

Environmental Report



Luston Group Neighbourhood Area

January 2016

Luston Group Parish Environmental Report

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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.

The Luston group Parish has undertaken to prepare an NDP and this process has been subject to environmental appraisal pursuant to the SEA Directive. The Parish comprises the Parishes of Luston; Eye; Moreton and Ashton and lies approximately 3 km to the north of Leominster.

The Draft Luston group NDP includes 9 objectives and it is intended that these objectives will be delivered by 14 criteria based planning policies; no site allocations are proposed here.

The environmental appraisal of the Luston group 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 Group Parish falls within the catchment for the River Wye (including River Lugg), and is within 10km of Downton Gorge both of which are European sites (Special Area of Conservation). The HRA assesses the potential effects of the NDP on the River Wye SAC and Downton Gorge.

On the whole, it is considered that the Luston group 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. However there is a concern that Policy LG6 'Scale and type of new housing' in Luston could be too restrictive to meet the requirements to deliver the housing required to meet the thresholds in the Core Strategy.

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

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report forms the draft Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Luston group Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP).
- 1.2 The Luston group NDP does not propose any site allocations, although Luston village is identified within table 4.14 which is targeted for proportional levels of growth in Policy RA1 of the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy). The NDP will, however, provide general policies for guiding future development across the parish as a whole.

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 Luston group 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.

Parish Neighbourhood Plan Context

- 1.6 Luston Group Parish comprises the Parishes of Luston; Eye; Moreton and Ashton. The Group Parish lies approximately 3 kms to the north of Leominster.
- 1.7 The Luston parish covers an area of 677 hectares, with a population density of 0.8 persons per hectare, which is similar to Herefordshire as a whole. Eye, Moreton and Ashton Parish has an area of 1188 hectares with a population density of 0.2 persons per hectare which is very low compared to the Herefordshire average.
- 1.8 The neighbourhood area boasts many natural features, not least 2 SSSIs and 13 Special Wildlife Sites. There are numerous built heritage assets, too, including listed buildings, 6 Scheduled Monuments and non-designated assets.
- 1.9 The vision for Luston group in 2031 is as follows:

‘A group of parishes that will retain the rural character of the villages and hamlets. They will evolve and grow organically to maintain the character and serenity of the area.’

- 1.10 The 9 NDP objectives are as follows:
1. To protect and preserve the size, form and character of the village and hamlets
 2. To ensure that all future development is sustainable and does not increase risk of flooding
 3. To protect open and green spaces
 4. To protect the local landscape and the setting of the village and hamlets
 5. To retain Luston village conservation status
 6. To ensure that new housing is provided of a size, type and tenure to accommodate local need
 7. To reduce traffic problems and improve highway and pedestrian safety
 8. To support home working and small businesses

9. To protect and enhance community facilities

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 Luston group 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 the 16th October 2015.
- 1.14 Paragraph 216 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 stage¹.
- 1.16 Table 4.14 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) lists Luston within the settlements which it considers to be main focus of proportionate housing development, Ashton and Moreton are identified in table 4.15 which highlights other settlements where proportionate housing is appropriate.
- 1.17 Once made (adopted) by Herefordshire Council, the Luston group 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 Luston group Neighbourhood Plan objectives and the SEA framework
 - Section 4 - Appraises the objectives contained within the Neighbourhood Plan against the SEA framework
 - Section 5 - Appraises the options considered within the Neighbourhood Plan against the SEA framework

¹ 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

- Section 6 – Appraises the policies contained within the Neighbourhood Plan against the SEA framework
- Section 7 – Discusses the implementation and monitoring of the Neighbourhood Plan
- Section 8 - Concludes the SEA report by outlining next steps

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 Luston group 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 options and 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 of the SEA process and constitutes the Draft Environmental Appraisal of the NDP. It accompanies the Draft Plan during its formal Regulation 14 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.

2.5 Producing an Environmental Report was therefore a legal requirement and the submission of this report to Herefordshire Council forms Stage D of the SEA process.

Scoping Report Consultation

2.6 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.

2.7 After the document was approved by the Parish Council, the Luston group SEA Scoping Report was available to four² statutory bodies for consultation from 14 August to 19 September 2014.

² Statutory consultation bodies: Natural England; English Heritage; Environment Agency Natural Resources Wales

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: Recommends that additional baseline data be sourced in respect of SSSIs, wildlife habitats, landscape character and the quality of agricultural land.

English Heritage: Have no substantive objection to the contents of the documents.

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 Luston group 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 Luston group 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 strategies and plans have been reviewed and, where appropriate, incorporated within the SA 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 2009-2014 (2009)* - 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 2009-2014 (2009)* - 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)* - The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (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.
- *Luston Parish Plan (2005 – reviewed in 2009)* – The Parish wide document sought the requirements of the community for the benefit of the parish as a whole. Identified the needs of the community to remain sustainable and viable.

- 3.6 Appendix 1 of the Luston group NDP 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.

- 3.10 Following the completion of Task B2 of SEA it was apparent that the largest environmental issue within the Group Parish has an impact on the County as a whole is water quality; the River Wye (including the River Lugg), 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 does not propose that sites be allocated for development and contains only criteria-based policies. On this basis, the delivery of the NDP should not exacerbate existing problems regarding water quality or have an unacceptable adverse impact.
- 3.12 Baseline characteristics within the SEA detail the current environmental status of environmental characteristics in the neighbourhood plan area from different sources. The source of Baseline Information used in Table A2 in Appendix 2, and analysed in Table B2 can be found in Appendix 4 Baseline characteristics in relation to the Luston group NDP SEA objectives are listed below.

SEA Objective	Baseline Data / Characteristic	Future Baseline trends
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	The 2011-2013 AMR does not contain updated conservation data. 2010/11: 27% of Herefordshire's SSSI land was in favourable condition. July 14 – status of the SSSIs are: River Lugg meanders – favourable, Berrington Pool - favourable. The River Lugg section of the SAC is currently exceeding phosphate targets. The 2011-2013 AMR does not contain updated conservation data. 2010/11: 17 Habitat Action Plans and 14 Species Action Plans are currently in operation across Herefordshire. Luston Group has: 2 SSSI, 13 SWS. There are no SACs, NNRs and SINCs within the parish.	% 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) To capitalise on opportunities to enhance the areas of value to nature conservation as much as possible.
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	There are no outstanding enforcement actions or appeals concerning local loss of heritage assets and locally important buildings within Luston Group at present.	To wherever possible improve upon or otherwise maintain current status.
To improve quality of surroundings	In terms of Luston Group parish itself, the study reveals that there are 1.7 hectares of playing pitch area none of which has secured community access. There is no formal play area within the group parish.	No specific targets identified
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	Whilst there is no qualitative, locally specific data available at present, there are 6 scheduled monuments in Luston Group parish, according to the latest version of the register.	To wherever possible improve upon or otherwise maintain current status.

To improve air quality	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 suggests that air quality is improving.	To reduce the overall carbon emissions.
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	% 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%.	To encourage the take up of lesser polluting modes of transport.
To reduce contributions to climate change	Herefordshire latest figure of CO2 emissions per capita-dates back to 2010: 1.61 million tonnes (mtCO ₂)	To reduce the overall carbon emissions.
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	Reduce the risk of flooding-There have been no approvals contrary to EA advice since reporting began in 2004. The 2011-2013 AMR does not contain updated conservation data.	To have no applications permitted contrary to EA advice.
To improve water quality	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%.	To ensure that rivers meet their conservation objectives and do not fall below the required standard of quality. New development within the area could lead to the water quality failing the phosphate levels and conservation objectives.
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	Luston Group parish falls into the Herefordshire Conjunctive Use Water Resource Zones (WRZs), one of 6 zones covering Herefordshire. 39% of demand is from non-household use.	No specific targets identified
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	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.	To have no applications permitted contrary to EA advice.
To conserve soil resources and quality	Around the parish of Luston group the soil classification is mainly Grades 2 and 3. There are patches of Grade 4 land within the parish. Percentage of all new development completed on previously developed land. 2010/11: 67% 2011-13: 57%.	Measure the number of hectares of best and most versatile soil lost through development To increase the number of homes built on PDL in line with the provisions of national planning policy
To minimise the production of waste	No baseline data available	No specific targets identified.
To improve health of the population	No baseline data available	No specific targets identified.

To reduce crime and nuisance	No baseline data available	No specific targets identified.
To conserve natural and manmade resources	There are numerous listed buildings within the parish and six SAMs. None are currently recorded in the Buildings at Risk Register. There are no outstanding enforcement actions or appeals concerning locally important buildings within Luston Group parish at present. The Parish Area has the following landscape types: Principal settled farmlands; wet pasture meadows and plateau estate farmlands.	To wherever possible improve upon or otherwise maintain current status.

- 3.13 There are three 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 there are no future trends to link the SEA objective too.

4.0 Assessing the NDP Objectives

- 4.1 The following are objectives listed in the NDP that aim to realise the vision for Luston group in 2031:

1. To protect and preserve the size, form and character of the village and hamlets
2. To ensure that all future development is sustainable and does not increase risk of flooding
3. To protect open and green spaces
4. To protect the local landscape and the setting of the village and hamlets
5. To retain Luston village conservation status
6. To ensure that new housing is provided of a size, type and tenure to accommodate local need
7. To reduce traffic problems and improve highway and pedestrian safety
8. To support home working and small businesses
9. To protect and enhance community facilities

- 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 4 of this report.

- 4.3 The majority of those NDP objectives which have a relationship with the SEA framework are positively compatible with it. Some of the relationships between the Plans objectives to the SEA objectives remain unclear due to the location of developments not being known, and potential vehicular increase due to the rural nature of the Parish, which could impact upon air quality and vulnerability to climate change.

- 4.4 The NDP and local Plan policies provide mitigation towards the location of new development to ensure the impact of such is reduced and therefore a more positive outcome against the SEA objective is expected long term.

Key:	
+	Compatible
-	Possible conflict
0	Neutral

X	No relationship between objectives
?	Unclear, more information needed

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

5.0 Assessing the NDP Options

- 5.1 All options that were considered by Luston group Parish during the development of their Plan have been assessed as part of the SEA, the summary matrix of the assessment can be found in Table B2 options these tables are in Appendix 4.
- 5.2 The options covered the topics that are likely to formulate the topics going forward in the Plan. These options were formulated from the parish plan and consultation events early in the process. The results of which will feed into the identification of the preferred options and ultimately the draft policies.
- 5.3 A 'do nothing' option was also considered by the Parish, i.e. not undertaking a Neighbourhood Development Plan, however this was disregarded at an early stage by the Parish Council (2013).
- 5.4 The Luston group options all had a generally positive impact upon the Baseline data and SEA objectives. The Option 5 would be more unknown due to not knowing the location of the new housing development therefore the criteria within the policy will need to consider the SEA objectives. The preferred options of the Parish are options 3 (to retain a settlement boundary) and 5 (to allow for organic growth), this is due to the parish wanting to allow for organic growth to come around the village rather than being set with site allocations, particularly as there are issues with flooding and surface water through the village. However, retaining the settlement boundary will ensure that there is some certainty as to where development will be located without enlarging the village or allowing it to grow out of proportion to the village hall.
- 5.5 Overall all of the options had mainly a positive effect on the SEA objectives and baseline, if the policies that are developed incorporated the elements of the options that are ensuring mitigation of new development and additional details are provided for the location and design of any proposed site then the assessment of the policies should result in a positive result. As these options were generally moving towards the SEA objectives any further alternatives would probably be moving away and therefore no further options are required to be assessed.

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

NDP Options	SEA Objectives															
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Option 5	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	+	+				+

6.0 Appraisal of the policies

- 6.1 A key part of developing a plan such as the Luston group NDP is developing a range of options and testing these, so that a preferred way forward can be selected.
- 6.2 The following, emerging set of draft policies can be appraised for the purposes of Stage B of the SEA:
- Policy LG1: General development principles
 - Policy LG2: Design of development in Luston Group
 - Policy LG3: Protecting and enhancing local landscape character and views
 - Policy LG4: Flood Risk, water management and surface run-off
 - Policy LG5: Dark Skies
 - Policy LG6: Scale and type of new housing in Luston
 - Policy LG7: Scale and type of new housing in Ashton, Eyton and Moreton
 - Policy LG8: Traffic management and transport improvements
 - Policy LG9: Sustainable transport measures
 - Policy LG10: Supporting and enhancing existing small scale local employment
 - Policy LG11: Protection of local green spaces
 - Policy LG12: Protection of open spaces
 - Policy LG13: Protection and enhancement of local community facilities
 - Policy LG14: Community facilities and Community Infrastructure Levy

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) 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 and 9. Full details of this appraisal are attached at Appendix 4.
- 6.5 The policies largely score as positive or neutral against the SEA objectives and will not, therefore, have an adverse impact on the baseline characteristics or immediate environmental impacts. This is because they are criteria based policies which only consider schemes on their own merits, as and when planning applications are submitted to the local planning authority.
- 6.6 There are some unknown factors, particularly where the location of specific piece of development (i.e business units) is not yet known.

NDP Options	SEA Objectives															
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Policy 1	+	+	+	+	x	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	x	x	x	+
Policy 2	++	++	+	++	x	?	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	x	x	+
Policy 3	++	++	++	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	+	x	+	x	++
Policy 4	+	+	+	+	x	x	+	+	+	x	++	+	x	x	x	+
Policy 5	+	+	+	+	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	+
Policy 6	+	+	+	+	x	?	?	x	x	x	+	+	x	x	x	+
Policy 7	+	+	+	+	x	?	?	x	x	x	+	+	x	x	x	+
Policy 8	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	x	x	x	?	x	x	x	+
Policy 9	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	x	x	x	?	x	x	x	+
Policy 10	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	x	x	+	+	+	0	x	+
Policy 11	++	+	+	+	x	x	x	+	0	x	+	+	x	+	x	++
Policy 12	++	+	+	+	x	x	x	+	0	x	+	+	x	+	x	++
Policy 13	+	+	+	+	+	+	x	x	x	x	+	x	x	+	+	+
Policy 14	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	x	x	x	+	x	x	+	+	+

- 6.7 The results of Task B3, as shown at Appendix 4, 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.
- 6.8 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 4, reveals that the objectives and policies contained in the Luston Group NDP are 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.
- 6.9 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. The only concern would be the ability for NDP Policy LG6 to deliver the required number of houses that have been identified in the Core Strategy as no sites have been allocated, however the policy has remained flexible to allow for development sites to come forward both within and adjacent to the settlement boundary to allow for growth in an organic way.

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 Annual 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 Draft Luston group NDP.
- 8.2 Responses on the Draft NDP will be reviewed and the plan amended where appropriate.
- 8.3 Any changes made to the NDP as a consequence of the Regulation 14 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 Stage B of the SEA process.

Appendix 1

Initial Habitat Regulations Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Notification

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

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (d)

Neighbourhood Area:	Luston Group Neighbourhood Area
Parish Council:	Luston Group Parish Council
Neighbourhood Area Designation Date:	03/09/2013

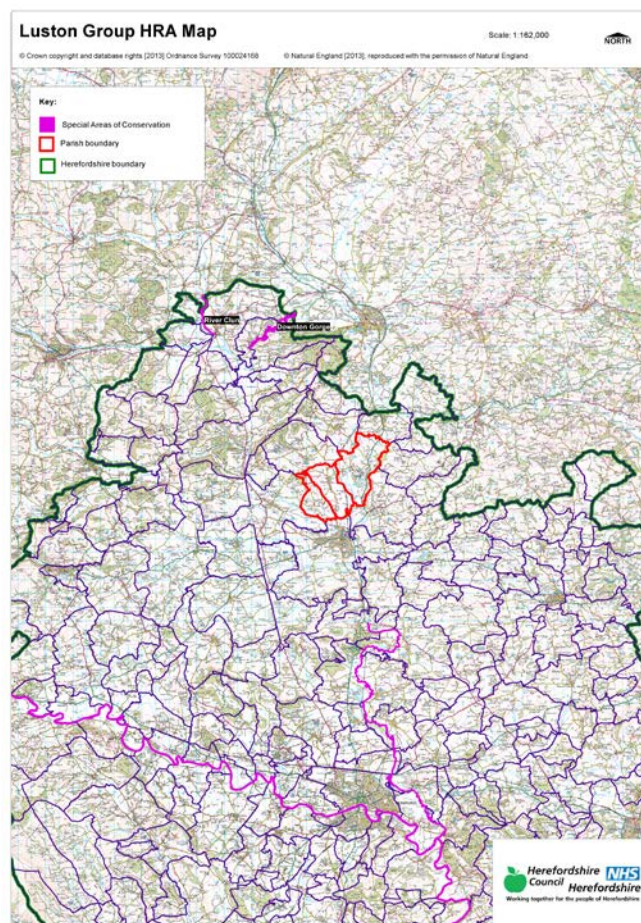
Introduction

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 (not part of the SAC) is within the Group Parish.
Is the Neighbourhood Area in the hydrological catchment of the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC?	Y	The Group Parish is within the River Lugg hydrological catchment area
If yes above, does the Neighbourhood Area have mains drainage to deal with foul sewage?	Y	There is mains drainage at Luston & Yarpole

Downton Gorge SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of Downton Gorge SAC?	Y	Downton Gorge is 9.98km away from the Group 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 Group Parish
--	---	---

Usk Bat Sites SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of the SAC boundary?	N	Usk Bat Sites are 52.4km away from the Group 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 Group Parish is 43.3km away from the 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 Group Parish is 46.6km 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 Luston Group Neighbourhood Area and a Full HRA Screening will be required.

European Site

(List only those which are relevant from above)

River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC

Downton Gorge 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 Luston Group Neighbourhood Area and would need to be taken into account within a Strategic Environmental Assessment. In addition, the NDP will also need to consider the other SEA topics set out in Guidance Note 9a to ensure that the plan does not cause adverse impacts.

SEA features	Total	Explanation	SEA required
Air Quality Management Areas	0	There are no AQMAs within the Group Parish	N
Ancient Woodland	9	Oaker Wood; Long Wood 1; Long Wood 2; Yells Wood; Nurton Wood (border); Park Wood; Bathurst Coppice; Tylers Vallet (border); Tars Wood (border)	Y
Areas of Archaeological Interest	0	There are no AAls within the Group Parish	N
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	0	There are no AONBs within the Group Parish	N
Conservation Areas	7	Luston village; Kingsland (border); Yarpole (border); Bircher (border); Orleton (border); Lucton (border); Leominster Bridge Street (border)	Y
Site of potential contamination	Numerous	There are numerous sites throughout the Group Parish	Y
European Sites	0	There are no SACs within the Group Parish	N
Flood Areas		Flood Zones 2 and 3 run along the River Lugg in the south of Eyton Parish. There are also Flood Zones running along the borders of Luston Parish and Eye, Moreton & Ashton Parish	Y
Geoparks	0	There are no Geoparks within the Group Parish	N
Listed Buildings	Numerous	There are numerous Listed Buildings throughout the Group Parish	Y
Local Nature Trails	1	Herefordshire Trail	Y
Local Sites (SWS/SINCs/RIGS)	13 (SWS)	Oaker Wood (2); Eyton Common; Fields east of Blackpole; Berrington Park; Long Wood and Stockton Ride; River Lugg; The Brooches and adjoining woodland; Land near Grove Farm (border); Brimfield Common (border); Land at Blakes bridge (border); Tylers Vallet (border); Tars Wood (border); Land at Eaton Hill (border)	Y
Long distance footpaths/trails (e.g. Herefordshire Trail)	1	Herefordshire Trail	Y
Mineral Reserves	0	There are no Minerals Reserves sites within the Group Parish	N
National Nature Reserve	0	There are no NNRs within the Group Parish	N
Registered & Unregistered	1 Registered	Registered: Berrington Hall	Y

parks and gardens	4 Unregistered	Unregistered: Eye Manor; Eyton Hall; Eyton Old Hall; Eaton hill (border)	
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	6	Earthworks south east of Lower Ashton Farm; Churchyard cross at St George's Churchyard (border); Dovecote at Stockton Bury (border); Leominster Priory (border); Forbury Chapel (border); Kingsland Castle (border)	Y
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	2	Berrington Pool (Favourable); River Lugg Meanders (Favourable)	Y

Decision Notification:

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

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

Assessment date: 30/07/2013

Assessed by: James Latham

Appendix 1: European Sites

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

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

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

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

Usk Bat Site

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

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

Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites

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

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

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

NDPs closest to the European Site will need to consider:

Woodland habitat buffer.

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

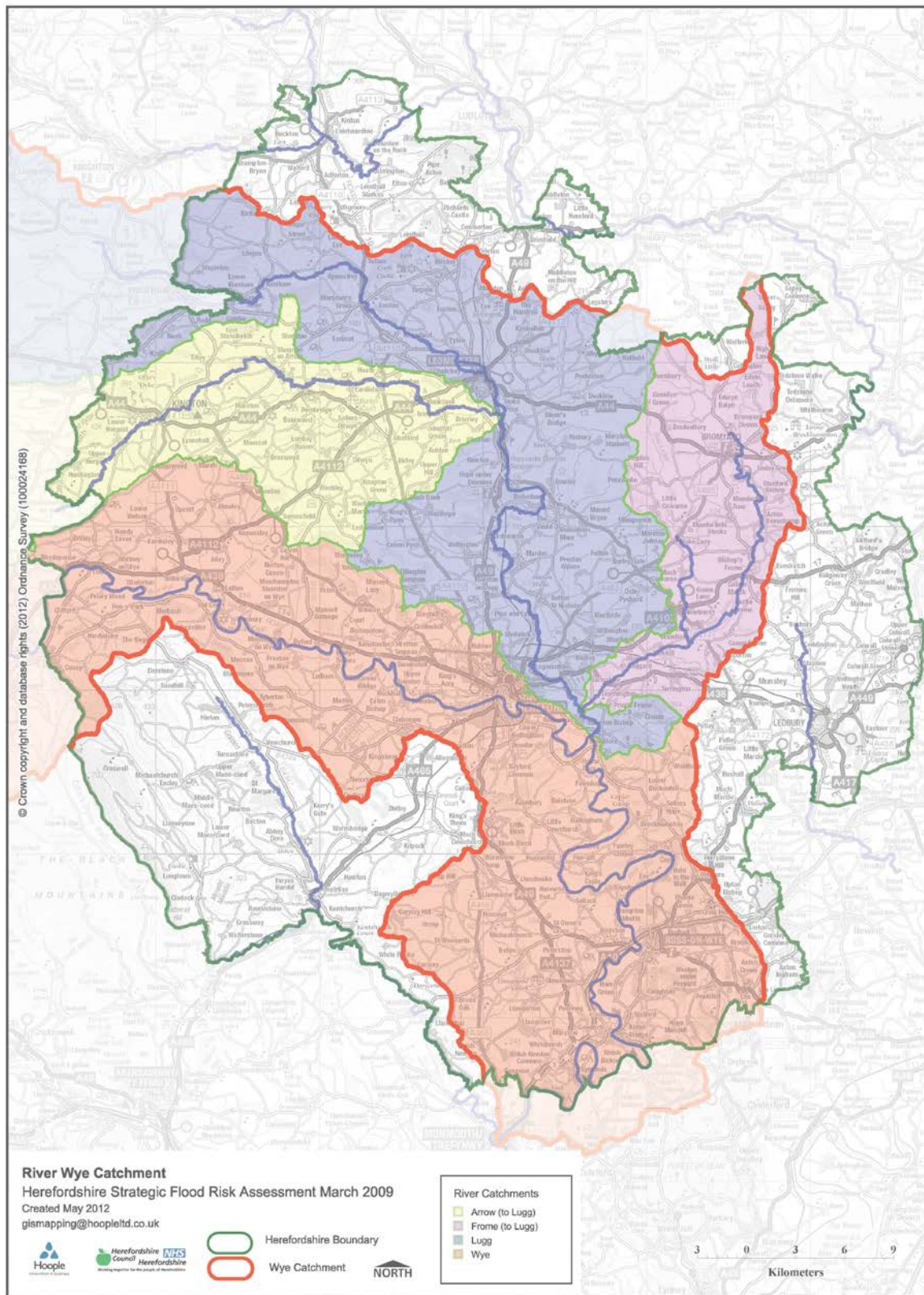
Greater Horseshoe Bat: Large buildings, pasture, edge of mixed deciduous woodland and hedgerows. Mixed land-use especially south-facing slopes, favours beetles, moths and insects they feed on. During the winter they depend on caves, abandoned mines and other underground sites for undisturbed hibernation.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

Wye Valley Woodlands

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

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

Appendix 2: Wye Catchment Map

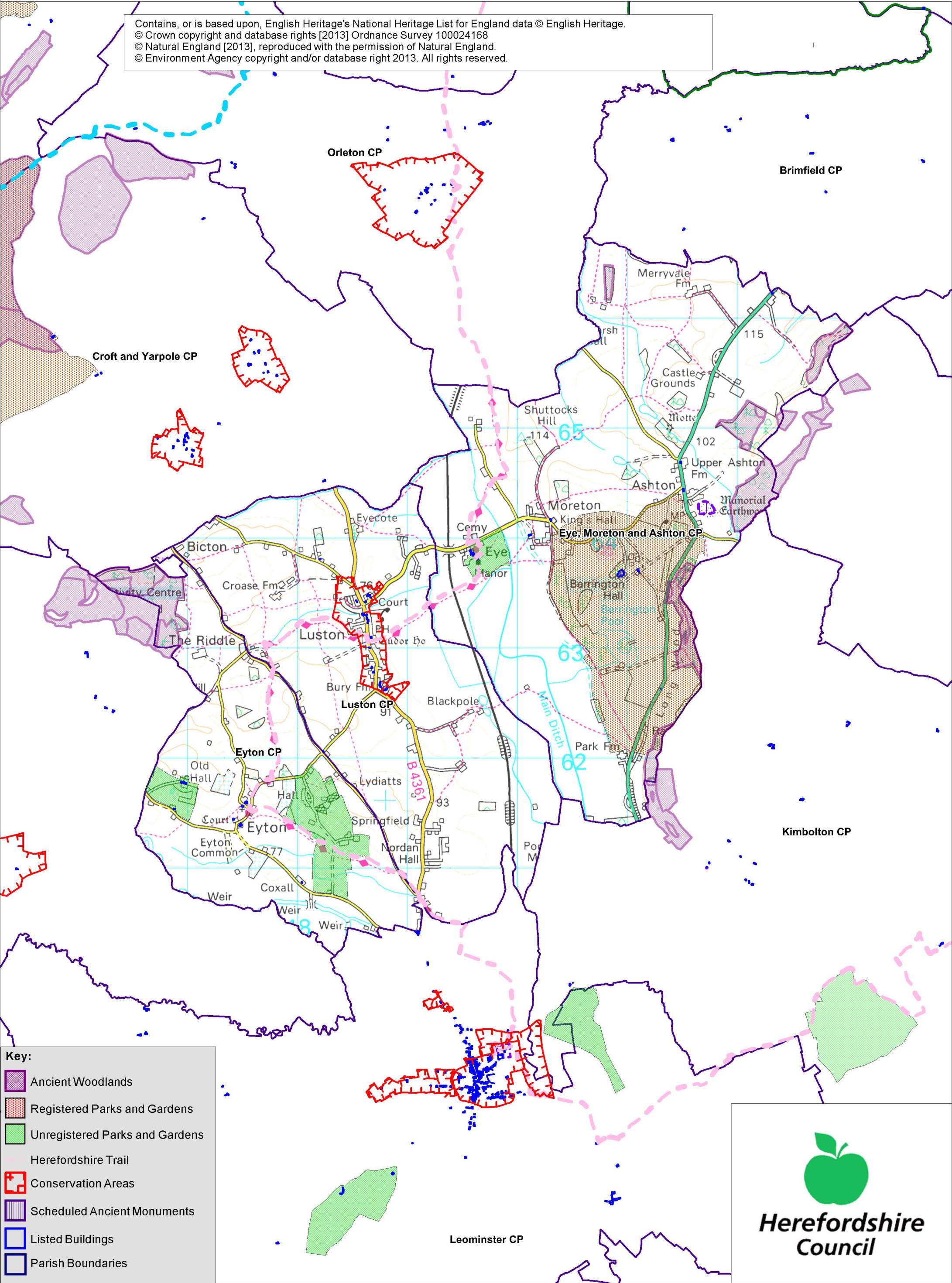


Luston Group SEA Map 1

Scale: 1:30,000



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Key:

- Ancient Woodlands
- Registered Parks and Gardens
- Unregistered Parks and Gardens
- Herefordshire Trail
- Conservation Areas
- Scheduled Ancient Monuments
- Listed Buildings
- Parish Boundaries

Herefordshire Council

Luston Group SEA Map 2

Scale: 1:30,000



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Key:

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

Herefordshire Council

Appendix 2

Strategic Environmental Assessment



Luston Group Neighbourhood Area

Scoping Report

October 2014

Consultation on the Scoping Report

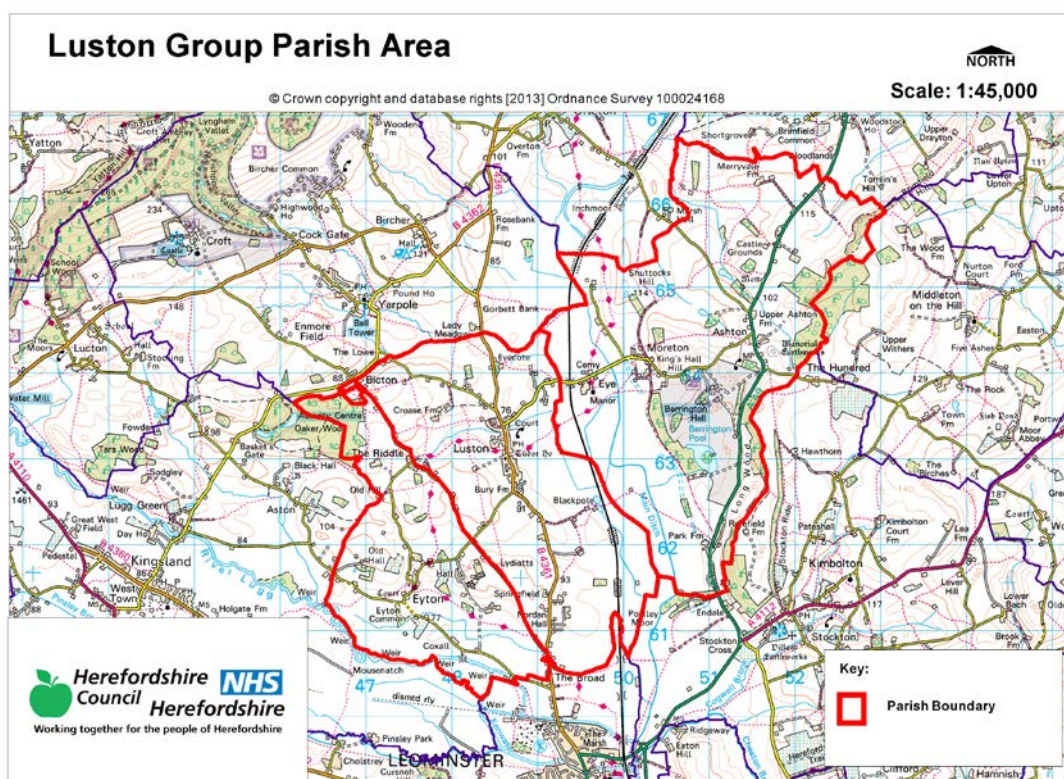
The aim of the consultation process is to involve and engage with statutory consultees and other relevant bodies on the scope of the appraisal. In particular, it seeks to:

- 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.



Template A1: Identification and review of local Neighbourhood Area relevant plans, policies and programmes

Parish Council Name: Luston Group

Neighbourhood Development Plan Name: Luston Group Plan

Date completed: July 2014

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	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"> Biodiversity Cultural heritage and the landscape 	The Neighbourhood Plan 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	Aims for 'good status' for all ground and surface waters (rivers, lakes,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water 	The Neighbourhood Plan should be compliant with all the

¹ Derived from the LDF General Scoping Report (June 2007)

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Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
			qualitative and quantitative status of all water courses by 2015	transitional waters, and coastal waters) in the EU		relevant legislation and regulations.
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"> • Biodiversity • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Soil 	The Neighbourhood Plan 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	<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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Soil 	The Neighbourhood Plan should be compliant with all the relevant legislation and regulations.

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Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
			AONBs.	despite some early publicity suggesting this.		
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"> • Biodiversity • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Soil 	The Neighbourhood Plan should be compliant with all the relevant legislation and regulations.
Revised EU Sustainable Development strategy	European Union 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.	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change and clean energy; • Sustainable transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Population and human health 	The Neighbourhood Plans should take into account the objectives of the strategy. The aim of sustainable development should be implicit in its approach.

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Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable production and consumption; • Public health threats; • Better management of natural resources; • Social inclusion, demography and migration; • Fighting global poverty. 		
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"> • Biodiversity 	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.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape 	The NDP should take into account the relevant policies set within the NPPF.

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Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	
Planning Practice Guidance	Government Guidance	2014	Provides guidance to local planning authorities and others on the operation of the planning system.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	The NDP should take into account the planning guidance provided within these documents.
Herefordshire Core Strategy, Pre-submission document 2011-2031	Development Plan Document (DPD)	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.	<p>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.</p> <p>The Core Strategy includes a range of objectives, five</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	<p>The NDP should take account of relevant policies set within in the Core Strategy.</p> <p>Where necessary, the NDP should provide services, facilities and employment opportunities that are accessible to both local and neighbouring communities.</p>

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Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
				<p>of which directly relate to rural areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To meet the housing needs of all sections of the community • To improve access to services in rural areas • To strengthen the economic viability of the villages and their rural hinterlands • To achieve sustainable communities and protect the environment • To conserve, promote, utilise and enjoy our natural, built, historic and cultural assets for the fullest benefit of the whole community <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 14% in Luston (Leominster HMA) over the</p>		<p>Luston is classified as an RA1 settlement. Therefore Luston's Neighbourhood Development Plan must take into consideration proportionate housing development.</p> <p>Approx 25 dwellings will need to be delivered within the village of Luston over the Plan period.</p> <p>Ashton; Eyton; Moreton are classified as RA2 settlements, and should adhere to the RA2 policy; accepting affordable housing needs only.</p>

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Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
				plan period.		
Herefordshire Local Transport Plan 3 (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 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"> • Air • Climate factors • Population and human health 	The LTP does not explore current transport issues in the Luston Plan neighbourhood area, but any new development proposed through the NDP should seek to reduce the environmental impacts of transport.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Understanding Herefordshire Report	Built and natural environment	2014	<p>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</p> <p>Enable development for economy and housing to required levels.</p> <p>Growth should be supported by sustainable transport measures.</p>	An air quality management plan is in place to tackle this. Destination Hereford project is in place to give locals more sustainable transport options.	<p>Improve air quality.</p> <p>Have a more diverse range of transport options.</p>	None of merit. However, the NDP should take into account the findings of the report.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Malvern Hills AONB Management Plan 2009-2014	Corporate	2009	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.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	The Luston Group Plan neighbourhood Area is not within or adjacent to the Malvern Hills AONB.
Wye Valley AONB management Plan 2009-2014	Corporate	2009	The Management Plan is the prime document which sets out the vision for the area and the priorities for its management.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	The Luston Plan neighbourhood Area is not within or adjacent to the Wye Valley AONB.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	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"> • Sustaining business survival and growth • Increasing wage levels, range and quality of jobs • Having a skilled population to meet future work needs • Developing the county's built infrastructure so enterprise can flourish. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Material assets • Population and human health 	None of merit.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	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 Luston 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"> • Material assets • Population and human health 	None of merit; however the NDP process may have to explore whether there is any 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) ¹	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"> 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. 	<p>In terms of Luston the 2009 SHLAA identifies that:</p> <p>There are two potential suitable sites to develop 48 dwellings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air Biodiversity Climate factors Cultural heritage and the landscape Flora and fauna Population and human health Soil Water 	<p>The SHLAA assesses the potential availability of land for housing in Luston.</p> <p>The Luston NDP should be informed by the findings of the SHLAA. The NDP should also undertake a refreshment of the SHLAA as a local site assessment to ensure all the data is up to date.</p>

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	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>Luston fall within the Leominster HMA. Here, the study reveals that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 55% of households are unable to afford market housing. • There is an annual requirement for 190 affordable dwellings between 2012 and 2030. • The study identifies that, between 2011-2031 in rural parts of Leominster HMA, there is a need for • 548 Market houses • 183 Affordable houses <p>The study highlights that within the Leominster HMA the overall estimated housing need by size 2012-2017 is as follows: 1 Bed 77.1%, 2 bed: 21.6%, 3 bed:10.4%, 4 bed: 11.7%.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	<p>The LHMA provides an indication of housing needs and affordability within the Leominster 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) ¹	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"> • Support growth in the rural population by 6% • Increase the number of households by 14.5% <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. As a consequence, the rural areas will face an increasing urgency to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	<p>This study provides an indication of housing requirements in the rural areas and the Leominster HMA.</p> <p>This evidence can be used to inform the content of the Luston NDP, which could include policies to facilitate the provision of the right types of homes in the right places.</p>

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Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
				provide more 3 bedroom homes, with more 1 and 2 bed homes required in the affordable sector.		
Herefordshire Rural Housing Background Report	Evidence	2013	Provides the justification for the proportional housing growth targets outlined in the Core Strategy	<p>The village of Luston falls within the Leominster HMA. Luston is categorised as an RA1 settlements, which means they are considered a sustainable location for proportional growth of up to 14%.</p> <p>Three villages in the group parish are identified as RA2 villages which are to accommodate local housing needs only.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	<p>The Luston Group NDP will need to be in conformity with the provisions of Policy RA1 for the village of Luston.</p> <p>Eyeton, Ashton and Moreton are identified as RA2 villages so need to identify development for local housing needs only.</p>

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	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"> • 31% of households surveyed have some sort of accommodation need • Of the 17 households with an accommodation need, 7 had a requirement for at least one additional pitch • 10 households had a requirement for bricks and mortar housing • There is an additional requirement for 7 pitches and 9 units of Registered Social Landlord accommodation within Herefordshire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	The Luston NDP must establish whether any of the need identified in this assessment falls within the neighbourhood area and make appropriate provisions for it.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	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"> • Biodiversity 	The NDP can help to achieve the LBAP priorities.
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.	This document provides useful information in respect of Hereford and the market towns only.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	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 Luston 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) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
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"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	The study provides evidence that could be taken into account when preparing policies for the Luston NDP.
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"> • Electrical: 731 GWh/yr • Heat: 1,810 GWh/yr • Total: 2,541 GWh/yr <p>There is scope for all types of renewable energy production.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	The study provides evidence that could be taken into account when preparing policies for the Luston NDP.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Open Spaces Study	Evidence	2006	The 2006 space audit and assessment of need is a snapshot of the quality, quantity and distribution of open space across Herefordshire.	<p>The study reveals that within Leominster area in which Luston is situated, there is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive under provision of parks and gardens and outdoor sport. • Extensive over provision of natural and semi natural Green space. • Under provision of amenity green space. • Average provision for children and young people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health 	The open space audit and assessment of does not give a specific indication of open space shortfalls and surpluses in Luston Parish.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	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.	<p>In terms of Luston itself, the study reveals that:</p> <p>Luston primary school catchment area has a population over 500 and has no formal play provision within Luston.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health 	The study provides evidence that could be taken into account when preparing policies for the Luston NDP.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	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 examines how water resources and water supply infrastructure, wastewater treatment, water quality, sewerage and flood risk could constrain growth across Herefordshire.</p>	<p>Luston falls within the Middle Lugg catchment, and has one of the lowest areas at risk of hazard flooding in the county.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Middle Lugg has a 20-25% standard run percentage run off by sub catchment. This is potentially moderately suitable for infiltration source control. The Middle Lugg has a slow flood response (Tp-time to peak) time at around 9-10 hours. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity Climate factors Material assets Population and human health Water 	New development proposed through the Luston NDP should be assessed against the capacity of local infrastructure.

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Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Luston Parish Plan	Local Document / Evidence	2005 reviewed in 2009	This Parish wide document sought the opinions and requirements of the community for the benefit of the parish as a whole. Which identified the needs of the community to remain sustainable and viable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To set out an achievable long term vision for the Parishes in line with the expressed wishes of the community. • To put in place action plans to achieve short term goals and the long term vision. • To provide a local structure to inform and influence the community priorities and local needs. • To secure measures to improve and enhance the quality of the environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Material assets • Population and human health • Water • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna 	The NDP should take into consideration the land use and planning proposals and actions in the Parish Plan for the policies in the NDP.

Appendix A2 – Baseline information for Luston Group

N.B. This is based on countywide baseline information with some additions relevant to Luston Group (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 ¹	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 and expand county biodiversity.	Natural environment	Net change in condition of SSSIs across Herefordshire.	<p>The 2011-2013 AMR does not contain updated conservation data.</p> <p>2010/11: 27% of Herefordshire's SSSI land was in favourable condition.</p> <p><i>There are two SSSI's within Luston Group. 05/08/14 – Berrington Pool- Favourable. River Lugg Meanders- Favourable.</i></p>	<p>2006: 22% 2007: 22% 2008: 22% 2010: 24 %</p> <p>Proportion of SSSI land that was in unfavourable condition but recovering increased between 2010 and 2012 going from 41% to 65%. Proportion in unfavourable and declining condition had also decreased from 4% to 1%.</p>	<p>% of SSSI land in favourable condition (Increase)</p> <p>% of SSSI land in unfavourable condition but recovering (Increase)</p> <p>% of SSSI land in unfavourable condition and declining (Decrease)</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>The proportion of SSSI in unfavourable condition but recovering is greater than England as a whole, where the figure currently stands at 58.6%.</p>	<p>Understanding Herefordshire: An integrated needs assessment (June 2013).</p> <p>NE SSSI website information (August 2014)</p>

¹ Derived from the Pre Submission Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Assessment (May 2014)

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
13. Value, maintain, restore and 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>	-	No specific targets identified.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	-
13. Value, maintain, restore and expand county biodiversity.	Natural environment	Phosphate levels within the River Wye SAC and adjoining tributaries that receive increased phosphates from proportional growth.	<p>The Luston Neighbourhood Area, falls inside the River Wye (including Lugg) SAC. This area is classed as the River Lugg sub Catchment for the purposes of the Nutrient Management Plan.</p> <p>The River Lugg section of the SAC is currently exceeding phosphate targets.</p>	The River Wye SAC was subject to a review of consents in 2010, as a number of sections of the river were found to have greater phosphate levels than those identified in Natural England's favourable condition tables.	The roll out of the Nutrient Management Plan will determine future targets.	New development within the area could lead to the water quality failing the phosphate levels and conservation objectives.	Nutrient Management Plan (2014)

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
13. Value, maintain, restore and 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>2010/11: 17 Habitat Action Plans and 14 Species Action Plans are currently in operation across Herefordshire.</p> <p><i>There is no locally specific data available at present.</i></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 and where possible enhance the habitats of protected species identified.</p> <p>No net losses.</p>	Herefordshire Biological Records Centre (HBRC) holds limited data on some individual sites.	Herefordshire Council AMR (2010/11)

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
13. Value, maintain, restore and expand county biodiversity.	Natural environment	Changes in the areas of designated nature conservation sites as a consequence of planning permission.	Luston has: SSSI: 2 SWS: 13 There are no SACs, NNRs, SINC and LNRs within the parish	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 enhance the areas of value to nature conservation as much as possible.	Herefordshire Biological Records Centre (HBRC) holds limited data on some individual sites.	Herefordshire Council Initial Screening Report for the Neighbourhood Plan 2013
13. Value, maintain, restore and expand county biodiversity.	Natural environment	Proportion of local sites where positive conservation management has or is being implemented.	The Parish Area has the following landscape types: Principal settled farmlands; Wet pasture meadows; plateau estate farmlands	-	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)
SEA Topic covered by objectives: <i>Material assets</i>							
14. Use natural resources and energy more	Resource consumption and climate	Maintaining Herefordshire Council's	Countywide data would be too large to incorporate into	-	No specific targets identified, but	Should be monitored through AMR following the	Herefordshire Environmental Records Register

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
efficiently.	change	County Site and Monuments Register.	this template. Whilst there is no qualitative, locally specific data available at present, there are numerous scheduled monuments in Luston according to the latest version of the register.		need to ensure that the register is kept up to date.	adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	(search July 2014).
14. Use natural resources and energy more efficiently.	Resource consumption and climate change	Monitoring changes to historic landscapes.	Historic Landscape Character assessments have only been undertaken for Hereford City. Rapid townscape Assessments (2010) were only undertaken for Hereford, Ledbury and Ross.	-	No specific targets identified.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	Historic Landscape Character Assessment for Hereford. Rapid townscape Assessments (2010)

SA Objective ¹	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 and 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.	-
15. Value, protect, enhance and 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 aspects of local loss of heritage assets and locally important buildings particularly within a conservation area	Countywide data would be too large to incorporate into this template. There are no outstanding enforcement actions or appeals concerning local loss of heritage assets and locally important buildings within Luston at present.	No historic records of any planning enforcement action or appeals concerning locally important buildings within the seven conservation areas.	To wherever possible improve upon or otherwise maintain current status.	Current status must be verified by Dvt Mgt and Enforcement Officers, but the NDP can help to avoid enforcement action and appeals during the plan period.	Council Dvt Mgt records (searched July 2014)

SA Objective ¹	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 lesser polluting modes 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

SA Objective ¹	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 ¹	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 (mtCO₂)</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 ₂ emissions produced are decreasing.	Understanding Herefordshire: An integrated needs assessment (June 2013).

SA Objective ¹	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. 2010/11: None <i>There is no locally specific data available at present.</i>	There have been no approvals contrary to EA advice since reporting began in 2004.	To have no applications permitted contrary to EA advice.	None identified.	Herefordshire Council AMR (2010/11)
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 LA to monitor the number of hectares of the best and most versatile agricultural land (grades 3a and higher) lost to development.	The agricultural land classification around Luston Group is mainly Grade 2 and 3 (Very good to moderate). There are patches of Grade 4 land (Poor) within the parish.	-	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.	DEFRA 'Magic' website for land classification

SA Objective ¹	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.	2010/11: 67% 2011-13: 57% <i>There is no locally specific data available at present.</i>	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 (2010/11) and (2011-2013)

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
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.	-
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> This indicator would not be applicable to rural NDPs.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
SEA Topic covered by objective: <i>Cultural heritage</i>							

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's heritage assets, including conservation areas, historic environment and cultural heritage.	Built environment	Number and percentage of listed buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments on Buildings at Risk Register (English Heritage).	Up-to-date countywide information will be presented in the next AMR and which is due to be published in 2014. However, this data would be too large to incorporate into this template. There are numerous listed buildings within the parish and six SAMs. None are currently recorded in the Buildings at Risk Register.	There were 70 heritage assets in Herefordshire that were considered to be at high risk and included in the Heritage at Risk Register 2011.	To wherever possible improve upon or otherwise maintain current status.	None of Luston's listed buildings or SAMs is considered to be at risk at present.	Buildings at Risk Register (English Heritage; search July 2014)

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's heritage assets, including conservation areas, 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 within the parish and particularly within a conservation area.	Countywide data would be too large to incorporate into this template. There are no outstanding enforcement actions or appeals concerning local loss of heritage assets locally important buildings particularly within a conservation area within Luston at present.	No historic records of any planning enforcement action or appeals concerning locally important buildings within the seven conservation areas.	To wherever possible improve upon or otherwise maintain current status	Current status must be verified by Dvt Mgt and Enforcement Officers, but the NDP can help to avoid enforcement action and appeals during the plan period.	Council Dvt Mgt records (searched July 2014)

Appendix A3 – Environmental issues identified from the Luston Group baseline

These environmental issues are the same as most of those identified for the Herefordshire Core Strategy¹

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 alternative modes of travel.	
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	Luston Group has six 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

¹ Derived from the Pre-submission Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Assessment (May 2014) and LDF General Scoping Report (June 2007)

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
		Steady decline in the chemical quality of rivers over the last 10 years.	

Template A4: SEA Framework

SEA Scoping Stage A, Task A4 - SEA Framework SEA Objectives, Indicators, Targets

Parish Council Name: Luston Group

Neighbourhood Development Plan Name: Luston Group Plan

Date completed: July 2014

SEA Topics	SA Objective	SEA Objective	Sub-objectives / Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal/site...)	Indicators	Targets
Nature Conservation (Biodiversity, flora and fauna)	Value, maintain, restore or expand county biodiversity. Value, protect, enhance or restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces.	To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Protect or enhance habitats of international, national, regional or local importance.Protect international, national, regional or locally important terrestrial or aquatic species.Maintain wildlife corridors and minimise fragmentation of ecological areas and green spaces.Manage access to sites in a sustainable way that protects or enhances their nature conservation value.Create new appropriate habitats.Value, enhance and protect natural environmental assets including AONB's, historic	Net change in condition of SSSIs across Herefordshire. After use of mineral sites especially wildlife habitat creation Changes to protected habitats and impacts of species within the Herefordshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan.	% 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) Percentage of opportunities taken To protect and where possible enhance the habitats of protected species identified. No net losses

SEA Topics	SA Objective	SEA Objective	Sub-objectives / Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal/site...)	Indicators	Targets
			<p>landscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage local stewardship of local environments, for example by promoting best practices in agricultural management • Ensure that environmental impacts caused by mineral operations and the transport of minerals are minimised. • Promote the use of rural areas and open space by all, encourage easy non-car based access, and accommodate the needs of disabled users. 		
Landscape	Not covered in SA	<p>To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes</p> <p>To improve quality of surroundings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance the landscape everywhere and particularly in designated areas • Value and protect diversity and local distinctiveness • Improve landscape and ecological quality and character of the countryside • Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space • Improve satisfaction of people with their neighbourhoods as places to live 	<p>Changes in the areas of designated nature conservation sites as a consequence of planning permission.</p> <p>Proportion of local sites where positive conservation management has or is being implemented.</p> <p>Monitoring changes to historic landscapes.</p> <p>Area resulting in a loss of open space as a result of planning permission</p>	<p>To capitalise on opportunities to enhance the areas of value to nature conservation as much as possible.</p> <p>No specific targets identified.</p> <p>No specific targets identified.</p> <p>No specific targets identified</p>

SEA Topics	SA Objective	SEA Objective	Sub-objectives / Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal/site...)	Indicators	Targets
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease litter and graffiti in towns and countryside Result in the loss of open space 		
Heritage	Value, protect or enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's heritage assets, historic environment and cultural heritage.	To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and culture heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserve, protect and enhance heritage assets including conservation areas, listed buildings, archaeological sites and other culturally important features in both urban and rural settings. Prevent development which is inappropriate in scale, form or design to its setting or to its function or local area. 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. Encourage cleanliness and/or improve the general appearance of the area. 	<p>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.</p> <p>Number and percentage of listed buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments on Buildings at Risk Register (English Heritage).</p> <p>Ensure that Herefordshire Council's Sites and Monuments Register is kept up to date.</p>	<p>To improve upon or otherwise maintain current status.</p> <p>To improve upon or otherwise maintain current status.</p> <p>No specific targets identified, but need to ensure that the register is kept up to date.</p>

SEA Topics	SA Objective	SEA Objective	Sub-objectives / Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal/site...)	Indicators	Targets
Air and Climate	<p>Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources.</p> <p>Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.</p>	<p>To improve air quality</p> <p>To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment</p> <p>To reduce contributions to climate change</p> <p>To reduce vulnerability to climate change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise water, air, soil, groundwater, noise and light pollution from current activities and the potential for such pollution. Protect or enhance the quality of watercourses. Provide opportunities to improve soil quality or reduce contaminated land. Reduce the county's contribution to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport, domestic, commercial and industrial sources. 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. 	<p>Transport patronage by mode</p> <p>Number of decentralised energy schemes granted permission.</p> <p>Total CO2 emissions per capita</p>	<p>To increase the take up of alternative modes to the private car.</p> <p>To contribute towards the national target.</p> <p>To reduce the overall carbon emissions.</p>
Water	Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-	<p>To improve water quality</p> <p>To provide for sustainable sources of water supply</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce flood risk both presently and taking into account climate change. 	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.

SEA Topics	SA Objective	SEA Objective	Sub-objectives / Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal/site...)	Indicators	Targets
	<p>being, the economy and the environment.</p> <p>Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources.</p>	To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent inappropriate development of the floodplain, and include flood protection systems. Include sustainable urban drainage systems where appropriate. Minimise water, air, soil, groundwater, noise and light pollution from current activities and the potential for such pollution. Protect or enhance the quality of watercourses. 	<p>Percentage of river length assessed as good or very good chemical quality and ecological quality</p> <p>Phosphate levels within the River Wye SAC and adjoining tributaries that receive increased phosphates from proportional growth.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>To meet the targets set out in the Nutrient Management Plan (2014)</p>
Soil	<p>Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources.</p> <p>Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use.</p>	<p>To conserve soil resources and quality</p> <p>Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise water, air, soil, groundwater, noise and light pollution from current activities and the potential for such pollution. Provide opportunities to improve soil quality or reduce contaminated land. 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 	<p>Percentage of all new development completed on previously developed land.</p> <p>Amount of land identified as best and most versatile agricultural land lost to development.</p>	<p>To increase the number of homes built on PDL in line with the provisions of national planning policy.</p> <p>Measure the number of hectares of best and most versatile soil lost through development.</p>

SEA Topics	SA Objective	SEA Objective	Sub-objectives / Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal/site...)	Indicators	Targets
			will increase the share of these transport modes, thereby reducing the need to travel.		
Population and Human Health	Value, protect, enhance or restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces.	To improve health of the population To reduce crime and nuisance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Value, enhance and protect natural environmental assets including AONB's, historic landscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings. Encourage local stewardship of local environments, for example by promoting best practices in agricultural management. Ensure that environmental impacts caused by mineral operations and the transport of minerals are minimised. Promote the use of rural areas and open space by all, encourage easy non-car based access, and accommodate the needs of disabled users. 	Number of developments meeting and surpassing national design	No specific targets identified.
Material Assets	Use natural resources and energy more	To conserve natural and manmade resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximise energy efficiency and minimise the consumption of non- 	The need for, frequency and outcomes of planning enforcement investigations/ planning appeals concerning the aspects of local loss	Measure the number of hectares of best and most versatile soil lost through development.

SEA Topics	SA Objective	SEA Objective	Sub-objectives / Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal/site...)	Indicators	Targets
	efficiently. Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources.		<p>renewable energy i.e. from fossil fuels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Encourage the re-use/enhancement (to high standards of sustainable resource-efficient design) of existing buildings and minimise the need for new build. Encourage the use of clean technologies and water minimisation techniques. 	<p>of locally important buildings within a conservation area.</p> <p>Maintaining Herefordshire Council's County Site and Monuments Register.</p> <p>Monitoring changes to historic landscapes.</p> <p>Agricultural land usage by quality</p>	<p>No specific targets identified.</p> <p>No specific targets identified, but need to ensure that the register is kept up to date.</p> <p>No specific targets identified.</p> <p>Measure the number of hectares of best and most versatile soil lost through development.</p>

Appendix 3



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 Cagle; 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 15th 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

Date: 15 September 2014
Our ref: 129490
Your ref: None



James Latham
Technical Support Officer
Neighbourhood Planning, Strategic Planning & Conservation teams
Herefordshire Council
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

Luston 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 Luston 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), could be referred to as a data source.

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 Luston 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 *“Nature Conservation (Biodiversity, flora and fauna)”*, we would welcome the inclusion of an indicator/target around the impact/benefit to ecological networks (NPPF paragraph 109, 113 and 117). 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. Against *“Changes to protected habitats and impacts of species within the Herefordshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan”*, we suggest that as a minimum there should be no net losses. The NPPF sets out a requirement to move to net gains for nature (paragraph 9), drawing on the Natural Environment White Paper.

Under the SEA topic *“Landscape”* we suggest that reference could be made to the county Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Characterisation studies. We welcome the sub-objective on the loss of open space.

Under the SEA topic *“Soil”*, we welcome the inclusion of an indicator around losses of best and most versatile agricultural land, as per our previous recommendations in response to other neighbourhood plan SEA Scoping reports.

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) and Downton Gorge 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.

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)

Appendix 4

Objectives verses SEA Objectives (SMART and Compatibility Test)				
SEA Stage B1	Key:	SMART criteria:		The following matrix appraises the emerging Luston Group NDP Objectives in terms of their SMART criteria and their compatibility with the SEA Objectives. These have been developed from Government guidance on SEA and from the local evidence base gathered for identifying the NDP issues.
+ =/++	Compatible/ Very comp	S – Specific:	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	M – Measurable:	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	A – Attainable/achievable:	NDP objectives should be achievable and deliverable, related to the scale of growth proposed	
X =	No relationship between objectives	R – Realistic:	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	T – Time-Bound:	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.	

SEA Objectives

- 1- To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)
- 2- To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes
- 3- To improve quality of surroundings
- 4- To conserve and 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 health of the population
- 15- To reduce crime and nuisance
- 16- To conserve natural and manmade resources

NDP objectives	SEA Objectives																			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	Conclusions	Recommendations	SMART Test of NDP objective	After SMART objectives
1.To protect and preserve the size, form and character of the village and hamlets	+	+	+	+	x	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	x	x	x	?	This objective is generally compatible with the SEA objectives. Policy safeguards exist within both the Core Strategy and neighbourhood plan to mitigate any impacts upon the environment.		This objective meets all of the SMART criteria. This objective is specific and measurable via the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR). It will be attainable, achievable and realistic.	
2. To ensure that all future development is sustainable and does not increase risk of flooding	0	?	+	?	x	+	?	?	+	+	+	?	?	x	x	?	This objective is generally compatible with the SEA objectives.	Ensure new proposals have a reduced impact upon flooding and help with reducing the contributions to climate change.	This objective meets all of the SMART criteria. This objective is specific and measurable via the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR). It will be attainable, achievable and realistic.	
3. To protect open and green spaces	+	+	?	?	x	?	?	x	x	x	?	?	x	+	+	+	This objective is generally compatible with the SEA objectives	Ensure the location of the open spaces does not have an adverse effect on the environment, and ensure that policy safeguards exist.	This objective meets all of the SMART criteria. This objective is specific and measurable via the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR). It will be attainable, achievable and realistic.	
4. To protect the local landscape and the setting of the village and hamlets	+	+	+	+	x	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	x	x	x	?	This objective is generally compatible with the SEA objectives. Policy safeguards exist within both the Core Strategy and neighbourhood plan to mitigate any impacts upon the environment.		This objective meets all of the SMART criteria. This objective is specific and measurable via the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR). It will be attainable, achievable and realistic.	
5. To retain Luston village conservation status	+	+	+	+	?	?	?	?	x	x	?	+	x	?	?	+	This objective is generally compatible with the SEA objectives.		This objective meets the SMART criteria	
6. To ensure that new housing is provided of a size, type and tenure to accommodate local need	?	+	+	+	0	-	?	x	?	x	x	?	?	x	x	?	Overall this objective has a positive impact upon the SEA objectives however there are some unknown factors which cannot be determined until the location of the new housing has been	Ensure that the site assessments for allocation of housing sites take into consideration the environmental impact.	This objective meets all of the SMART criteria.	

																	identified			
7. To reduce traffic problems and improve highway and pedestrian safety	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	X	X	X	X	+	+	+	+	Overall this objective has a positive impact upon the SEA objectives.	Any policy will need to ensure that it is a planning matter, i.e not regarding speeding traffic	This objective meets all of the SMART criteria, although could change from being so specific to allow for measures to reduce the traffic problems through the village.	
8. To support home working and small businesses	?	X	X	+	X	?	?	?	X	X	?	?	?	X	X	?	Further details are required with regards to the type of business and location.	Many of these objectives could be positive if the business were kept local thereby reducing traffic, and had policy safeguards to ensure no adverse impact upon the environment.	This objective meets all of the SMART criteria. This objective is specific and measurable via the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR). It will be attainable, achievable and realistic.	
9. To protect and enhance community facilities	X	X	+	+	X	X	X	X	X	X	?	X	?	+	+	+	This objective does not have a direct relationship with many of the SEA objectives, but the objectives that there is a relationship are compatible		This objective meets the SMART criteria	

Objectives verses SEA Objectives (SMART and Compatibility Test)				
SEA Stage B1	Key:	SMART criteria:		The following matrix appraises the emerging Luston Group NDP Objectives in terms of their SMART criteria and their compatibility with the SEA Objectives. These have been developed from Government guidance on SEA and from the local evidence base gathered for identifying the NDP issues.
+ =/++	Compatible/very comp	S – Specific:	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	M – Measurable:	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	A – Attainable/achievable:	NDP objectives should be achievable and deliverable, related to the scale of growth proposed	
X =	No relationship between objectives	R – Realistic:	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	T – Time-Bound:	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.	

SEA Objectives	Baseline carried over from Stage A
1- To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	1-The 2011-2013 AMR does not contain updated conservation data.2010/11: 27% of Herefordshire's SSSI land was in favourable condition. July 14 – status of the SSSIs are: River Lugg meanders – favourable, Berrington Pool - favourable. The River Lugg section of the SAC is currently exceeding phosphate targets. The 2011-2013 AMR does not contain updated conservation data. 2010/11: 17 Habitat Action Plans and 14 Species Action Plans are currently in operation across Herefordshire. Luston Group has: 2 SSSI, 13 SWS. There are no SACs, NNRs and SINCs within the parish.
2- To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	2-There are no outstanding enforcement actions or appeals concerning locally important buildings within Luston Group at present.
3- To improve quality of surroundings	3-In terms of Luston Group parish itself, the study reveals that there are 1.7 hectares of playing pitch area none of which has secured community access. There is no formal play are within the group parish.
4- To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and culture heritage	4-Whilst there is no qualitative, locally specific data available at present, there are 6 scheduled monuments in Luston Group parish, according to the latest version of the register.
5- To improve air quality	5-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 suggests that air quality is improving.
6- To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	6-% 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%.
7- To reduce contributions to climate change	7-Herefordshire latest figure of C02 emissions per capita-dates back to 2010: 1.61 million tonnes (mtCO²)
8- To reduce vulnerability to climate change	8-Reduce the risk of flooding-There have been no approvals contrary to EA advice since reporting began in 2004.The 2011-2013 AMR does not contain updated conservation data.
9- To improve water quality	9-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%.
10- To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	10-Luston Group parish falls into the Herefordshire Conjunctive Use Water Resource Zones (WRZs), one of 6 zones covering Herefordshire. 39% of demand is from non-household use.
11- To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	11-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.
12- To conserve soil resources and quality	12-Around the parish of Luston group the soil classification is mainly Grades 2 and 3. There are patches of Grade 4 land within the parish. Percentage of all new development completed on previously developed land.2010/11: 67%2011-13: 57%.
13- To minimise the production of waste	16-There are numerous listed buildings within the parish and six SAMs. None are currently recorded in the Buildings at Risk Register. There are no outstanding enforcement actions or appeals concerning locally important buildings within Luston Group parish at present. The Parish Area has the following landscape types: Principal settled farmlands; wet pasture meadows and plateau estate farmlands.
14- To improve health of the population	
15- To reduce crime and nuisance	
16- To conserve natural and manmade resources	

NDP Policies	SEA objectives																		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	Summary in relation to baseline	Overall commentary and any initial cumulative effects/ Recommendations	Conformity with Core Strategy
Baseline	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	NA	NA	NA	13			
Prepare NDP	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	Prepare a NDP allows for certainty for the Parish, and ensures that local policies are in place to guide development.	All policies within the NDP would need to be in general conformity with the national policies and the Local Plan.	This option would meet the requirements of the Core Strategy in terms of SEA.
Do nothing	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	Do nothing option is essential not to produce a neighbourhood plan and 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
Define a Settlement Boundary for Luston	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	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 the proportional growth requirements within Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy. 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.
Allocate Housing Sites for development	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	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. 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.
Allow Organic Growth of housing	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	+	+				+	Allowing organic growth will not provide as much certainty of where development will go as allocating sites however it will allow smaller parcels of land to come forward and this will integrate well into the village. There is less certainty over the positive effects on the baseline as any growth with be adjudged by criteria based policy.	All developments will need to be in general conformity with the NDP and Local Plan. Mitigation criteria will need to be added to the criteria based policy within the NDP to ensure all SEA objectives are achieved. It would need to ensure that there is sufficient housing coming forward to meet the requirements of the Core Strategy.	This option would meet the Core Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA as long as there is sufficient availability of land.

Objectives verses SEA Objectives (SMART and Compatibility Test)				
SEA Stage B1	Key:	SMART criteria:		The following matrix appraises the emerging Luston Group NDP Objectives in terms of their SMART criteria and their compatibility with the SEA Objectives. These have been developed from Government guidance on SEA and from the local evidence base gathered for identifying the NDP issues.
+ =/++	Compatible/very comp	S – Specific:	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	M – Measurable:	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	A – Attainable/achievable:	NDP objectives should be achievable and deliverable, related to the scale of growth proposed	
X =	No relationship between objectives	R – Realistic:	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	T – Time-Bound:	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.	

SEA Objectives	Baseline carried over from Stage A
1- To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	1-The 2011-2013 AMR does not contain updated conservation data.2010/11: 27% of Herefordshire's SSSI land was in favourable condition. July 14 – status of the SSSIs are: River Lugg meanders – favourable, Berrington Pool - favourable. The River Lugg section of the SAC is currently exceeding phosphate targets. The 2011-2013 AMR does not contain updated conservation data. 2010/11: 17 Habitat Action Plans and 14 Species Action Plans are currently in operation across Herefordshire. Luston Group has: 2 SSSI, 13 SWS. There are no SACs, NNRs and SINCs within the parish.
2- To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	2-There are no outstanding enforcement actions or appeals concerning locally important buildings within Luston Group at present.
3- To improve quality of surroundings	3-In terms of Luston Group parish itself, the study reveals that there are 1.7 hectares of playing pitch area none of which has secured community access. There is no formal play are within the group parish.
4- To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and culture heritage	4-Whilst there is no qualitative, locally specific data available at present, there are 6 scheduled monuments in Luston Group parish, according to the latest version of the register.
5- To improve air quality	5-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 suggests that air quality is improving.
6- To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	6-% 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%.
7- To reduce contributions to climate change	7-Herefordshire latest figure of C02 emissions per capita-dates back to 2010: 1.61 million tonnes (mtCO²)
8- To reduce vulnerability to climate change	8-Reduce the risk of flooding-There have been no approvals contrary to EA advice since reporting began in 2004.The 2011-2013 AMR does not contain updated conservation data.
9- To improve water quality	9-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%.
10- To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	10-Luston Group parish falls into the Herefordshire Conjunctive Use Water Resource Zones (WRZs), one of 6 zones covering Herefordshire. 39% of demand is from non-household use.
11- To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	11-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.
12- To conserve soil resources and quality	12-Around the parish of Luston group the soil classification is mainly Grades 2 and 3. There are patches of Grade 4 land within the parish. Percentage of all new development completed on previously developed land.2010/11: 67%2011-13: 57%.
13- To minimise the production of waste	13-There are numerous listed buildings within the parish and six SAMs. None are currently recorded in the Buildings at Risk Register. There are no outstanding enforcement actions or appeals concerning locally important buildings within Luston Group parish at present. The Parish Area has the following landscape types: Principal settled farmlands; wet pasture meadows and plateau estate farmlands.
14- To improve health of the population	
15- To reduce crime and nuisance	
16- To conserve natural and manmade resources	

NDP Policies	SEA objectives																		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	Summary in relation to baseline	Overall commentary and any initial cumulative effects/ Recommendations	Conformity with Core Strategy
Baseline	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	NA	NA	NA	13			
Policy LG1 General Development Principles	+	+	+	+	X	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	X	X	+	Overall this policy has a positive effect on the baseline, and seeks to mitigate against the effects of housing development on the environment and local area.	Overall this policy meets the SEA objectives and the requirements in the Core Strategy for housing proposals.	Overall this policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy LG2 Design of development in Luston Group	+	+	+	+	X	?	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	X	X	+	Overall this policy has a positive effect on the baseline, and seeks to mitigate against the effects of housing development on the environment.	Overall this policy meets the SEA objectives and the requirements in the Core Strategy for housing proposals.	Overall this policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy LG3 Protecting and enhancing local landscape character and views	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	+	X	+	X	+	Overall this policy has a positive effect on the baseline, retaining the character and setting of the landscape within the parish.	Overall this policy meets the SEA objectives and the requirements in the Core Strategy, and retaining the landscape character and setting of the area.	Overall this policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy LG4 Flood risk, water management and surface water run off	+	+	+	+	X	X	+	+	+	X	+	+	X	X	X	+	Overall this policy has a positive effect on the baseline, and seeks to mitigate against the effects of housing development on the environment, particularly in relation to flood risk and surface water flooding.	Overall this policy meets the SEA objectives and the requirements in the Core Strategy for safeguarding against flooding and flood risk.	Overall this policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy LG5 Dark Skies	+	+	+	+	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	+	Overall this policy generally has a positive effect on the baseline, where there is a relationship.	Overall this policy meets the SEA objectives for prevention of light pollution.	Overall this policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy LG6 Scale and type of new housing in Luston	+	+	+	+	X	?	?	X	X	X	+	+	X	X	X	+	Overall this policy has a positive effect on the baseline, the policy helps to mitigate housing development in Luston village, however due to the location for development being unknown there are some unknown conclusions.	Overall this policy meets the SEA objectives. However this does not identify site allocations in Luston, although it does allow for development to come forward both within or adjacent to the settlement boundary therefore provides more flexibility.	Overall this policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA, as long as sites come forward with this policy.
Policy LG7 Scale and type of new housing in Ashton, Eyton	+	+	+	+	X	?	?	X	X	X	+	+	X	X	X	+	Overall this policy has a positive effect on the baseline, the policy helps to mitigate housing development in the three smaller villages, however due to the location being unknown there are some unknown conclusions.	Overall this policy meets the SEA objectives and the requirements in the Core Strategy for scale and type of housing	This policy would meet the Core Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA.

and Moreton																			
Policy LG8 Traffic Management and transport improvements	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	X	X	X	?	X	X	X	+	Overall this policy has a positive effect on the baseline, and seeks to mitigate against the effects of traffic on the environment.	Overall this policy meets the SEA objectives and the requirements in the Core Strategy for transportation.	This policy would meet the Core Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA.
Policy LG9 Sustainable transport measures	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	X	X	X	?	X	X	X	+	Overall this policy has a positive effect on the baseline, and seeks to mitigate against the effects of traffic on the environment.	Overall this policy meets the SEA objectives and the requirements in the Core Strategy for transportation.	This policy would meet the Core Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA.
Policy LG10 Supporting and enhancing existing small scale local employment	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	X	X	+	+	+	0	X	+	Overall this policy has a positive effect on the baseline. Reusing existing buildings and brownfield land for employment use will help the baseline.	Overall this policy meets the SEA objectives and the requirements in the Core Strategy.	Overall this policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy LG11 Protection of local green spaces	+	+	+	+	X	X	X	+	0	X	+	+	X	+	X	+	Overall this policy has a positive effect on the baseline, retaining the character of the area and ensuring a valued green space is protected.	Overall this policy meets the SEA objectives and the requirements in the Core Strategy.	Overall this policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy LG12 Protection of open spaces	+	+	+	+	X	X	X	+	0	X	+	+	X	+	X	+	Overall this policy has a positive effect on the baseline, retaining the character of the area and ensuring a valued open space is protected.	Overall this policy meets the SEA objectives and the requirements in the Core Strategy.	Overall this policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy LG13 Protection and enhancement of local community facilities	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	X	X	X	+	X	X	+	+	+	Overall this policy has a positive effect on the baseline, and seeks to retain and protect the existing community facilities.	Overall this policy meets the SEA objectives and the requirements in the Core Strategy.	Overall this policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy LG14 Community facilities and Community Infrastructure Levy	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	X	X	+	X	X	+	+	+	Overall this policy has a positive effect on the baseline, and seeks to improve transport routes around the parish including improving footpath and cycleways around the village.	Overall this policy meets the SEA objectives and the requirements in the Core Strategy.	Overall this policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

Key:

++ Move towards significantly	+ Move towards Marginally	- - Move away significantly	- Move away marginally	0 Neutral	? Uncertain	N/A No relationship
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Policy LG1 General Development Principles

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider 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 would direct development principles for new development. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	This Policy would not lead to development itself but would direct development principles for new development. This Policy is not over and above the Core	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

				Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	This Policy would not lead to development itself but would direct development principles for new development. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	This Policy would not lead to development itself but would direct development principles for new development. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To improve air quality	x	x	x	n/a	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	?	?	+	This Policy would not lead to development itself but would direct development principles for new development. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	This Policy would not lead to development itself but would direct development principles for new development. This Policy is	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

				not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	This Policy would not lead to development itself but would direct development principles for new development. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To improve water quality	+	+	+	This Policy would not lead to development itself but would direct development principles for new development. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	+	+	+	This Policy would not lead to development itself but would direct development principles for new development. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	This Policy would not lead to development itself but would direct development principles for new development. This Policy is not over and above the Core	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

				Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This Policy would not lead to development itself but would direct development principles for new development. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To minimise the production of waste	X	X	X	n/a	
To improve health of the population	X	X	X	n/a	
To reduce crime and nuisance	X	X	X	n/a	
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This Policy would not lead to development itself but would direct development principles for new development. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	This Policy would not lead to development itself but would direct development principles for new development. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.				

Policy LG2 Design of development in Luston Group

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B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider 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 would control the design of development. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	++	++	++	This Policy would not lead to development itself but would control the design of development. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	This Policy would not lead to development itself but would control the design of development. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

				objectives.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	++	++	++	This Policy would not lead to development itself but would control the design of development. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To improve air quality	x	x	x	n/a	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	?	?	+	This Policy would not lead to development itself but would control the design of development. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	This Policy would not lead to development itself but would control the design of development. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	This Policy would not lead to development itself but would control the design of development. This Policy is not over and above	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

				the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To improve water quality	+	+	+	This Policy would not lead to development itself but would control the design of development. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	0	0	0	This Policy would not lead to development itself but would control the design of development. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	This Policy would not lead to development itself but would control the design of development. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This Policy would not lead to development itself but would control the design of development. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

				objectives.	
To minimise the production of waste	+	+	+	This Policy would not lead to development itself but would control the design of development. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To improve health of the population	X	X	X	n/a	
To reduce crime and nuisance	X	X	X	n/a	
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This Policy would not lead to development itself but would control the design of development. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	This Policy would not lead to development itself but would control the design of development. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.				

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

Policy LG3 Protecting and enhancing local landscape character and views

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider 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 seeks to protect the landscape character and special views. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	++	++	++	This Policy would not lead to development itself but seeks to protect the landscape character and special views. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To improve quality of surroundings	++	++	++	This Policy would not lead to development itself but seeks to protect the landscape character	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

				and special views. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	This Policy would not lead to development itself but seeks to protect the landscape character and special views. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	This Policy would not lead to development itself but seeks to protect the landscape character and special views. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	0	0	0	This Policy would not lead to development itself but seeks to protect the landscape character and special views. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	This Policy would not lead to development itself but seeks to protect the landscape character and special views. This Policy is not	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

				over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	This Policy would not lead to development itself but seeks to protect the landscape character and special views. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To improve water quality	0	0	0	This Policy would not lead to development itself but seeks to protect the landscape character and special views. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	+	+	+	This Policy would not lead to development itself but seeks to protect the landscape character and special views. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	This Policy would not lead to development itself but seeks to protect the landscape character and special views. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

				in terms of SEA objectives.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This Policy would not lead to development itself but seeks to protect the landscape character and special views. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To minimise the production of waste	x	x	x	n/a	
To improve health of the population	+	+	+	This Policy would not lead to development itself but seeks to protect the landscape character and special views. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To reduce crime and nuisance	x	x	x	n/a	
To conserve natural and manmade resources	++	++	++	This Policy would not lead to development itself but seeks to protect the landscape character and special views. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative	This Policy would not lead to development itself but seeks to protect the landscape character and special				

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

effects	views. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.
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Policy LG4 Flood risk, water management and surface water run off

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider 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 safeguards for flooding and flood risk. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	This Policy would not lead to development itself but contains safeguards for flooding and flood risk. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	This Policy would not lead to development itself but contains safeguards for flooding and flood risk. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	This Policy would not lead to development itself but contains safeguards for flooding and flood risk. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
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	+	+	+	This Policy would not lead to development itself but contains safeguards for flooding and flood risk. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	++	++	++	This Policy would not lead to development itself but contains safeguards for flooding and flood	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

				risk. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To improve water quality	+	+	+	This Policy would not lead to development itself but contains safeguards for flooding and flood risk. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	x	x	x	n/a	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	++	++	++	This Policy would not lead to development itself but contains safeguards for flooding and flood risk. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This Policy would not lead to development itself but contains safeguards for flooding and flood risk. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

To minimise the production of waste	x	x	x	n/a	
To improve health of the population	x	x	x	n/a	
To reduce crime and nuisance	x	x	x	n/a	
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This Policy would not lead to development itself but contains safeguards for flooding and flood risk. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	This Policy would not lead to development itself but contains safeguards for flooding and flood risk. This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.				

Policy LG5 Dark Skies

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider 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)	Long term (11 years +)		

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

		years)			
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	+	This policy does not lead to development itself but seeks to prevent light pollution.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	This policy does not lead to development itself but seeks to prevent light pollution.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	This policy does not lead to development itself but seeks to prevent light pollution.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	This policy does not lead to development itself but seeks to prevent light pollution.	
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	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

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	x	x	x	n/a	
To minimise the production of waste	x	x	x	n/a	
To improve health of the population	x	x	x	n/a	
To reduce crime and nuisance	x	x	x	n/a	
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This policy does not lead to development itself but seeks to prevent light pollution.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	This policy does not lead to development itself but seeks to prevent light pollution. The detailing the restriction of significant openings that allow internal lighting to be seen externally is over and above the Core Strategy and would not be enforceable.				

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

Policy LG6 Scale and type of new housing in Luston

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider 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 small scale development in line with Policy RA3 within 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 small scale development in line with Policy RA3 within the Core Strategy.	
To improve quality of	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

surroundings				objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with Policy RA3 within the Core Strategy.	
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 small scale development in line with Policy RA3 within the Core Strategy.	
To improve air quality	x	x	x	n/a	
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 small scale development in line with Policy RA3 within 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 small scale development in line with Policy RA3 within the Core Strategy.	
To reduce vulnerability	x	x	x	n/a	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

to climate change					
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	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with Policy RA3 within the Core Strategy. The policy includes criteria to help alleviate flood risk.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with Policy RA3 within the Core Strategy.	
To minimise the production of waste	x	x	x	n/a	
To improve health of the population	x	x	x	n/a	
To reduce crime and	x	x	x	n/a	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

nuisance					
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 small scale development in line with Policy RA3 within the Core Strategy.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with Policy RA3 within the Core Strategy.				

Policy LG7 Scale and type of new housing in Ashton, Eyton and Moreton

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider 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 +)		

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

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 small scale development in line with Policy RA3 within 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 small scale development in line with Policy RA3 within the Core Strategy.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with Policy RA3 within the Core Strategy.	
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 small scale development in line with Policy RA3 within the Core Strategy.	
To improve air quality	x	x	x	n/a	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

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 small scale development in line with Policy RA3 within 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 small scale development in line with Policy RA3 within the Core Strategy.	
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	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with Policy RA3 within the Core Strategy. The policy includes	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

				criteria to help alleviate flood risk.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with Policy RA3 within the Core Strategy.	
To minimise the production of waste	x	x	x	n/a	
To improve health of the population	x	x	x	n/a	
To reduce crime and nuisance	x	x	x	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 small scale development in line with Policy RA3 within the Core Strategy.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with Policy RA3 within the Core Strategy.				

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

Policy LG8 Traffic Management and transport improvements

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider 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. It will help to provide additional sustainable transport measures and improved transport routes around the parish.	
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. It will help to provide additional sustainable transport measures and improved transport routes around the parish.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives. It will help to provide	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

				additional sustainable transport measures and improved transport routes around the parish.	
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. It will help to provide additional sustainable transport measures and improved transport routes around the parish.	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives. It will help to provide additional sustainable transport measures and improved transport routes around the parish.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives. It will help to provide additional sustainable transport measures and improved transport routes around the parish.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives. It will help to provide additional sustainable transport	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

				measures and improved transport routes around the parish.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	?	?	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives. It will help to provide additional sustainable transport measures and improved transport routes around the parish.	
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	?	?	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives. It will help to provide additional sustainable transport measures and improved transport routes around the parish.	
To minimise the production of waste	x	x	x	n/a	
To improve health of	x	x	x	n/a	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance	x	x	x	n/a	
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives. It will help to provide additional sustainable transport measures and improved transport routes around the parish.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives. It will help to provide additional sustainable transport measures and improved transport routes around the parish.				

Policy LG9 Sustainable transport measures

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider 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 +)		

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

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. It will help to provide additional sustainable transport measures and improved transport routes around the parish.	
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. It will help to provide additional sustainable transport measures and improved transport routes around the parish.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives. It will help to provide additional sustainable transport measures and improved transport routes around the parish.	
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. It will help to provide additional sustainable transport measures and improved transport routes around the parish.	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above	

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				the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives. It will help to provide additional sustainable transport measures and improved transport routes around the parish.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives. It will help to provide additional sustainable transport measures and improved transport routes around the parish.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives. It will help to provide additional sustainable transport measures and improved transport routes around the parish.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	?	?	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives. It will help to provide additional sustainable transport measures and improved transport routes around the parish.	
To improve water quality	x	x	x	n/a	

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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	?	?	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives. It will help to provide additional sustainable transport measures and improved transport routes around the parish.	
To minimise the production of waste	x	x	x	n/a	
To improve health of the population	x	x	x	n/a	
To reduce crime and nuisance	x	x	x	n/a	
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives. It will help to provide additional sustainable transport measures and improved transport routes around the parish.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives. It will help to provide				

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

effects	additional sustainable transport measures and improved transport routes around the parish.
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Policy LG10 Supporting and enhancing existing small scale local employment

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider 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 does not go over and above the Core Strategy. Safeguards are in place to mitigate against the adverse impact of new development.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscape	+	+	+	This policy does not go over and above the Core Strategy. Safeguards are in place to mitigate against the adverse impact of new development.	
To improve quality of	+	+	+	This policy does not go over and above the Core Strategy.	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

surroundings				Safeguards are in place to mitigate against the adverse impact of new development.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	This policy does not go over and above the Core Strategy. Safeguards are in place to mitigate against the adverse impact of new development.	
To improve air quality	0	0	0	This policy does not go over and above the Core Strategy. Safeguards are in place to mitigate against the adverse impact of new development.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	This policy does not go over and above the Core Strategy. Safeguards are in place to mitigate against the adverse impact of new development.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	This policy does not go over and above the Core Strategy. Safeguards are in place to mitigate against the adverse impact of new development.	
To reduce vulnerability	0	0	0	This policy does not go over and	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

to climate change				above the Core Strategy. Safeguards are in place to mitigate against the adverse impact of new development.	
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	+	+	+	This policy does not go over and above the Core Strategy. Safeguards are in place to mitigate against the adverse impact of new development.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This policy does not go over and above the Core Strategy. Safeguards are in place to mitigate against the adverse impact of new development.	
To minimise the production of waste	+	+	+	This policy does not go over and above the Core Strategy. Safeguards are in place to mitigate against the adverse impact of new development.	

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To improve health of the population	0	0	0	This policy does not go over and above the Core Strategy. Safeguards are in place to mitigate against the adverse impact of new development.	
To reduce crime and nuisance	x	x	x	n/a	
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This policy does not go over and above the Core Strategy. Safeguards are in place to mitigate against the adverse impact of new development.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	This policy does not go over and above the Core Strategy. Safeguards are in place to mitigate against the adverse impact of new development.				

Policy LG11 Protection of local green spaces

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider 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 –	Medium term	Long term (11 years +)		

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

	5 years)	(6 – 10 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.	
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.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
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.	
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	x	x	x	n/a	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

to climate change					
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To improve water quality	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	x	x	x	n/a	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To minimise the production of waste	x	x	x	n/a	
To improve health of the population	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To reduce crime and nuisance	x	x	x	n/a	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.				

Policy LG12 Protection of open spaces

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider 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.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	

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townscapes					
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
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.	
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	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To improve water quality	0	0	0	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To provide for sustainable sources of	x	x	x	n/a	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

water supply					
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To minimise the production of waste	x	x	x	n/a	
To improve health of the population	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To reduce crime and nuisance	x	x	x	n/a	
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.				

Policy LG13 Protection and enhancement of local community facilities

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider	Summary Explanation	Enhancement and
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B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

	cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)				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.	
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.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
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.	

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To improve air quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
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	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	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	x	x	x	n/a	
To minimise the production of waste	x	x	x	n/a	
To improve health of	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

the population				the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To reduce crime and nuisance	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives. Policy safeguards exist within this policy, other policies in the NDP and Core Strategy to avoid and mitigate against significant harm.				

Policy LG14 Community facilities and Community Infrastructure Levy

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider 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 +)		

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

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.	
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.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
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.	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To reduce contributions	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

to climate change				objectives.	
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	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	x	x	x	n/a	
To minimise the production of waste	x	x	x	n/a	
To improve health of the population	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To reduce crime and nuisance	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.	
To conserve natural and manmade	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA	

B3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the policies and sites within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

resources				objectives.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.				

Key:

++ Move towards significantly	+ Move towards marginally	-- Move away Significantly	- Move away marginally	0 Neutral	? Uncertain	X No relationship
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SEA Objective / Policy	1. To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	2. To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	3. To improve quality of surroundings	4. To conserve and 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	14. To improve health of the population	15. To reduce crime and nuisance	16. To conserve natural and manmade resources
Objective 1	+	+	+	+	X	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	X	X	X	?
Objective 2	0	?	+	?	X	+	?	?	+	+	+	?	?	X	X	?
Objective 3	+	+	?	?	X	?	?	X	X	X	?	?	X	+	+	+
Objective 4	+	+	+	+	X	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	X	X	X	?
Objective 5	+	+	+	+	?	?	?	?	X	X	?	+	X	?	?	+
Objective 6	?	+	+	+	0	-	?	X	?	X	X	?	?	X	X	?
Objective 7	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	X	X	X	X	+	+	+	+
Objective 8	?	X	X	+	X	?	?	?	X	X	?	?	?	X	X	?
Objective 9	X	X	+	+	X	X	X	X	X	X	?	X	?	+	+	+
Policy 1	+	+	+	+	X	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	X	X	+
Policy 2	++	++	+	++	X	?	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	X	X	+
Policy 3	++	++	++	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	+	X	+	X	++
Policy 4	+	+	+	+	X	X	+	++	+	X	++	+	X	X	X	+
Policy 5	+	+	+	+	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	+
Policy 6	+	+	+	+	X	?	?	X	X	X	+	+	X	X	X	+

Policy 7	+	+	+	+	X	?	?	X	X	X	+	+	X	X	X	+
Policy 8	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	X	X	X	?	X	X	X	+
Policy 9	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	X	X	X	?	X	X	X	+
Policy 10	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	X	X	+	+	+	0	X	+
Policy 11	++	+	+	+	X	X	X	+	0	X	+	+	X	+	X	++
Policy 12	++	+	+	+	X	X	X	+	0	X	+	+	X	+	X	++
Policy 13	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	X	X	X	+	X	X	+	+	+
Policy 14	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	X	X	+	X	X	+	+	+
Summary of effects of whole plan on each SEA Objective	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	X	X	+
	On balance the plan aiming to converse and enhance the natural environment.	On balance the plan aims to protect and enhance the environment around Luston Group parish and the setting and character of the village	The plan aims improve the quality of the surroundings and encourage additional facilities	The plan aims to protect and enhance the environment around Luston Group and the setting and character of the village	The plan conforms to the aims of the Core Strategy.	The Plan's objectives and policies do not specifically detail reducing the need to travel and therefore this could be strengthened to improve air quality.	Policies include provisions to reduce the contributions to climate change such as design and renewable energy.	Policies are included to reduce the risks of flooding.	Policies are in conformity with the requirements of the Core Strategy.	Policies are in conformity with the requirements of the Core Strategy.	Policies are included to reduce the risks of flooding.	Policies aim to conform to the locational policies within the Core Strategy.				Policies exist to conserve or reuse existing resources.
Cumulative effects of whole plan (1 + 2 + 3...)	Overall the Luston group Neighbourhood Plan will contribution to meeting the SEA objectives and having a positive impact on the baseline. Most of the policies have been drafted in general conformity with the Core Strategy objectives and contain many policy safeguards to ensure that the effects on environmental assets can be avoided or mitigated against. None of the policies are over and above those already assessed for the Core Strategy. The concern would be that Policy LG6 is too restrictive and won't allow the Core Strategy housing figures to come forward over the Plan period.															
Commentary for significant cumulative effects	The Luston group neighbourhood plan is unlikely to have any significant cumulative effects on the SEA objectives.															

Appendix 5

Luston Group options

The GPC decided to have a NDP in 2013.

To have a settlement boundary around Luston

Allocating housing sites

Allow “organic growth” (i.e. infill etc.)

Appendix 6

Objectives and context	Where referenced in NDP/SEA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Neighbourhood Development Plan's purpose and objectives are made clear. • 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. • SEA objectives are clearly set out and linked to indicators and targets where appropriate. • 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. • Conflicts that exist between SEA and Neighbourhood Development Plan objectives; and between SEA objectives and other local plan objectives are identified and described. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 1 (paras 1.9 – 1.10). • Sections 2 and 3; and Tables A2 and A3 • Section 3 (para 3.7). • Section 3 (para 3.5). • Section 3 (paras 3.8 – 3.12)
Scoping	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory Consultees are consulted in appropriate ways and at appropriate times on the content and scope of the Environmental Report. • The assessment focuses on significant issues. • Technical, procedural and other difficulties encountered are discussed; assumptions and uncertainties are made explicit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2 (paras 2.6 – 2.9) and Appendix 3 • Sections 2 and 4 • Sections 2 and 4

Alternatives	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Realistic alternatives are considered for key issues, and the reasons for choosing them are documented. Alternatives include 'do minimum' and/or 'business as usual' scenarios wherever relevant. The environmental effects (both adverse and beneficial) of each alternative are identified and compared. Inconsistencies between the alternatives and other relevant local plans, programmes or policies are identified and explained. Reasons are given for selection or elimination of alternatives. 	Section 5 (5.1 to 5.5)
Baseline information	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. Difficulties such as deficiencies in information or methods are explained. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 1 and 4. Initial screening report and Section 1. Section 2.

Prediction and evaluation of likely significant environmental effects	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Both positive and negative effects are considered, and the duration of effects (short, medium or long-term) is addressed. Likely secondary, cumulative (growing in quantity and strength) and synergistic (acting together) effects are identified, where practicable. Inter-relationships between effects are considered, where practicable. The prediction and evaluation of effects makes use of relevant accepted standards, regulations, and thresholds (i.e. data gathered for the evidence base). Methods used to evaluate the effects are described. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tables A2, A3 and A4 (Appendix 2) Tables B2 and B3 (Appendix 4) Table B4 (Appendix 4) Section 4 Section 4 Section 2
Mitigation measures	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the Neighbourhood Development Plan are indicated. Issues to be taken into account when determining planning applications or other projects, for example funding bids, are identified. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 6 (paras 6.7 to 6.8) Section 4

The Environmental Report	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is clear and concise in its layout and presentation. • Uses simple, clear language and avoids or explains technical terms. • Uses maps and other illustrations, where appropriate. • Explains the methodology used. • Explains who was consulted and what methods of consultation were used. • Identifies sources of information, including expert judgement and matters of opinion. • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A • N/A • N/A • Section 2 • Section 2 • Section 2 • Included at page 1
Consultation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SEA is consulted on as an integral part of the plan-making process of the Neighbourhood Development Plan. • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2 (paras 2.6 – 2.7) • Section 6

Decision-making and information on the decision	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The environmental report and the opinions of those consulted are taken into account in finalising and adopting the Neighbourhood Development Plan. An explanation is given of how they have been taken into account. Reasons are given for choosing the Neighbourhood Development Plan as adopted, in the light of other reasonable alternatives considered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sections 2 and 6 Following draft consultation Following draft consultation
Monitoring measures	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures proposed for monitoring the Neighbourhood Development Plan are clear, practicable and linked to the indicators and objectives used in the SEA. Monitoring is used, where appropriate, during implementation of the Neighbourhood Development Plan to make good deficiencies in baseline information in the SEA. Acknowledgement that monitoring enables unforeseen adverse effects to be identified at an early stage. (These effects may include predictions which prove to be incorrect.) Proposals are made for action in response to significant adverse effects arising from the monitoring of the Neighbourhood Development Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 5 Section 5 Section 5 Section 5