



Working towards a Core Strategy for Wiltshire

**Sustainability Appraisal/
Strategic Environmental
Assessment**

**Sustainability Appraisal Report
Appendices A to G**

Wiltshire Core Strategy
Prepared for Council June 2012

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Appendix A - Compliance with the SEA Directive and Regulations

This Sustainability Appraisal Report incorporates the requirements for an Environmental Report under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. These regulations transpose the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive 2001/42/EC into English Law.

This table indicates where the material required for the purposes of Article 5(1) of Directive 2001/42/EC can be found within the Sustainability Appraisal Report and Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report.

SEA Regulations – requirements for an environmental report	Where is this covered in the Sustainability Appraisal Report?
1. <i>Preparation of an environmental report in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated</i>	This requirement is covered by the Sustainability Appraisal Report and the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report.
2. <i>An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes</i>	The contents and main objectives of the Core Strategy are included in Section 1 of the Sustainability Appraisal Report. The Core Strategy's relationship with other relevant plans and programmes is addressed in Section 3 of the Sustainability Appraisal Report and Section 3 of the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and associated topic papers.
3. <i>The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme</i>	Section 4 of the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and associated topic papers. Section 3 of the Sustainability Appraisal Report.
4. <i>The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected</i>	Section 4 of the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and associated topic papers. Section 3 of the Sustainability Appraisal Report.
5. <i>Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC</i>	Sections 4 and 5 of the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and associated topic papers. Section 3 of the Sustainability Appraisal Report.
6. <i>The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or national 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</i>	Section 3 of the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and associated topic papers. Section 3 of the Sustainability Appraisal Report.
7. <i>The likely significant effects on the environment, including on</i>	Likely significant effects are presented in Sections 4-6 of the Sustainability

SEA Regulations – requirements for an environmental report	Where is this covered in the Sustainability Appraisal Report?
<p><i>issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.</i></p> <p><i>(Footnote: these effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects)</i></p>	<p>Appraisal Report and appendices H-J.</p> <p>The definition of significance is addressed in Section 2 of the Sustainability Appraisal Report.</p>
<p>8. <i>The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme</i></p>	<p>Sections 5 and 6 of the Sustainability Appraisal Report and appendices H-J.</p>
<p>9. <i>An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information</i></p>	<p>Sections 5 and 6 of the Sustainability Appraisal Report and appendices H-J.</p> <p>A description of how the assessment was undertaken, including any difficulties encountered, is addressed in Section 2 of the Sustainability Appraisal Report.</p>
<p>10. <i>A description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10</i></p>	<p>Section 7 of the Sustainability Appraisal Report.</p>
<p>11. <i>A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings</i></p>	<p>A non-technical summary is published alongside the Sustainability Appraisal Report.</p>
<p>12. <i>The report shall include the information that may reasonably be required taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme, its stage in the decision-making process and the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process to avoid duplication of the assessment</i></p>	<p>Included in the Sustainability Appraisal Report.</p>
<p>13. <i>Authorities with environmental responsibility and the public shall be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the plan or programme</i></p>	<p>Authorities with environmental responsibility and the public are being consulted on this Sustainability Appraisal Report alongside the Wiltshire Core Strategy.</p>

Appendix B - Sustainability Appraisal Framework

Sustainability Topic	Sustainability Appraisal objective	Decision aiding questions. Will the policy...
Biodiversity	1. Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geological features and avoid irreversible losses.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protect and enhance priority habitats and species? 2. Protect and enhance international, national and locally designated biodiversity sites? 3. Avoid habitat fragmentation? 4. Ensure all new developments protect and enhance local biodiversity? 5. Contribute to the achievement of objectives and targets within local BAPs? 6. Result in greater community engagement with biodiversity? 7. Maintain the existing extent of ancient woodland sites? 8. Require protection and provision of green corridors and river corridors, with use of buffer strips, where necessary? 9. Aid in the delivery of a network of multifunctional Green Infrastructure? 10. Result in a net gain for the natural environment with each new development?
Land and Soil Resources	2. Ensure efficient and effective use of land and the use of suitably located previously developed land and buildings.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maximise densities in sustainable locations that have good access to local facilities, public transport links and key infrastructure? 2. Protect the best and most versatile agricultural land? 3. Protect and enhance soil quality? 4. Maximise reuse of Previously Developed Land where possible/appropriate? 5. Encourage remediation of contaminated land? 6. Maximise efficient use of land within town/city centres? 7. Avoid the loss of natural floodplain?
	3. Promote sustainable waste management solutions that encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce the amount of waste produced? 2. Help deliver sustainable development through driving waste management up the waste hierarchy, addressing waste as a resource and looking to disposal as the last option? 3. Ensure the design and layout of new development supports sustainable waste management? 4. Provide a framework in which communities take more responsibility for their own waste? 5. Consider whether waste management solutions can provide a resource for generating heat and energy?

Sustainability Topic	Sustainability Appraisal objective	Decision aiding questions. Will the policy...
Water Resources and Flood Risk	4. Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Take into account predicted future impacts of climate change, including water scarcity issues? 2. Encourage sustainable and efficient management of water resources? 3. Minimise the environmental effects of water abstraction, both inside and outside the authority boundary? 4. Ensure that essential water infrastructure is co-ordinated with all new development? 5. Ensure the installation of water saving measures such as rainwater harvesting and water metering? 6. Consider the need for adequate provision of surface water and foul drainage? 7. Promote provision of pollution prevention measures? 8. Protect, and where possible, improve surface, ground and drinking water quality?
	5. Protect people and property from the risk of flooding	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minimise the risk of flooding to people and property (new and existing development)? 2. Take into account the predicted future impacts of climate change in the location and design of development, ensuring that development can adapt to any future flood risk scenarios? 3. Protect and enhance the natural function of floodplains? 4. Ensure the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) in appropriate circumstances?
Air Quality and Environmental Pollution	6. Improve air quality throughout Wiltshire and minimise all sources of environmental pollution.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain and improve local air quality? 2. Minimise and, where possible, improve on unacceptable levels of noise, light pollution, odour and vibration? 3. Minimise all forms of contamination to soils? 4. Help bring forward the removal of designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs)? 5. Mitigate the impacts on air quality from road transport? 6. Mitigate against uses that generate NO2 or other particulates?
Climatic Factors	7. Minimise our impacts on climate change and reduce our vulnerability to future climate change effects.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minimise emissions of greenhouse gases and ozone depleting substances? 2. Minimise the likely impacts of future development on climate change through appropriate adaptation? 3. Promote the development of renewable and low carbon sources? 4. Promote energy efficiency in buildings and new development? 5. Minimise contributions to climate change through sustainable building practices? 6. Contribute to reducing Wiltshire's ecological footprint? 7. Contribute to reducing emissions associated with landfilled waste? 8. Contribute to reducing emissions associated with the transport sector?

Sustainability Topic	Sustainability Appraisal objective	Decision aiding questions. Will the policy...
Historic environment	8. Protect, maintain and enhance the historic environment.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conserve and enhance features and areas of historical and cultural value, including Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Historic Parks & Gardens? 2. Protect, manage and present the Stonehenge and Avebury WHS in accordance with international obligations? 3. Ensure appropriate archaeological assessment prior to development 4. Promote sensitive re-use of historical buildings and buildings of significant local interest, where appropriate? 5. Improve and broaden access to, and understanding of, local heritage and historic sites? 6. Maintain and enhance the character and distinctiveness of settlements through high quality and appropriate design? 7. Promote heritage based sustainable tourism and regeneration?
Landscapes	9. Conserve and enhance the character and quality of Wiltshire's rural and urban landscapes, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protect and enhance the landscape character and scenic quality of the countryside? 2. Conserve and enhance areas with landscape designations and take account of their management objectives? 3. Maintain and enhance the character and distinctiveness of settlements? 4. Deliver good quality design that reflects local character? 5. Protect and enhance natural landscapes within the urban area, including recreational open space and strategic green corridors? 6. Protect rights of way, open space and common land? 7. Aid in the delivery of a network of multifunctional Green Infrastructure? 8. Improve the quality and quantity of access to urban greenspace and the wider countryside for recreation?
Population and housing	10. Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide an adequate supply of affordable housing? 2. Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes to meet the needs of all sectors of the community? 3. Ensure adequate provision of land to meet housing needs? 4. Reduce homelessness? 5. Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people's needs? 6. Ensure that best use is made of the existing housing stock? 7. Promote the use of sustainable building techniques, including use of sustainable building materials in construction? 8. Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities? 9. Provide for an adequate range of housing in rural areas?

Sustainability Topic	Sustainability Appraisal objective	Decision aiding questions. Will the policy...
Healthy communities	11. Provide a safe and healthy environment in which to live.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide for high quality, accessible healthcare facilities? 2. Promote design of buildings and spaces to reduce crime and the fear of crime? 3. Promote design of buildings and spaces to reduce obesity? 4. Address the causes of ill-health? 5. Encourage healthy lifestyles and reduce health inequalities? 6. Increase regular participation in sports /exercise? 7. Protect local rural communities and rural ways of life? 8. Encourage healthy workplaces? 9. Promote recreational and leisure opportunities in the countryside? 10. Incorporate a network of multifunctional Green Infrastructure within new developments, where appropriate?
Inclusive Communities	12. Reduce poverty and deprivation and promote more inclusive and self-contained communities.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maximise opportunities for all members of society? 2. Maintain or enhance the quality of life of existing local residents? 3. Encourage active involvement of local people in the design of new developments? 4. Tackle the causes of poverty and deprivation? 5. Encourage and promote social cohesion and respect for other cultures and lifestyles? 6. Maximise opportunities within the most deprived areas? 7. Increase the ability of 'Hard-to-Reach' groups to influence decisions? 8. Minimise fuel poverty?
	13. Improve equality of access to, and engagement in local, high-quality community services and facilities.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve the availability and accessibility of key local facilities, including healthcare, education, retail and leisure? 2. Promote the development of a range of high quality, accessible community, cultural and leisure facilities? 3. Encourage active involvement of local people in community activities? 4. Maintain and enhance rural facilities?
Education and skills	14. Raise educational attainment levels across the authority and provide opportunities for people to improve their workplace skills.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide and support high quality educational facilities? 2. Improve the skills and qualifications of young people? 3. Promote life-long learning that is accessible to all? 4. Help to provide a supply of skilled labour to match the needs of local businesses? 5. Reduce inequalities in skills across Wiltshire? 6. Support community enterprises and the voluntary sector? 7. Support the creation of flexible jobs to meet the changing needs of the population?

Sustainability Topic	Sustainability Appraisal objective	Decision aiding questions. Will the policy...
Transport	15. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable transport choices.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote mixed-use developments that reduce the need to travel and reliance on the private car? 2. Increase uptake of sustainable travel choices ie public transport, walking and cycling? 3. Promote an integrated transport policy? 4. Promote car-share schemes and home or other forms of remote working? 5. Promote the development of Park & Ride Schemes? 6. Improve the jobs/homes balance? 7. Reduce traffic volumes? 8. Encourage alternative and sustainable means of transporting freight, waste and minerals, where possible?
Economy and enterprise	16. Encourage a vibrant and diversified economy and provide for long-term sustainable economic growth.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve business development and enhance competitiveness? 2. Direct appropriate retail, leisure and/or employment opportunities to town centre locations to aid urban regeneration? 3. Minimise vulnerability of the economy to climate change and harness any opportunities that may arise? 4. Support the rural economy and farm diversification? 5. Recognise the importance of the social and natural environment to the local economy? 6. Promote sustainable tourism and cultural opportunities? 7. Provide an adequate supply of raw materials?
	17. Ensure adequate provision of high-quality employment land and diverse employment opportunities to meet the needs of local businesses and a changing workforce.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide good quality employment opportunities for all sectors of the population? 2. Assist businesses in finding appropriate land and premises? 3. Protect and enhance the vitality and viability of existing employment areas? 4. Provide a variety of employment land to meet all needs? 5. Provide employment land in areas that are easily accessible by sustainable transport? 6. Recognise the importance of energy efficient employment and mixed-use proposals?

Appendix C - Significant effects assessment criteria

These criteria have been devised to help improve objectivity when assessing **significant effects** and to ensure that the assessment of policy options is carried out in a consistent way. This then enables a fair comparison of options to be made. The sustainability appraisal focuses on predicting and evaluating the significant effects of the Core Strategy and the 17 sustainability objectives presented in Appendix B continue to form the basis for the assessment of effects.

Current sustainability appraisal guidance¹ states “ultimately, the significance of an effect is a matter of judgment and should require no more than a clear and reasonable justification. In appraising the significance of effects, the following principles may be helpful:

- significance has to be determined individually in each case - effects which are significant in one situation are not necessarily significant in another
- analysis of significance needs to be proportionate to the expected severity of the effect
- flexibility is important - criteria should be used as guidelines, not rules
- mathematical models are sometimes difficult to use to determine significance - inappropriate use of numeric models could give rise to fictitious precision and attempts to quantify qualitative and semi-qualitative aspects is unlikely to lead to an increase in objectivity”

It is also worth noting the criteria for determining the likely significance of effects from Annex II of the SEA Directive:

Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to

- the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects,
- the cumulative nature of the effects,
- the transboundary nature of the effects,
- the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents),
- the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected),
- the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: special natural characteristics or cultural heritage, exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values, intensive land-use,
- the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status

¹ PAS CLG Plan Making Manual – Sustainability Appraisal <http://www.pas.gov.uk/pas/core/page.do?pageId=152450>

Sustainability objective 1	Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geological features and avoid irreversible losses
-- Significant effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will have significant adverse effects on a designated site or sites AND/OR sites of local importance • AND/OR will have significant adverse effects on protected or notable species • AND/OR will lead to the loss or significant damage to ancient woodland • No mitigation, or inadequate mitigation measures proposed OR mitigation considered problematic
-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited adverse effects on biodiversity or geological features • Limited mitigation proposed or there is potential for mitigation
?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects are uncertain and further information is required to establish potential effects
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will have a neutral effect
+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No adverse effects on biodiversity or geological features • Policy/option will have positive effects on existing biodiversity or geological features • There may be further opportunities to maximise beneficial effects through habitat restoration, enhancement or creation
++ Significant effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No adverse effects on biodiversity or geological features • Policy/option will have significant positive effects on existing biodiversity or geological features • Protection of the natural environment is strongly promoted and the policy/option will offer significant opportunities for habitat restoration, enhancement or creation

Sustainability objective 2	Ensure efficient and effective use of land and the use of suitably located previously developed land and buildings
-- Significant effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option promotes or will lead to significant loss of greenfield land AND/OR significant loss of best and most versatile agricultural land • No mitigation, or inadequate mitigation measures proposed OR mitigation considered problematic
-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option promotes development on, or will lead to loss of greenfield land • Limited mitigation proposed or possible eg high density, or there is potential to make use of PDL or existing buildings that reduces Greenfield loss
?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects are uncertain and further information is required to establish potential effects
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy does not promote and will not lead to development. Therefore, no effect on this objective.
+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option promotes or will lead to development on PDL. • Not considered significantly positive if low densities proposed and/or location considered unsustainable ie poor access to local facilities, public transport links and key infrastructure
++ Significant effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option promotes or will lead to significant development on PDL. • Significantly positive if higher density development on PDL in a more sustainable location eg town centre location with good access to local facilities, public transport links and key infrastructure • Significantly positive if development results in significant remediation of PDL

Sustainability objective 3	Promote sustainable waste management solutions that encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste
-- Significant effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will lead to a significant increase in waste produced • No mitigation, or inadequate mitigation measures proposed OR mitigation considered problematic
-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will lead to an increase in waste produced • Limited mitigation proposed or there is potential for mitigation
?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects are uncertain and further information is required to establish potential effects
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will have a neutral effect
+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will lead to a reduction in waste produced • AND/OR policy/option promotes reduction, re-use and recycling of waste. There may be opportunities for further benefits in future
++ Significant effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will lead to a significant reduction in waste produced • AND/OR policy/option strongly promotes reduction, re-use and recycling of waste

Sustainability objective 4	Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner
-- Significant effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will lead to a significant increase in demand for water • AND/OR there will be significant adverse effects on water quality eg through pollution of a watercourse • Measures for climate change adaptation have not been considered or are not considered achievable • No other mitigation, or inadequate mitigation measures proposed OR mitigation considered problematic
-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will lead to limited increases in demand for water • AND/OR limited adverse effects on water quality • Limited measures for climate change adaptation have been considered • Limited mitigation proposed or there is potential for mitigation
?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects are uncertain and further information is required to establish potential effects
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will have a neutral effect
+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will lead to a reduction in the demand for water • AND/OR no adverse effects on water quality and limited improvements • Policy/option contains measures to adapt to future impacts of climate change • Other mitigation measures to further reduce demand for water have been considered
++ Significant effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will lead to a significant reduction in demand for water • AND/OR significant improvements to water quality • Policy/option contains strong measures to adapt to future impacts of climate change • Significant mitigation measures considered to further reduce demand for water in the future

Sustainability objective 5		Protect people and property from the risk of flooding
-- Significant effect		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will significantly increase flood risk or exacerbate existing problems • AND/OR will significantly increase flood risk in other areas • Measures to adapt to future impacts of climate change are not considered or are not achievable • No mitigation, or inadequate mitigation measures proposed OR mitigation considered problematic
-		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will lead to limited increased flood risk or exacerbate existing problems • AND/OR will lead to limited flood risk in other areas • Some consideration of future impacts of climate change • Limited mitigation proposed or there is potential for mitigation
?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects are uncertain and further information is required to establish potential effects
0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will have a neutral effect
+		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No flood risk • Policy/option may lead to limited benefits in terms of reducing flood risk in other areas eg through increased flood storage capacity • Policy/option contains measures to adapt to future impacts of climate change eg SuDS • Some other mitigation measures proposed and considered achievable
++ Significant effect		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No flood risk • Policy/option will lead to significant benefits in terms of reducing flood risk in other areas eg through increased flood storage capacity • Future impacts of climate change have been strongly considered eg incorporation of measures such as SuDS
Sustainability objective 6		Improve air quality throughout Wiltshire and minimise all sources of environmental pollution
-- Significant effect		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will lead to significant adverse effects on air quality or exacerbate existing problems eg on an AQMA AND/OR will lead to significant adverse effects on other forms of environmental pollution, including noise, light pollution, odour, vibration and contamination to soil or water AND/OR will lead to concentration of development that will significantly increase the above issues • No mitigation, or inadequate mitigation measures proposed OR mitigation considered problematic
-		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will lead to adverse effects on air quality or exacerbate existing problems eg on an AQMA AND/OR adverse effects on other forms of environmental pollution, including noise, light pollution, odour, vibration and contamination to soil or water AND/OR policy/option will lead to development that will increase the above issues • Limited mitigation proposed or there is potential for mitigation
?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects are uncertain and further information is required to establish potential effects
0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will have a neutral effect
+		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No adverse effects on air quality or other forms of environmental pollution • Potential to improve the current situation
++ Significant effect		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No adverse effects on air quality or other forms of environmental pollution • Significant opportunities to improve the current situation

Sustainability objective 7	Minimise our impacts on climate change and reduce our vulnerability to future climate change effects
-- Significant effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will lead to a significant increase in emissions • No mitigation, or inadequate mitigation measures proposed OR mitigation considered problematic • Appropriate adaptation measures to deal with likely future climate change impacts are not considered OR mitigation considered problematic
-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will lead to an increase in emissions • Limited mitigation proposed or there is potential for mitigation • Limited adaptation measures to deal with likely future climate change impacts are considered
?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects are uncertain and further information is required to establish potential effects
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will have a neutral effect
+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will have no adverse effects on climate change • Policy/option will give some opportunities to reduce existing levels of emissions • Appropriate adaptation measures have been considered to deal with likely future climate change impacts
++ Significant effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will have no adverse effects on climate change • Significant opportunities to reduce existing levels of emissions • Significant and achievable adaptation measures have been considered that will deal with likely future climate change impacts

Sustainability objective 8	Protect, maintain and enhance the historic environment
-- Significant effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will have an adverse effect on a designated heritage asset of the highest significance, including World Heritage Sites, scheduled monuments, battlefields, grade I and II* listed buildings and grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, or their setting. This includes undesignated heritage assets of equal importance. • Policy/option will have a significant adverse effect on a grade II listed building, park or garden, or their setting, or non designated assets of local importance • No mitigation, or inadequate mitigation measures proposed OR mitigation considered problematic
-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will have an adverse effect on a grade II listed building, park or garden, or their setting. • Policy/option will have adverse effect on heritage assets of local importance (designated or not) or its setting. • Limited mitigation proposed or there is potential for mitigation
?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects are uncertain and further information is required to establish potential effects and assess opportunities for enhancement or public benefit
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will have a neutral effect
+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will have no adverse effects • There are opportunities to enhance the significance of a designated heritage asset and/or one of local interest
++ Significant effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will have no adverse effects • Policy/option strongly promotes protection and enhancement of the historic environment and/or there are significant opportunities to enhance the significance of a designated heritage asset and/or one of local interest, including public benefit

Sustainability objective 9	Conserve and enhance the character and quality of Wiltshire's rural and urban landscapes, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place.
-- Significant effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will have significant adverse effects on a designated landscape, or its setting • No mitigation, or inadequate mitigation measures proposed OR mitigation considered problematic
-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will have limited adverse effects on a designated landscape, or its setting • Policy/option will have significant adverse effects on a rural or urban landscape (non-designated) • Limited mitigation proposed or there is potential for mitigation
?	• Effects are uncertain and further information is required to establish potential effects
0	• Policy/option will have a neutral effect
+	• Policy/option will offer opportunities to enhance local character and distinctiveness eg through location, high quality design, provision of green infrastructure etc
++ Significant effect	• Policy/option will offer significant opportunities to enhance local character and distinctiveness eg through location, high quality design, provision of green infrastructure etc
Sustainability objective 10	Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures.
-- Significant effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option makes no provision for housing or land for housing • AND policy/option will significantly reduce opportunities to provide housing or land for housing to meet the needs of the community
-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option makes no provision for housing or land for housing • AND policy/option will reduce opportunities to provide housing or land for housing to meet the needs of the community
?	• Effects are uncertain and further information is required to establish potential effects
0	• Policy/option will have a neutral effect
+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option has no adverse effects on housing provision • AND policy/option supports the provision of a limited number and range of house types and sizes, including some affordable housing
++ Significant effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option has no adverse effects on housing provision • AND policy/option strongly supports the provision of a wide range of house types and sizes to meet the needs of all sectors of the community, including significant provision of affordable housing
Sustainability objective 11	Provide a safe and healthy environment in which to live.
-- Significant effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will lead to a significant loss of healthcare facilities and/or other services/facilities that encourage/promote healthy lifestyles and reduce health inequalities. • AND/OR Policy/option will significantly harm human health now or in the future • AND/OR Policy/option will lead to a significant increase in crime or the fear of crime • No mitigation, or inadequate mitigation measures proposed OR mitigation considered problematic
-	• Policy/option will lead to loss of healthcare facilities and/or other services/facilities that encourage/promote healthy

	<p>lifestyles and reduce health inequalities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AND/OR Policy/option will harm human health now or in the future • AND/OR Policy/option will lead to an increase in crime or the fear of crime • Limited mitigation proposed or there is potential for mitigation
?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects are uncertain and further information is required to establish potential effects
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will have a neutral effect
+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will lead to an increase in healthcare facilities and/or other services/facilities that encourage/promote healthy lifestyles and reduce health inequalities • AND/OR Policy/option will lead to improvements in human health and health and wellbeing • AND/OR Policy/option will lead to a decrease in crime or the fear of crime • Potential to improve the current situation in other ways
++ Significant effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will lead to a significant increase in healthcare facilities and/or other services/facilities that encourage/promote healthy lifestyles and reduce health inequalities • AND/OR Policy/option will lead to significant improvements in human health and health and wellbeing • AND/OR Policy/option will lead to a significant decrease in crime or the fear of crime • Potential to significantly improve the current situation in other ways

Sustainability objective 12	Reduce poverty and deprivation and promote more inclusive and self-contained communities
-- Significant effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will significantly increase poverty and deprivation and lead to significant social exclusion amongst existing and new residents • AND/OR Policy/option will significantly reduce quality of life for existing and new residents • No mitigation, or inadequate mitigation measures proposed OR mitigation considered problematic
-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will lead to an increase in poverty and deprivation and lead to social exclusion amongst existing and new residents • AND/OR Policy/option will reduce quality of life for existing and new residents • Limited mitigation proposed or there is potential for mitigation
?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects are uncertain and further information is required to establish potential effects
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will have a neutral effect
+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will lead to reduced poverty and deprivation and reduce social exclusion amongst existing and new residents • AND/OR Policy/option will improve quality of life for existing and new residents • Potential to improve the current situation in other ways
++ Significant effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will significantly reduce poverty and deprivation and lead to significant opportunities for increasing social inclusion • AND/OR Policy/option will significantly improve quality of life for existing and new residents • Potential to significantly improve the current situation in other ways

Sustainability objective 13	Improve equality of access to, and engagement in local, high-quality community services and facilities
-- Significant effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will lead to significant loss of community services/facilities and other key services/facilities • AND/OR Policy/option will lead to significant loss of rural services/facilities or make them unviable • No mitigation, or inadequate mitigation measures proposed OR mitigation considered problematic
-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will lead to loss of community services/facilities and other key services/facilities • AND/OR Policy/option will lead to loss of rural services/facilities or make them unviable • Limited mitigation proposed or there is potential for mitigation
?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects are uncertain and further information is required to establish potential effects
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will have a neutral effect
+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will lead to an increase in community services/facilities and other key services/facilities • AND/OR Policy/option will lead to an increase in rural services/facilities or make them more viable • Potential to improve the current situation in other ways
++ Significant effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will lead to significant increase in community services/facilities and other key services/facilities • AND/OR Policy/option will lead to significant increase in rural services/facilities or make them more viable • Potential to significantly improve the current situation in other ways

Sustainability objective 14	Raise educational attainment levels across the authority and provide opportunities for people to improve their workplace skills.
-- Significant effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will lead to significant loss of educational or skills/training facilities • AND/OR Policy/option will lead to significant loss of skills needed to meet needs of local businesses or significant loss of opportunities for local businesses that retain skills in the area • No mitigation, or inadequate mitigation measures proposed OR mitigation considered problematic
-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will lead to loss of educational or skills/training facilities • AND/OR Policy/option will lead to loss of skills needed to meet needs of local businesses or loss of opportunities local businesses that retain skills in the area • Limited mitigation proposed or there is potential for mitigation
?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects are uncertain and further information is required to establish potential effects
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will have a neutral effect
+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will lead to an increase in educational or skills/training facilities • AND/OR Policy/option will lead to increased skills needed to meet needs of local businesses or increased opportunities for local businesses that retain skills in the area • Potential to improve the current situation in other ways
++ Significant effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will lead to a significant increase in educational or skills/training facilities • AND/OR Policy/option will lead to a significant increase in skills needed to meet needs of local businesses or increased opportunities for local businesses that retain skills in the area

Sustainability objective 15		Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable transport choices
-- Significant effect		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will lead to a significant increase in need to travel by all forms AND/OR will lead to a significant increase in private car use AND/OR will lead to concentration of development that will lead to significant impacts on the local transport network • No mitigation, or inadequate mitigation measures proposed OR mitigation considered problematic
-		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will lead to an increase in need to travel by all forms AND/OR will lead to an increase in private car use generally AND/OR will lead to development that will lead to impacts on the local transport network • Limited mitigation proposed or there is potential for mitigation
?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects are uncertain and further information is required to establish potential effects
0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will have a neutral effect
+		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will lead to reduction in need to travel by all forms and traffic volumes will decrease • Policy/option will lead to reduction in private car use • Policy/option will lead to increased use of sustainable transport modes to replace current car journeys
++ Significant effect		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will lead to significant reduction in need to travel by all forms and traffic volumes will decrease • Policy/option will lead to a significant reduction in private car use • Policy/option will lead to significantly increased use of sustainable transport modes to replace current car journeys

Sustainability objective 16		Encourage a vibrant and diversified economy and provide for long-term sustainable economic growth.
-- Significant effect		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will have a significant adverse effect on the local economy AND/OR will have a significant adverse effect on town centre regeneration or regeneration in other areas • No mitigation, or inadequate mitigation measures proposed OR mitigation considered problematic
-		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will lead to an adverse effect on the local economy AND/OR will have an adverse effect on town centre regeneration or regeneration in other areas • Limited mitigation proposed or there is potential for mitigation
?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects are uncertain and further information is required to establish potential effects
0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will have a neutral effect
+		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will benefit the local economy AND/OR will have benefits for town centre regeneration or regeneration in other areas • Potential to improve the current situation in other ways
++ Significant effect		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will significantly benefit the local economy • AND/OR Policy/option will have significant benefits for town centre regeneration or regeneration in other areas • Potential to significantly improve the current situation in other ways

Sustainability objective 17	Ensure adequate provision of high-quality employment land and diverse employment opportunities to meet the needs of local businesses and a changing workforce
-- Significant effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will lead to a significant loss of employment land • AND/OR Policy/option will lead to a significant reduction in viability of existing employment areas • No mitigation, or inadequate mitigation measures proposed OR mitigation considered problematic
-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will lead to loss of employment land • AND/OR Policy/option will lead to a reduction in viability of existing employment areas • Limited mitigation proposed or there is potential for mitigation
?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects are uncertain and further information is required to establish potential effects
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will have a neutral effect
+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will lead to an increase in the amount of employment land • AND/OR Policy/option will lead to an increase in viability of existing employment areas • Potential to improve the current situation in other ways
++ Significant effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy/option will lead to a significant increase in the amount of employment land • AND/OR Policy/option will lead to an increase in viability of existing employment areas • Potential to significantly improve the current situation in other ways

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Appendix D - Wiltshire's key sustainability issues

Sustainability appraisal topic area: Biodiversity	
Key sustainability issues in Wiltshire – April 2010	
1	Biodiversity in Wiltshire is in an extremely degraded condition compared to any other point in time.
2	Wiltshire is an important area for biodiversity which is under threat from intensive farming methods, climate change and urban expansion. The ongoing break up of wildlife habitats into smaller, isolated areas seriously reduces the scope for wildlife to move and adapt to new conditions and habitat fragmentation.
3	It is a priority to develop large areas managed for the benefit of wildlife and linked by wildlife corridors to help protect the resilience of biodiversity in Wiltshire.
4	There is a lack of current information available on the condition of some habitats and species within Wiltshire. In particular there is a lack of information on the condition of County Wildlife Sites, and on the impact of planning decisions on biodiversity.
5	There is potential for water scarcity issues, resulting from climate change and population growth, to impact on river quality and wetland habitats that are important for birds and other species.
6	Deterioration of water quality and reductions in water quantity can have serious implications for wetland habitats. Depleted aquifers can impact on wetland sites, as can any development that redirects surface or ground water away from such sites.
7	Approximately 10% of SSSIs in the authority area are not in favourable condition and need improving.
8	There are potentially adverse environmental effects in Wiltshire (and Swindon) of extracting 1.85 million tonnes of sand and gravel per year to 2016.
Additional key sustainability issues following review of evidence for the Core Strategy and SA/SEA – October 2011	
Strategic Nature Areas - Recent research has shown the importance of landscape scale conservation projects in order to create a resilient landscape which can withstand the increasing pressures of climate change in combination with the long-term trends of habitat loss and fragmentation. Major development within these SNAs could sterilise some areas with potential for habitat restoration, however at the same time landscape schemes and new public open spaces could create opportunities for such restoration.	
Local Sites - There is a general slow trend towards the loss and degradation of County Wildlife Sites and although there is an existing policy framework which protects County Wildlife Sites in the planning process, there have been continued losses as a result of development, indicating that these existing policies are deficient.	
Wiltshire Biodiversity Action Plan - The existing policy framework has been shown to be weak, only providing partial protection and failing to encompass some of the principles set out in PPS9 or harness opportunities for biodiversity gain. The LDF presents an opportunity to improve the existing policy framework for BAPs in order to offer them better protection through the planning system.	
Disturbance - Research has shown that development can cause significant disturbance to wildlife throughout the construction and operational phases of development. There is currently little recognition of the effects of disturbance in planning applications, and it is difficult to secure avoidance measures due to a lack of support from the current policy framework.	
Salisbury Plain SPA and New Forest National Park SPA - Research has shown that rare bird species breeding within these areas are very sensitive to recreational disturbance, particularly dog walkers, and specific concerns have been raised by Natural England and the RSPB in relation to proposed development close to these areas that could increase recreational pressures, particularly the housing allocations proposed in the LDF.	
River Avon SAC - The Hampshire Avon catchment incorporates a large proportion of the county, and development along the river and its tributaries has the	

potential to impact upon its species interests. Natural England has also raised concerns about phosphate levels in the River Avon which have remained above national targets for a considerable period, and particularly the contribution from additional development in the catchment and associated flows from Sewage Treatment Works (STWs).

Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC - This designation comprises a network of several component sites over a wide area used by the bats for roosting, foraging and commuting. Development pressures are generally low in this area, however cumulative impacts could be significant, particularly when considered in combination with impacts from development in the Bath and North East Somerset (BNES) administrative area and from minerals development affecting underground sites in the area.

Housing Allocations - Certain housing allocations have been identified as having potential effects upon important features of the natural environment, including: **Trowbridge** – River Biss corridor, Green Lane and Biss Woods CWSs, Bechstein's bats associated with the Bath and Bradford Bats SAC, **Bradford on Avon** – Bath and Bradford Bats SAC, **Chippenham** – River Avon CWS and Bird's Marsh Wood CWS.

Sustainability appraisal topic area: Land and soil resources

Key sustainability issues in Wiltshire – April 2010

1	Urban expansion has led to some negative impacts on the rural/ urban fringe around some larger settlements with the loss of productive agricultural land and land degradation and this trend should be minimised.
2	There is a limited supply of previously developed land in Wiltshire due to its largely rural nature. The Wiltshire LDF can ensure a clear emphasis on recycling and reusing previously developed land where appropriate and the restoration of buildings before demolition and rebuild is considered. It is however recognised that greenfield land forms a separate and complementary supply of land which may be needed for future development.
3	In order to maximise the use of PDL, new housing should be completed at suitable minimum densities. Densities above 50 dwellings per hectare should be sought in sustainable locations. Only 17 % of completed dwellings in Salisbury were above a density of 50 dwellings per hectare. This figure is mirrored across other parts of Wiltshire. Appropriate development densities should be followed in the future.
4	The number of dwellings completed on previously developed land achieved the UK government target of 60 % in 2007/08 but the nature of outstanding permissions suggests this standard will be difficult to maintain.
5	There is a shortfall for landfill capacity in Wiltshire for all waste types.
6	Improvements in both total waste production and recycling rates should help to alleviate pressures on landfill development.
7	There is a need to promote local food production and community farming in an effort to reduce the ecological footprint. This will require suitable land in proximity to communities.
8	New development presents an opportunity to reduce the impact of urban fringe issues through good design.

Additional key sustainability issues following review of evidence for the Core Strategy and SA/SEA – October 2011

Best and most versatile agricultural land - economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land should be recognised, and where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary areas of poorer quality land should be sought in preference to that of a higher quality.

Continuing to promote the efficient and effective use of land as a way of reducing loss of greenfield land.

Continuing to promote reductions in the amount of waste produced in Wiltshire whilst driving waste up the waste hierarchy.

The remaining areas of **contaminated land in Wiltshire will require adequate risk assessment and remediation prior to any development.**

Sustainability appraisal topic area: Water resources and flood risk	
Key sustainability issues in Wiltshire – April 2010	
1	Increasing population growth, climate change and current lifestyle trends will place further pressures on the availability of potable water. Policies need to ensure that a wide range of water efficiency measures are promoted in all new and existing development.
2	Low river water levels, especially in the summer months, are a likely consequence of climate change. Coupled with potential changes in water abstraction requirements as the population increases, this may impact upon wetland habitats and species.
3	There is a significant risk of increased flooding in certain locations across the authority due to climate change and increased frequency of higher intensity rainfall events.
4	The substantial increase in population growth and housing in the county is likely to lead to an increased demand for waste water treatment.
5	Major improvements have been made in terms of chemical river quality between 1995 and 2005 in Wiltshire, however the overall % of rivers in Wiltshire that attained good chemical quality is still some way short of the average for the south west and nationally. Values have actually regressed since the year 2000.
6	There has also been a regression in the length of rivers in Wiltshire that are in the top overall national percentage in terms of phosphate levels.
7	There is a need to ensure there is no deterioration of groundwater quality in source protection zones.
Additional key sustainability issues following review of evidence for the Core Strategy and SA/SEA – October 2011	
Water quality and phosphate levels - likely effects upon the River Avon SAC through elevated phosphate levels from additional sewage discharges and diffuse sources in the catchment.	
Water infrastructure - the impacts of climate change are likely to significantly affect water infrastructure.	
Groundwater - continuing risks to groundwater throughout Wiltshire from water demand and pollution.	

Sustainability appraisal topic area: Air quality and environmental pollution	
Key sustainability issues in Wiltshire – April 2010	
1	Air quality in Wiltshire is likely to be adversely impacted in the future by increasing levels of road traffic, related to wider car ownership, increasing road freight movement and population increase.
2	There are five AQMAs in Wiltshire – primarily in town centre locations - identified as not meeting air quality targets due to the effects of traffic. LDF policies should ensure that these problems are addressed.
3	There will continue to be noise impacts from an expanding road network and from MoD activities in and around Salisbury Plain.
4	Expanding freight movements of minerals and waste will increase noise and air pollution.
Additional key sustainability issues following review of evidence for the Core Strategy and SA/SEA – October 2011	
Specific air quality issues have been identified in Devizes and Marlborough , related to traffic and congestion, and AQMAs have been designated in these towns. These issues, and issues related to poor air quality in other areas will need to be taken account of in the sustainability appraisal.	
The HRA identifies five European sites as being particularly sensitive to increases in air pollution - Cotswolds Beechwood SAC, Rodborough Common SAC, Salisbury Plain SAC and SPA and River Avon SAC. The HRA recommends that traffic modelling, undertaken as part of the Core Strategy process to inform infrastructure requirements, should also model emissions to air. This will help provide an evidence base for the HRA and Core Strategy. It also recommends that the Core Strategy includes a specific policy requiring major developments to specifically consider the potential for effects on European	

sites associated with **transport related emissions to air and point source pollution** from relevant processes.

Sustainability appraisal topic area: Climatic factors

Key sustainability issues in Wiltshire

1	As a result of climate change, we are already starting to see changing weather patterns. The effects of climate change in Wiltshire are likely to impact on water supply, flood risk, food production, energy use, transportation and a number of other areas.
2	There is now growing concern and action at international and national levels, as well as in all sectors: public, private and voluntary. While the need to keep global temperature rise to a minimum is likely to mean major changes in the way we live, there may also be new opportunities (e.g. in farming and tourism) and perhaps a move to a new "localism".
3	Planning policies will need to focus on mitigation and adaptation; ensuring that we reduce our greenhouse gas emissions as much as possible, whilst ensuring that we can adapt to the likely predicted consequences of climate change. An opportunity exists for planning to promote and help deliver community renewable energy.
4	In 2005, Kennet district had the highest average annual domestic consumption of electricity and gas, compared with the other three districts. West Wiltshire has the highest greenhouse gas emissions overall per capita. The energy efficiency of most homes, even new ones, is far below required standards.
5	Reaching proposed government targets of cuts in carbon emissions by 2050 will be a major challenge, requiring both greatly increased energy efficiency as well as the development of new renewable energy capacity.
6	Increases in renewable energy capacity in Wiltshire have been slow and are below regional targets.
7	The Wiltshire ecological footprint, a measurement technique for calculating global sustainability, is 5.25 global hectares per person. This is 2.7 times greater than a 'sustainability' footprint of 1.9.
8	New economic opportunities may exist, for example associated with energy saving or renewable energy technologies.
9	New residential, economic and mixed use development and re-development opportunities may exist to create energy saving or renewable energy technologies.
10	A shortfall in landfill capacity may increase transportation of waste and increase emissions. An opportunity exists to increase waste reduction and recycling.

Additional key sustainability issues following review of evidence for the Core Strategy and SA/SEA – October 2011

A review of the existing planning policy framework in Wiltshire and consultation with council Development Management officers reveals that **this framework has failed to achieve the step change required to meet national and local targets for renewable and low carbon forms of energy generation**. It is clear that this policy framework is not fit for purpose and is out of date.

Wiltshire's per capita emissions are greater than for the South West and for the UK. In the 2005 to 2007 period the emissions in Wiltshire went up (by approximately 3%) whereas for the South West overall, they went down (by approximately 2%). It is therefore clear that Wiltshire is lagging behind many other authority areas for cutting its carbon emissions.

Climate change adaptation – minimising vulnerability to climate change impacts will be very important. There are four main areas planning policies can address to help with climate change adaptation: managing high temperatures, managing flood risk, managing water resources and water quality and managing ground conditions.

Fuel poverty - The *Wiltshire Private Sector House Conditions Survey 2009*² states that 14,700 owner occupied and 5,700 private rented properties, are living in fuel poverty in Wiltshire. Increasing the energy efficiency of buildings and increasing the provision of renewable energy could help to reduce fuel poverty.

Sustainability appraisal topic area: Historic environment

Key sustainability issues in Wiltshire – April 2010

1	There are a significant number of features in the local authority area that are protected for their heritage value and need to be preserved.
2	Some heritage assets within Wiltshire are under threat, including some listed within the Heritage at Risk Register.
3	Wiltshire's heritage assets, including the historic urban and rural landscape, are important to the county's environmental, social and economic well being and need to be preserved and enhanced as a consequence.
4	The effects of climate change are likely to present some particular threats to the historic environment of Wiltshire. Further research may be required into the scale of the problem and suitable adaptation techniques.
5	The Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Sites are internationally significant and as a consequence present unique management challenges to ensure their universal values are maintained.
6	The Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site represents an opportunity for the county. It also involves an international obligation to protect, manage and present the site for the present and future generations.
7	Much of the historic environment, including significant urban and rural landscapes and many individual historic features are not normally designated but nevertheless make a positive contribution to Wiltshire's character and identity. Due to this lack of explicit protection this resource may be lost or adversely affected by inappropriate development or poor management.
8	An opportunity exists to promote the historic environment's wider contribution to sustainable development. Examples might include: opportunities for heritage led regeneration; the innovative reuse of the existing building stock; heritage based sustainable tourism; public realm/ streetscape improvements; promotion of traditional building skills and using the historic environment as an educational resource.
9	Increasing visitor numbers are likely to result in increased use of private transport which should be reduced. A challenge exists to ensure promotion of the historic environment is sustainable.

Additional key sustainability issues following review of evidence for the Core Strategy and SA/SEA – October 2011

There are a number of issues currently affecting the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site. Development pressures are present and require careful management, and there are an **increasing number of applications for wind turbines** which could significantly impact on this area.

It has been agreed to remove the A344 road to reunite Stonehenge and its Avenue and improve the setting of the Stone Circle. However, **the impact of roads and traffic and the need to improve visitor facilities remain the biggest challenges.**

The Heritage at Risk 2010 Register for the South West has highlighted a **significant number of listed buildings and Scheduled Monuments that are at risk in Wiltshire.** Development can pose significant further risks to these designations but can also play an important role in providing funding to enhance designations and their settings.

Heritage assets under threat or at risk from neglect or decay, or development pressures e.g. growth has the potential to lead to effects on historic landscapes and cause direct damage to archaeological sites, monuments and buildings.

² Wiltshire Private Sector House Conditions Survey (Wiltshire Council, 2009)

Archaeological remains, both seen and unseen have the potential to be affected by new development areas.
There are areas of significantly degraded landscape / townscape.
Distinctive historic environment assets are at risk from neglect or decay.
Effects on the historic environment from inappropriate and poor design and layout of housing, employment and retail provision.
There are areas where, on current trends, there is likely to be further significant loss or erosion of landscape/ townscape character or quality.
There are areas where development has had or is likely to have significant impact (direct and or indirect) upon the historic environment and/or people's enjoyment of it.
There are areas where landscape character or quality is being eroded because of changing farming or other land management practices.
Traffic congestion, air quality, noise pollution and other problems affecting the historic environment e.g. Increasing traffic flows and congestion affecting the integrity of historic environment assets and their settings leading to pressures on the quality of the historic landscape quality and the loss of character and integrity of the historic built environment and its setting.
Areas where quality of life, including economic and social well being, is significantly affected by the above environmental problems.
Preserving and enhancing the designated and non-designated historic environment resource – (non-designated assets are not afforded the same degree of protection as designated sites and areas).
Conserving the industrial/commercial heritage of the area.

Sustainability appraisal topic area: Landscapes	
Key sustainability issues in Wiltshire – April 2010	
1	Landscape character in Wiltshire provides a considerable contribution to local distinctiveness. The landscape in the authority is one of national importance. Three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB's) cover 43 % of the county Consideration should also be given to the New Forest National Park which forms a very distinct landscape.
2	Pressures to meet UK government housing targets may create pressures on landscapes surrounding the urban areas of Salisbury, Trowbridge and Chippenham. The key issue is how to reconcile the needs of sustainable development, meeting the social and economic needs of the countryside, whilst ensuring that the intrinsic qualities of the landscape are respected and preserved.
3	There is a close inter-relationship between landscape quality and value as wildlife habitats. Areas designated for their landscape importance can also support many habitats and species of biodiversity value. The biodiversity value of landscapes should be adequately reflected within the sustainability appraisal and LDF processes.
4	A reduction in livestock has led to difficulties in maintaining characteristic landscapes that need to be grazed.
5	Wiltshire benefits from a high level of national and local landscape designation and planning policy must take account of this.
6	The prevalence of minerals and waste sites in rural locations in Wiltshire exacerbate the potential for impact upon the rural landscape, especially in river valleys where the visual impact of sand and gravel workings can be quite pronounced, in contrast with the flat landscape and lack of concealing factors.
Additional key sustainability issues following review of evidence for the Core Strategy and SA/SEA – October 2011	
Landscape Character Assessment (LCA)/Special Landscape Areas (SLA) – in Wiltshire, our current series of SLAs have been in place for over 25 years and appear to be poorly defined and understood. Evidence is also emerging that the special characteristics of certain SLAs (e.g. Wellhead Valley) may not be	

fully captured by LCA, and would warrant protection by retention of the SLA designation. The SLA network will need to be reviewed to identify any areas with unique characteristics that would not be adequately protected by an LCA approach.
Tranquility - Tranquillity is a vital component of our landscapes, particularly in Wiltshire. Although it is highly valued by people, it has often been neglected in environmental assessments and planning decisions due to its extremely subjective and experiential qualities. However, recent advances in research have improved the way we can assess tranquillity and potential impacts upon it.
Sustainable design - Numerous design guidelines stress the importance of incorporating natural landscape features into the built environment through good design in order to protect wildlife and retain local landscape character and distinctiveness. However, experience has shown that the natural environment is generally underrepresented in design rationales, leading to conflicts with biodiversity and landscape character, delays to the planning process, and missed opportunities to enhance the environment of new and existing communities.
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty – AONBs are already afforded policy protection however experience has shown that this does not adequately protect views into or out of these areas, potentially risking degradation of their landscape setting. The Core Strategy offers an opportunity to improve our protection of our AONBs by including consideration of 'setting' in planning decisions.

Sustainability appraisal topic area: Population and housing	
Key sustainability issues in Wiltshire – April 2010	
1	As with many other parts of England, the population of Wiltshire has been steadily increasing. However, during the period 1971 to 2001, in percentage terms, Wiltshire has experienced higher growth than at the national level and in relation to the rest of the south west region.
2	Projections suggest a rise in the proportion of single person households in Wiltshire from 28.9 % in 2006 to 36.8 % in 2026. There is also an on-going increase in the variety of household types due to divorce, co-habitation, remarriage, bereavement, and the growing ethnic and religious diversity of Wiltshire. Again this has an impact of the demand for housing and can increase the need for small dwellings.
3	Towns and villages lack sufficient levels of affordable open market and rented housing. It is hard for young people to stay in their communities without remaining in their parental homes. There is an associated difficulty in recruiting people for some types of job from outside the county in 2006 house prices were nearly 14 % above the national average.
4	Current stocks of affordable housing, particularly in rural areas, are unable to compensate for severe market access difficulties to owner occupation, increased levels of homelessness and use of temporary accommodation.
5	Future development is likely to be focussed in Chippenham, Trowbridge and Salisbury. Additional, locally significant growth is also likely to occur in the larger market towns.
6	The future expansion and role of Swindon as a business, retail, and residential location will have a significant impact on development pressures within Wiltshire. The town has a major influence on business, housing demand and transport in the northern half of Wiltshire. Regional planning identifies Swindon as a particular focus for future growth.
7	The continuing military restructuring, with expansion in the south of the county will increase the number of soldiers and their families being stationed for longer periods in garrison towns. This will have an effect on their relationship to local communities and services.
8	Attractiveness of Wiltshire to in-migration, for work and retirement, particularly from London and the adjoining south east region is identifiable, as well as from Bristol/Bath, and more recently, from the new EU accession states.
9	There is continuing growth in out-commuting to surrounding towns and cities, particularly Swindon, Bath/Bristol/South Gloucestershire, and south Hampshire, which enjoy high rates of job creation, and higher salaries.
10	There may be conflict between the attractiveness of the county as a place for retirement, with the need for increasing employment and industry to

	increase the availability of jobs and reduce out commuting.
11	An opportunity exists to consider preventative measures to help avoid the causes of ill health as part of any new development.
12	An increase in housing and population within Wiltshire will increase the amount of waste required for disposal.
13	An increase in housing, alongside other development will lead to further competing interests for the use of land. This could result in the loss of appropriate land for mineral working and potential waste sites.
Additional key sustainability issues following review of evidence for the Core Strategy and SA/SEA – October 2011	
Ageing population - Wiltshire's projected 12% total population increase over the next two decades will be almost entirely (94.4%) accounted for by our retirement age population. This poses Wiltshire with an extremely significant 'ageing population' challenge and the changes projected will have implications for the delivery of housing in terms of size, type and tenure.	
Military population - The nature of military deployment in Wiltshire is undergoing substantial changes. Major new developments are being planned and built at a number of locations across the county. The development of the Salisbury Plain Super Garrison is likely to see a significant increase in military personnel and their dependants in this part of Wiltshire alongside increasing the stability in military life.	
Gypsy and Traveller accommodation need – work is progressing on a Gypsy and Traveller Sites Allocations DPD to ensure the identified needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople who permanently reside in Wiltshire are met through the allocation of suitable and sustainable new sites.	
Affordable housing - In Wiltshire there has been a gradual deterioration in affordability. Access to the owner occupied market is heavily restricted by rising house prices with increases exceeding local income inflation. The relationship between local incomes and the realistic supply of the cheapest stock available exacerbates the affordability problem within Wiltshire.	
Flexible housing to cater for an ageing population - By 2026 the composition of Wiltshire's older age groups will have changed dramatically. There will be a higher proportion of the older age groups, including the over 85s, and double the number of older disabled people. It is therefore important that new homes are suitable to meet the needs of households in the future including an ageing population.	

Sustainability appraisal topic area: Healthy communities	
Key sustainability issues in Wiltshire – April 2010	
1	Wiltshire's population is relatively healthy compared to the average for England, with life expectancy higher than average, and the proportion of people reporting limiting long term illness in Wiltshire amongst the lowest in England.
2	An ageing population may have implications for the provision of services, housing and recreation facilities. In particular, capacity issues are predicted for social and health care services. These include an increasing demand for supported accommodation, and escalating costs.
3	Current pressures on hospitals and the Primary Care Trust are notable, linked to NHS resource issues, restructuring and policy changes. A new understanding needs to be negotiated with the public over what the State will be able to deliver, and what individuals, families and communities are going to have to provide for themselves.
4	The number of overweight and obese people has tripled over the last two decades and is still rising. Obesity rates are indicative of lifestyle and health inequalities. Providing accessible services and facilities can encourage healthier lifestyles through increased walking and cycling. Increased participation in sports also provides benefits.
5	Wiltshire has lower crime rates than the UK as a whole, but worse than the rest of the South West.
6	Perception that crime has increased is high. There is a need to reassure the public in relation to crime, drugs and anti-social behaviour, and to increase public confidence in the criminal justice system.

Additional key sustainability issues following review of evidence for the Core Strategy and SA/SEA – October 2011
Ageing population – this is an acknowledged issue for Wiltshire and will have a significant impact on the health and social care needs of the population, as well as housing and employment provision.
Fuel poverty - it is estimated that 20,400 dwellings in Wiltshire (12.1%) are in fuel poverty, which represents a substantial number of households and presents issues in terms of both energy efficiency and occupier health. Households' energy bills continue to rise above the rate of inflation whilst income levels for many people are actually falling at this time.
Green Infrastructure (GI) provision – the proposed GI Strategy will have an important role in providing, maintaining and enhancing areas that can have significant positive impacts on health and wellbeing, including areas that can help increase participation in sport and recreation and encourage walking and cycling.

Sustainability appraisal topic area: Inclusive communities	
Key sustainability issues in Wiltshire – April 2010	
1	In general, Wiltshire scores highly in Indices of Multiple Deprivation. None of Wiltshire's 281 Super Output Areas ranked amongst the most deprived 10% in England, and only 3 are amongst the most deprived 20% deprived.
2	Within some pockets of deprivation these areas experience higher levels of unemployment, health inequalities and social exclusion. This issue is closely linked with a number of other key issues, most notably employment, skills and education, and housing.
3	Even with general economic prosperity and historically low unemployment in Wiltshire, disadvantage is felt disproportionately among minority groups. For example, disabled people are much more likely to be out of work, as are black and minority ethnic groups. In addition, many older people have lower personal incomes than average and women typically have lower incomes than men. The economic disadvantage experienced by many older people poses a significant challenge given the trend of demographic ageing.
4	Poverty, as measured by Council Tax and housing benefit take-up, is still a widespread though often hidden problem in Wiltshire. The greatest concentrations of claimants are in particular neighbourhoods in towns, but there is a more dispersed incidence throughout the rural parts of the county.
5	Rural areas of Wiltshire also experience disadvantage, including difficulty accessing essential services and facilities and poor public transport services. In recent decades, the number of post offices has declined steadily and this is likely to continue. The number of both rural general and specialist food shops has decreased and there have been losses of many of the services with a community focus, such as primary schools, libraries, places of worship and public houses.
6	Lack of public trust in local government and other government agencies – surveys have consistently shown that the public do not have trust in the system of local governance. This is a crucial issue if sustainable communities are to be achieved in Wiltshire.
7	Local service providers are still not integrated enough around the needs of the customer, or sufficiently customer-centred. This creates barriers to access, weakens customer service, and drains resources from front-line delivery.
8	There is a need to raise awareness of sustainability and encourage sustainable practices by individuals, businesses and organisations.
Additional key sustainability issues following review of evidence for the Core Strategy and SA/SEA – October 2011	
Access to services is a major issue for many people, particularly those living in rural areas. Rural services have been affected by the changing composition of village populations i.e. influx of urban dwellers to rural areas. These former urban dwellers tend to be extremely mobile and are not reliant on local shops or facilities, including public transport. Less demand for local services has therefore contributed to the decline of these services. At the same time, many local residents, especially the elderly, disabled and those on low income, are often still dependent on them.	

Rural deprivation, which can take either a dispersed or concentrated form, can often be overlooked due to the relative greater prosperity and income diversity of many rural areas. This is because deprivation data is focused on an area based approach rather than the location of deprived individuals.

Lack of affordable rural housing continues to be an issue for rural communities. The danger is that community life in many villages and market towns could face real challenges if first time buyers (mainly young people) continue to be priced out of the areas where they grew up by an influx of wealthy commuters, second home owners and retired couples.

Sustainability appraisal topic area: Education and skills

Key sustainability issues in Wiltshire – April 2010

1	An estimated one in five of the working population in Wiltshire lacks the numeracy skills they need to perform their jobs with one in seven lacking literacy skills.
2	Wiltshire's employers face recruitment difficulties amongst the low skilled and school leavers. They continue to report that significant numbers of young people lack work-readiness and appropriate attitudes to work.
3	There is evidence of an increasing polarisation of skills and earnings. This needs to be reduced if certain social and economic consequences are to be avoided.
4	Wiltshire's employment base offers few graduate positions. Attracting more graduate jobs will be helped by the establishment of Higher Education (HE) Institutions and/or further HE opportunities.

Additional key sustainability issues following review of evidence for the Core Strategy and SA/SEA – October 2011

Traditionally, Wiltshire has been dominated by low value, low skilled manufacturing and service sectors, but this is unsustainable in the future. As a result it has become an **attractive county for the higher skilled and higher paid in which to live, but not to work**. In addition, a large proportion of employment in the county is within the public sector and this will fall as government cuts are realised. By broadening the employment base, this will address these weaknesses and develop a sector profile which will be competitive in the future and also offer quality employment opportunities for all residents, thereby reducing outcommuting.

The skills base of Wiltshire is relatively polarised with a high proportion of residents with high skills levels, but equally a significant proportion with poor basic skills and, as a result of the recession, increasing unemployment levels and a worsening 'not in Employment, Education or Training' (NEET) issue amongst young people.

As with the UK, there is evidence that new young labour market entrants in Wiltshire lack the skills they need for employment. Skill losses brought about by staff retirements are often very hard to replace and the 'older than average' composition of the Wiltshire workforce means that this is likely to affect the area more than elsewhere (and increasingly so). The most frequently mentioned skills that employers in Wiltshire felt were lacking were:

- team working;
- oral communication;
- technical skills.

Nearly a third of employers also believe that their staff (of those with skills gaps) 'lacked motivation'.

Sustainability appraisal topic area: Transport	
Key sustainability issues in Wiltshire – April 2010	
1	People in many parts of Wiltshire, especially in rural areas, are heavily dependent on the use of the private car. This is due to the distance they need to travel for services and facilities and poor availability and frequency of public transport.
2	Bus companies within the county are often not competitive and often do not match with rail services.
3	Road transport is a key source of many air pollutants, particularly in urban areas. However, overall emissions of key air pollutants from road transport have fallen by about 50 % over the last decade, despite increases in traffic, and are expected to reduce by a further 25 % or so over the next decade.
4	Increased car ownership and use means that there is less reliance on the local community for work, shopping and social life, resulting in more individualised and dispersed lifestyles/social networks. This trend is a factor in the loss of village shops; in more traffic congestion; in the pressure on public transport which, especially in rural areas, cannot match the flexibility of the private car.
5	Between 1991 and 2001, the number of out-commuters rose by 33 % from 39,300 to 52,300. There is a risk that out-commuting in Wiltshire will continue without action to improve the balance between housing and employment.
6	There is a lack of resources to significantly invest in sustainable transport.
7	The operating costs of bus services are increasing significantly and this may lead to reductions in service use and issues with bus services remaining competitive with other forms of public transport.
8	There has been a slight increase in serious injuries or death from road accidents across Wiltshire.
9	Transport has a number of positive externalities. In particular, social cohesion is fostered particularly through walking, while health is fostered through all non motorised transport modes.
10	Motorised road transport can lead to a range of other adverse impacts, including congestion, air, noise and visual pollution, diffuse water pollution, direct wildlife effects and community severance. Cumulatively, these can form a major barrier to walking and cycling.
Additional key sustainability issues following review of evidence for the Core Strategy and SA/SEA – October 2011	
The significantly ageing population will present access challenges to service providers.	
Air quality – all of the Air Quality Management Areas designated in Wiltshire are as a result of emissions caused by traffic. Progress on resolving these issues will continue through regular and ongoing dialogue through the Wiltshire Local Air Quality Management Officers Working Group.	
Funding for transport from central government in the short to medium term is being reduced – this will reduce opportunities for the council to invest in public transport and other essential transport infrastructure.	
Some of the main highway routes in the county are unsuited to the volume and weight of traffic carried and this has given rise to some local congestion, relatively low inter-urban journey speeds and journey time reliability issues.	
The strategic transport network will require enhancing/improving to cope with increased residential/employment development. In particular, the A350 national primary route will need enhancement in places. The A350 corridor links five major towns in the west of Wiltshire - Chippenham, Melksham, Trowbridge, Westbury and Warminster; it carries the highest volume of traffic and HGV movements on the county's non-trunk road primary routes and is strategically important.	
Car ownership is high in Wiltshire reflecting the rural nature of the county. Between 1981 and 2001 there was a 92% increase in the number of cars in Wiltshire, and in 2001 just 16% of households did not have access to a car. However, there are clear geographic differences in the distribution of households without access to cars with those living in the most remote areas having a higher degree of car ownership, often out of necessity.	
Public transport is mostly unable to compete with changes in car ownership, both in terms of service frequency and geographic coverage, thus leaving	

those without access to a car disadvantaged. Public transport in Wiltshire accounts for 6% of journeys to work and this is half the national average.
Currently around a third of public transport services are subsidised by Wiltshire Council , which is a significant demand on the annual revenue budget. Additionally tender prices have risen considerably over recent years due in part to the lack of qualified bus drivers and rising fuel prices. Future increases in tender prices pose a real threat to maintaining the existing coverage of bus services in the county.
Due to the rural nature of the county, freight movements have a noticeable impact upon the road network , as the roads which are used to access businesses and homes are, in instances, neither designed or always suitable for freight movements.
The Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site is internationally important for its complexes of outstanding prehistoric monuments. However, the presence of busy main roads going through the Site impacts adversely on its integrity.

Sustainability appraisal topic area: Economy and enterprise	
Key sustainability issues in Wiltshire – April 2010	
1	Decline in local manufacturing industries in Wiltshire has been less than for the UK as a whole and still has a larger than average 13.1 % employed in Manufacturing.
2	The future expansion and role of Swindon as a business, retail, and residential location will have a significant impact on Wiltshire. The town has a major influence on business, housing demand and transport in the northern half of Wiltshire.
3	The current business base may not have restructured over the last 20 years in a way which will enable it to remain competitive in the long term.
4	Wiltshire has a lower than average concentration of high value-added industry. It may have reached 'low skill equilibrium' which is where high employment is achieved through the creation of low skilled jobs.
5	High value added sectors are under-represented in the Wiltshire economy. Workplace median weekly earnings are lower than regional and national averages.
6	High and increasing numbers of Wiltshire residents are out-commuting to higher paid jobs in adjoining employment centres. The difference between Wiltshire workplace and residence-based earnings is most marked in the west Wiltshire and Kennet districts.
7	There is an increasing trend of viable urban employment sites being lost to non-commercial uses and displaced urban employment uses have tended to relocate to unsustainable rural sites.
8	If most development and associated infrastructure investment, including additional employment land, is directed to Chippenham, Salisbury and Trowbridge, there may be a risk that other settlements are affected if infrastructure investment is centred on these settlements.
9	It has been identified that there is considerable demand for additional employment land across Wiltshire.
10	Baseline figures are also indicative of an aging resident workforce and new employment opportunities will need to consider this factor.
11	In parts of Wiltshire tourism contributes significantly to the local economy and there are opportunities to develop tourism potential elsewhere.
12	The natural environment is an under-utilised resource with respect to achieving growth in the tourist sector in Wiltshire.
Additional key sustainability issues following review of evidence for the Core Strategy and SA/SEA – October 2011	
Dependency on public sector employment, low value economic activity and neighbouring areas for trade and jobs (see 'Education and skills' section).	
Business infrastructure provision does not meet demand - in order to support the work to broaden the employment base, Wiltshire needs to provide an attractive environment for both businesses and residents. This includes ensuring that development and regeneration activity takes place in appropriate locations where businesses want to operate and people want to live, as well as providing appropriate commercial sites and premises supported by an appropriate ICT and transport network.	

<p>There are inequalities between resident based and workplace based earnings and skills levels - The skills base of Wiltshire is relatively polarised with a high proportion of residents with high skills levels, but equally a significant proportion with poor basic skills and, as a result of the recession, increasing unemployment levels and a worsening 'Not in Employment, Education or Training' (NEET) issue amongst young people.</p>
<p>Wiltshire businesses and organisations need to improve their resource efficiency - The UK government is committed to legally-binding targets to reduce carbon emissions by 80% by 2050. This will result in increased regulation for businesses and organisations to improve resource efficiency.</p>
<p>An overly ageing workforce represents a key challenge for Wiltshire and is eroding its prowess as an area with an overly industrious and higher skilled workforce. Replacing older skilled workers is likely to be more challenging in Wiltshire than elsewhere and, allied to this, raising the quality of young entrants into the labour market and raising vocational training levels amongst Wiltshire's employers are key challenges for the Wiltshire economy.</p>
<p>At the heart of Wiltshire's labour market competitiveness is a relatively highly skilled workforce. However, in keeping with the national trend, there is a significant demand for basic skills training.</p>
<p>Globalisation will continue to pose both threats and opportunities for the Wiltshire economy. Threats are more in terms of markets and jobs at the lower value added end (low-cost, standard commodity-type goods and services) and particularly from China and India. Opportunities are more at entering markets and sustaining presence at the higher value added end and this requires a highly skilled workforce.</p>

DRAFT

Appendix E – Compatibility assessment of Core Strategy spatial vision and strategic objectives

Key:

++	Significantly compatible
+	Compatible
~	Neutral/not relevant
?	Uncertain/ dependant on other factors
-	Potential conflict
--	Incompatible

Core Strategy Spatial vision compatibility analysis – February 2012

(See Section 5.2 main report for discussion of results)

Sustainability appraisal objectives	Compatibility analysis
1. Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geological features and avoid irreversible losses	+
2. Ensure efficient and effective use of land and the use of suitably located previously developed land and buildings	+
3. Promote sustainable waste management solutions that encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste	?
4. Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner	?
5. Protect people and property from the risk of flooding	+
6. Improve air quality throughout Wiltshire and minimise all sources of environmental pollution	+
7. Minimise our impacts on climate change and reduce our vulnerability to future climate change effects	+
8. Protect, maintain and enhance the historic environment	+
9. Conserve and enhance the character and quality of Wiltshire's rural and urban landscapes, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place	+
10. Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures	+
11. Provide a safe and healthy environment in which to live	++
12. Reduce poverty and deprivation and promote more inclusive and self-contained communities	++
13. Improve equality of access to, and engagement in local, high-quality community services and facilities	+
14. Raise educational attainment levels across the authority and provide opportunities for people to improve their workplace skills	+
15. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable transport choices	+
16. Encourage a vibrant and diversified economy and provide for long-term sustainable economic growth	++
17. Ensure adequate provision of high-quality employment land and diverse employment opportunities to meet the needs of local businesses and a changing workforce	+

Core Strategy strategic objectives compatibility analysis – February 2012

(See Section 5.2 main report for discussion of results)

Sustainability Appraisal objectives	Wiltshire Core Strategy Strategic Objectives (See section 5.2 main report)					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Protect and enhance biodiversity	?	+	?	~	++	+
2. Promote the more efficient use of land	+/?	+	-	~	++	+
3. Promote sustainable waste management solutions	~	+	?	+	~	+
4. Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner	~	+	-	~	+	+
5. Protect people and property from the risk of flooding	~	+	?	~	+	+
6. Improve air quality throughout Wiltshire	-	++	?	~	+	+
7. Reduce impacts on and vulnerability to climate change	-	++	-	+	+	+
8. Protect, maintain and enhance the historic environment	?	+	?	~	++	+
9. Conserve and enhance Wiltshire's landscapes	?	+	-	~	++	+
10. Provide quality, affordable housing	++	+	++	+	~	+
11. Provide a safe and healthy environment in which to live	+	+	+	++	+	++
12. Reduce poverty/ deprivation and promote inclusiveness	+	+	++	++	~	+
13. Improve equality of access to community services	+	~	+	++	~	++
14. Raise educational attainment levels across the authority	+	~	+	+	~	+
15. Reduce the need to travel/ promote sustainable transport	-	+	?	+	+	++
16. Encourage a vibrant and diversified economy	++	+	++	+	+	+
17. Ensure adequate provision of quality employment land	++	+	++	+	+	+

Appendix F – Proposed monitoring indicators

Sustainability objective	Potential monitoring indicators
1. Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geological features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of SSSIs in 'favourable' or 'unfavourable recovering' condition • % change in area of designated biodiversity sites (Ha) • Changes in habitats and species identified in the Wiltshire BAP • Area of habitat created as a benefit of new development (NOT including compensatory or translocated habitat) • Area of degraded habitat restored and sensitively managed as a benefit of new development • Area of designated local nature reserves per 1000 population • New public greenspace created as a result of new development (Ha)
2. Ensure the more efficient use of land and the use of suitably located previously developed land and buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % dwellings and/or development completed on previously developed land • Average density of new housing per ha (all sites) • Housing density of new developments in town/city centres • Amount of best and most versatile agricultural land lost to development (Ha)
3. Promote sustainable waste management solutions that encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % household waste landfilled • % household waste recycled • % household waste composted • Amount of waste produced per person/household • Amounts of industrial, commercial, demolition and agricultural waste produced • % new developments with 'on-site' sustainable waste management facilities • % households with kerbside recycling collection schemes • % households living within 300 metres of a local "bring site" for recycling or Household Recycling Centre
4. Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % river length of good/fair chemical quality • % river length of good/fair biological quality • Water company abstraction rates • Daily domestic water consumption per capita • Water supply and demand • Leakage rates • % of new development incorporating water conservation measures eg meters, greywater recycling, rainwater collection
5. Reduce the risk of flooding to existing developments and ensure there is no risk to new developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Properties at risk from flooding • New development situated in Flood Zones 2 & 3

Sustainability objective	Potential monitoring indicators
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of new development incorporating Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS)
6. Improve air quality throughout Wiltshire and minimise and/or mitigate against all sources of environmental pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concentrations of selected local air quality indicators • Change in no. of designated AQMAs • % of population living in designated AQMAs • Levels of NO₂ within designated AQMAs • % of new residential developments meeting set standards in accordance with World Health Organisation (WHO) Environmental Health criteria 12 (Noise)
7. Minimise our impacts on climate change and reduce our vulnerability to future climate change effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % energy generated from renewable sources • MW of energy generated from renewable sources • % change in renewable energy schemes approved • Number of schemes using Combined Heat and Power (CHP) • % new development meeting Code 3 of the code for Sustainable Homes and or/ 'excellent' BREEAM Eco-Homes standards • % new office buildings meeting BREEAM "very good" or "excellent" standards • Energy Efficiency of Housing stock (SAP rating out of 100) • Emissions of greenhouse gases • Target for cutting CO₂ emissions • Average energy consumption per residential unit • Wiltshire's ecological footprint
8. Protect, maintain and enhance the historic environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. and % of grade I and II* Listed Buildings considered 'at risk' • No. and % of Historic Parks and Gardens considered 'at risk' • % of Conservation Areas within the local authority area that have an up-to-date character appraisal • % of Conservation Areas with published management proposals • No. and % of Scheduled Ancient Monuments considered 'at risk' • % change in visits to selected historic sites • % of planning applications for which archaeological investigations were required prior to approval • % of planning applications where archaeological mitigation strategies (preservation by design and/ or archaeological recording) were developed and implemented
9. Conserve and enhance the character and quality of Wiltshire's rural and urban landscapes,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area of land covered by Environmental Stewardship Agreements • % Rights of Way network 'easy to use' • Proportion of land designated as tranquil

Sustainability objective	Potential monitoring indicators
maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of Joint Character Areas showing no change or showing change consistent with character area descriptions • % of local authority area covered by historic landscape/ urban characterisation studies • Proportion of new development in accord with Core Policy 51
10. Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures within their communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing completions against targets • Affordable housing completed as % of all new completions • Average house price/ household gross earned income ratio • No. of households classified as homeless • BV184a – proportion of LA homes non-decent • % of private sector homes judged unfit to live in • % of dwellings in new developments designed for disabled access • No. of households in overcrowded dwellings • Delivery of allocated housing sites
11. Provide a safe and healthy environment in which to live	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recorded crime levels • Residents surveys (if available) on safety and fear of crime in local communities • Standard Mortality Rates • % of SOAs in lowest 20% IMD Health Domain • No. of GPs per 1000 population. • % of population suffering from fuel poverty • % of population living within 600m walk or 30mins bus travel (15mins frequency) of a GP surgery/Health clinic • Road safety indicators (various) • Obesity levels • Levels of participation in sport/exercise
12. Reduce poverty and deprivation and promote more inclusive and self-contained communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of population living within 400m walking distance of a bus stop • % of population living within 300m walk or 20 mins bus travel (15 mins frequency) of a Primary School • % of representations received to LDD consultation from 'Hard-to-Reach' groups, as defined in the Statement of Community Involvement • Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) Rank (various categories) • Ward unemployment levels • Employment by gender • Average earnings • Unemployment rate
13. Improve equality of access to, and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability and accessibility of a range of community, cultural and leisure facilities

Sustainability objective	Potential monitoring indicators
engagement in local, high-quality community services and facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of households living within 1 mile of a static public library • % of rural villages with a General Store/Post Office • % of rural villages with a Level 1 Journey to Work Public Transport Service • Open space provision and standard • % of Wiltshire residents finding it easy to access key services • Participation levels of a range of local facilities • BVPI156 - % Local Authority buildings suitable for and accessible by disabled people
14. Raise educational attainment levels across the authority and provide opportunities for people to improve their workplace skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of 16 year olds achieving 5+ GCSEs Grade A*-C • % of people with NVQ level 3 or 4 (or equivalent) or a trade apprenticeship • 16-74 yr olds with no qualifications • 16-74 yr olds with degree or equivalent • Business surveys of staff/skills shortages • % of adults on a registered further education course • % of companies experiencing skills shortages • No. of residents attending University • % of employees undertaking job related training
15. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable transport choices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel to work data • Traffic flows for all vehicle types • Car ownership: no car, 2+ cars • No. of vehicles entering town centres in the morning peak • % of schools with Travel Plans • No. of employees working for businesses with Green Travel Plans • % of people travelling to work involved in car-share schemes • Patronage of Park & Ride Schemes • % change in dedicated bus lanes/cycle ways • Car parking patronage • No. of bicycle parking spaces within new major developments
16. Encourage a vibrant, diversified and sustainable economy based on efficient resource use and offering opportunities and prosperity for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gross Value Added (GVA) • Proportion of economically active people unemployed • % change in VAT registrations

Sustainability objective	Potential monitoring indicators
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average earnings • Unemployment rate overall • Business registrations and de-registrations • Loss and gain of major employers • % registered working age disabled people in employment • % working age BME people in employment • IMD – Employment domain - % of SOAs in each quartile • Amount of spend by tourists and visitors to the local authority area.
<p>17. Ensure adequate provision of high-quality employment land and diverse employment opportunities in appropriate locations to meet the needs of local businesses, a changing workforce and the environment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jobs density • Employment land availability • Business premises vacancy rates • Business premises rental values • % vacant employment floorspace • Amount of employment land lost to residential development • Employment land commitments and completions

Appendix G – Sustainability appraisal consultation representations and response
Core Strategy pre-Submission consultation 20th February 2012 - 2nd April 2012

Rep/Comment No./ Organisation	Consultation representation	Sustainability appraisal response
ID 382216 SA Rep 9 Natural England	SA Appendix G Natural England has not scrutinised the content of the Sustainability Appraisal in detail, but welcomes Appendix G - Statutory environmental bodies Core Strategy consultation responses - August 2011, wherein it is demonstrated our earlier concerns have been considered.	Noted. Appendix G now contains the most recent consultation comments from Natural England.
ID 382216 SA Rep 10 Natural England	SA monitoring indicators We note that a number of the proposed monitoring indicators will not be of any use in monitoring the effect of the plan, thus failing the requirement that "Member States shall monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans and programmes". For example, "% of local authority area designated as AONB" is very unlikely to vary on the basis of the plan. We advise that the proposed indicators are reviewed to include only those likely to change as a result of the plan.	Monitoring indicators have been reviewed to reflect these comments.
ID 382216 SA Rep 11 Natural England	Monitoring public open space We note that there are no indicators monitoring the provision of Public Open Space. An appropriate metric should be developed as part of the Green infrastructure strategy. We also note that there are no indicators monitoring the impact of the plan on landscape. A suitable metric might be "proportion of development in accord with Policy 51".	Monitoring indicators have been reviewed to reflect these comments.
ID 403792 Rep 1548 English Heritage	Archaeological constraints to development Constraints to development at the Rawlings Green, Chippenham site are currently unknown. The comment queries the sites capacity to accommodate 700 new homes when these constraints are yet to be fully investigated. Also that if development occurs within a close proximity to the listed building and the Medieval and Roman settlement remains the development would substantially harm the significance of the heritage assets and would therefore be unsustainable and contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework.	These comments have been reflected in SA for east Chippenham, Rawlings Green. Section 5.12 of report.
ID 403792 Rep 1553 English Heritage	Conservation area identified within strategic site The South West Chippenham Strategic Site includes development allocated within the Rowden Conservation Area, an open rural landscape designated for its historic character and significance.	These comments have been reflected in SA for South West Chippenham Strategic Site. Section 5.12 of report and Appendix H.
ID 403792 Rep 1561 English Heritage	Development affecting Cley Hill The Core Strategy is relatively silent on development affecting Cley Hill Schedule Monument and its setting. Development causing substantial harm to Cley Hill's significance would be contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework and as such the Core Strategy would be unsound.	The SA Report has been amended to reflect these comments. Section 5.33 and Appendix H.
ID 403792 Rep 1566 English Heritage	Archaeological constraints to development The Core Strategy includes only a brief generic reference to instances where sites will affect heritage assets, including their setting, and contain features such as archaeology of significance. This should be revised to reflect national planning policy more fully, particularly paragraphs 169 and 170 of the NPPF. I cite North Chippenham Strategic Site page 242 as an example. "Archaeology and Historical Interest - There are likely to be archaeological	The SA highlights potential archaeological constraints and the need for further investigation.

Rep/Comment No./ Organisation	Consultation representation	Sustainability appraisal response
	constraints to development. Further investigation and appropriate mitigation required."	
ID 637160 Rep 743 Environment Agency	Tidworth Area Strategy CP26 Any development on Brownfield sites should consider risks from historic contamination to ground and surface waters and remove any established risk by carrying out appropriate remediation. Include sewage disposal a potential issue in Core Policy 3 (infrastructure requirements).	The SA Report has been amended to reflect these comments. Section 5.28 and Appendix H.
ID 637160 Rep 757 Environment Agency	Tidworth Area Strategy CP26 No reference to the need to consider foul and surface water disposal and a water cycle study.	These comments have been reflected in SA for Tidworth. Section 5.28 of report and Appendix H.
ID 637616 SA Rep 2 Mactaggart and Mickel Strategic Land	The SA fails completely to adequately deal with reasonable alternatives in relation to proposed housing allocations. There is no clear indication as to why sites are regarded as strategic or not or why sites previously regarded as strategic have been removed. Specifically in respect of Land at Coate Bridge Devizes there is no explanation as to why this site was not considered individually but apparently assessed in conjunction with other land. There is also no justification in the SA for the proportion of overall housing requirements proposed in the pre submission draft core strategy that is regarded as strategic. There is no assessment of the reasons behind the overall approach to strategic site selection. The SA does not properly assess the implications of the very limited allocation of strategic sites outside the principal towns in Wiltshire. No mitigation is identified to deal with the situation where the Core Strategy fails to deliver sufficient housing within the plan period to 2026. The general "tick box" approach used in the SA is wholly inadequate and appears to be used to justify a pre-determined approach rather than rigorously evaluate the environmental implications of reasonable alternative scenarios and in particular the different options for meeting appropriate levels of housing provision on specific sites.	The SA has considered an adequate number of reasonable alternatives to all strategic allocations. Topic paper 12: Site selection process gives explanation for all strategic and non-strategic site selection. The SA has carried out further assessment of the decision not to carry forward strategic housing allocations in the Core Strategy for Calne, Corsham, Devizes, Malmesbury, Melksham, Wootton Bassett, West of Swindon. Section 5 of report. The SA has assessed reasonable alternatives to overall Wiltshire-wide housing numbers and outlines the sustainability implications of this delivery. The SA has not been carried out as a 'tick box' exercise and has not been used to justify a pre-determined approach.
ID 397839 SA Rep 5 Savernake Parish Council	Marlborough Strategic Site Selection. It is NOT within Groundwater Source Protection Zone 3 it is in Zone 1. This is the inner protection Zone. The soils are permeable and hence the serious objections from Savernake Parish Council.	The information re groundwater sources was received from the Environment Agency.
ID 389544 SA Rep 6 Badminton Estate	Strong support is given for the identified benefits that can be expected to arise from the implementation of sustainability objectives, including for rural areas, where there is a particular need to: Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures. Encourage a vibrant and diversified economy and provide for long-term sustainable economic growth. Ensure adequate provision of high-quality employment land and diverse employment opportunities to meet the needs of local businesses and a changing workforce.	Noted.
No rep no. known. Putney investments	The Core Strategy SA includes "Framework Objectives" intended to inform the Core Strategy. Objective No 2 Seeks to ensure the efficient and effective use of land and the use of suitably-located	The SA acknowledges the sustainability benefits associated with use of brownfield land.

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(email from CG 17/4 re Sands Quarry)	previously-developed land and buildings. This does not carry through to the Core Strategy.	
ID 556922 Rep 1336 Redcliffe Homes (email from CG 25/4 re BoA (land north of Holt Rd))	Redcliffe Homes notes the revisions made to the Sustainability Appraisal in response to representations made during the consultation period June-August 2011. Redcliffe Homes is pleased that Wiltshire Council recognises within the updated Sustainability Appraisal that there are no overriding constraints to development of Land North of Holt Road. Further re-assessment requested in light of findings of Wiltshire Historic Landscape Assessment.	Amendments made to para 5.9.20 SA Report and Appendix I.
No rep no. known. Defence Infrastructure Org. (email from AL 28/4)	Officers of the Planning Authority have already accepted that a key to the abbreviations to aid interpretation of the Sustainability Appraisal is missing.	This key has now been added to methodology section of SA Report. Section 2.
ID 644496 Rep 599 Hallam Land	<p>Melksham strategic housing site removed from CS and not assessed in SA. <i>The SA/SEA (October 2009) which assessed the sustainability implications of the Wiltshire 2026 Consultation Document supported the inclusion of the strategic allocation at Melksham. In the Summary section it states that "Option 2 [land to the east of Melksham] is clearly much more sustainable than either Options 1 or 3".</i> <i>On the basis that the site was identified through the SA/SEA as being the most sustainable and, as a result of this, was allocated in the Core Strategy, there are clear grounds for the allocation of the site. We are not aware of any assessment in the subsequent SA/SEA of the implications of removing the allocation from the Core Strategy. The removal of the allocation potentially opens up the possibility of development on less sustainable sites and could therefore have sustainability implications which should have been tested through the SA/SEA process.</i> Inaccuracies in SA of 'land east of Dene', Warminster. <i>The assessment of the site contained within the interim SA/SEA produced by the Council to support the Pre-Submission Core Strategy contains a number of inaccuracies in relation to the 'Land East of the Dene'. Some of the findings within the schedule on page 51 of Appendix I appear to relate to a different site and many of the references are simply incorrect. These inaccuracies were identified in representations to the Consultation Draft Core Strategy in June 2011, however, no changes were subsequently made to the SA/SEA as a result of the representations.</i> <i>It is wholly unacceptable that the errors in the SA/SEA were not identified and rectified prior to the production and subsequent publication of the Pre-Submission Core Strategy. The failure to address these concerns demonstrates that the Council either do not take the matter seriously or do not attach sufficient importance to the findings of the SA/SEA in defining the strategic locations for growth. In either case the net effect is that the SA/SEA is inaccurate and does not provide a sound basis upon which to base the policies and allocations contained within the Core Strategy.</i></p>	<p>The SA has carried out further assessment of the decision not to carry forward strategic housing allocations in the Core Strategy for Calne, Corsham, Devizes, Malmesbury, Melksham, Wootton Bassett, West of Swindon. Section 5 of report. The removal of the strategic housing site at Melksham is also explained in Topic Paper 12: Site selection process and this is highlighted in the SA. Re 'land east of Dene' site, a review has been carried out and inaccuracies corrected. Section 5.33 of report.</p>
ID 645345 Rep 923 Hallam Land Management	<p>Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment The SA/SEA (October 2009) which assessed the sustainability implications of the Wiltshire 2026 Consultation Document supported the inclusion of the strategic allocation at Melksham. In the Summary section it states that "Option 2 [land to the east of Melksham] is clearly much more sustainable than either Options 1 or 3".</p>	<p>The SA has carried out further assessment of the decision not to carry forward strategic housing allocations in the Core Strategy for Calne, Corsham, Devizes, Malmesbury, Melksham, Wootton Bassett, West of Swindon. Section 5 of report.</p>

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	<p>On the basis that the site was identified through the SA/SEA as being the most sustainable and, as a result of this, was allocated in the Core Strategy, there are clear grounds for the allocation of the site. We are not aware of any assessment in the subsequent SA/SEA of the implications of removing the allocation from the Core Strategy. The removal of the allocation potentially opens up the possibility of development on less sustainable sites and could therefore have sustainability implications which should have been tested through the SA/SEA process.</p>	
ID 375804 Rep 762 Kim Stuckey	<p>Re discussion of effects for Chippenham, potential effects on River Marden and valley should be mentioned.</p>	<p>Amendments made to SA Report Section 5.12 and Appendix I to include effects on River Marden.</p>
ID 392322 Rep 1456 CPRE	<p>We consider the Core Strategy is unsound because neither it nor its Sustainability Appraisal considers an adequate range of 'reasonable alternatives', in particular (1) a different overall spatial strategy, based on prioritising high density mixed use redevelopment within town centres, (2) avoiding and obviating major road capacity increases and prioritising socially and environmentally beneficial infrastructure instead; (3) proactive standards for density, prioritisation of brownfield sites, phasing and coordination.</p> <p>The Sustainability Appraisal report, and earlier appraisal reports it refers to, go in to considerable detail about <i>some</i> kinds of alternatives, including which settlements should fall into different categories for development, and choices of individual sites. But there is no discussion of the kinds of reasonable alternatives called for by the chosen Core Strategy's poor performance on the objectives just identified. We outline what these could be in section 7 below.</p>	<p>It is considered that an adequate and appropriate range of 'reasonable alternatives' has been assessed through the SA.</p>
ID 646820 Rep 1740 Network against Wiltshire Sprawl	<p>We consider the Core Strategy is unsound because neither it nor its Sustainability Appraisal considers an adequate range of 'reasonable alternatives', in particular (1) a different overall spatial strategy, based on prioritising high density mixed use redevelopment within town centres, (2) avoiding and obviating major road capacity increases and prioritising socially and environmentally beneficial infrastructure instead; (3) proactive standards for density, prioritisation of brownfield sites, phasing and coordination.</p> <p>The Sustainability Appraisal report, and earlier appraisal reports it refers to, go in to considerable detail about some kinds of alternatives, including which settlements should fall into different categories for development, and choices of individual sites. But there is no discussion of the kinds of reasonable alternatives called for by the chosen Core Strategy's poor performance on the objectives just identified. We outline what these could be in section 7 below.</p>	<p>It is considered that an adequate and appropriate range of 'reasonable alternatives' has been assessed through the SA.</p>
ID 404474 Rep 1741 Primegate properties	<p>The SA lacks rigour because it fails to consider the implications for the Wiltshire Core Strategy's objectives and spatial strategy of allocating/not allocating (contingency) sites to accommodate growth of Swindon in the event this cannot be fully and accommodated within the Borough's boundaries. Without such appraisal of these alternatives and ensuing discussion, the SA does not provide a robust evidence base for the proposed policy decision to make no (contingency) allocation(s) west of Swindon.</p> <p>Secondly, there has been no updating of the SA or the Swindon Small Scale Urban Extensions (SSSUE) Evidence Paper to reflect criticisms that the original site option appraisals contained inconsistencies and did not include a robust deliverability assessment or the now undeliverable status of Pry Farm2 (2,000 dwellings) within the preferred option for development west of Swindon in</p>	<p>Amendments made to section 5.21 of the SA Report to clarify the decision not to allocate strategic sites in the community area. The SA has carried out further assessment of the decision not to carry forward strategic housing allocations in the Core Strategy for Calne, Corsham, Devizes, Malmesbury, Melksham, Wootton Bassett, West of Swindon. Section 5 of report.</p> <p>The SA that accompanied <i>Wiltshire 2026</i> included an update that took account of consultation responses received by Swindon Borough Council. Since the <i>Wiltshire</i></p>

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	Wiltshire.	2026 document there has been no strategic allocation in the Wootton Bassett community area.
ID 402192 Rep 1742 Hannick Homes	<p>The SA lacks rigour because it fails to consider the implications for the Wiltshire Core Strategy's objectives and spatial strategy of allocating/not allocating (contingency) sites to accommodate growth of Swindon in the event this cannot be fully and accommodated within the Borough's boundaries. Without such appraisal of these alternatives and ensuing discussion, the SA does not provide a robust evidence base for the proposed policy decision to make no (contingency) allocation(s) west of Swindon.</p> <p>Secondly, there has been no updating of the SA or the Swindon Small Scale Urban Extensions (SSSUE) Evidence Paper to reflect criticisms that the original site option appraisals contained inconsistencies and did not include a robust deliverability assessment or the now undeliverable status of Pry Farm2 (2,000 dwellings) within the preferred option for development west of Swindon in Wiltshire.</p>	<p>Amendments made to section 5.21 of the SA Report to clarify the decision not to allocate strategic sites in the community area.</p> <p>The SA has carried out further assessment of the decision not to carry forward strategic housing allocations in the Core Strategy for Calne, Corsham, Devizes, Malmesbury, Melksham, Wootton Bassett, West of Swindon. Section 5 of report.</p> <p>The SA that accompanied <i>Wiltshire 2026</i> included an update that took account of consultation responses received by Swindon Borough Council. Since the <i>Wiltshire 2026</i> document there has been no strategic allocation in the Wootton Bassett community area.</p>
ID 549066 Rep 1752 Chippenham 2020	<p>4. Page 55. para 7.1. "The evidence base for the strategic sites analysis was then reviewed and updated.....All sites at Chippenham were subject to a revised SA/SEA appraisal. Table 2 sets out the sustainability appraisal sites summary. Further details are available within the Interim Sustainability Appraisal Report published alongside the Core Strategy consultation document in June 2011." Wiltshire Council has confirmed that this 2011 report contains the most recent comparison of the sustainability aspects of the individual sites that make up the current options. The relevant table is found in Appendix G of the 2011 Report and the Eastern site is here referred to as Option 2 commencing on page 293 and the Southern site is referred to as Option 5 commencing on page 316. (See the plan and accompanying Table in Appendix 3A for an explanation of the different site and options). The relevant piece of this table comparing these two sites is attached in full as Appendix 3C. Extraordinarily the southern and eastern sites score exactly the same across all 17 categories and nearly all the explanatory words, intended as a specific critique of each site option, are identical, despite the fact that the sites are in very different locations and are different distances from the town centre. They also have very different accessibility to all the key community facilities that are a "key requirement of dealing with issues of social exclusion and making a meaningful contribution to the quality of people's lives" (see p 19. para 2.36 in Topic Paper 14: Building Resilient Communities). Appendix 3 contains a report by Sustainability Specialists, Phlorum Ltd. This includes, in Appendix 3D, a complete reassessment of the two competing sites and a summary of the results is included in the table below. By applying a numerical score, instead of the +/- method preferred by the Council, it becomes clear that the East is significantly better than the South in sustainability terms, scoring +3 against -9.</p> <p>We believe that this clearly demonstrates the many flaws in the Sustainability Appraisal and this renders the Core Strategy unsound. We would refer you to Appendix 3 for the full report which contains important new evidence, as summarised in the table above.</p> <p>5. Page 58. para 7.2. "The Sustainability Appraisalwas unable to recommend one particular site above other options because one site did not stand out above all others in sustainability terms."</p>	<p>The Chippenham assessment has been reviewed and updated in line with current evidence and knowledge. The SA has been updated by the Final SA Report in February 2012. The Interim SA Report is not the latest assessment.</p> <p>It is considered that the SA has looked at reasonable alternatives for Chippenham and has identified and described the key significant effects of each option.</p> <p>Re scoring - the report by Phlorum that analyses the SA agrees with the methodology and procedures used in the SA. It also quotes PAS guidance warning of using numerical values to determine significance and states that "although quantified reports may help the assessment, much of the assessment will be subjective so giving it a quantified score, or a semi-quantified score, on issues which are subjective can sometimes be less helpful". It also states "it is agreed with WC that if a numbered scoring system was used it would be tempting to add them to a quantifiable overall score which then gives an artificial level of certainty.</p> <p>The SA is not flawed on this basis by not using a numerical scoring system.</p> <p>The Phlorum report disagrees with the outcomes of the SA but agrees that SA is often a subjective exercise.</p>

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	<p>See 4 above - if it is agreed that the site comparison Sustainability Appraisal report is unsound, then so is this statement.</p> <p>In summary the above 18 excerpts demonstrate two fundamental flaws in the Core Strategy as it relates to site selection in Chippenham: The process of consultation and the manner in which the plan has evolved through an SEA fails to meet precise legislative requirements;</p>	
<p>ID 556573 Rep 1698 Bloor Homes</p>	<p>As part of the evidence base to support the Core Strategy the Council has produced a Sustainability Appraisal of the options. The Appraisal states at paragraph 5.12.69 that: "it is considered that there are no absolute constraints to development in sustainability terms for any of the options and at any individual location"</p> <p>But paragraph 5.12.15 states that: "Key issues in Chippenham which need to be resolved before development takes place are traffic (particularly the A4 through the town and the A350) and potential impacts to the River Avon."</p>	<p>Comments valid. It highlights issues that are considered significant but they are not 'absolute constraints'.</p>
<p>ID 406262 Rep 146 Salisbury Campaign for Better Transport</p>	<p>Note: the following comment is based on comment ID 232 submitted at the previous consultation on the Wiltshire Core Strategy in August 2011. The response to that comment does not make reference to the selection of the options considered in the Sustainability Appraisal, and is therefore not considered to be an adequate response to the points raised.</p> <p>The options evaluated in the interim Sustainability Appraisal in relation to Core Policy 66 - Strategic Transport Network - provide an example of the poor quality of the options which have been considered.</p> <p>The details of the options have not been clearly specified in the evidence base provided, however further enquiries have revealed that the 'Option 2' - termed the 'Status Quo' option - being evaluated for this Core Policy contains schemes from the Wiltshire Structure Plan 2016. The schemes included in this option have in many cases already been further evaluated and abandoned.</p> <p>The Sustainability Appraisal is, we are told, supposed to define and consider 'reasonable alternatives' [See S.A. section 2.3]. To take a 'status quo' option which is based on an assemblage of historical and outdated schemes cannot be considered an investigation of a reasonable alternative.</p>	<p>It is considered that the 'status quo' option is a reasonable alternative. SA guidance states that 'no plan' and 'business as usual' options are appropriate. SA guidance states that options such as 'no plan' or 'business as usual' can be used.</p>

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