

AGENDA SUPPLEMENT (1)

Meeting: Cabinet
Place: Alamein Suite - City Hall, Malthouse Lane, Salisbury, SP2 7TU
Date: Tuesday 22 March 2011
Time: 10.30 am

The Agenda for the above meeting was published on 10 March 2011. Please find attached additional material.

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Yamina Rhouati, of Democratic Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, direct line 01225 718024 or email yamina.rhouati@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications on direct lines (01225)713114/713115.

This Agenda and all the documents referred to within it are available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

5. **Public participation** *(Pages 1 - 2)*

Statement and questions from Louise Cole, Regional Director South West
The National Deaf Children's Society

9. **Submission Draft Waste Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD): Publication for formal consultation followed by submission to Secretary of State for Independent Examination** *(Pages 3 - 10)*

Revised plans to be inserted at pages 52, 80, 104 and 111 of the appendix to the above paper.

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 18 March 2011

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

22 March 2011

Item 5 – Public Participation

Statement from Louise Cole, Regional Director South West, The National Deaf Children's Society

As the Regional Director for the National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) in the South West region, I am writing to request information on your budget proposals for education hearing support services in 2011/12. NDCS is the leading charity dedicated to creating a world without barriers for deaf children and young people.

Education hearing support services play a vital role by advising classroom and subject teachers and schools on the effective teaching and learning of deaf children and how to use hearing technology, as well as providing one-to-one teaching. Most crucially they provide support to parents with deaf babies and young children so that they can start school with essential language skills that enable them to succeed in school. Although expenditure on these services represents a small fraction of local authority spending on children they can have a big impact on a deaf child's life chances and are highly valued by their parents.

I am aware of the severe budgetary pressures facing Authorities, but I urge caution if reductions are being proposed for services that are essential services for deaf children for a number of reasons:

- There are rising numbers of deaf children. The Department for Education school census shows that the number of school aged pupils with hearing impairments requiring support has increased by 8.9% between 2008 and 2010.
- Cutting services is likely to increase cost. Hearing support services are essential in helping deaf children make satisfactory education progress. Without sufficient support specialist placements are often required. These involve higher transport costs and increase the likelihood of out of authority spending. NDCS currently supports 80 parents per year at the SEN tribunal. In all cases they are won by parents, largely because of lack of specialist support in mainstream schools. In all cases the LA's spending increases. With new regulations that enable parents to appeal every year at the child's annual review, any reduction in specialist support will increase the risk of triggering an appeal to Tribunal.
- Deaf children are not achieving their academic potential and deserve a fair chance to do so. Although the government made closing the attainment gap a

national priority, figures show deaf children in the South West region are 44% less likely to do as well in their GCSEs as other children. Deafness is not a learning disability and, given the right support, deaf pupils should be achieving as hearing pupils of similar cognitive ability.

- Deaf children already face unfair access to help. Last month, NDCS published survey results from 144 local authorities which showed that deaf children are being denied fair access to help from specialist Teachers of the Deaf.^[1] In the North West of England each visiting specialist supports an average of 31 deaf children but in Wiltshire Council they support 56.7 deaf children.

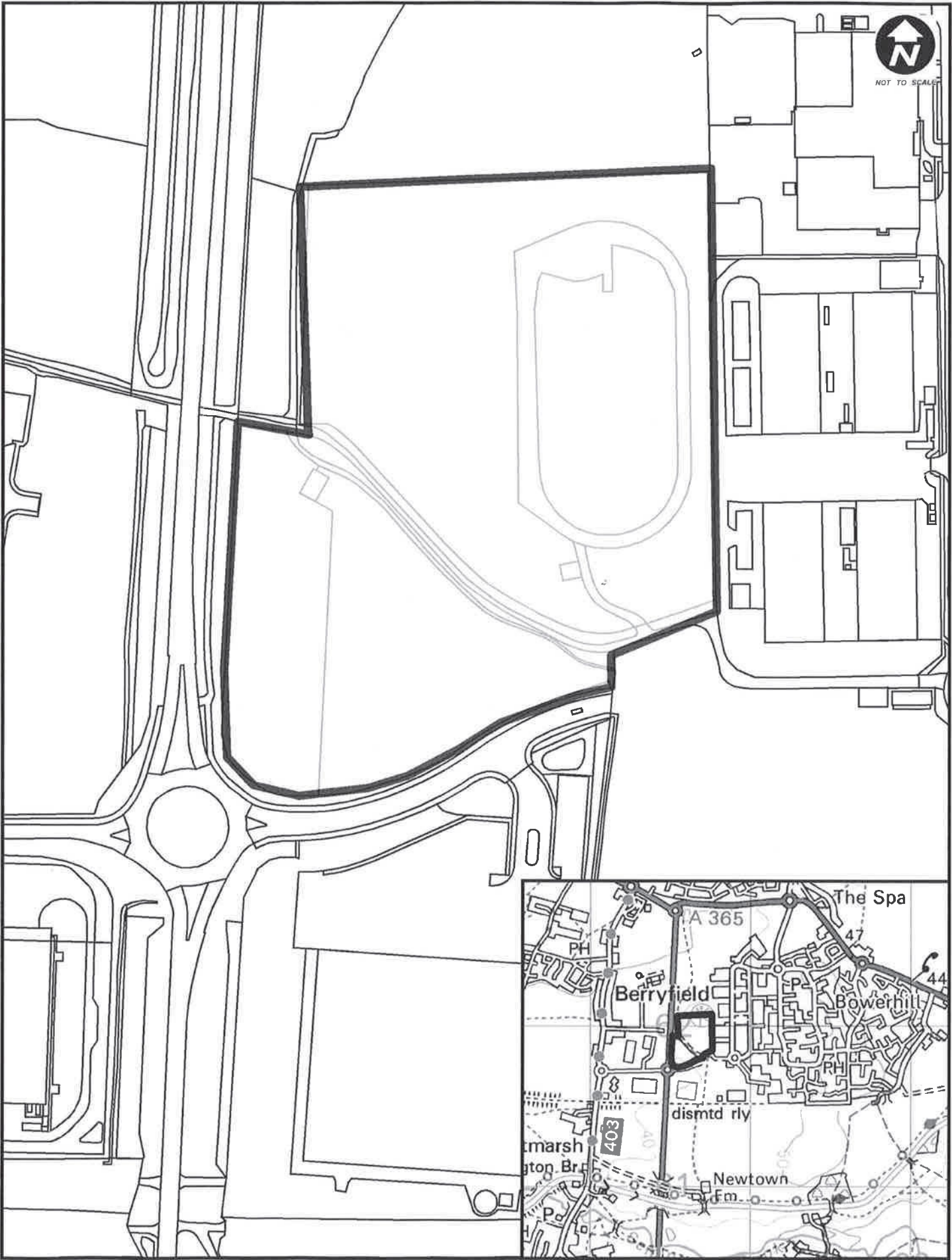
NDCS would like to work with both central and local government to tackle these important issues and ensure funds for these vital services are maintained. I should therefore be most grateful if you would let me know what your Council is proposing for the funding of education hearing support services in 2011/2. NDCS can then inform parents of deaf children so that they have the opportunity to make representations to the Council and consider their options for their child's educational placement next year.

At this point, we understand that it may only be possible to give broad proposals; but when the budget has been finalised I should be grateful for the following information:

1. What budget will be provided to hearing support services for deaf children in 2011/12?
2. If this has changed in real terms since 2010/11, what is the level of this change in percentage terms compared with the overall percentage change in the budget for children's services?
3. What will any changes mean in terms of the provision of hearing access equipment and levels of support for deaf children?
4. What will any changes mean in terms of staffing levels?

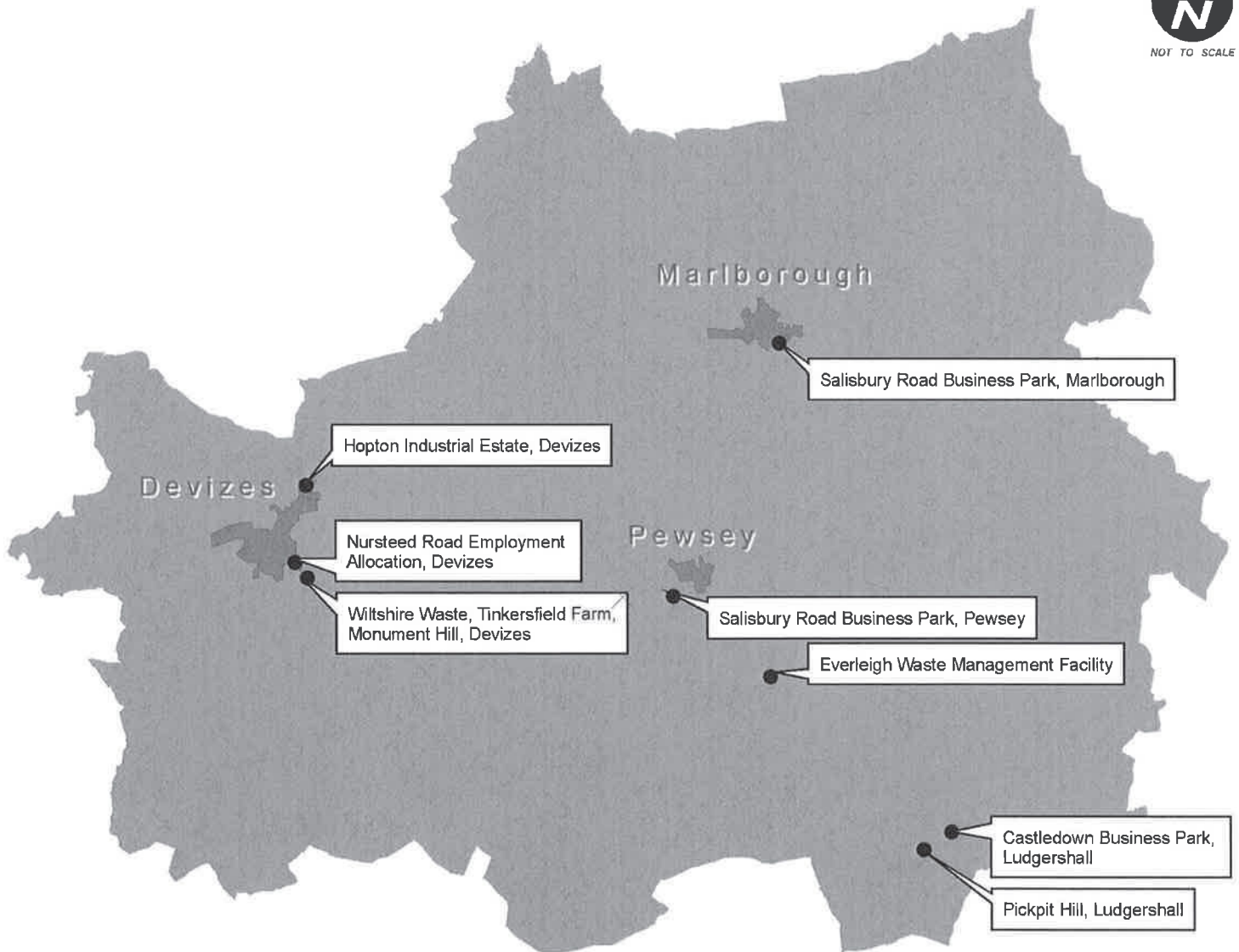
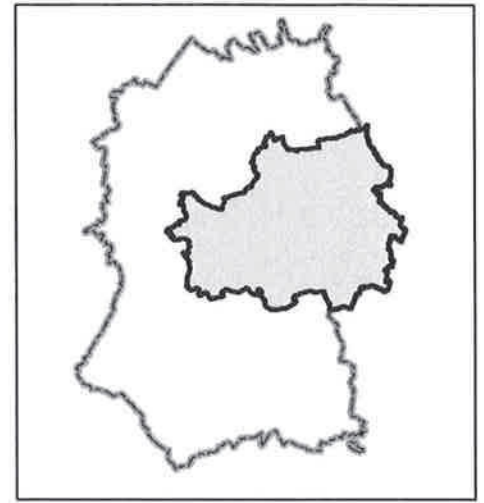
We welcome any support you can offer to ensure deaf children, who are among the most vulnerable and educationally disadvantaged children in England today, are not further disadvantaged during these difficult times.

Hampton Business Park, Melksham



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East Wiltshire Local Sites

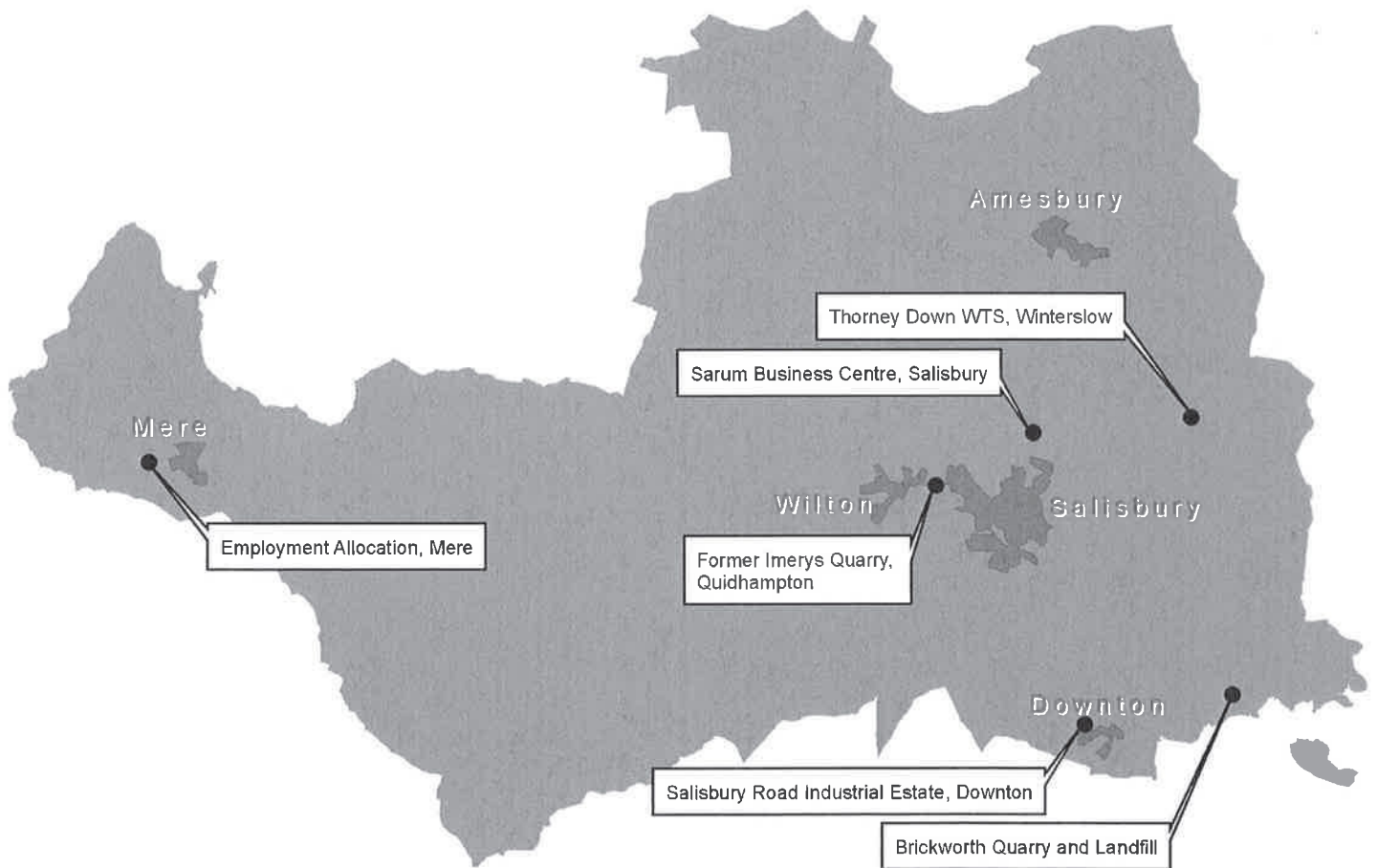
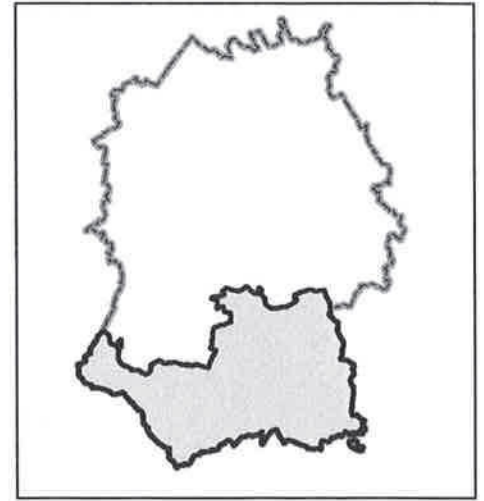


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- Key settlements in East Wiltshire
- East Wiltshire

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South Wiltshire Local Sites

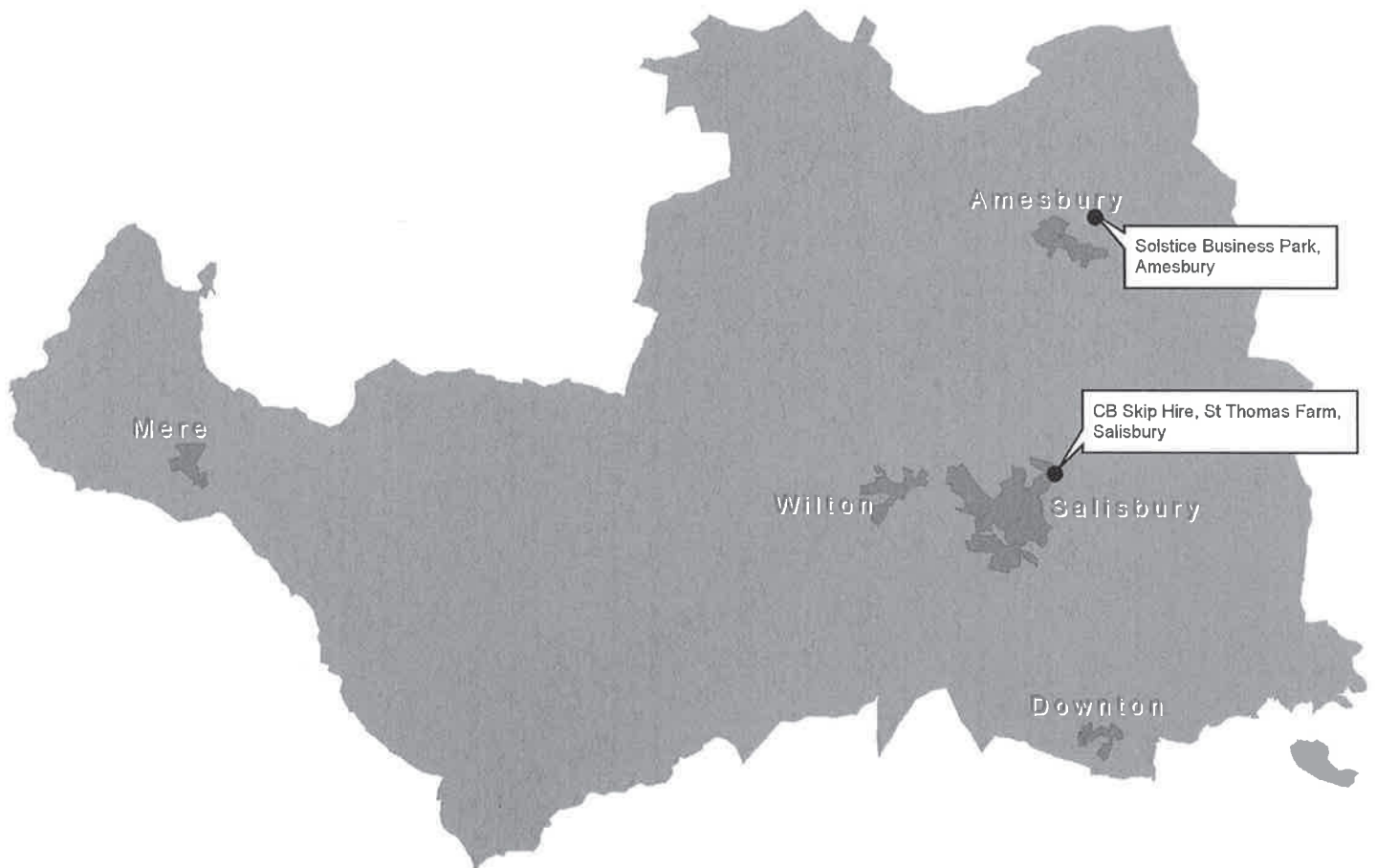
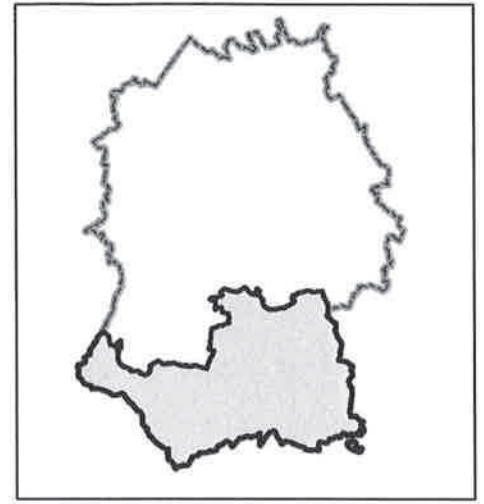


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South Wiltshire Strategic Sites



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