

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Hallow Neighbourhood Plan.

The **Herefordshire and Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust (HWEHT)** is a charity that aims to record, protect and promote geology and landscape in the two counties. We identify sites of geological interest and advise the County Councils on any plans that may impinge upon them.

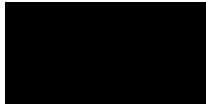
The main interest of the geology of the Hallow Parish area is in the Severn River Terraces. These are not just confined to the low-lying land adjacent to the River Severn, as suggested by Landscape Character Area descriptions (Section 7): these are the most recent terraces, Terrace 1 (Powerhouse Sand and Gravel) and Terrace 2 (Worcester Sand and Gravel). Hallow itself and indeed almost all the built-on areas of the parish are located on Terrace 4, the Kidderminster Station Sand and Gravel, which was formed at a much earlier date, before the present river valley had cut through the bedrock to its current level.

The nature of the River Terrace sand and gravel is very different from the underlying bedrock, the Sidmouth mudstone. It is more pervious and free draining, with implications for wildlife, farming and development of any kind. For that reason, we recommend that the extent of these deposits should be indicated in the plan.

There are no designated Sites of Geological Interest within the Hallow Neighbourhood Area, and we raise no objection to the planning proposals, however the river terrace deposits are of substantial interest to geologists. As well as giving clues to the early drainage of the area, they are interesting for their fossils, and for the possibility of obtaining accurate dates using newly developed technology. It is not possible to anticipate where areas of greatest interest might occur, but we would welcome the opportunity to investigate any exposures that are created during the development process.

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