeguarding measures and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy.	

To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	?	?	+	Three settlement boundaries have been added to the revised draft plan, given additional certainty to the location of further small scale growth. The policy also contains a range of safeguarding measures and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy.	
To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To improve the health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy.	
<b>Overall commentary</b>	This policy compliments Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy; additional three settlements boundaries have been included within the revised draft to add certainty. The policy has also had additional safeguarding criteria within regards to the River Wye SAC incorporated.				

Policy M3: Scale and type of housing development in the countryside					
SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (Cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	?	+	++	It is impossible to predict the short-term effects of house building, albeit on a small scale in as yet unspecified locations. However, this policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policies H2, RA3 and RA4 of the Core Strategy. Additional criteria has been added to safeguard the River Wye SAC.	



To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	?	+	+	It is impossible to predict the short-term effects of house building, albeit on a small scale in as yet unspecified locations. However, this policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policies H2, RA3 and RA4 of the Core Strategy.	
To improve quality of surroundings	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	?	+	+	It is impossible to predict the short-term effects of house building, albeit on a small scale in as yet unspecified locations. However, this policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policies H2, RA3 and RA4 of the Core Strategy.	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policies H2, RA3 and RA4 of the Core Strategy.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	?	+	+	It is impossible to predict the short-term effects of house building, albeit on a small scale in as yet unspecified locations. However, this policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policies H2, RA3 and RA4 of the Core Strategy.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	?	+	+	It is impossible to predict the short-term effects of house building, albeit on a small scale in as yet unspecified locations. However, this policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policy H2, RA3 and RA4 of the Core Strategy.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policies H2, RA3 and RA4 of the Core Strategy.	
To improve water quality	?	?	+	It is impossible to predict the short-term effects of house building, albeit on a small scale in as yet unspecified locations. However, this policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policies H2, RA3 and RA4 of the Core Strategy. Additional policy criteria has been added to safeguard the River Wye SAC.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policies H2, RA3 and RA4 of the Core Strategy.	



To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policies H2, RA3 and RA4 of the Core Strategy.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	?	?	+	It is impossible to predict the short-term effects of house building, albeit on a small scale in as yet unspecified locations. However, this policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policies H2, RA3 and RA4 of the Core Strategy.	
To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To improve the health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policies H2, RA3 and RA4 of the Core Strategy.	
<b>Overall commentary</b>	This policy compliments Policies H2, RA3 and RA4 of the Core Strategy; in spite of some locational issues policy safeguarding exists to ensure that environmental considerations are taken into account and any potential adverse impacts mitigated against.				

<b>Policy M4: General design principles</b>					
<b>SEA Objective</b>	<b>Assessment of effect</b> (Cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			<b>Summary Explanation</b>	<b>Enhancement and mitigation opportunities</b>
	<b>Short term</b> (1 – 5 years)	<b>Medium term</b> (6 – 10 years)	<b>Long term</b> (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but contains the design criteria for development proposals. The policy is not over and above the Core Strategy.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but contains the design criteria for development proposals. The policy is not over and above the Core Strategy.	
To improve quality of surroundings	N/A	N/A	N/A		

To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but contains the design criteria for development proposals. The policy is not over and above the Core Strategy.	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but contains the design criteria for development proposals. The policy is not over and above the Core Strategy.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but contains the design criteria for development proposals. The policy is not over and above the Core Strategy.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but contains the design criteria for development proposals. The policy is not over and above the Core Strategy.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but contains the design criteria for development proposals. The policy is not over and above the Core Strategy.	
To improve water quality	+	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but contains the design criteria for development proposals. The policy is not over and above the Core Strategy.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	+	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but contains the design criteria for development proposals. The policy is not over and above the Core Strategy.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but contains the design criteria for development proposals. The policy is not over and above the Core Strategy.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but contains the design criteria for development proposals. The policy is not over and above the Core Strategy.	
To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To improve the health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but contains the design criteria for development proposals. The policy is not over and above the Core Strategy.	
<b>Overall commentary</b>	This policy would not lead to development itself but contains criteria to guide design aspects of proposals. The policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and policy safeguards exist with the Core Strategy and the NDP to avoid and mitigate against significant harm. Additional criteria has been added with regards to contaminated land.				

Policy M10: Protection of local greenspaces					
SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (Cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	++	++	++	This policy should make a positive contribution to the protection or enhancement of the natural environment. Additional criteria has been added to reference biodiversity and geodiversity specifically.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscape	++	++	++	The protection or enhancement of local greenspaces should help maintain the quality of the 'townscape' and character of the area.	
To improve quality of surroundings	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	++	++	++	The protection or enhancement of local greenspaces should help maintain the quality the character of the area.	
To improve air quality	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To improve water quality	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	X	X	X	No relationship.	

To conserve soil resources and quality	++	++	++	This policy will provide added protection to the finest agricultural land.	
To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To improve the health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve natural and manmade resources	++	++	++	To protect or enhance local greenspaces should negate the need to develop additional land and use additional resources for recreations or community uses.	
<b>Overall commentary</b>	This policy does meet the Core Strategy's requirements for the purposes of the SEA.				

Policy M12: Flood Risk and Surface water run-off					
SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (Cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	++	++	++	Greater uptake of sustainable drainage system following the application of this policy will bring benefits to the natural environment.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	This policy seeks to reduce surface water runoff in the landscape and townscape by encouraging the greater uptake of sustainable drainage systems.	
To improve quality of surroundings	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	This policy seeks to avoid, reduce and manage flood risk by introducing measures to reduce surface water runoff, helping to protect historic and cultural assets in the process.	
To improve air quality	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	X	X	X	No relationship.	

To reduce contributions to climate change	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	++	++	++	This policy seeks to avoid, reduce and manage flood risk by introducing measures to reduce surface water runoff.	
To improve water quality	O	+	+	This policy is unlikely to affect the quality of water either way.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	++	++	++	This policy seeks to provide sustainable sources of water supply by aiming to reduce surface water runoff.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	++	++	++	This policy seeks to avoid, reduce and manage flood risk by introducing measures to reduce surface water runoff. Additional criteria have been added regarding flood risk areas and water management.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To improve the health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve natural and manmade resources	X	X	X	No relationship.	
<b>Overall commentary</b>	This policy would not lead to development itself but contains criteria to safeguard and mitigate against flooding issues, this has been strengthened within the revised policy.				

<b>++ Move towards significantly</b>	<b>+ Move towards Marginally</b>	<b>- Move away significantly</b>	<b>- Move away marginally</b>	<b>0 Neutral</b>	<b>? Uncertain</b>	<b>X No Relationship</b>
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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>SEA Objective</b>  <b>NDP Objective/Policy</b>	To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	To improve quality of surroundings	To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and culture heritage	To improve air quality	To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	To reduce contributions to climate change	To reduce vulnerability to climate change	To improve water quality	To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	To conserve soil resources and quality	To minimise the production of waste	To improve health of the population	To reduce crime and nuisance	To conserve natural and manmade resources
Objective 1 <sup>1</sup>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	+	0	+	?	X	X	+
Objective 2	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	+	0	+	?	X	X	+
Objective 3	+	+	+	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	+
Objective 4	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	?	?	?	?	X	X	X
Objective 5	?	?	?	?	-	-	-	-	0	0	?	?	X	+	X	?
Objective 6	?	?	?	?	-	-	-	-	0	0	?	?	X	+	X	?
Objective 7	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	X	+	X	+
Policy M1 <sup>2</sup>	++	++		+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	?				+
Policy M2	++	+		+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	?				+
Policy M3	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	?				+

<sup>1</sup> Refer to Draft Plan for details of objectives<sup>2</sup> Refer to Draft Plan for exact policy wording

Policy M4	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
Policy M5	+	+		+	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X
Policy M6	++	++		++	+	+	+	X	X	X	X	+				++
Policy M7	++	++		++	+	+	+	X	X	X	X	+				++
Policy M8	+	+		+	+	+	+	X	X	X	X	X				X
Policy M9	?	?		?	+	+	+	X	X	X	X	X				X
Policy M10	++	++		++	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	++				++
Policy M11	++	++		++	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	+				+
Policy M12	++	+		+	X	X	X	++	+	++	++	X				X
Policy M13	++	+		+	+	+	+	X	X	X	X	+				+
<b>Summary of effects of whole plan on each SEA Objective</b>	++	++		++	+	+	+	+	?o	+	+	?+				+
<b>Cumulative effects of whole plan (1 + 2 + 3...)</b>	<p>Overall the Marden NDP will contribute towards the achievement of the SEA objectives and consequently there is no reason why it should have a negative impact on the baseline.</p> <p>Policies have been redrafted in general conformity with the Core Strategy objectives and contain many policy safeguards to ensure that the potential adverse effects on environmental assets can be avoided or mitigated against. None of the policies are in direct conflict with those already assessed for the Core Strategy. Additional criteria have been added to 6 policies as a result of the previous consultation responses and Core Strategy main modifications.</p>															
<b>Commentary for significant cumulative effects</b>	No significant cumulative effects identified.															

# Appendix 6



Date: 19 March 2015  
Our ref: 144294  
Your ref: Marden



Mr J Latham  
Herefordshire Council  
Planning Services,  
Blueschool House,  
Blueschool Street  
Hereford,  
HR1 2ZB

Customer Services  
Hornbeam House  
Crewe Business Park  
Electra Way  
Crewe  
Cheshire  
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

## **BY EMAIL ONLY**

Dear Mr Latham

### **Re: Marden Neighbourhood Development Plan SEA and HRA**

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 06 February 2015.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

### **THE CONSERVATION OF HABITATS AND SPECIES REGULATIONS 2010 (AS AMENDED) (HABITATS REGULATIONS)**

#### **Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report**

This HRA should reflect the most up to date version of the Herefordshire Core Strategy HRA which is to be submitted as part of the examination of the Core Strategy. Therefore we advise that if you wish to proceed with the Neighbourhood Plan, prior to the adoption of the Core Strategy, the HRA will need to be amended and updated.

In Section 8 of the HRA, it appears the basis for the conclusion of no likely significant effect from the Marden Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), in combination with the draft Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy), is that in combination effects have been ruled out as the NDP aligns with the draft Local Plan.

The draft Local Plan has not yet been adopted and both it, and its HRA, are therefore potentially subject to further changes. Given this, relying on the draft Local Plan and its HRA to avoid or mitigate for any potential impact are not considered sufficient to be certain of avoiding impact at this stage. The NDP's HRA may, of course, rely on the evidence supporting the Local Plan's HRA to draw conclusions as to whether the policies in the plan will have significant effects on the River Wye Special Area of Conservation (SAC), and incorporate mitigation measures as necessary.

Natural England disagrees with the assertion made in the HRA that elements of policies M1, M2 & M3, together with M4 and M11 should help to avoid adverse impacts on the River Wye SAC (arising

from development associated with Policies M1, M2 and M3). We have therefore suggested the addition of an additional criterion within these 3 policies to ensure that development can only proceed where *any likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC can be avoided or mitigated*.

Natural England would suggest that amendments to both the HRA and these policies are necessary to provide the necessary certainty that likely significant effects can be avoided, and therefore enable the NDP to progress in advance of the Core Strategy.

### **Draft Marden Environment Report**

Natural England welcomes the production of an Environmental Report. Having reviewed the report Natural England confirms that it meets the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) European Directive and national regulations, and that we concur with its conclusions.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Gillian Driver on 0300 060 4335. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk).

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours sincerely

*Gillian Driver*

Miss Gillian Driver  
Planning Adviser  
South Mercia Team

# Appendix 7

NDP Objectives versus SEA Objectives (SMART and Compatibility Test)				
SEA Stage B1	Key:	SMART criteria:		<div>The following matrix appraises the emerging Marden NDP Objectives in terms of their SMART criteria and their compatibility with the SEA Objectives.</div> <div>These objectives have been developed from both Government guidance on SEA and from the local evidence base gathered for identifying the NDP issues.</div>
+	Compatible	<b>S – Specific:</b>	NDP objectives should specify what is intended to be done in detail and should not be open to a wide range of misinterpretations.	
-	Possible conflict	<b>M – Measurable:</b>	It should be possible to monitor NDP objectives in a quantifiable way, by the use of indicators. Indicators should be measurable with limited resource implications.	
0	Neutral	<b>A – Attainable/achievable:</b>	NDP objectives should be achievable and deliverable, related to the scale of growth proposed.	
X	No relationship between objectives	<b>R – Realistic:</b>	NDP objectives should relate to the overall vision of the plan. Likewise, chosen indicators should relate to objectives and their outcomes.	
?	Unclear, more information needed	<b>T – Time-Bound:</b>	Objectives should be specific to the NDP period or another specified time-frame. Objectives should be associated with a target and indicators should specify when the target should be achieved.	

<b>SEA Objectives</b>
<div><div>1. To maintain or enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)</div><div>2. To maintain or enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes</div><div>3. To improve quality of surroundings</div><div>4. To conserve or where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage</div><div>5. To improve air quality</div><div>6. To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment</div><div>7. To reduce contributions to climate change</div><div>8. To reduce vulnerability to climate change</div><div>9. To improve water quality</div><div>10. To provide for sustainable sources of water supply</div><div>11. To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk</div><div>12. To conserve soil resources and quality</div><div>13. To minimise the production of waste</div><div>14. To improve the health of the population</div><div>15. To reduce crime and nuisance</div><div>16. To conserve natural and manmade resources</div></div>

NDP objectives	SEA objectives																Conclusions	Recommendations	SMART Test of NDP objective	After SMART objective
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16				
<b>Objective 1</b> To deliver a vibrant village centre through a level of housing growth that is proportionate to the size and scale of Marden village and the surrounding countryside so that it retains its rural character.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	+	O	+	?	X	X	+	This objective infers that development should take place in accordance with the Core Strategy policies. Therefore sufficient safeguards exist to ensure mitigation.	None.	This objective is specific and measurable via the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR). It will be attainable, achievable and realistic.	Deliver proportional growth in line with the Core Strategy.
<b>Objective 2</b> To ensure that housing development in the surrounding hamlets of Litmarsh, Burmarsh, The Vault and other hamlets is managed appropriately.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	+	O	+	?	X	X	+	Not clear on the meaning of this objective; what is meant by managed appropriately? Therefore conclusion is based on the assumption that the objective relates to the control of housing in these settlements in line with Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy.	The use of the phrase 'managed appropriately' is considered to lack clarity and will therefore benefit from rewording.	This objective meets all the SMART objectives.	Deliver identified local housing need in line with the Core Strategy.
<b>Objective 3</b> To ensure all new development is informed by best practices current at the time of development and is designed to be in keeping with the surrounding character of the parish while promoting a heterogeneous appearance.	+	+	+	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	+	This objective is compatible with the relevant SEA objectives.	None.	This objective meets all the SMART objectives.	Deliver appropriately designed and sustainable developments.

<b>Objective 4</b> To ensure that new housing is provided in a suitable range of tenures, types, sizes, affordability ranges and is flexible in usage so that local people of all ages can continue to live in the parish in a suitable home, whilst families are attracted to the area and local housing needs are met.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	?	?	?	?	X	X	X	This objective is compatible with the majority of the relevant SEA objectives. Policy safeguards existing within both the Core Strategy and NDP to mitigate any impacts.	None.	This objective is specific and measurable via the AMR. It will be attainable, achievable and realistic.	Deliver minimal housing growth for local needs in line with the Core Strategy policy with minimal impact on the rural surroundings.
<b>Objective 5</b> To ensure that Marden has the appropriate local and community facilities to support present demand, future projected growth and demographic change. Developments must make a positive and tangible impact on the range and availability of community facilities and infrastructure by creating a focal point for the village.	?	?	?	?	-	-	-	-	0	0	?	?	X	+	X	?	To protect and retain existing facilities within the parish would not have any negative effect on the SEA objectives. However, the creation of new facilities may be to the detriment of natural and environmental assets and so the compatibility of this aspect of the objective is currently vague, as the exact location of the new facilities is not currently known.	Further details would be required on the location of any new community facilities, but policy safeguards existing within both the Core Strategy and the NDP to mitigate any impacts.	This objective relates well to the overall vision and has the ability to be monitored, and it is achievable. The timeframe is not indicated but will be for the lifetime of the plan.	Protecting existing local community facilities and exploring opportunities for the creation of a more sustainable community.

<b>Objective 6</b>  To welcome employment opportunities including working from home while ensuring current, new or expanded businesses within the parish are sympathetic to the environment or residential amenity.	?	?	?	?	-	-	-	-	0	0	?	?	x	+	x	?	To facilitate the growth of small businesses would be beneficial to human health and wellbeing as a consequence of the jobs and wealth created, but the design and location of new business units, along with the nature and scale of rural enterprises, would have an impact on the SEA objectives. The compatibility of this objective is currently vague, as the exact location and nature of new or expanded businesses is not currently known. Notwithstanding this, opportunities to work from home would have a positive impact in terms of reducing the need to travel and thus easing traffic congestion and attendant problems associated with air quality.	Further details would be required on the location of any new, small businesses and mitigation measures put in place to ensure there would be no adverse impacts on traffic, air quality, climate change issues and flood risk.	This objective meets the requirements of the SMART analysis as it is relative to the vision and achievable on the ground. Although this objective does not specifically state a timeframe in which it will be delivered, the objective as a whole is for the plan period and will in fact influence the area beyond the Plan period.	Encouraging the growth of existing businesses so long as they pose no threat to residential amenity and the sustainability of the landscape and natural qualities of the parish.
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<b>Objective 7</b> To ensure that the natural and built environment of the parish is protected and enhanced for future generations through sustainable development by protecting key environmental and heritage assets (e.g. green spaces and landscapes, natural environment designations) and taking account of constraints.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	X	+	X	+	Generally compatible with the relevant SEA objectives.	None.	This objective meets all the SMART objectives.	Exploring opportunities to protect or enhance the traditional heritage and landscapes up to 2031.
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NDP Objectives versus SEA Objectives (SMART and Compatibility Test)				
SEA Stage B1	Key:	SMART criteria:		<p>The following matrix appraises the emerging Marden NDP Policies in terms of their SMART criteria and their compatibility with the SEA Objectives and Baseline data.</p> <p>These objectives have been developed from both Government guidance on SEA and from the local evidence base gathered for identifying the NDP issues.</p>
+	Compatible/very compatible	<b>S – Specific:</b>	NDP objectives should specify what is intended to be done in detail and should not be open to a wide range of misinterpretations.	
-	Possible conflict	<b>M – Measurable:</b>	It should be possible to monitor NDP objectives in a quantifiable way, by the use of indicators. Indicators should be measurable with limited resource implications.	
0	Neutral	<b>A – Attainable/achievable</b>	NDP objectives should be achievable and deliverable, related to the scale of growth proposed.	
X	No relationship between objectives	<b>R – Realistic:</b>	NDP objectives should relate to the overall vision of the plan. Likewise, chosen indicators should relate to objectives and their outcomes.	
?	Unclear, more information needed	<b>T – Time-Bound:</b>	Objectives should be specific to the NDP period or another specified time-frame. Objectives should be associated with a target and indicators should specify when the target should be achieved.	
<b>SEA Objectives</b>			<b>Baseline carried over from Stage A</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To maintain or enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)</li> <li>To maintain or enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes</li> <li>To improve quality of surroundings</li> <li>To conserve or where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage</li> <li>To improve air quality</li> <li>To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment</li> <li>To reduce contributions to climate change</li> <li>To reduce vulnerability to climate change</li> <li>To improve water quality</li> <li>To provide for sustainable sources of water supply</li> <li>To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk</li> <li>To conserve soil resources and quality</li> <li>To minimise the production of waste</li> <li>To improve the health of the population</li> <li>To reduce crime and nuisance</li> <li>To conserve natural and manmade resources</li> </ol>			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marden has: 1 SAC; 3 SSSI; 7 SWS. There are no SINC's NNRs and LNRs.</li> <li>There are no outstanding enforcement actions or appeals concerning locally important buildings within the parish at present and there are no conservation areas.</li> <li>No baseline data available.</li> <li>There are numerous scheduled monuments across the parish according to the latest version of the County Sites and Monuments Register.</li> <li>Between 2005 and 2010 Herefordshire's total and per capita carbon emission reduced by 7% and 8% respectively; while the UK's total and per capita carbon emission reduced by 8% and 12% respectively within the same period.</li> <li>% of Herefordshire residents who travel to work by: Car: 70.1%, Foot: 14.7; Bicycle: 4.3%,Bus: 2%, Train: 0.8%,Motorbike: 0.8%,Taxi: 0.3%,Other: 7%.</li> <li>Figures on Herefordshire's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions date back to 2010: 1.62 million tonnes (mtCO<sub>2</sub>).</li> <li>Reduce the risk of flooding; there have been no approvals contrary to EA advice since reporting began in 2004.</li> <li>Percentage of river length assessed as good or very good chemical quality and ecological quality as required by the Water Framework Directive. Latest figure dates back to 2005; 84%</li> <li>The neighbourhood area is situated in the River Lugg catchment. Sub-catchments within this zone are one of the most rapid response flood warning systems in the SFRA area, recording standard percentage run off of 35-40%, which is potentially highly unsuitable for infiltration source control. The area has a very slow flood response (Tp-time to peak) time at around 11 hours. The WCS identifies a significant number of water bodies in the River Lugg catchment which have poor ecological status.</li> <li>Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on flood defence grounds; the 2011-2013 AMR does not contain updated conservation data.</li> <li>In 2011 the majority of land within the neighbourhood area was listed Grades 2 (Very Good) and 3 (Good) for its agricultural quality. The number of completions on previously development land (brownfield) during the same year was 67%.</li> <li>No baseline data available.</li> <li>No baseline data available.</li> <li>No baseline data available.</li> <li>There are numerous listed buildings within the parish and 3 SAMs, none of which are currently recorded in the Buildings at Risk Register.</li> </ol>	

NDP Policies	Baseline Data/SEA Objectives																Summary of impact of NDP policy in relation to baseline data	Recommendations	Conformity with Core Strategy
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
<b>Option 1</b> Do nothing	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	Do nothing option is essential not to produce a NDP and would rely on the criteria policies within the Core Strategy to guide further development. Specific policies and proposals for the parishes would not exist.	All developments would need to be in conformity with the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy has been subject to a Sustainability Appraisal and policies met the SEA objectives.	N/A
<b>Option 2</b> Allocate sites for housing	++	++		++	++	+	++	++	++	+	++	+				++	Allocation of sites for housing or other uses would give certainty to future development. Specific environmental issues could be investigated during the site search and be positively addressed within the policy wording. This option could have a positive effect on the baseline.	Pursuing this option would give greater certainty over future development within the area particularly within Marden Common, where proportional growth is expected. If required mitigation criteria can be added to site allocations policies to ensure all SEA objectives are achieved.	This option would meet the Core Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA.
<b>Option 3</b> Manage future housing using a settlement boundary	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	The designation of a settlement boundary will give additional certainty and help define those areas considered as the built form and open countryside. This can aid the direction of further growth to maintain the quality of the landscape and surroundings. There is less certainty over the positive effects on the baseline as any growth with be adjudged by criteria based policy.	Any settlement boundary would need to be designated to ensure that sufficient capacity was included to permit any proportional growth requirements. Criteria would need to be included within the policy to safeguard against effects on any SEA objectives.	This option would meet the Core Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA.
<b>Option 4</b> Allocate sites and identify a settlement boundary.	++	++		++	++	+	++	++	++	+	++	+				++	Allocation of sites for housing or other uses would give certainty to future development. Specific environmental issues could be investigated during the site search and be positively addressed within the policy wording. The designation of a settlement boundary will give additional certainty and help define those areas considered as the built form and open countryside This option could have a positive effect on the baseline.	Pursuing this option would give greater certainty over future development within the area particularly within Marden Common, where proportional growth is expected. If required mitigation criteria can be added to site allocations policies to ensure all SEA objectives are achieved.	This option would meet the Core Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA.

<b>Option 5</b> Manage future housing through a development management policy.	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	Criteria based policy does not give the same level of certainty as the other options as it will be more reactionary than proactive in terms of growth proposals. However, provided criteria is added to the policy to safeguard or mitigate against any harm, the option will have a positive effect on the baseline.	Criteria would need to be included within the policy to safeguard against effects on any SEA objectives.	This option would meet the Core Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA.
<b>Policy M1<sup>1</sup></b> Scale and type of new housing development	++	++		+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	?				+	Overall this policy has mainly a positive impact on the baseline data and the policy will enable the proportional growth indicated within Policy RA1 of the Core Strategy.	None.	This policy does not go beyond that within the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA.
<b>Policy M2</b> Scale and type of new housing development in the countryside.	?	?		?	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	?				+	Overall this policy has mainly a positive impact on the baseline data. There are some unknown locational issues at the stage, however other safeguarding policies exist within both the Core Strategy and NDP (namely policies M4 and M11) to provide adequate mitigation. This policy will enable appropriate small-scale developments in line with Policies H2, RA3 and RA4 of the Core Strategy.	None.	This policy does not go beyond that within the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA.
<b>Policy M3</b> Scale and type of new housing development in designated hamlets.	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	?				+	Overall this policy has mainly a positive impact on the baseline data. There are some unknown locational issues at the stage, however other safeguarding policies exist within both the Core Strategy and NDP (namely policies M4 and M11) to provide adequate mitigation. This policy will enable the proportional growth as indicated within Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy.	None.	This policy does not go beyond that within the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA.
<b>Policy M4</b> General design principles	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	This policy is compatible with the baseline, as it would not lead to development itself but contains criteria to guide design aspects of proposals.	None.	This policy does not go beyond that within the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA.

<sup>1</sup> Refer to Draft Plan for Policy Criteria

<b>Policy M5</b> Ensuring and appropriate range of tenures, types and sizes of houses	+	+		+	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	This policy is compatible with the relevant SEA objectives and will ensure an appropriate range and mix of housing, as well as affordable homes in line with Policies H2 and H3 of the Core Strategy.	None.	This policy does not go beyond that within the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA.
<b>Policy M6</b> Protection/extension of local community assets.	++	++		++	+	+	+	X	X	X	X	+				++	Overall the policy is compatible and has a positive impact on the baseline data, as it will encourage the continuing use of existing facilities and requires that extended facilities should be built within or adjacent to the settlement boundary, thus contributing to the village character and heritage environment. It will also reduce the need to travel to other areas for facilities, thus reducing the impact of climate change.	None.	This policy does meet the Core Strategy's requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
<b>Policy M7</b> New local employment opportunities.	++	++		++	+	+	+	X	X	X	X	+				++	Overall the policy is compatible and has a positive impact on the baseline data, as it requires that new provision be sought on sites that are within or adjacent to the settlement boundary or which have been allocated for that purpose. Consequently, there are no locational issues and the policy will therefore contribute to sustaining village character and heritage environment. It will also reduce the need to travel to other areas for employment, thus reducing the impact of climate change.	None.	This policy does meet the Core Strategy's requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
<b>Policy M8</b> Supporting, enhancing and protecting existing local employment.	+	+		+	+	+	+	X	X	X	X	X				X	Expanded business premises can have an adverse effect on natural resources, air quality, highways etc, depending on their nature and scale, but additional policy safeguards within both the NDP and Core Strategy would help mitigate these issues and thus ensure that the policy is compatible with the SEA objectives.	None.	This policy does meet the Core Strategy's requirements for the purposes of the SEA.

<b>Policy M9</b> Supporting development of communications infrastructure.	?	?		?	+	+	+	X	X	X	X	X				X	The policy is generally compatible with the relevant baseline data; the siting of relevant schemes will be key to determining the extent to which they would have a detrimental impact on nature conservation and landscape character, but safeguarding policies exist within both the Core Strategy and NDP to provide adequate mitigation. In addition, improvements to broadband can result in greater uptake of online transactions and home working, thereby reducing the need to travel and helping the environment.	None.	This policy does meet the Core Strategy's requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
<b>Policy M10</b> Protection of local greenspaces.	++	++		++	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	++				++	Overall the policy is compatible and has a positive impact on the relevant baseline data.	None.	This policy does meet the Core Strategy's requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
<b>Policy M11</b> Landscape character	++	++		++	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	+				+	This is not a policy which will directly result in development but a criteria policy designed to ensure that proposals respect the character of the Herefordshire Lowlands Character Area.	None.	This policy does meet the Core Strategy's requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
<b>Policy M12</b> Surface water run-off	++	+		+	X	X	X	++	O	++	++	X				X	This policy would not lead to development itself but contains criteria to safeguard and mitigate against flooding issues.	None.	This policy does meet the Core Strategy's requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
<b>Policy M13</b> Public rights of way/connectivity.	++	+		+	+	+	+	X	X	X	X	+				+	Overall the policy is compatible and has a positive impact on the relevant baseline data.	None.	This policy does meet the Core Strategy's requirements for the purposes of the SEA.

<b>++ Move towards significantly</b>	<b>+ Move towards Marginally</b>	<b>- Move away significantly</b>	<b>- Move away marginally</b>	<b>0 Neutral</b>	<b>? Uncertain</b>	<b>X No relationship</b>
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Policy M1: Scale and type of new housing development						
SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (Cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation		Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)			
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to proportional growth in line with Policy RA1 of the Core Strategy.		
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	++	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to proportional growth in line with Policy RA1 of the Core Strategy.		
To improve quality of surroundings	N/A	N/A	N/A			
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	++	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to proportional growth in line with Policy RA1 of the Core Strategy.		
To improve air quality	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to proportional growth in line with Policy RA1 of the Core Strategy.		
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	++	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to proportional growth in line with Policy RA1 of the Core Strategy.		
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	++	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to proportional growth in line with Policy RA1 of the Core Strategy.		
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to proportional growth in line with Policy RA1 of the Core Strategy.		



To improve water quality	?	+	+	House building on allocated sites could place acute pressure on sewerage systems, but this policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to proportional growth in line with Policy RA1 of the Core Strategy.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to proportional growth in line with Policy RA1 of the Core Strategy.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to proportional growth in line with Policy RA1 of the Core Strategy.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	?	+	+	Policy safeguards that exist elsewhere within the NDP, namely Criterion I of Policy M4 (brownfield first), should ensure that housing development would not compromise the quality of the best agricultural land in the medium term.	
To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To improve the health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to proportional growth in line with Policy RA1 of the Core Strategy.	
<b>Overall commentary</b>	This policy compliments Policy RA1 of the Core Strategy and would only lead to growth which is proportionate to the size of the village. Policy safeguarding exists to ensure that environmental considerations are taken into account.				

Policy M2: Scale and type of housing development in the countryside					
SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (Cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	?	+	+	It is impossible to predict the short-term effects of house building, albeit on a small scale in as yet unspecified locations. However, this policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policies H2, RA3 and RA4 of the Core Strategy.	

To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	?	+	+	It is impossible to predict the short-term effects of house building, albeit on a small scale in as yet unspecified locations. However, this policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policies H2, RA3 and RA4 of the Core Strategy.	
To improve quality of surroundings	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	?	+	+	It is impossible to predict the short-term effects of house building, albeit on a small scale in as yet unspecified locations. However, this policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policies H2, RA3 and RA4 of the Core Strategy.	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policies H2, RA3 and RA4 of the Core Strategy.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	?	+	+	It is impossible to predict the short-term effects of house building, albeit on a small scale in as yet unspecified locations. However, this policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policies H2, RA3 and RA4 of the Core Strategy.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	?	+	+	It is impossible to predict the short-term effects of house building, albeit on a small scale in as yet unspecified locations. However, this policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policy H2, RA3 and RA4 of the Core Strategy.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policies H2, RA3 and RA4 of the Core Strategy.	
To improve water quality	?	?	+	It is impossible to predict the short-term effects of house building, albeit on a small scale in as yet unspecified locations. However, this policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policies H2, RA3 and RA4 of the Core Strategy.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policies H2, RA3 and RA4 of the Core Strategy.	



To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policies H2, RA3 and RA4 of the Core Strategy.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	?	?	+	It is impossible to predict the short-term effects of house building, albeit on a small scale in as yet unspecified locations. However, this policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policies H2, RA3 and RA4 of the Core Strategy.	
To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To improve the health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policies H2, RA3 and RA4 of the Core Strategy.	
<b>Overall commentary</b>	This policy compliments Policies H2, RA3 and RA4 of the Core Strategy; in spite of some locational issues policy safeguarding exists to ensure that environmental considerations are taken into account and any potential adverse impacts mitigated against.				

<b>Policy M3: Scale and type of new housing development in designated hamlets</b>					
<b>SEA Objective</b>	<b>Assessment of effect</b> (Cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			<b>Summary Explanation</b>	<b>Enhancement and mitigation opportunities</b>
	<b>Short term</b> (1 – 5 years)	<b>Medium term</b> (6 – 10 years)	<b>Long term</b> (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	?	+	+	It is impossible to predict the short-term effects of house building, albeit on a small scale in as yet unspecified locations. However, this policy contains a range of safeguarding measures and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	?	+	+	It is impossible to predict the short-term effects of house building, albeit on a small scale in as yet unspecified locations. However, this policy contains a range of safeguarding measures and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy.	

To improve quality of surroundings	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	?	+	+	It is impossible to predict the short-term effects of house building, albeit on a small scale in as yet unspecified locations. However, this policy contains a range of safeguarding measures and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy.	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	?	+	+	It is impossible to predict the short-term effects of house building, albeit on a small scale in as yet unspecified locations. However, this policy contains a range of safeguarding measures and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	?	+	+	It is impossible to predict the short-term effects of house building, albeit on a small scale in as yet unspecified locations. However, this policy contains a range of safeguarding measures and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy.	
To improve water quality	?	?	+	It is impossible to predict the short-term effects of house building, albeit on a small scale in as yet unspecified locations. However, this policy contains a range of safeguarding measures and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy.	

To conserve soil resources and quality	?	?	+	It is impossible to predict the short-term effects of house building, albeit on a small scale in as yet unspecified locations. However, this policy contains a range of safeguarding measures and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy.	
To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To improve the health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to very small scale development in line with Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy.	
<b>Overall commentary</b>	This policy compliments Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy; in spite of some locational issues policy safeguarding exists to ensure that environmental considerations are taken into account and any potential adverse impacts mitigated against.				

Policy M4: General design principles					
SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (Cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but contains the design criteria for development proposals. The policy is not over and above the Core Strategy.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but contains the design criteria for development proposals. The policy is not over and above the Core Strategy.	
To improve quality of surroundings	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but contains the design criteria for development proposals. The policy is not over and above the Core Strategy.	

To improve air quality	+	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but contains the design criteria for development proposals. The policy is not over and above the Core Strategy.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but contains the design criteria for development proposals. The policy is not over and above the Core Strategy.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but contains the design criteria for development proposals. The policy is not over and above the Core Strategy.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but contains the design criteria for development proposals. The policy is not over and above the Core Strategy.	
To improve water quality	+	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but contains the design criteria for development proposals. The policy is not over and above the Core Strategy.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	+	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but contains the design criteria for development proposals. The policy is not over and above the Core Strategy.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but contains the design criteria for development proposals. The policy is not over and above the Core Strategy.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but contains the design criteria for development proposals. The policy is not over and above the Core Strategy.	
To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To improve the health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but contains the design criteria for development proposals. The policy is not over and above the Core Strategy.	
<b>Overall commentary</b>	This policy would not lead to development itself but contains criteria to guide design aspects of proposals. The policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and policy safeguards exist with the Core Strategy and the NDP to avoid and mitigate against significant harm.				

Policy M5: Ensuring an appropriate range of tenures, types and size of houses					
SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (Cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would facilitate the delivery of an appropriate range and mix of housing in line with Policy H3 of the Core Strategy.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would facilitate the delivery of an appropriate range and mix of housing in line with Policy H3 of the Core Strategy.	
To improve quality of surroundings	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would facilitate the delivery of an appropriate range and mix of housing in line with Policy H3 of the Core Strategy.	
To improve air quality	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To improve water quality	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	X	X	X	No relationship.	

To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To improve the health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve natural and manmade resources	X	X	X	No relationship.	
<b>Overall commentary</b>	This policy compliments Policy H3 of the Core Strategy and should ensure that residential developments provide an appropriate range and mix of housing. Policy safeguarding exists to ensure that environmental considerations are taken into account.				

<b>Policy M6: Protection/extension of Local Community Facilities</b>					
<b>SEA Objective</b>	<b>Assessment of effect</b> (Cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			<b>Summary Explanation</b>	<b>Enhancement and mitigation opportunities</b>
	<b>Short term</b> (1 – 5 years)	<b>Medium term</b> (6 – 10 years)	<b>Long term</b> (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	++	++	No relationship. This policy seeks to encourage the continuing and increase use of existing community facilities.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	++	++	The policy encourages the continuing use of community facilities. The use of the existing facilities will help maintain the quality of the 'townscape' and character of the area.	
To improve quality of surroundings	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	++	++	The policy encourages the continuing use of community facilities. The use of the existing facilities will help maintain the quality the character of the area.	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	Encouraging the continuing use of existing facilities will help to reduce the need to travel to other facilities and services.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	++	++	Encouraging the continuing use of existing facilities will help to reduce the need to travel to other facilities and services.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	++	++	Encouraging the continuing use of existing facilities will help to reduce the need to travel to other facilities and	

				services.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To improve water quality	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	Encouraging the continuing use of existing facilities will help to reduce the need to develop additional land for recreations or community uses.	
To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To improve the health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	++	++	Encouraging the continuing use of existing facilities will help to reduce the need to develop additional land and use additional resources for recreations or community uses.	
<b>Overall commentary</b>	Overall the policy is compatible and has a positive impact on the baseline data, as it will encourage the continuing use of existing facilities thus contributing to the village character and heritage environment. It will also reduce the need to travel to other areas for facilities, thus reducing the impact of climate change.				

Policy M7: New local employment opportunities					
SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (Cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	++	++	This policy requires that new employment premises be located on sites that are within or adjacent to the settlement boundary or which have been allocated for that purpose. Consequently, there are no locational issues and the policy should not, therefore, have an adverse impact on nature conservation.	



To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	++	++	This policy requires that new employment premises be located on sites that are within or adjacent to the settlement boundary or which have been allocated for that purpose. Consequently, there are no locational issues and the policy should not, therefore, have an adverse impact on landscape character and the built environment.	
To improve quality of surroundings	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	++	++	This policy requires that new employment premises be located on sites that are within or adjacent to the settlement boundary or which have been allocated for that purpose. Consequently, there are no locational issues and the policy should, therefore, have a positive impact on sustaining village character and the heritage environment.	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	This policy requires that new employment premises be located on sites that are within or adjacent to the settlement boundary or which have been allocated for that purpose. It will therefore reduce the need to travel to other areas for employment, to the benefit of air quality.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	This policy requires that new employment premises be located on sites that are within or adjacent to the settlement boundary or which have been allocated for that purpose. It will therefore reduce the need to travel to other areas for employment, to the benefit of traffic flow.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	This policy requires that new employment premises be located on sites that are within or adjacent to the settlement boundary or which have been allocated for that purpose. It will therefore reduce the need to travel to other areas for employment, thus reducing the impact of climate change.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To improve water quality	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This policy will help to prevent new employment premises from being built on the best agricultural land by requiring that they be located on sites that are within or adjacent to the settlement boundary or which have been allocated for that purpose.	
To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A		



To improve the health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	++	++	To restrict the development of new employment premises to land adjacent or within the settlement boundary should negate the need to develop additional land and use additional resources for employment uses.	
<b>Overall commentary</b>					

<b>Policy M8: Supporting, enhancing and protecting existing local employment</b>					
<b>SEA Objective</b>	<b>Assessment of effect</b> (Cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			<b>Summary Explanation</b>	<b>Enhancement and mitigation opportunities</b>
	<b>Short term</b> (1 – 5 years)	<b>Medium term</b> (6 – 10 years)	<b>Long term</b> (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	+	The continued use of existing employment land and premises will reduce the likelihood of alternative sites being put forward for business purposes, to the detriment of the natural environment. Policy safeguards exist to ensure that any new or expanded business premises would not have an unacceptable adverse impact.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	The continued use of existing employment land and premises will reduce the likelihood of alternative sites being put forward for business purposes, to the detriment of landscape character and the historic character of townscape. Policy safeguards exist to ensure that any new or expanded business premises would not have an unacceptable adverse impact.	
To improve quality of surroundings	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	The continued use of existing employment land and premises will reduce the likelihood of alternative sites being put forward for business purposes, to the detriment of the landscape character and the historic character of townscape. Policy safeguards exist to ensure that any new or expanded business premises would not have an unacceptable adverse impact.	

To improve air quality	?	+	+	Increase in opportunities over time will reduce the need to travel by car as more business and services can be undertaken from within the parish. Policy safeguards exist to ensure that any new or expanded business premises would not have an unacceptable adverse impact.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	?	+	+	Increase in opportunities over time will reduce the need to travel by car as more business and services can be undertaken from within the parish. Policy safeguards exist to ensure that any new or expanded business premises would not have an unacceptable adverse impact.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	?	+	+	Increase in opportunities over time will reduce the need to travel by car as more business and services can be undertaken from within the parish. Policy safeguards exist to ensure that any new or expanded business premises would not have an unacceptable adverse impact.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To improve water quality	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To improve the health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve natural and manmade resources	X	X	X	No relationship.	
<b>Overall commentary</b>	Additional policy safeguards within the NDP would help mitigate any unacceptable adverse impacts resulting from this policy.				

Policy M9: Small scale renewable and low carbon energy schemes					
SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (Cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	?	+	+	This policy is aiming to increase connectivity within the parish. Whilst, depending on their siting, new installations could have some impact, policy safeguards exist within the policy to avoid or mitigate effects on the natural environment.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	?	+	+	This policy is aiming to increase connectivity within the parish. Whilst, depending on their siting, new installations could have some impact, policy safeguards exist within the policy to avoid or mitigate effects on landscape character and the built environment.	
To improve quality of surroundings	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	?	+	+	This policy is aiming to increase connectivity within the parish. Whilst, depending on their siting, new installations could have some impact, policy safeguards exist within the policy to avoid or mitigate effects on the historic environment and heritage assets.	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	Increase in connectivity over time will reduce the need to travel by car as more business and services can be undertaken from home.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	++	++	Increase in connectivity over time will reduce the need to travel by car as more business and services can be undertaken from home.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	++	++	Increase in connectivity over time will reduce the need to travel by car as more business and services can be undertaken from home.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To improve water quality	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	X	X	X	No relationship.	

To conserve soil resources and quality	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To improve the health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve natural and manmade resources	X	X	X	No relationship.	
<b>Overall commentary</b>	The policy is aiming to increase connectivity within the parish. A number of policy criteria safeguards exist both within the Core Strategy and the NDP to avoid or mitigate any adverse impacts on the environment.				

Policy M10: Protection of local greenspaces					
SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (Cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	++	++	++	This policy should make a positive contribution to the protection or enhancement of the natural environment.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	++	++	++	The protection or enhancement of local greenspaces should help maintain the quality of the 'townscape' and character of the area.	
To improve quality of surroundings	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	++	++	++	The protection or enhancement of local greenspaces should help maintain the quality the character of the area.	
To improve air quality	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	X	X	X	No relationship.	

To reduce vulnerability to climate change	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To improve water quality	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	++	++	++	This policy will provide added protection to the finest agricultural land.	
To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To improve the health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve natural and manmade resources	++	++	++	To protect or enhance local greenspaces should negate the need to develop additional land and use additional resources for recreations or community uses.	
<b>Overall commentary</b>	This policy does meet the Core Strategy's requirements for the purposes of the SEA.				

<b>Policy M11: Landscape Character</b>					
<b>SEA Objective</b>	<b>Assessment of effect</b>  (Cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			<b>Summary Explanation</b>	<b>Enhancement and mitigation opportunities</b>
	<b>Short term</b> (1 – 5 years)	<b>Medium term</b> (6 – 10 years)	<b>Long term</b> (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	++	++	++	This policy seeks to protect or enhance opportunities for biodiversity by supporting development proposals which encourage country stewardship schemes.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	++	++	++	This policy seeks to protect or enhance the landscape through requiring good design, use of local building materials etc and should therefore ensure that the character of townscape is reflected in development proposals.	

To improve quality of surroundings	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	This policy seeks to protect or enhance the landscape through requiring good design and should therefore have a positive impact the historic environment.	
To improve air quality	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To improve water quality	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	Affording a greater degree of protection to the landscape should feed into conservation of soil quality.	
To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To improve the health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	Affording a greater degree of protection to the landscape will contribute to the conservation of natural resources.	
<b>Overall commentary</b>	This is not a policy which will not directly result in development but a criteria policy designed to avoid inappropriate forms of development within the Herefordshire Lowlands Landscape Character Area.				

Policy M12: Surface water run-off					
SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (Cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	++	++	++	Greater uptake of sustainable drainage system following the application of this policy will bring benefits to the natural environment.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	This policy seeks to reduce surface water runoff in the landscape and townscape by encouraging the greater uptake of sustainable drainage systems.	
To improve quality of surroundings	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	This policy seeks to avoid, reduce and manage flood risk by introducing measures to reduce surface water runoff, helping to protect historic and cultural assets in the process.	
To improve air quality	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	++	++	++	This policy seeks to avoid, reduce and manage flood risk by introducing measures to reduce surface water runoff.	
To improve water quality	O	O	O	This policy is unlikely to affect the quality of water either way.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	++	++	++	This policy seeks to provide sustainable sources of water supply by aiming to reduce surface water runoff.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	++	++	++	This policy seeks to avoid, reduce and manage flood risk by introducing measures to reduce surface water runoff.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A		

To improve the health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve natural and manmade resources	X	X	X	No relationship.	
<b>Overall commentary</b>	This policy would not lead to development itself but contains criteria to safeguard and mitigate against flooding issues.				

<b>Policy M13: Moving around Marden</b>					
<b>SEA Objective</b>	<b>Assessment of effect</b> (Cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			<b>Summary Explanation</b>	<b>Enhancement and mitigation opportunities</b>
	<b>Short term</b> (1 – 5 years)	<b>Medium term</b> (6 – 10 years)	<b>Long term</b> (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	+	Overall the policy is compatible and has a positive impact on the relevant baseline data.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	Overall the policy is compatible and has a positive impact on the relevant baseline data.	
To improve quality of surroundings	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	Overall the policy is compatible and has a positive impact on the relevant baseline data.	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	Overall the policy is compatible and has a positive impact on the relevant baseline data.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	Overall the policy is compatible and has a positive impact on the relevant baseline data.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	Overall the policy is compatible and has a positive impact on the relevant baseline data.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To improve water quality	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	X	X	X	No relationship.	



To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	Overall the policy is compatible and has a positive impact on the relevant baseline data.	
To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To improve the health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	Overall the policy is compatible and has a positive impact on the relevant baseline data.	
<b>Overall commentary</b>	Overall the policy is compatible and has a positive impact on the relevant baseline data.				

<b>++ Move towards significantly</b>	<b>+ Move towards Marginally</b>	<b>- Move away significantly</b>	<b>- Move away marginally</b>	<b>0 Neutral</b>	<b>? Uncertain</b>	<b>X No Relationship</b>
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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>SEA Objective</b>  <b>NDP Objective/Policy</b>	To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	To improve quality of surroundings	To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and culture heritage	To improve air quality	To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	To reduce contributions to climate change	To reduce vulnerability to climate change	To improve water quality	To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	To conserve soil resources and quality	To minimise the production of waste	To improve health of the population	To reduce crime and nuisance	To conserve natural and manmade resources
Objective 1 <sup>1</sup>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	+	0	+	?	X	X	+
Objective 2	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	+	0	+	?	X	X	+
Objective 3	+	+	+	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	+
Objective 4	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	?	?	?	?	X	X	X
Objective 5	?	?	?	?	-	-	-	-	0	0	?	?	X	+	X	?
Objective 6	?	?	?	?	-	-	-	-	0	0	?	?	X	+	X	?
Objective 7	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	X	+	X	+
Policy M1 <sup>2</sup>	++	++		+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	?				+
Policy M2	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	?				+
Policy M3	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	?				+

<sup>1</sup> Refer to Draft Plan for details of objectives<sup>2</sup> Refer to Draft Plan for exact policy wording

Policy M4	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
Policy M5	+	+		+	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X
Policy M6	++	++		++	+	+	+	X	X	X	X	+				++
Policy M7	++	++		++	+	+	+	X	X	X	X	+				++
Policy M8	+	+		+	+	+	+	X	X	X	X	X				X
Policy M9	?	?		?	+	+	+	X	X	X	X	X				X
Policy M10	++	++		++	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	++				++
Policy M11	++	++		++	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	+				+
Policy M12	++	+		+	X	X	X	++	O	++	++	X				X
Policy M13	++	+		+	+	+	+	X	X	X	X	+				+
<b>Summary of effects of whole plan on each SEA Objective</b>	++	++		++	+	+	+	+	?O	+	+	?+				+
<b>Cumulative effects of whole plan (1 + 2 + 3...)</b>	<p>Overall the Marden NDP will contribute towards the achievement of the SEA objectives and consequently there is no reason why it should have a negative impact on the baseline.</p> <p>Policies have been drafted in general conformity with the Core Strategy objectives and contain many policy safeguards to ensure that the potential adverse effects on environmental assets can be avoided or mitigated against. None of the policies are in direct conflict with those already assessed for the Core Strategy.</p>															
<b>Commentary for significant cumulative effects</b>	No significant cumulative effects identified.															

# Appendix 8

**Options Considered in preparation of Marden NDP**

1. Do nothing
2. Allocate sites for housing
3. Manage future housing by using a settlement boundary
4. Allocate sites and identify a settlement boundary
5. Manage future housing by using a development management policy

# Appendix 9

++ Move towards significantly	+ Move towards Marginally	- - Move away significantly	- Move away marginally	0 Neutral	? Uncertain	N/A No relationship
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Policy M1: Scale and type of new housing development						
SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (Cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities	
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)			
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	+			
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	++			
To improve quality of surroundings	N/A	N/A	N/A			
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	++			
To improve air quality	+	+	+			
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	++	Additional criteria added regarding the need and content of a transport assessment		
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	++			
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+			
To improve water quality	?	+	+			
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	+	+	+			
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+			
To conserve soil resources and quality	?	+	+			
To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A			
To improve the health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A			
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A			
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+			

Overall commentary	This policy compliments Policy RA1 of the Core Strategy and would only lead to growth which is proportionate to the size of the village. Policy safeguarding exists to ensure that environmental considerations are taken into account.				
Policy M2: Scale and type of housing development in the countryside					
SEA Objective	Assessment of effect  (Cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation of changes	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term  (1 – 5 years)	Medium term  (6 – 10 years)	Long term  (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	?	+	++	Policy criterion has been added to clarify with regards to infill development and density.	n/a
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscape	?	+	++	Policy criterion has been added to clarify with regards to infill development and density.	n/a
To improve quality of surroundings	N/A	N/A	N/A		n/a
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	?	+	++	Policy criterion has been added to clarify with regards to infill development and density.	n/a
To improve air quality	+	+	+		n/a
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	?	+	+		n/a
To reduce contributions to climate change	?	+	+		n/a
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+		n/a
To improve water quality	?	?	+		n/a
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	+	+	+		n/a
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+		n/a
To conserve soil resources and quality	?	?	+		n/a
To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A		n/a
To improve the health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A		n/a
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A		n/a
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	++	Policy criterion has been added to clarify with regards to infill development and density.	n/a
Overall commentary	This policy compliments Policies H2, RA3 and RA4 of the Core Strategy; in spite of some locational issues policy safeguarding exists to ensure that environmental considerations are taken into account and any potential adverse impacts mitigated against.				



Policy M7: New local employment opportunities					
SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (Cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation of changes	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	++	++	Additional criterion has been added to safeguard the River Wye SAC	n/a
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	++	++	Additional criterion has been added to safeguard the River Wye SAC	n/a
To improve quality of surroundings	N/A	N/A	N/A		n/a
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	++	++	Additional criterion has been added to safeguard the River Wye SAC	n/a
To improve air quality	+	+	+		n/a
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+		n/a
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+		n/a
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	x	x	x		n/a
To improve water quality	+	+	+	Additional criterion has been added to safeguard the River Wye SAC	n/a
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	x	x	x		n/a
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	x	x	x		n/a
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+		n/a
To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A		n/a
To improve the health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A		n/a
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A		n/a
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	++	++	Additional criterion has been added to safeguard the River Wye SAC	n/a
<b>Overall commentary</b>	This policy conforms to RA6 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and additional policy criterion has been added to ensure that the River Wye SAC is safeguarded.				

Policy M8: Supporting, enhancing and protecting existing local employment					
SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (Cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation of changes	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	++	Additional criterion has been added to safeguard the River Wye SAC	n/a
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	++	Additional criterion has been added to safeguard the River Wye SAC	n/a
To improve quality of surroundings	N/A	N/A	N/A		n/a
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	++	Additional criterion has been added to safeguard the River Wye SAC	n/a
To improve air quality	?	+	+		n/a
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	?	+	+		n/a
To reduce contributions to climate change	?	+	+		n/a
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	x	x	x		n/a
To improve water quality	+	+	+	Additional criterion has been added to safeguard the River Wye SAC	n/a
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	x	x	x		n/a
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	x	x	x		n/a
To conserve soil resources and quality	x	x	x		n/a
To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A		n/a
To improve the health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A		n/a
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A		n/a
To conserve natural and manmade resources	x	x	x		
<b>Overall commentary</b>	Additional policy safeguards within the NDP would help mitigate any unacceptable adverse impacts resulting from this policy. Additional policy criteria has been added to ensure that the River Wye SAC is safeguarded.				

Policy M10: Protection of local greenspaces					
SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (Cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation of changes	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	++	++	++	Additional criterion has been added to safeguard the River Wye SAC	n/a
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	++	++	++	Additional criterion has been added to safeguard the River Wye SAC	n/a
To improve quality of surroundings	N/A	N/A	N/A		n/a
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	++	++	++	Additional criterion has been added to safeguard the River Wye SAC	n/a
To improve air quality	x	x	x		n/a
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	x	x	x		n/a
To reduce contributions to climate change	x	x	x		n/a
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	x	x	x		n/a
To improve water quality	+	+	+	Additional criterion has been added to safeguard the River Wye SAC	n/a
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	x	x	x		n/a
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	x	x	x		n/a
To conserve soil resources and quality	++	++	++	Additional criterion has been added to safeguard the River Wye SAC	n/a
To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A		n/a
To improve the health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A		n/a
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A		n/a
To conserve natural and manmade resources	++	++	++	Additional criterion has been added to safeguard the River	n/a

				Wye SAC	
<b>Overall commentary</b>	This policy does meet the Core Strategy's requirements for the purposes of the SEA. Additional criterion has been added to safeguard the River Wye SAC.				

<b>Policy M12: Surface water run-off</b>					
<b>SEA Objective</b>	<b>Assessment of effect</b> (Cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			<b>Summary Explanation</b>	<b>Enhancement and mitigation opportunities</b>
	<b>Short term</b> (1 – 5 years)	<b>Medium term</b> (6 – 10 years)	<b>Long term</b> (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	++	++	++	Additional criterion has been added to safeguard the River Wye SAC	n/a
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	Additional criterion has been added to safeguard the River Wye SAC	n/a
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	Refined wording regards flooding aspects within the village and the location of new development	n/a
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	Additional criterion has been added to safeguard the River Wye SAC	n/a
To improve air quality	x	x	x		n/a
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	x	x	x		n/a
To reduce contributions to climate change	x	x	x		n/a
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	++	++	++	Refined wording regards flooding aspects within the village and the location of new development	n/a
To improve water quality	o	o	+	Additional criterion has been added to safeguard the River Wye SAC	n/a
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	++	++	++		n/a
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	++	++	++	Refined wording regards flooding aspects within the village and the location of new development	n/a
To conserve soil resources and quality	x	x	x		n/a
To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A		n/a

To improve the health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A		n/a
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A		n/a
To conserve natural and manmade resources	x	x	+	Additional criterion has been added to safeguard the River Wye SAC. Refined wording regards flooding aspects within the village and the location of new development	n/a
<b>Overall commentary</b>	This policy would not lead to development itself but contains criteria to safeguard and mitigate against flooding issues and safeguards for the River Wye SAC.				

<b>Policy M13: Moving around Marden</b>					
<b>SEA Objective</b>	<b>Assessment of effect</b> (Cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			<b>Summary Explanation</b>	<b>Enhancement and mitigation opportunities</b>
	<b>Short term</b> (1 – 5 years)	<b>Medium term</b> (6 – 10 years)	<b>Long term</b> (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	+		n/a
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	Change to clarify that policy applies to new residential development	n/a
To improve quality of surroundings	N/A	N/A	N/A		n/a
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	Change to clarify that policy applies to new residential development	n/a
To improve air quality	+	+	+		n/a
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+		n/a
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+		n/a
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	x	x	x		n/a
To improve water quality	x	x	x		n/a
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	x	x	x		n/a
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	x	x	x		n/a
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+		n/a
To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A		n/a
To improve the health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A		n/a

To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A		n/a
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	Change to clarify that policy applies to new residential development	n/a
Overall commentary	Overall the policy is compatible and has a positive impact on the relevant baseline data. The only change made has been to clarify that the policy will apply to all new residential development.				

# Appendix 10

Objectives and context	Where referenced in NDP/SEA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Neighbourhood Development Plan's purpose and objectives are made clear.</li> <li>• The Neighbourhood Area's environmental issues and constraints, including acknowledgement of those in the Local Plan (Core Strategy) SA, where relevant, and local environmental protection objectives, are considered in developing objectives and targets.</li> <li>• SEA objectives are clearly set out and linked to indicators and targets where appropriate.</li> <li>• Links with other locally related plans, programmes and policies are identified, explained and acknowledgement for those set out in the SA of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) is given, where relevant.</li> <li>• Conflicts that exist between SEA and Neighbourhood Development Plan objectives; and between SEA objectives and other local plan objectives are identified and described.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 1 (paras 1.6 – 1.18).</li> <li>• Sections 2 and 3; and Tables A2 and A3</li> <li>• Section 3 (para 3.7).</li> <li>• Section 3 (para 3.1).</li> <li>• Section 4 (paras 4.4 – 4.6)</li> </ul>
Scoping	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statutory Consultees are consulted in appropriate ways and at appropriate times on the content and scope of the Environmental Report.</li> <li>• The assessment focuses on significant issues.</li> <li>• Technical, procedural and other difficulties encountered are discussed; assumptions and uncertainties are made explicit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 2 (paras 2.6 – 2.9) &amp; Appendix 3</li> <li>• Sections 2 and 6</li> <li>• Sections 2 and 6</li> </ul>



<b>Alternatives</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Realistic alternatives are considered for key issues, and the reasons for choosing them are documented.</li> <li>Alternatives include 'do minimum' and/or 'business as usual' scenarios wherever relevant.</li> <li>The environmental effects (both adverse and beneficial) of each alternative are identified and compared.</li> <li>Inconsistencies between the alternatives and other relevant local plans, programmes or policies are identified and explained.</li> <li>Reasons are given for selection or elimination of alternatives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 5.</li> <li>Section 5 (paras 5.2 – 5.4).</li> <li>Section 5 &amp; Appendix 5 and 7</li> <li>N/A</li> <li>Section 5 (paras 5.2 – 5.4).</li> </ul>
<b>Baseline information</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relevant aspects of the current state of the local, neighbourhood area environment and their likely evolution without the Neighbourhood Development Plan are described. Acknowledgement to the information in the SA of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) is given, where relevant.</li> <li>Environmental characteristics of the local, neighbourhood area, likely to be significantly affected are described, including areas wider than the physical boundary of the designated neighbourhood area, where it is likely to be affected by the Neighbourhood Development Plan.</li> <li>Difficulties such as deficiencies in information or methods are explained.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 1 and 6.</li> <li>Initial screening report and Section 1.</li> <li>Section 2.</li> </ul>

<b>Prediction and evaluation of likely significant environmental effects</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effects identified include the types listed in the Directive (biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climate factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape), as relevant; and other local likely environmental effects are also covered, as appropriate.</li> <li>Both positive and negative effects are considered, and the duration of effects (short, medium or long-term) is addressed.</li> <li>Likely secondary, cumulative (growing in quantity and strength) and synergistic (acting together) effects are identified, where practicable.</li> <li>Inter-relationships between effects are considered, where practicable.</li> <li>The prediction and evaluation of effects makes use of relevant accepted standards, regulations, and thresholds (i.e. data gathered for the evidence base).</li> <li>Methods used to evaluate the effects are described.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tables A2, A3 and A4 (Appendix 2)</li> <li>Tables B2 and B3 (Appendix 4) and D3 Appendix 9</li> <li>Table B4 (Appendix 5 and 7)</li> <li>Section 6</li> <li>Section 6</li> <li>Section 2</li> </ul>
<b>Mitigation measures</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the Neighbourhood Development Plan are indicated.</li> <li>Issues to be taken into account when determining planning applications or other projects, for example funding bids, are identified.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 6 (paras 6.6. – 6.8)</li> <li>Section 6.</li> </ul>

<b>The Environmental Report</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is clear and concise in its layout and presentation.</li> <li>• Uses simple, clear language and avoids or explains technical terms.</li> <li>• Uses maps and other illustrations, where appropriate.</li> <li>• Explains the methodology used.</li> <li>• Explains who was consulted and what methods of consultation were used.</li> <li>• Identifies sources of information, including expert judgement and matters of opinion.</li> <li>• Contains a non-technical summary covering the overall approach to the SEA, the objectives of the Neighbourhood Development Plan, the main options considered, and any changes to the Neighbourhood Development Plan resulting from the SEA.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> <li>• N/A</li> <li>• N/A</li> <li>• Section 2</li> <li>• Section 2</li> <li>• Section 2</li> <li>• <b>Included at page 1</b></li> </ul>
<b>Consultation</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SEA is consulted on as an integral part of the plan-making process of the Neighbourhood Development Plan.</li> <li>• Consultation Bodies and the public likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the Neighbourhood Development Plan are consulted in ways and at times, which give them an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinions on the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan and Environmental Report.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 2 (paras 2.4 – 2.5).</li> <li>• Section 7.</li> </ul>

<b>Decision-making and information on the decision</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The environmental report and the opinions of those consulted are taken into account in finalising and adopting the Neighbourhood Development Plan.</li> <li>An explanation is given of how they have been taken into account.</li> <li>Reasons are given for choosing the Neighbourhood Development Plan as adopted, in the light of other reasonable alternatives considered.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sections 2 and 8.</li> <li>Following draft consultation</li> <li>Following draft consultation</li> </ul>
<b>Monitoring measures</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Measures proposed for monitoring the Neighbourhood Development Plan are clear, practicable and linked to the indicators and objectives used in the SEA.</li> <li>Monitoring is used, where appropriate, during implementation of the Neighbourhood Development Plan to make good deficiencies in baseline information in the SEA.</li> <li>Acknowledgement that monitoring enables unforeseen adverse effects to be identified at an early stage. (These effects may include predictions which prove to be incorrect.)</li> <li>Proposals are made for action in response to significant adverse effects arising from the monitoring of the Neighbourhood Development Plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 7.</li> <li>Section 7.</li> <li>Section 7.</li> <li>Section 7.</li> </ul>