






Wiltshire Core Strategy: Assessment under the Habitats Regulations

Wiltshire Council

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QUALITY MANAGEMENT

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Wiltshire Council is in the process of developing its Core Strategy. The Council submitted the Wiltshire Core Strategy Pre-Submission Document part of the Council's Local Development Framework to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the 10th of July 2012 for independent examination.

As part of the work, consideration must be given to potential effects on sites of European importance for nature conservation. The assessment focuses on the possible effects of the plan on designated sites of international nature conservation importance within and close to Wiltshire. It is important to stress that this report represents part of a process that will consider possible effects on such sites as the Core Strategy progresses. The HRA process will continue through the examination up to adoption, and there will be at least one further and final iteration of the HRA immediately prior to adoption of the plan. WSP Environmental Ltd has been appointed by the Council to identify relevant issues and prepare this report and prepared earlier reports that examined options for growth in 2009 and earlier drafts of the Core Strategy in 2011 and February, 2012. A submission document was published in June 2012. Wiltshire Council reviewed the conclusions of the February 2012 HRA in light of the changes made through the pre-submission consultation and prior to submission to the inspectorate in July 2012; the review concluded that the changes made were minor and that at that time the HRA was still a valid assessment of the plan.

1.2 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is an iterative process. This report has been prepared to inform the examination of the Core Strategy, in light of:

- A request from Natural England for further information in respect of Bechstein's bats potential use of an area allocated for development at Trowbridge (Ashton Park) for foraging, commuting and roosting.¹ A Transport Strategy for Trowbridge was also published and that has implications for the Core Strategy and this assessment;
- Uncertainties around the status of saved local plan policies – these have now been screened as part of the consideration for in-combination effects;
- A recent ruling² has potential implications for HRAs and the implications of this for the work undertaken to date is discussed;

Recommendations made in previous reports have been considered by the Council and incorporated in the Submission Draft Core Strategy. The recommendations are referred to in this report to provide transparency and an audit trail.

1.3 CONTEXT

Natura 2000 is the European Union-wide network of protected areas, recognised as 'sites of Community importance' under the EC Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora). These sites, which are also referred to as European sites, consist of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Offshore Marine Site (OMS).

In addition to the above, sites designated under the Ramsar Convention (known as Ramsar sites) also receive the same degree of protection under Planning Policy Statement 9 (PPS9) (ODPM, 2005) as a matter of planning policy. SPAs and SACs are known as European sites and are part of the Natura 2000 network and all three types of site are also referred to as International sites.

The purpose of Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of land use plans is to ensure that protection of the integrity of European sites is a part of the planning process at a regional and local level.

The 'integrity of the site' has been defined as³:

¹ E-mail from Charles Routh to Alistair Baxter dated 26th April 2012

² Opinion of Advocate General Sharpston delivered on 22 November 2012 (1) Case C⁸ 258/11, Peter Sweetman Ireland Attorney General Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government v An Bord Pleanala

³ Managing Natura 2000 sites The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC, 2000 European Commission

'the coherence of the site's ecological structure and function, across its whole area, or the habitats, complex of habitats and/or populations of species for which the site is or will be classified' (17). A site can be described as having a high degree of integrity where the inherent potential for meeting site conservation objectives is realised, the capacity for self-repair and self-renewal under dynamic conditions is maintained, and a minimum of external management support is required".

HRA of plans and projects is required by Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the European Habitats Directive:

"6(3) Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public"

6(4) If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of social or economic nature, the Member State shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted.

Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest".

In the UK, the Habitats Directive is implemented through the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the "Habitats Regulations").

On 20 October 2005, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) ruled that the UK had failed to fully transpose the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) into the Habitats Regulations because the regulations did not clearly require land use plans to be subject to HRA. Land use plans in this respect are Regional Spatial Strategies (RSSs), Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs). DPDs and SPDs are collectively referred to as Local Development Documents (LDDs).

A major amendment to the Habitats Regulations was made in 2007 (Statutory Instrument 2007 No. 1843) in response to the judgment. The 2007 amendment to the Regulations now specifically apply the provisions of the Habitats Regulations to land use plans such as the Wiltshire Core Strategy and the relevant provisions are made in the main by Regulations 85A to 85E. The essential requirement is for the plan making authority to assess the potential effects of the LDD on European sites in Great Britain. The site affected could be in or outside England.

The whole process of assessing the effects of a LDD on European sites is referred to in this report as the 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' (HRA), to clearly distinguish the whole process from the step within it commonly referred to as the Appropriate Assessment. The AA is a specific part of the entire assessment process and to use this term generally just adds confusion to the assessment. An AA is undertaken when it cannot be stated that a plan or project (alone or in combination with other plans or projects) will not have a significant effect on a European site, and where avoidance measures cannot reasonably be put in place to remove that likelihood. In such instances, an Appropriate Assessment of the plan or project should determine in far greater detail the type and magnitude of impacts and to try to find suitable mitigation measures that may reduce the impact to a level at which it will no longer be significant.

A recent opinion by the Advocate General⁴ has provided useful clarity on how specific words in the Habitats Directive should be interpreted in light of translations to different languages. This ruling confirms that although the English translation of '*likely significant effects*' in relation to the requirement for an appropriate assessment implies that a significant effect must be *probable* to trigger the need for appropriate assessment, a precautionary approach to screening must be adopted such that the *possibility* of there being a significant effect on the site will trigger the need for an appropriate assessment for the purposes of Article 6(3). This interpretation is in line with the UK's statutory

⁴ Opinion of Advocate General Sharpston delivered on 22 November 2012 (1) Case C⁸ 258/11, Peter Sweetman Ireland Attorney General Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government v An Bord Pleanala

advice⁵ which confirms that a *risk* of a significant effect occurring is sufficient to trigger the need for appropriate assessment, drawing on the conclusions of the Waddenzee judgement that a plan or project should *'be subject to an appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that it will have a significant effect on that site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects.'* A precautionary approach has therefore been adopted at screening stage of this assessment in strict accordance with the government circular, and in conformity with the Advocate General's recent ruling.

1.4 HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT AND THE WILTSHIRE CORE STRATEGY

The emerging Localism agenda suggests that councils need to put in place a strategic plan that will set a framework within which localism can be facilitated. The underlying principles of the strategy seek to manage future development to ensure that communities have an appropriate balance of jobs, services and facilities and homes. It sets out a flexible and realistic framework within which local communities can work. It will only allocate strategic sites for development where these are identified as essential for the strategy to be successful. The Core Strategy will be designed to give communities a solid framework within which they can decide how best to plan locally. Therefore while the Core Strategy will indicate targets for growth and a strategic direction of travel, it will be for the people of Wiltshire to decide how that can best be taken forward and realised within their own neighbourhoods, for example through the production of Neighbourhood Development Plans.

Wiltshire Council adopted the South Wiltshire Core Strategy in February 2012, which covers the former Salisbury District / south Wiltshire area. The Wiltshire Core Strategy will cover the whole county, including the south Wiltshire area, and will effectively replace the South Wiltshire Core Strategy. The Wiltshire Core Strategy therefore incorporates the proposals in the South Wiltshire Core Strategy without any major changes to the amount or distribution of development in the plan area. The South Wiltshire Core Strategy also had an assessment under the Habitats Regulations; the findings of that assessment has been reviewed as part of the Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA process, and it is considered that it still provides a robust assessment of the potential effects of development in the south Wiltshire plan area. Given that the South Wiltshire HRA concluded that there would be no loss of site integrity as a result of the proposed development, it was considered unnecessary to repeat the appropriate assessment process for south Wiltshire Community Area policies. The in combination effects those policies have however been considered in the assessment of the Plan.

The majority of development associated with the Core Strategy will also require planning permission and project level HRA will also need to be undertaken where relevant. HRA is also required for other related processes such as licensing arrangements for the abstraction of water (for which the Environment Agency has responsibility). The position of the Core Strategy within the hierarchy of plans in Wiltshire is therefore important because it has a bearing on the level of risk associated with any potential effects that are identified. The Commission of the European Communities communication on the precautionary principle⁶ recognises risk as a key factor in implementing the precautionary principle.

Notwithstanding the safeguards that exist at the project level, it will be important to demonstrate that the Core Strategy provides sufficient safeguards/measures to avoid potential issues down the line. This is considered essential to demonstrate that the Core Strategy is sound.

The decision relating to the Oxford Core Strategy⁷ suggests that a Plan can go forward provided it contains safeguards. The Core Strategy allocated land for development but made it contingent on demonstrating that there was no harm on the Oxford Meadows SAC. The Plan was challenged on various grounds but the Judge concluded that the Plan contained sufficient safeguards because the allocation going forward was contingent on future applications demonstrating that there would be no harm on the Oxford Meadows SAC.

The Core Strategy in its final form includes the "safeguard" of the qualifying wording. Since there is a safeguard built into and within the Core Strategy as adopted to ensure that there will be no harm in the future, then the adoption of the Core Strategy as so qualified will, necessarily, not cause harm. As Mr Crean QC put it in his skeleton argument, "the

⁵ Circular 06/2005 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation: Statutory Obligations and their Impact Within the Planning System (Para.13)

⁶ Communication from the Commission on the Precautionary Principle (2000), Commission of the European Communities

⁷ Mr. Stephen Morris QC Sitting as a Deputy High Court Judge Feeney V (1) Oxford City Council (2) The Secretary Of State For Communities and Local Government

Core Strategy explicitly excludes development where it cannot be demonstrated that it will not have an adverse effect on the Oxford Meadows SAC."

This approach has also been confirmed by the Advocate General in relation to the level of detail required for HRA of plans and projects:

*'Many details are regularly not settled until the time of the final permission. It would also hardly be proper to require a greater level of detail in preceding plans or the abolition of multistage planning and approval procedures so that the assessment of implications can be concentrated on one point in the procedure. Rather, adverse effects on areas of conservation must be assessed at every relevant stage of the procedure to the extent possible on the basis of the precision of the plan. This assessment is to be updated with increasing specificity in subsequent stages of the procedure.'*⁸

The purpose of this report is to:

- Set out the overall methodology;
- Provide a record of previous assessment work and update this where necessary; and
- Contribute to an audit trail for HRA related work.

1.5 STRUCTURE OF THIS REPORT

The remainder of this report is structured as follows:

- Section 2 confirms the approach to the assessment;
- Section 3 sets out the results of the assessment; and
- Section 4 provides the conclusions.

⁸ Commission v UK [2005] Opinion of Advocate General (9th June 2005) [C/6/04]

2. Methodology

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This section:

- Sets out the approach to the assessment;
- Confirms the sites that have been assessed – building on the results of earlier assessment work ;
 - Recaps the key issues from the previous assessment, as these form the basis for this latest iteration; and
 - Recaps the methodology used to assess the Core Strategy.

2.2 METHODOLOGY

The HRA commenced whilst the Core Strategy was at a formative stage and this is the fourth iteration of the HRA. The HRA is integrated with production of the Core Strategy and this has enabled the HRA to truly influence the content of the Core Strategy.

In devising the methodology for this work regard has been had to relevant guidance and recent practice:

- Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 sites⁹ (European Union November 2001);
- Unpublished Draft Guidance from Natural England on the assessment of plans under the provisions of the Habitats Regulations¹⁰;
- Guidance from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG)¹¹ on Appropriate Assessment of RSSs and LDDs;and
- ODPM Circular 06/2005, Biodiversity And Geological Conservation – Statutory Obligations And Their Impact Within The Planning System, August 2005

A HRA was undertaken of the draft Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the South West. Regard has been had to that work in earlier iterations of the HRA.

The methodology for the work was discussed with a Steering Group comprising of representatives from Natural England, the Environment Agency and Wiltshire Council.

A HRA was also undertaken for the South Wiltshire Core Strategy. The results of that work have been incorporated within this report. The screening of policies in the Wiltshire Core Strategy takes account of the findings of the HRA for the South Wiltshire Core Strategy, the recommendations from the HRA for the South Wiltshire Core Strategy have been incorporated in this report and the Wiltshire Core Strategy Pre-submission document, and the South Wiltshire Core Strategy is also included in the assessment of potential in-combination effects.

In line with relevant guidance, the following tasks have been undertaken:

1. Brief description of the plan that is being considered (Section One of this report);
2. Identification of the sites that could be affected (discussed below in Section 2.3 and in Appendix B);
3. Establishment of 'Key Issues' likely to cause significant effects, discussed below;

⁹ Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 sites, Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC European Union, November 2001 http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/nature_conservation/eu_nature_legislation/specific_articles/art6/pdf/natura_2000_assess_e n.pdf

¹⁰ Draft Guidance, The Assessment of Regional Spatial Strategies and Sub-Regional Strategies under the Provisions of the Habitats Regulations, David Tyldesley and Associates for English Nature, March 2007.

¹¹ Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment Guidance For Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents, DCLG, August 2006

http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/353/PlanningfortheProtectionofEuropeanSitesAppropriateAssessmentGuidanceForRegionals_ i d1502353.pdf

4. Spatial Analysis of Key Issues using a set of agreed spatial criteria (Appendix A), to be used as a tool in the initial screening of spatial policies (see point 5 below);
5. Screening of all spatial and thematic policies for likely significant effects (alone and in combination) according to the characteristics of the policy (discussed in Section 3.2 and Appendix C) and
6. Appropriate assessment of all likely significant effects for each Natura 2000 site in light of the conservation objectives for the site, best available scientific evidence, and all avoidance and mitigation measures (Appendix D).

Diagram 1 at the end of this section summarises the overall methodology and in particular the iterative nature of the HRA process.

WSP Environmental Ltd has undertaken HRA of the following documents:

- Wiltshire 2026 (2009) – this document presented options for growth and did not contain any general policies;
- Consultation Document (2011) this document included general policies and the HRA suggested additions to policies and
- Pre-Submission Document (February, 2012). This iteration included a detailed assessment of policies, changes suggested where incorporated in the Pre-submission document. Appropriate Assessment was undertaken in Appendix D of the report.

2.3 IDENTIFYING SITES FOR ASSESSMENT

An initial search area of 15km from the boundary of the local authority was established in the HRA work undertaken in 2009 for the Wiltshire Core Strategy, within which Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites were identified. The initial search area is shown on Figure 1. This essentially forms the long list of sites that need to be considered.

The 2009 work focussed on settlements not included in the South Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA. It takes into account the potential effects associated with development in these areas because these could contribute to in-combination effects. Figure 1 also shows the boundary of the South Wiltshire Core Strategy and there is potential for in-combination effects associated with development in Swindon.

The preliminary list of sites is as follows:

<p>SPA entirely or partly in Wiltshire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Porton Down SPA; and ■ Salisbury Plain SPA. 	<p>SPA within 15km of Wiltshire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ New Forest SPA; ■ Dorset Heathlands SPA; ■ Solent & Southampton Water SPA; and ■ Avon Valley SPA.
<p>SAC entirely or partly in Wiltshire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bath & Bradford on Avon Bats SAC; ■ Chilmark Quarries SAC; ■ Great Yews SAC; ■ Kennet & Lambourn Floodplain SAC; ■ New Forest SAC; ■ North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC; ■ Pewsey Downs SAC; ■ Prescombe Down SAC; ■ River Avon SAC; and ■ Salisbury Plain SAC. 	<p>SAC within 15km of Wiltshire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Avon Valley SAC ■ Costswolds Beechwood SAC ■ Dorset Heathlands SAC; ■ Emor Bog SAC ■ Fontmell and Melbury Downs SAC; ■ Hackpen Hill SAC; ■ Kennet Valley Alderwoods SAC; ■ Mells Valley SAC; ■ Mendip Woodlands SAC; ■ Mottisfont Bats SAC;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ River Lambourn SAC; ■ Rodborough Common and ■ Solent Maritime SAC.
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2.4 IDENTIFYING LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

Based on the work undertaken in 2009, summarised in Appendix A (which was itself informed by other HRAs) and subsequent discussions with officers and statutory consultees we know that the likely significant effects of the plan relate to:

- Potential for increased recreational pressure;
- Potential physical damage due to housing provision/transport infrastructure development;
- Hydrogeology/hydrology:
 - Potential for pollution of surface or ground water – the 2009 report recommended adoption of a policy in relation to sustainable drainage. There is some overlap between this issue and nutrient enrichment of aquatic systems since both diffuse pollution and point source pollution contribute to the problem;
 - Potential for nutrient enrichment of aquatic systems; Warminster was identified as an area where this was a particular issue in the context of future growth, although it is a catchment wide issue;
 - Potential changes to the hydrological regime of catchment areas;
 - Issues around increased water abstraction;
- Potential for effects on European sites associated with air pollution; and
- Potential for in-combination effects associated with developments and potential mineral extraction.

A precautionary approach was adopted in identifying and assessing these issues. It should be noted that Appendix A was used as a tool to initially screen spatially specific policies using a series of spatial criteria.

2.5 PRINCIPAL LOCATIONS FOR GROWTH

Draft Core Policy 1 of the Wiltshire Core Strategy identifies the following as principal settlements:

- Chippenham;
- Trowbridge; and
- Salisbury.

Outside the Principal Settlements, Market Towns are defined as settlements that have the ability to support sustainable patterns of living in Wiltshire through their current levels of facilities, services and employment opportunities.

Market Towns will be the focus of locally significant development that will not only increase the housing and employment offer of each town, but will also help to sustain the services and facilities and promote better levels of self-containment and viable sustainable communities.

The market towns are:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Amesbury, ■ Bradford-on-Avon, ■ Calne, ■ Corsham, ■ Devizes, | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Marlborough, ■ Melksham, ■ Tidworth & Ludgershall, ■ Warminster, ■ Westbury, and |
|--|--|

- Malmesbury,
- Royal Wootton Bassett.

The relationship between the issues identified above and the settlements identified for growth is shown at the schedule in **Appendix A**. This was produced in 2009 and consulted on at that stage.

Wiltshire Council has established a series of innovative Community Area Boards, which provide opportunities for people to help shape the future of their local area. The Core Strategy sets out the proposed strategy for these Community Areas some of which are based on the above settlements. Where the strategy has been already developed in the South Wiltshire Core Strategy it is not repeated in the current Core Strategy. This HRA does not assess the implication of growth in those Community Areas within the South Wiltshire Core Strategy area because the implications have already been assessed through HRA with the final report published in July 2009¹², environmental conditions and potential in-combination effects have not changed significantly since the time of that assessment which remains valid. The results of the HRA for the South Wiltshire Core Strategy are reflected in relevant policies in Appendix C, for example Core Policy 4 of the Wiltshire Core Strategy relates to development at Amesbury and potential effects were considered in the HRA for the South Wiltshire Core Strategy, the results of the assessment are incorporated in Appendix C.

The areas that have been assessed through the South Wiltshire HRA are:

- Amesbury,
- Mere,
- Salisbury,
- Southern Wiltshire,
- Tisbury, and
- Wilton.

The recommendations from the HRA for the South Wiltshire Core Strategy were as follows (note the policy numbers refer to the South Wiltshire Core Strategy):

- Core Policy 20 is considered necessary to provide a means of ensuring that the Core Strategy addresses its contribution to potential effects on the River Avon SAC through increased phosphate levels, and to provide some certainty that the Core Strategy will have no adverse effect on the SAC as a result (this requirement is secured through CP69 of the Wiltshire Core Strategy);
- The Core Strategy policies as a whole are likely to avoid adverse effects in relation to physical disturbance and water pollution on the River Avon SAC because they include the need for Sustainable Drainage and Construction Management Plans (this requirement is secured through CP69 of the Wiltshire Core Strategy);
- Issues relating to road verge erosion and diffuse pollution (sedimentation) and the River Avon SAC should be considered at the planning application stage – with measures introduced to mitigate any potential effects if necessary (e.g. via agreements under section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 or section 278 of the Highways Act 1980);
- Development at Porton Down would not give rise to significant adverse effects on the SPA provided a Wildlife Management Plan is prepared and implemented – note the Inspector amended the relevant policy to refer to production of an Integrated Business and Environmental Strategy that would be adopted by the Council as a Supplementary Planning Document (this requirement is secured through CP5 of the Wiltshire Core Strategy);
- Sufficient mitigation measures are secured within the Core Strategy and future Wiltshire Green Infrastructure Plan Supplementary Planning Document, and referred to as a requirement for the future Site Specific Allocations DPD, it was concluded that the Core Strategy includes sufficient policies to avoid or mitigate potential adverse effects at this stage, and that the Core Strategy should have no adverse effects on the Salisbury Plain or New Forest N2K sites as a result of recreational access from new housing development. Further HRA will be required for the Site Specific Allocations DPD on this issue (this requirement is secured through CP50 and CP52 of the Wiltshire Core Strategy);
- Core Policy 25 requires the consideration of the effects of air quality from atmospheric emissions as a result of development and to define mitigation measures at project level (this requirement is secured through CP55 of the Wiltshire Core Strategy);

¹² South Wiltshire Core Strategy, Proposed Submission Draft, July 2009, Habitats Regulations Assessment, Final, Nicholas Pearson Associates

- Text has been introduced to the South Wiltshire Core Strategy's Strategic Objective 5 that 'Any development that would have an adverse effect on the integrity of a European nature conservation site will not be in accordance with the Core Strategy.' (this requirement is secured through CP50 of the Wiltshire Core Strategy)

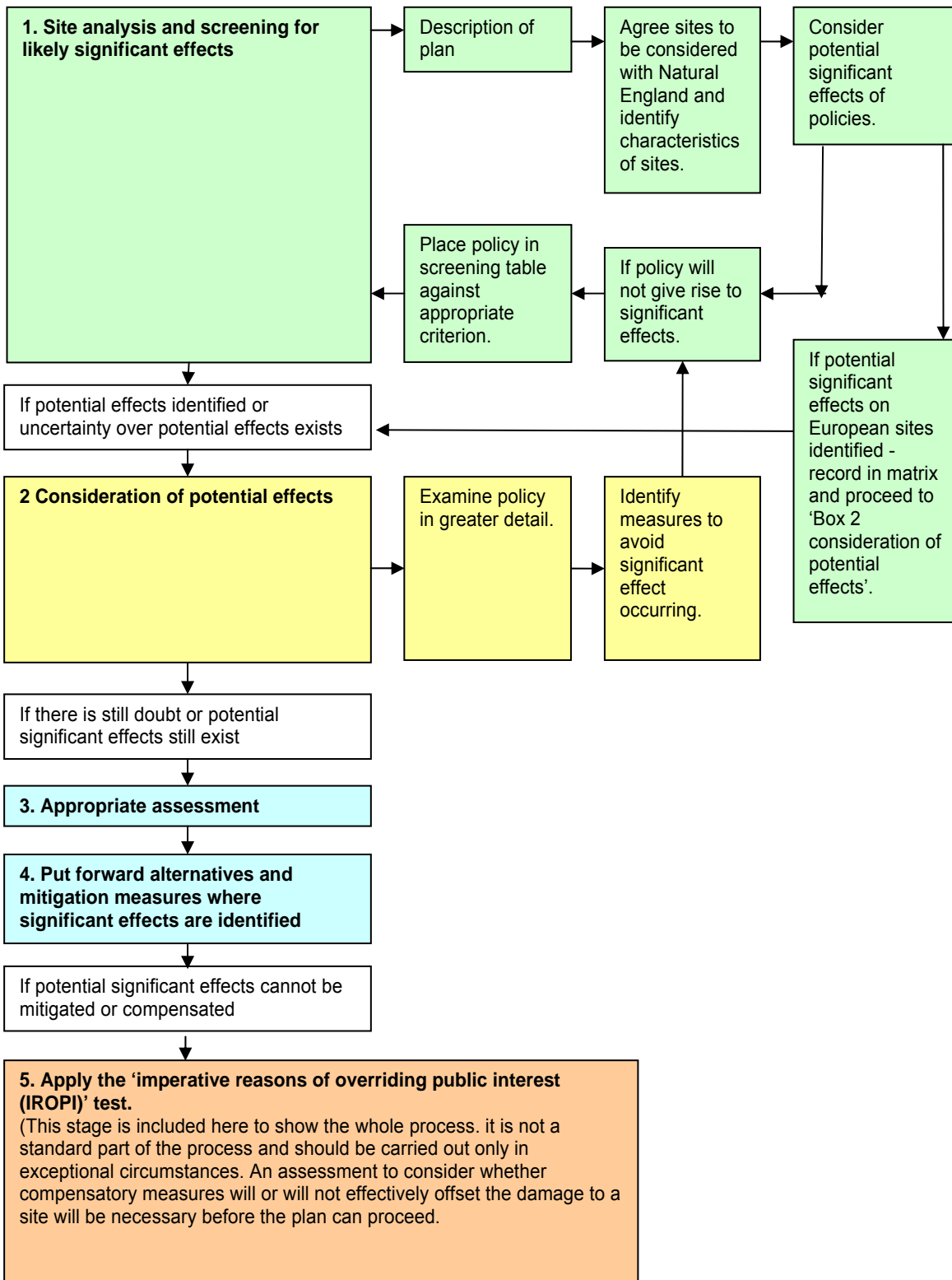
In-combination Effects

The Regulations require plans to be considered both alone or in combination with other plans or projects, to see if their combined effects might be significant. In a scenario where the effects have been reduced but not eliminated, the effects of the plan being assessed may have to be combined with the effects of other plans, or other projects.

An important point of principle here is that if a plan/project is already significant alone then that will have to be assessed alone. It does not need to go into the pot for in-combination assessment. In addition, until it has been determined which elements of the plan/project have an in-combination effect then it is pointless making a list of all other plan/projects that should be combined. For example, if the plan/project has many aspects but it is only discharge into water that has an in-combination effect then you only have to look for other plans/projects that have/will have discharge consents into the same water body or tributaries that will flow into that same water body]. To do so at the outset of assessment could involve substantial abortive or irrelevant work (Natural England Draft Guidance page 31).

The discussion with stakeholders and review of potential effects to date has not identified any additional effects that could be described as in-combination effects. Again, adopting a precautionary approach, consideration has been given to the potential for in-combination effects, including any associated with saved policies and these are reported in Section 3.5 and Appendix F.

Diagram 1 – The HRA process



3. Assessing the Draft Core Strategy

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This section assesses the thematic policies in the Core Strategy and also considers the proposals in the Community Areas according to the spatial analysis (Appendix A) and the results of the South Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA. Thematic policies are those that apply to the whole of the Core Strategy area and in assessing these regard has been had to the opportunity to provide avoidance and mitigation measures that are relevant to the assessment of the proposals in the Community areas. Where necessary the assessment has been updated in response to the matters set out in the introduction to this report.

Each policy has been categorised against the screening criteria developed by Natural England and the results are set out in **Appendix C**. This process is necessary to help provide a clear audit trail for the assessment and, if necessary, identify the need for the wording of policies to be amended or new policies added to be certain that the Core Strategy will not have a significant negative effect on a European site.

3.2 RESULTS - SCREENING

The criteria used were as follows:

- Category A1: The policy will not itself lead to development e.g. because it relates to design or other qualitative criteria for development;
- Category A2: The policy is intended to protect the natural environment;
- Category A3: The policy is intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment;
- Category A4: The policy would positively steer development away from European sites and associated sensitive areas;
- Category A5: The policy would have no effect because no development could occur through the policy itself, the development being implemented through later policies in the same plan, which are more specific and therefore more appropriate to assess for their effects on European Sites and associated sensitive areas.
- Category B – no significant effect;
- Category C – likely significant effect alone; and
- Category D – Likely significant effects in combination.

The majority of thematic policies are judged to fall into Categories A1, A3 and A5 (see Appendix A).

Specific comments arising from the review of policies that arose from the categorisation of policies are provided below under the following key Issues likely to give rise to significant effects:

- Potential for increased recreational pressure;
- Water quality and phosphate levels;
- Potential changes to the hydrological regime of catchment areas;
- Water abstraction;
- Air Quality/nitrogen deposition; and
- Potential physical damage due to housing provision/transport infrastructure development.

All policies were screened for likely significant effects using the criteria set out in Section 3.2 above; the results of this screening exercise are summarised at **Appendix C**¹³.

3.3 RESULTS – APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

A precautionary approach to the HRA was adopted and all likely significant effects identified through the screening process were included in an appropriate assessment of the Plan. For each Natura 2000 site, the potential of all

¹³ Joint Nature Conservation Committee <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4>

identified likely significant effects (alone and in combination) to have an adverse effect upon the integrity of the site was assessed, having regard to the qualifying features and conservation objectives of the site in light of the best available scientific evidence all relevant avoidance and mitigation measures implemented. Appendix D provides full details of the appropriate assessment for all European sites screened in, this information was included in the February 2012 report. The Appendix considers the following for each European site:

- The potential significant effect;
- Which qualifying features of the European site might be affected;
- Role (if any) of the Core Strategy in causing the effect;
- The likelihood of the effect occurring;
- How the Core Strategy has been amended to avoid the potential effect, or any other mitigation measures implemented (if applicable);
- Recommendations for other parts of the Local Development Framework;
- Conclusion following implementation of suggested amendments / mitigation: Likelihood of success and any residual significant adverse effect on integrity?

The results of the appropriate assessment are summarised below for each likely significant effect.

Potential for Increased Recreational Pressure

The housing element of the Core Strategy will introduce new residents to the area. A proportion of the total number of new residents will pursue recreational activity on nearby areas of green open space. These areas could possibly include European sites, which may contain habitats or species that may be sensitive to disturbance from increases in recreational pressure, for example populations of breeding birds. Appendix A identifies those settlements that are within 5km of a settlement and 15km of Salisbury Plain SPA/SAC. **Appendix D** identifies potential issues associated with recreation for specific European sites in light of their qualifying features.

The distance that people are prepared to travel for recreational purposes is a key consideration. It is accepted that 5km is the maximum distance that people will travel for recreational purposes associated with most natural green spaces¹⁴; Salisbury Plain and New Forest are an exception to this.

Special Protection Areas

Specific research undertaken at Salisbury Plain to determine where visitors originated from indicated that over 80% of visitors travelled up to 15km to reach Salisbury Plain¹⁵, while at the New Forest 89% of visits are generated within 8km of the SPA.

The Principal Settlements and Markey Towns that fall within 15km of Salisbury Plain and could create additional recreational pressure are as follows:

- Trowbridge,
- Corsham,
- Tidworth/Ludgershall,
- Melksham,
- Salisbury
- Westbury,
- Calne,
- Devizes,
- Marlborough, and
- Warminster.
- Amesbury

Development which increases recreational pressure upon the Salisbury Plain SPA will be required to provide proportionate contributions to offset impacts through the Stone Curlew Mitigation Strategy recently produced by

¹⁴ Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Delivery Framework Thames Basin Heaths Joint Strategic Partnership Board, 2009.

¹⁵ Liley, D. et. al. (2007). Access patterns on Salisbury Plain. Unpublished report for Enviro Ltd. Footprint Ecology, Wareham, Dorset.

Wiltshire Council, which has also assessed the cumulative effects of recreational pressure upon Salisbury Plain in detail¹⁶. Natural England has agreed that implementation of this strategy will avoid adverse effects on site integrity.

The only part of the plan area which falls within 8km of the New Forest SPA is the Southern Wiltshire Community Area. Impacts of recreational disturbance upon the New Forest SPA have been fully assessed in the South Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA¹⁷. These effects were assessed as very low and would be mitigated through provision of green infrastructure in accordance with CP51 and the Wiltshire Open Space standards, and developer contributions to manage visitors and the effects of visitor pressure in the New Forest National Park; this approach is consistent with that taken by the National Park Authority¹⁸.

Core Strategy Policy 50 'Biodiversity and Geodiversity' includes the following:

"All development proposals shall incorporate appropriate measures to avoid and reduce disturbance of sensitive wildlife species and habitats throughout the lifetime of the development. Development likely to increase recreational pressure on Special Protection Areas (SPAs) will be required to deliver an appropriate level of mitigation to offset any potential impacts. Suitable mitigation strategies will include securing management measures for designated features of Salisbury Plain, New Forest National Park and surrounding areas. Designated features include Habitats Directive Annex I habitats and Annex II species. Provision of an appropriate area of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace to deter public use of Natura 2000 sites will only be acceptable in exceptional circumstances. Such measures shall be secured through reasonable and proportionate planning obligations and Agreements".

It is considered that Policy 50 provides sufficient safeguards in relation to potential impacts associated with recreational pressure on SPAs, such as Salisbury Plain and the New Forest and on this basis it can be concluded that the plan would have no adverse effects upon the integrity of these sites.

Special Areas of Conservation

Settlements and proposals within 5km of a European site are as follows:

- Bradford on Avon - Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC,
- Corsham - Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC,
- Devizes - Pewsey Downs SAC,
- Malmesbury - North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC, and
- Swindon West (Moredon Bridge) - North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC.

In its response to the HRA for the Swindon Core Strategy and Development Management Policies, Natural England indicated that the current level of recreational activity is at or above capacity on the North Meadow Cricklade SSSI¹⁹, which is a component of the North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC. Current information on the SAC (JNCC) and the component SSSI¹⁴ identify that site level management is the most important factor in maintaining a favourable condition status. The HRA concluded the management of recreational activity will need to continue to be dealt with at the site level through, for example, maintenance of the public footpaths and the restriction of access to areas of the site that are being adversely affected.

As noted above potential recreational pressure on the North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC will be managed through site level management, therefore increased recreational pressure from housing development proposed in the plan would not have an adverse effect upon the integrity of this site.

¹⁶ Wiltshire Council (2013) Salisbury Plain Special Protection Area – HRA and Mitigation Strategy

¹⁷ Nicholas Pearson Associates (2009) South Wiltshire Core Strategy Proposed Submission Draft, July 2009: Habitats Regulations Assessment Report (Appendix 13)

¹⁸ See New Forest National Park Authority Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD

¹⁹ Core Strategy & Development Management Policies - Proposed Submission Document Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment, Swindon Borough Council, July, 2009

Development in the vicinity of the River Avon (Hampshire) or Salisbury Plain must protect the habitats, species and processes which maintain the integrity of these Special Areas of Conservation.

Although Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC is within 5km of settlements the component sites are not considered to be at risk from recreational pressure because of their nature and geography (underground sites in relatively remote locations). Potential impacts on the Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC associated with other forms of disturbance such as lighting will need to be managed and a process put in place to assess the potential impacts of development on the SAC (not just issues associated with disturbance). This issue is discussed later in this report (Section 3.4).

Pewsey Downs SAC is part of the North Wessex Downs, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) which attracts millions of visitors a year. The AONB has a Management Plan and Delivery Plan which could provide the basis for managing impacts on the SAC²⁰. It is also a National Nature Reserve, managed by Natural England and this provides further safeguard for managing recreational pressure.

Policy 52 'Green Infrastructure' seeks to complement the emerging Green Infrastructure Strategy for the County, protect and enhance existing green infrastructure and ensure that new development takes account of impacts on it. Provision of new Green Infrastructure and/or better management of existing sites should help avoid pressure on European sites but the Core Strategy clearly places the onus on developments to demonstrate that is the case and to mitigate impacts as necessary.

Issues associated with recreational pressure will need to be re-considered as the evidence base for the Green Infrastructure Strategy and Infrastructure Delivery Plan are developed and individual sites in the Site Specific Allocations DPD are assessed through HRA. The Core Strategy has the policy hooks to require necessary avoidance and mitigation measures to be put in place if necessary to avoid impact on European sites associated with recreation. Existing/enhanced management measures also have a role at the SACs discussed above.

It is therefore **concluded** that the combination of measures identified above will provide sufficient mitigation to ensure that the plan would have no adverse effects upon the integrity of European sites through increased recreational pressure.

Water quality and phosphate levels

The River Avon SAC and ground water sources are particularly vulnerable to the effects of diffuse and point source pollution which include ecological damage due to excessive algal growth. The pre-submission Core Strategy identifies the need for the use of sustainable drainage (SUDS) and water conservation measures across the county, including the River Avon SAC catchment.

A specific issue considered in the initial HRA of the Core Strategy (and that of the RSS) was the potential for likely significant effects upon the River Avon SAC through elevated phosphate levels (P) from additional sewage discharges in the catchment. However, following the completion of significant upgrades to the sewage treatment infrastructure last year, the Environment Agency has concluded that sewage discharges projected by the Core Strategy will be compliant with the Habitats Regulations provided that a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) is put in place to bring down phosphate levels. The Environment Agency and Natural England are currently working on the Nutrient Management Plan and have confirmed that this will be finalised and implemented during 2013²¹. The plan will identify works that are required to reduce river phosphate levels and the funding required for these. At that stage it will be appropriate for Wiltshire Council to consider whether it is appropriate for development to contribute to the implementation of the plan.

Developer led measures or financial contributions to help implement the NMP could be secured through Section 106 or CIL contributions for implementing the relevant NMP, or through on or near site measures to be agreed by the LPA (in consultation with the EA and local utility providers as necessary). Where necessary, the NMP will be used to calculate reasonable and proportionate developer contributions and will clearly set out how these will be spent to deliver the required level of long-term P reduction across the catchment. An important principle is that developers are only required to offset the P arising from proposed new development and contributions would not be used to reduce historic pollution. Where development would discharge within the headroom of an existing environmental permit which the EA has confirmed as being Habitats Regulations compliant without the need for phosphate offsetting, no contribution or mitigation measures would be necessary, unless new evidence is available which contradicts the findings of the EA's Review of Consents.

²⁰ North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Management Plan 2009-2014, North Wessex Downs AONB

²¹ Letter of Intent from Environment Agency and Natural England to Wiltshire Council dated 23rd January 2013

Core Policy 69 also requires the use of Construction Management Plans for developments within 20 metres of the river bank. This will help maintain water quality in relation to the River Avon SAC by reducing the risk of contaminated run off during construction.

Natural England’s comments on the previous version of the Core Strategy and HRA (response dated 4th August 2011) highlighted that road verge erosion is an issue that is impacting on sediment levels. This was considered in the HRA for the South Wiltshire Core Strategy and it was concluded that the issue should be capable of mitigation at the project level. Highways maintenance and management also has a role in tackling the issue.

Core Policy 69 is supported as it will allow the HRA to conclude that the Core Strategy will not have an adverse effect on integrity of the River Avon SAC.

Core Policy 67 requires the use of Sustainable Drainage Techniques. The supporting text notes:

“Prospective developers will be expected to follow the ‘surface water management train’ approach recommended by the Environment Agency (see Sustainable Drainage Systems: an introduction, published by the Environment Agency). This involves a three-step process, considering first reducing the quantity of run-off, then slowing velocity of run-off to allow settlement filtering and infiltration, and finally providing passive treatment to collected surface water before discharge into groundwater or to a watercourse. It is considered that all developments will be able to incorporate measures to reduce the quantity of run-off, but site specific geological or soil conditions may mean that measures to reduce run-off velocity and provide passive treatment would not be appropriate. Where this is the case, proposals will be expected to demonstrate why the use of such measures is not appropriate on the site in question.”

It can therefore be **concluded** that, provided development can be accommodated within the existing headroom of the Sewage Treatment Works and the Nutrient Management Plan is implemented, there should be no adverse effect on the integrity of the River Avon SAC arising from the Core Strategy.

Potential Changes to the Hydrological Regime of Catchment Areas

Theoretically, development has the potential to change the hydrological regime of the catchment local to individual development sites through changes in groundwater recharge and surface water runoff. The local scale of this change in the regime means that it is considered that no identified designated European site would be impacted by developments within the area either in isolation or in combination.

In relation to the River Avon SAC Core Policy 69 requires the use of Construction Management Plans for developments within 20 metres of the river bank.

Core Policy 67 ‘Flood Risk’ requires that all new development will include measures to reduce the rate of rainwater run-off and improve rainwater infiltration to soil and ground (Sustainable Urban Drainage) unless site or environmental conditions make these measures unsuitable.

It is therefore concluded that there would be no changes to the hydrological regime of catchment areas sufficiently significant to have an adverse effects on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site.

Water Abstraction

Consideration of the development in terms of available water resources is relevant to this assessment since water would need to be supplied to new properties either through a utilities provider or through a private water supplier. This work was undertaken in 2009 but is included in this report to provide evidence of a comprehensive review of relevant issues and to provide a stand-alone report. The work undertaken in 2009 has been reviewed to ensure that the conclusions are still valid and has been updated as necessary, e.g. references to documents have been updated to refer to the latest version.

All of the Principal Settlements and Market Towns within Wiltshire fall within three Water Resource Zones (WRZs) managed by two water companies (Wessex Water and Thames Water). The situation is summarised below for each settlement. Appendix A provides details of the European sites that fall within each of the WRZs.:

Settlement	Water Company and Water Resource Zone (WRZ)
Chippenham	Wessex Water North WRZ
Trowbridge	Wessex Water North WRZ

Bradford on Avon	Wessex Water North WRZ
Calne	Wessex Water North WRZ
Corsham	Wessex Water North WRZ
Devizes	Wessex Water North WRZ
Tidworth/Ludgershall	Part Thames Water Swindon and Oxford (SWOX) WRZ (Ludgershall) and Veolia Water Projects has taken over an inset appointment from Thames Water at Tidworth
Malmesbury	Wessex Water North WRZ
Marlborough	Thames Water Swindon and Oxford WRZ
Melksham	Wessex Water North WRZ
Warminster	Wessex Water North WRZ
Westbury	Wessex Water North WRZ
Wooton Bassett	Thames Water Swindon and Oxford WRZ
Swindon West (Moredon Bridge)	Thames Water Swindon and Oxford WRZ

All of the South Wiltshire Community Areas fall within the Wessex Water East WRZ, as assessed in the South Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA which concluded that there would be no adverse effects upon the integrity of the River Avon SAC as a result of water abstraction subject to inclusion of Core Policy 19, the requirements of which have been incorporated into the Wiltshire Core Strategy as Core Policy 68 and Core Policy 41.

During AMP5 and AMP6, a significant programme of demand management, in combination with development of new resources, is required to restore and maintain security of supply as quickly as possible within the SWOX²².

The demand management programme during AMP5 and AMP6 is comprised of leakage reduction through increased levels of find and fix activity, combined with a 10-year targeted progressive metering programme and an enhanced water efficiency programme. Enhanced levels of water efficiency continue to the end of the planning period.

Resource development is required in addition to demand management activity in the short term to restore security of supply, with the development of a number of groundwater options as soon as is possible.

The Culham raw water transfer to Farmoor is the water resource option selected to meet the 1 Ml/d supply demand deficit in the medium to long term, entering the programme in 2024/25.

The HRA screening assessment of schemes that were included in the preferred programmes for the SWOX WRZ in the draft final WRMP concluded that, with mitigation taken into account, they are not likely to have a significant effect on the integrity of any European sites²³. In the context of Wiltshire, this is relevant to Natura 2000 sites associated with the River Kennet, namely the River Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain SAC, Kennet Valley Alderwoods SAC and Lambourn Floodplain SAC.

With regards to the Wessex Water North WRZ; A Habitats Directive Review of Abstraction Consents has identified that abstractions will be reduced. A new 'Water Grid' is proposed to move water from areas of surplus to areas of deficit. No additional abstraction and hence Natura 2000 sites impact is anticipated. The 'Water Grid' was approved by OFWAT and implementation commenced in 2010²⁴. The Grid is due for completion by 2018 and currently over abstracting supplies will not be revoked before that time, meaning that current resources remain available with abstraction licensed by the Environment Agency in compliance with the Habitats Directive.

²² Water – Planning for the Future. Draft Final Water Resource Management Plan, Thames Water Utilities Ltd, December 2011

²³ Thames Water Utilities Ltd Habitats Regulations Assessment, December 2011

²⁴ Wessex Water Services Ltd Water Resources Management Plan June 2010

The Grid is unlikely to be phased to development since it requires specific upgrades at specific locations to create the links. The Project is expected to be funded by WW finances only. Any AA for the grid would be completed by WW following approval by DEFRA on a project basis rather than at strategy level.

The Core Strategy includes policies relating to improved water consumption in non-residential developments (Core Policy 68 'Water Resources', Core Policy 41 'Sustainable Construction and Lo-Carbon Energy' and The Code for Sustainable Homes will contribute to a reduction in water consumption. The policies will contribute the achievement of demand management measures in the WRMP areas.

WRMPs make provision for long term supply of water in the plan area. The WRMPs are themselves subject to approval by the Environment Agency and must also be in compliance with the Habitats Directive. The development proposed in the Core Strategy is within the headroom planned for in the WRMPs and makes provision to reduce water consumption in line with the WRMPs. It can therefore be concluded that the Core Strategy will not give rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European sites through water abstraction.

Air Quality

The Core Strategy contains policies to encourage more sustainable forms of transport, which could help reduce transport's impact on air quality and now has a specific policy in relation to air quality which could help improve air quality.

The Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) identifies 200m as the distance beyond which the contribution of traffic emissions to local pollutant concentrations is considered to be negligible (see Figure 3.1 below). Natural England has also confirmed that assessments of Development Plans should focus on European sites within 200m of an affected road²⁵.

²⁵ English Nature (16 May 2006) letter to Runnymede Borough Council, 'Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994, Runnymede Borough Council Local Development Framework'.

Figure 3.1: Traffic Contribution to Pollutant Concentration

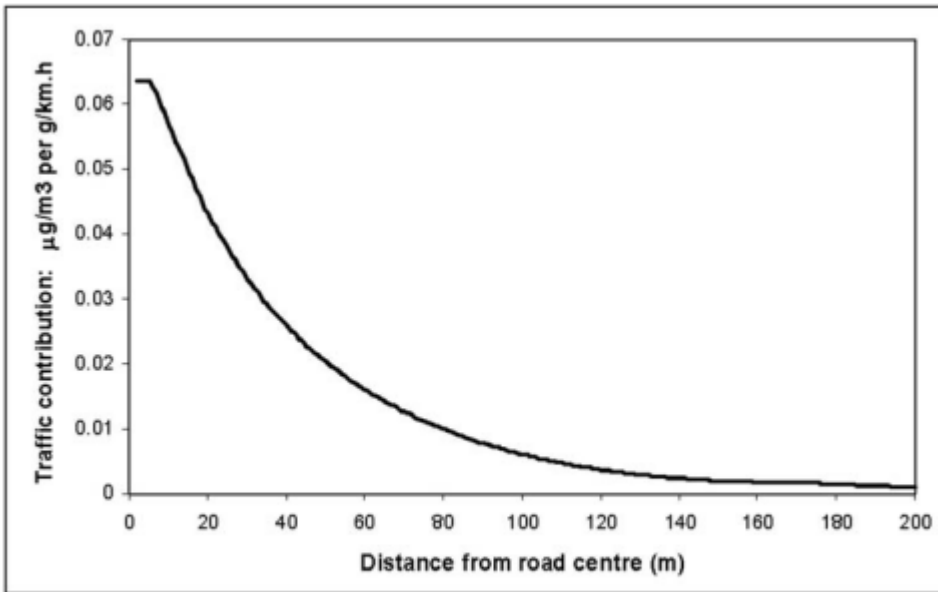


Figure C1 Traffic Contribution to Pollutant Concentration at Different Distances from the Road Centre

An affected road is defined as one where:

- Road alignment will change by 5 m or more; or
- Daily traffic flows will change by 1,000 AADT or more; or
- Heavy Duty Vehicle (HDV) flows will change by 200 AADT or more; or
- Daily average speed will change by 10 km/hr or more; or
- Peak hour speed will change by 20 km/hr or more

The changes in traffic flow identified above are therefore those that would trigger likely significant effects for the purposes of HRA.

For industrial processes, the current guidance that is used when assessing point source emissions is the IPPC H1 Guidance for the Environmental Assessment and Appraisal of BAT (available to download from <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/pollution/37231.aspx>). Not all industrial processes/emissions will require assessment. A simple screening tool is provided with the guidance to determine which pollutants emitted from a process are released in significant amounts and which are not. For those pollutants which are emitted in significant amounts, detailed modelling may be required if the process is located near to sensitive receptors/locations of relevant exposure. The H1 document indicates that designated sites (including European sites) which are located within 10 km of the pollutant source should be considered as a sensitive receptor within an assessment. For major emitters (large power stations, refineries, or iron and steelworks) this distance increases to 15km.

There is the potential that further assessment will be required for new industrial processes located within 10km (or 15km for major scale emitters) of European sites. This may take the form of the simple screening exercise or more detailed modelling. It is assumed that each of the proposed industrial processes will need to carry out an appropriate air quality assessment in order to obtain their operating permit from the local authority or Environment Agency. It is also assumed that each process will implement appropriate mitigation measures to minimise their impact on European sites.

The SW RSS HRA found that there was uncertainty regarding impacts on the following sites: River Avon SAC, Rodborough Common SAC, Porton Down SPA and Salisbury Plain SPA & SAC²⁶.

According to the SW RSS HRA North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC is a site where Nitrogen deposition is currently exceeding critical loads but this is over 200m from a major road and agricultural activity may be the source of the problem.

The Cotswold Beechwoods SAC is also within 200m of a road but not within 5km of a major settlement (so is unlikely to experience significant increased recreational demand associated with development). The site falls under the management plan for the Cotswolds AONB. Although this plan does not directly tackle the problem of air pollution, it does however form objectives which target transport choices and the management of tourism. Under the 'Understanding and Enjoying' section of the plan, it states that '...all residents and visitors are encouraged to access, share, enjoy, experience and understand the special qualities and unique harmony of the well-managed Cotswolds landscape, distinctive historic buildings, cultural heritage and biodiversity.' (The Cotswolds Conservation Board, 2008). The management plan identifies the large number of visitors that it receives as a key issue, relating it to: noise, congestion and increased use of energy. In addition, it highlights the need for viable and sustainable tourism principles, focusing on sustainable transport. To achieve this vision and to address the above issues, the management plan forms the following objective, policy, actions and tasks:

- Objective UEO4: Public transport choices for recreation and tourism access are improved significantly.
- Policy EEP3: That there is a co-ordinated approach to the appropriate management and promotion of public access and quiet recreational activities with planning to ensure access for all.
- Action EEA4: Encourage and promote during the plan period the increased use of rights of way by all in a coherent way through Local Transport Plans, Rights of Way Improvement Plans and other measures.
- Task EET7: Work with Transport providers to secure improved links with recreational opportunities.
- Task EET8: Be involved in the formulation of consistent Local Transport Plans and Rights of Way Improvement Plans and the promotion and management of the Cotswold Way National Trail

At this stage in the Core Strategy process it is difficult to attribute air pollution to specific settlements or understand the contribution that new development will make to the problem, in comparison to general traffic growth in the County, the role of through traffic and the trigger levels identified by the DRMB.

Air pollution is perhaps best seen as a local authority wide issue requiring a local authority wide solution, with specific solutions/interventions for recognised 'hot-spots.'

The SW RSS HRA recommended that Policy RE9 in the Proposed Changes to the South West RSS referenced the need to avoid and where necessary reduce the impacts of air quality problems arising from development on biodiversity, and in particular on Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites. In the supporting text, Local Development Documents and local transport plans should be required to take into account through HRA the potential effects on air quality arising from housing, airport and port development proposals, including from traffic generated by them, and in particular transport-related schemes, which could adversely affect Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites.

The HRA can also take account of safeguards put in place by the Core Strategy, relating to modal shift and the need for the impacts of development to be assessed.

Core Policy 55 'Air Quality' sets out measures that may be required to contribute to the air quality strategy for Wiltshire. The February 2012 HRA Report **recommended** that Policy 55 identified the role of Low Emission Strategies (Defra 2010) as a way of tackling transport related emissions and the need to consider the potential for air quality impacts on European sites, this would be consistent with Core Policy 25 in the South Wiltshire Core Strategy.

is The February 2012 Report also **recommended** that Core Policy 55 should be amended to state that assessment will be required for new industrial processes located within 10km of a European site. In making this recommendation it was recognised that the Core Strategy does not promote development of this nature.

In response to these two recommendations the supporting text at Paragraph 6.110 of the Core Strategy was amended to read:

²⁶ South West Regional Spatial Strategy Proposed Changes, Habitats Regulations Assessment, Final report July 2008.

“Development which could potentially impact upon Natura 2000 sites through contributions to aerial deposition e.g. industrial process within 10km of a SAC, will require an assessment of the likely impacts in accordance with published guidance. Where mitigation is required this may be delivered through a local emissions strategy.”

With the proposed changes in place designed to ensure that potential effects are considered at the project level it can be **concluded** that the Core Strategy will not have adverse effects on the integrity of any European sites.

3.4 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COMMUNITY AREAS

The 2009 report considered the relevance of the issues discussed above to key settlements, including Market Towns. That work has been reviewed in light of the revised policy context provided by the thematic policies included in the latest draft of the Core Strategy, which in effect address some of the issues that were previously identified.

Assuming that the policies in the Core Strategy are taken forward in line with the recommendations set out above the following observations can be made:

- Issues relating to potential effects on water quality associated with development and the River Avon SAC have been addressed by Core Policies 68 and 69. It can therefore be **concluded** that the Core Strategy will not give rise to significant adverse effects on the River Avon SAC;
- Issues relating to potential impacts associated with recreation on Salisbury Plain and other European sites identified at Appendix A would be addressed by Policies 50 and 52 relating to protection of European sites green infrastructure together with existing and enhanced management arrangements, discussed earlier in this report including managing potential impacts on Stone Curlew outlined at **Appendix D**. It can therefore be **concluded** that the Core Strategy will not give rise to adverse effects upon European protected sites through increased recreational pressure; and
- Issues relating to air quality cannot be assigned to specific Community Areas but the changes suggested to Core Policy 55 should address these. It can therefore be **concluded** that the Core Strategy will not give rise to adverse effects upon the integrity of European protected sites through changes in air quality.

Potential physical damage and disturbance due to recreational pressure

The 2009 HRA report considered the potential for such effects in relation bats. In many instances where bats are the qualifying features, European sites will have been designated for bat breeding and roosting sites. However, bats often rely on foraging habitat some distance away from the designated sites and on habitat features linking foraging locations with breeding and roosting sites. As a result, in order to maintain the integrity of the Natura 2000 sites, and in particular to ensure that there are no adverse effects on bats as qualifying features, the foraging habitat and flight paths also need to be considered, and direct effects such as physical loss from development, or from indirect effects such as disturbance from people, traffic or artificial lighting need to be avoided.

The issue is relevant to Bath and Bradford on Avon SAC. Bradford on Avon, Trowbridge and Corsham are the nearest Community Areas to this site.

The risk of effects associated with increased recreational pressure is relevant to policies which promote new residential development in proximity to the Bath and Bradford-on-Avon SAC, including CP7 (Bradford on Avon Community Area), CP11 (Corsham Community Area) and CP29 (Trowbridge Community Area).

The Ashton Park allocation in Trowbridge is adjacent to Biss Wood and Green Lane Wood which are both known to support a population of Bechstein's bats. It is understood that there is no known record of individual Bechstein's bats moving between the SAC and the Ashton Park allocation, however that one Bechstein's bat originally ringed within the SAC (Box Mines SSSI) has been recorded roosting in Biss Wood²⁷. On a precautionary basis, it is assumed that at a landscape scale the breeding population of Bechstein's bat associated with Biss Wood and Green Lane Wood may contribute towards the qualifying feature of the SAC.

Increased recreational pressure resulting from residential development at Ashton Park under Core Strategy Policy 29 has the potential to lead to the degradation of habitat used by Bechstein's bats through habitat damage and disturbance to individual bats present in the habitat. However, through a combination of measures required both

²⁷ See Aspect Ecology (2012, reference 1878.Bechsteins.dv4) Ashton Park, Trowbridge: Report in Respect of Bechstein's Bats.

under the Core Strategy and relevant legislation this risk can be mitigated as discussed below. A very similar approach to mitigation has been agreed with natural England for the development site to the north of Ashton Park (W/04/02105/OUT), which was granted permission in 2010. It is worth noting that the effects of CP29 have been considered in combination with effects of W/04/02105/OUT.

Creation of a 100m planted buffer to Biss Wood

To safeguard Biss Wood, a buffer of 100m width will be retained along the eastern edge of the wood in line with requirements set out in the Development Template for the Strategic Allocation.

It is anticipated that planting within the buffer zone will serve to (i) screen the woodland from development, minimising the effect of artificial lighting and noise disturbance (ii) extend the available woodland habitat to benefit Bechstein's bats' movement and foraging, and (iii) improve the habitat linkages between the ancient woodland parcels. At application stage details of the planting and the management schedule for the buffer zone will be provided in an Ecological and Landscape Management Plan (ELMP). The ELMP will be required prior to any planning application consent and its implementation will be secured through a Section 106 Agreement alongside any planning permissions for the Ashton Park Urban Extension.

Creation of additional recreational space

Recreational pressure on the woodlands will be diverted through the provision of additional green space within the strategic allocation. The Development Template for the Ashton Park Urban Extension includes provision for substantial areas of green space, particularly along the River Biss corridor which bisects the site. These areas and a new Country Park along the northern site boundary will both provide alternative recreational opportunities for residents, thereby diverting recreational pressures away from Biss Wood.

Management of accessibility to Biss Wood

Biss Wood is owned and managed by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust (WWT), which is aware of the presence and sensitivities of the Bechstein's bat roosts. As an environmentally responsible land owner WWT will endeavour to manage the woodland sensitively, however should additional or alternative management be considered necessary to safeguard the Bechstein's bat roosts from increased disturbance as a result of the increased recreational pressures it is anticipated that WWT will be involved in the implementation of such measures under a legal agreement if required. This level of detail cannot be specifically described in the Core Strategy, but will be determined at the application stage through a detailed appropriate assessment.

Potential management measures include the use of fencing, signage and the planting of dense, thorny shrubs in order to control access and direct visitors to established entrances and pathways; similar measures have been agreed and secured for a major development adjacent to Green Lane Wood under permission W/04/02105. The WWT Management Plan for Biss Wood is the mechanism through which further mitigation measures can be implemented or amended in order to safeguard the roosts and the woodland habitats. Monitoring visitor numbers in Biss Wood would determine usage and if completed could then be considered against bat monitoring data to enable responsive management. If visitor numbers appear to be affecting the bat population, action can be taken through the WWT Management Plan, by directing visitors away from sensitive areas, reducing available paths, or limiting visitor numbers. A similar agreement has been reached for the permitted development to the north, which secured favourable management and control of visitor access by WWT through the use of a legal agreement in order to safeguard bats in Green Lane Wood.

The distance between the Ashton Park Urban Extension and other component parts of the Bath and Bradford-on-Avon SAC is such that direct recreational effects are considered highly unlikely.

Physical Damage due to Housing Provision and Transport Infrastructure Development (Habitat Loss)

The risk of effects associated with physical habitat damage is relevant to Core Strategy policies, including CP7 (Bradford on Avon Community Area), CP11 (Corsham Community Area), CP29 (Trowbridge Community Area) CP63 (Transport Strategies) and CP66 (Strategic Transport Network).

None of the Core Strategy policies will lead to direct physical damage of the Bath and Bradford-on-Avon SAC, however there is potential for damage of habitat upon which the population of bats present depends. All three species for which the SAC is designated commute along linear features including hedgerows, tree lines and riparian corridors and physical damage to these features could have a significant effect upon the conservation status of the Bath and Bradford-on-Avon SAC. A significant effect could result as a direct result of physical damage leading to:

- a reduction in foraging habitat available to the bat population, both through direct habitat loss and the fragmentation of habitat meaning sections of retained habitat would no longer be accessible to bats, leading to a reduction in the bat population which can be sustained (carrying capacity) in the area; and
- a reduction in landscape permeability (fragmentation), and consequentially a reduced risk of individual survival resulting from increased predation risk crossing open spaces / road traffic incident crossing roads / increased energetic costs through longer commuting distances to reach foraging habitat.

The nature of the proposed development, location in proximity to the Bath and Bradford-on-Avon SAC and foraging tendencies of individual bat species are all important factors when considering the likelihood that a significant effect may occur.

Ashton Park Urban Extension (Core Strategy Policy 29)

The Ashton Park allocation as stated above lies in close proximity to habitat known to support Bechstein's bats; within the average foraging range of this species from the known roosts nearby (1.5km). The site is dominated by land under arable cultivation including planted crops and grazed pasture, with hedgerow, scattered hedgerow trees and the River Biss also present²⁸. Although the habitat present on site is not considered to be optimal for Bechstein's bat due to the proximity to known roost sites, in the absence of avoidance and mitigation measures physical damage to habitat could have an effect upon the Bechstein's bat population present.

As such the Development Template for the Strategic Allocation here requires that 'bat roost sites, foraging habitat and flight lines within, and in the vicinity of the site...[to]...*be identified, retained and protected in the long-term, including sensitive lighting*'. Further to this the template identifies and safeguards key linear features including the River Biss corridor and the Blackball Brook watercourse. Providing this approach is applied the policy for strategic development in this location should not lead to a significant effect upon the Bath and Bradford-on-Avon SAC with respect to Bechstein's bat.

Recent reporting indicates that proposals in line with the Development Template are feasible, given that:

- housing layout can be designed to retain hedgerow features and landscape features as already identified in the Development Template; and
- modern lighting systems can reduce light spillage to the extent that luminance of ecological habitat features (retained hedgerows and new planting) can be limited to 0.1lux as shown by the development adjacent to the north W/04/02105;

In relation to the other species for which the SAC is designated, the Ashton Park Urban Extension land lies approximately 9km from the nearest SAC component. Whilst this is within the range of both LHS and GHS bats it is beyond the zone generally considered to contain greatest foraging activity (3-4km for GHS bats and <2.5km for LHS bats). It is possible that both species utilise habitat on site for commuting, and woodland parcels nearby for foraging given their presence in the local area, however it is unlikely that the population associated with the Bath and Bradford-on-Avon SAC is dependent on the habitat in this location and therefore development in isolation, is considered unlikely to have a significant effect. Key requirements as set out above designed to minimise the effect of development upon bats will also apply to these species. A lesser horseshoe maternity roost is understood to be present nearby at Rood Ashton Manor, however bat surveys at the development site to the north (located between the roost and the Ashton Park site) did not record significant activity by this species, indicating that they are unlikely to use the Ashton Park site significantly. Habitats onsite are also sub-optimal for lesser horseshoe bats, which the exception of the more mature hedgerows and River Biss, which could be retained in the development layout for the site.

The Development Template for the Strategic Allocation at Ashton Park requires individual proposals to be '*screened for potential effects on the Bath and Bradford-on-Avon SAC. [and that] Any appropriate assessment must conclude 'no likely significant effects'*'. This process will ensure that development under Policy 29 is only allowed to proceed if it can be demonstrated that no significant effects upon the Bath and Bradford-on-Avon SAC would result.

The A350 at West Ashton / Yarnbrook

Road improvements on the A350 are likely to be required to support the proposed growth at Trowbridge, as supported by CP66. The extent of these improvements remain to be determined through further studies, however the recently published 'Emerging Trowbridge Transport Strategy' indicates that this is likely to include relief roads at Yarnbrook and West Ashton.

²⁸ See Aspect Ecology (2012, reference 1878.Bechsteins.dv4) Ashton Park, Trowbridge: Report in Respect of Bechstein's Bats.

Relief roads in this general area have the potential to fragment habitat utilised by bats, specifically Bechstein's bats known to breed in Biss Wood, Green Lane Wood, Flowers Wood and Pickett and Clanger Wood and move between these woods; this population is known to hibernate at Box Mine, a component of the Bath and Bradford Bats SAC. It is considered possible that both LHS and GHS bats might also utilise habitat which could be affected by the proposed road development for commuting, however it is unlikely that the population associated with the Bath and Bradford-on-Avon SAC is dependent on the habitat in this location due to the distance from the SAC and intervening habitat.

To enable development under Core Policy 66 to occur in the absence of likely significant effects upon the SAC, designs must avoid fragmentation of habitat utilised by Bechstein's bat (and other species present as good practice). In the first instance, baseline data will be required to establish whether habitat in this location is used by this species, this can then be used to inform a bat mitigation and monitoring strategy and its implementation secured through a Section 106 agreement.

Recent evidence indicates that underpasses located along existing bat flight lines can be successful in avoiding habitat fragmentation resulting from road construction (it also shows that for the majority of species 'bat gantries' are ineffective)²⁹. Road developments in West Wales located in proximity to horseshoe roosts have successfully incorporated underpasses of varying design which have been shown through monitoring to be used by both GHS and LHS bats should these species also be recorded in the vicinity of the proposed link road³⁰.

It is therefore recommended the supporting text for CP66 be amended to include the following: *'Improvements to the A350 at Yarnbrook / West Ashton will be informed by detailed bat survey information on Annex II species. The design and layout of any such improvements will incorporate sufficient mitigation measures to ensure that important commuting routes for Annex II species are protected.'*

It is also recommended that the supporting text for CP63 includes the following: *'The emerging strategies will have full regard for potential impacts upon the Natura 2000 network when assessing potential transport options. Transport options which are likely to have an unavoidable adverse effect a Natura 2000 site will not be taken forward.'* This additional text has been suggested to the Inspector as an amendment to CP63.

Core Strategy Policy 29 is supported by a Development Template for the Strategic Allocation which sets out a key objective of the development as *'to ensure the natural environment is conserved and enhanced, particularly any species associated with the Bath and Bradford-on-Avon SAC'*. Providing appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated at the application level there are no likely significant effects upon the Bath and Bradford-on-Avon SAC anticipated. This additional text has been suggested to the Inspector as an amendment to CP63.

Improvements to the A350 under CP63 and CP66 are also not considered likely to lead to significant effects upon the Bath and Bradford-on-Avon SAC providing appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are implemented; these measures would be secured through the proposed amendments to these policies.

It is also acknowledged that a wide range of development not identified in the Core Strategy could also have a cumulative effect upon the Bath and Bradford Bats SAC through loss of roosts, commuting routes and foraging areas. The February 2012 HRA report also recommended that the Draft Core Strategy committed the Council to developing a process for ensuring that development within 4km of the SAC will not have a significant adverse effect. A guidance document has subsequently been produced to identify all development likely to have a significant effect upon the SAC and ensure that applications for any such development are supported by adequate bat survey information and mitigation measures. The Community Area Strategies for Bradford on Avon and Corsham also provide a policy hook to the implementation of this guidance, stating that *'all development will be planned and delivered in accordance with Wiltshire Council guidance to maintain the integrity of the Bath and Bradford-on-Avon Bats Special Area of Conservation (SAC)'*.

It is concluded that this statement, combined with the avoidance and mitigation measures outlined above enable the HRA to **conclude that the Core Strategy will not give rise to adverse effects on the integrity of the Bath & Bradford on Avon Bats SAC.**

Need for a General Statement in Relation to Protection of European Sites

²⁹ Berthinussen A. and Altringham J (2012). Do Bat Gantries and Underpasses Help Bats Cross Roads Safely? PLoS One. 2012; 7(6): e38775. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3374807/> accessed 24th March 2013.

³⁰ Wray S. et al (2005) Design, installation and monitoring of sage crossing points for bats on a new highway scheme in Wales. <http://www.escholarship.org/uc/item/0hg3p6rs> accessed 24th March 2013.

The South Wiltshire Core Strategy has the following statement at Objective 5: *“Any development that would have an adverse effect on the integrity of a European nature conservation site will not be in accordance with the Core Strategy.”*

The HRA Report dated February 2012 recommended that Policy 50 of the Wiltshire Core Strategy includes a similarly worded statement; paragraph 6.72 of the Wiltshire Core Strategy includes such a statement.

The February 2012 HRA for the Core Strategy concluded that the Core Strategy would not give rise to significant adverse effects on European sites, provided recommended changes to the Core Strategy were made. The suggested changes were incorporated in the final version of the Core Strategy. The decision relating to the Oxford Core Strategy referred to in the introduction suggests that a Plan can go forward provided it contains safeguards.”

3.5 ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL FOR IN-COMBINATION EFFECTS

It is a requirement of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive that HRA examines the potential for plans and programmes to have a significant effect either individually or ‘in combination’ with other plans and programmes (PPs). In practice the ‘in-combination’ test is most relevant in situations where the effects of the plan or project alone are unlikely to have a significant effect, but when combined with the effects of other plan or project, would be likely to be significant. Identifying and assessing other PPs requires a pragmatic approach (given the extensive range of PPs underway in the wider area). For this screening, the consideration of other PPs has focused on other development plans in the wider area, the plans considered are consistent with those considered within earlier HRAs undertaken in Wiltshire (South Wiltshire Core Strategy and Minerals and Waste Development Plan Documents).

The results of this exercise are set out in **Appendix E**. Where new issues not considered in the HRA for the Wiltshire Core Strategy are identified these are judged to be issues specific to the other plan area, for example the HRA for the Test Valley identifies potential for effects on the Emor Bog SAC associated with potential changes in the hydrological regime but these effects are local in nature and the Wiltshire Core Strategy would not contribute to them. Issues identified in the other HRAs as they apply to relevant sites have already been identified in the HRA for the Wiltshire Core Strategy and mitigation and avoidance measures put forward. No instances where plans would have a significant effect in combination, but not on their own, are identified. It is concluded that the Wiltshire Core Strategy (with the proposed amendments included in this report) will not give rise to significant in-combination effects with other plans and programmes.

Appendix F considers the potential for in-combination effects associated with saved policies from former District Council Local Plans. This exercise considered a large number of policies and a record regarding the conclusion for each policy is provided in the table. It was felt prudent to review individual policies as the plans themselves have not been subject to HRA in the same way as those in Appendix E. Key points are:

- The policies will need to be read and applied in the context of the Wiltshire Core Strategy, including policies relating to the protection of European sites;
- Many of the policies are criteria based and relate to the control of development;
- The West Wiltshire Leisure and Recreation DPD was itself subjected to HRA and where relevant the case the conclusions of the HRA are referred to;

No instances where saved policies could give rise, alone or in –combination, with the Wiltshire Core Strategy were identified.

3.6 RESPONSES BY NATURAL ENGLAND

Natural England’s responses to each of the previous three iterations of the HRA and associated policy documents can be found in Appendix G at the end of this report.

4. Conclusions and Next Steps

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The main conclusions from this report are set out below. The next steps are then considered.

4.2 CONCLUSIONS

- Potential effects associated with increased recreational pressure are acknowledged in Core Policy 50 'Biodiversity and Geodiversity'. The preferred approach is to manage the potential for increased recreational pressure through management measures at Salisbury Plain and New Forest SPAs, with Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space only to be provided in exceptional circumstances. A Green Infrastructure Strategy is also under development; the combination of these measures will provide sufficient mitigation to ensure that adverse effects upon the integrity of European sites are avoided;
- This HRA has incorporated the findings of the South Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA. Policies intended to address potential impacts on European sites in the South Wiltshire Core Strategy have been fully integrated into the Wiltshire Core Strategy;
- Core Policy 69 'Protection of the River Avon SAC' sets out the issues and measures to protect the SAC. It can be concluded that, provided development can be accommodated within the existing headroom of the Sewage Treatment Works, or other measures are put in place, Construction Management Plans are prepared and implemented and the Nutrient Management Plan referenced in the supporting text is implemented, there should be no adverse effect on the integrity of the River Avon SAC arising from the Core Strategy;
- Potential impacts associated with air quality are an issue at the Cotswold Beechwoods SAC site which falls under the management plan for the Cotswolds AONB. Core Policy 55 'Air Quality' sets out measures that may be required to contribute to the air quality strategy for Wiltshire. The February 2012 HRA report recommended that Policy 55 identified the role of Low Emission Strategies (Defra 2010) as a way of tackling transport related emissions and the need to consider the potential for air quality impacts on European sites, consistent with Core Policy 25 in the South Wiltshire Core Strategy. Supporting text to Policy 55 has been provided in accordance with this recommendation;
- The February 2012 HRA report recommended that Core Policy 55 should be amended to state that air quality assessment will be required for new industrial processes located within 10km of a European site. Supporting text to Policy 55 has been provided in accordance with this recommendation;
- Text in the Draft Core Strategy relating to the Corsham and Bradford – on – Avon Community Areas states that all development will be planned and delivered in accordance with Wiltshire Council guidance to maintain the integrity of the Bath and Bradford-on-Avon Bats Special Area of Conservation (SAC).
- The Ashton Park Urban Extension at Trowbridge lies in close proximity to habitat known to support Bechstein's bats. The Development Template for the urban extension identifies a range of mitigation measures including, creation of a 100m planted buffer to Biss Wood, creation of additional recreational space and management of accessibility;
- Improvements to the A350 at West Ashton / Yarnbrook would not have an adverse effect upon the integrity of the Bath and Bradford Bats SAC subject to inclusion of the proposed amendments to CP63 and CP66.
- The February 2012 HRA report recommended that the Core Strategy included the following at Policy 50 or the supporting text:

"Any development that would have an adverse effect on the integrity of a European nature conservation site will not be in accordance with the Core Strategy"
- Paragraph 6.72 of the Core Strategy provides such a statement.

- The decision relating to the Oxford Core Strategy suggests that a Plan can go forward provided it contains safeguards. The Core Strategy allocated land for development but made it contingent on demonstrating that there was no harm on the Oxford Meadows SAC. The Plan was challenged on various grounds but the Judge concluded that the Plan contained sufficient safeguards because the allocation going forward was contingent on future applications demonstrating that there would be no harm on the Oxford Meadows SAC.
- It can therefore be concluded that the Wiltshire Core Strategy would not, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, adversely affect the integrity of any individual European site or the Natural 200 network as a whole.

4.3 NEXT STEPS

HRA is an iterative process. The HRA will be amended following consultation with Natural England and to reflect any developments in the evidence base for the Core Strategy or any significant changes to the Core Strategy prior to its adoption.

Appendix A: Screening Table from 2009 Report

physical damage/interruption of sight lines etc.	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2
Wootton Bassett																												
Recreation	R3	R3	R3	R3	R3	R3	R3	R3	R3	R3	R3	R3	R3	R3	R3	R3	R3	R3	R3	R3	R3	R3	R3	R3	R3	R3	R3	R3
Hydrology/Hydrogeology	H4	H4	H4	H4	H4	H4	H4	H4	H4	H2	H4	H2	H4	H4	H4	H4	H4	H2	H2	H4	H4	H4	H2	H4	H2	H2	H4	
Nitrogen deposition	N1	N1	N3	N3	N1	N3	N3	N3	N3	N3	N3	N2	N3	N3	N3	N3	N3	N3	N3	N3	N3	N3	N3	N1	N1	N3	N3	
physical damage/interruption of sight lines etc.	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2

Appendix B: Schedule of European Sites

Site Name	Porton Down
Status	Special Protection Area
Details of primary habitats for which site is designated	N/A
Details of primary species for which site is designated	Article 4.1 Qualification (79/409/EEC) During the breeding season the area regularly supports <i>Burhinus oedicanus</i> (Western Europe – breeding) 10.6% of the GB breeding population, 5 year mean, 1995 - 1999
Other Qualifying Habitats/ Species	N/A
Site Vulnerability	The site forms the ranges of the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory which is an agency of the Ministry of Defence, and military training activities take place. The SPA interest is dependent on the chalk grassland habitat, which is a SAC in its own right. On the whole, the existing land use is compatible with maintaining the SPA interest and the habitat is generally robust to ground disturbance, provided this is kept to an acceptable level. During the Salisbury Plain LIFE Natura Project a significant proportion of scrub was managed and now an on-going scrub management programme continues, albeit at a lower level, to prevent significant loss of grassland to scrub. Management and operational issues continue to be dealt with through a working Integrated Land Management Plan and a generic consent which is periodically reviewed. Consent is issued by Natural England on a case by case basis for operations/ management outside the scope of the generic consent.
Conservation objectives	Objective specifically relating to the SPA: To maintain, in favourable condition, the habitats for the population of Stone Curlew of European importance, with particular reference to chalk grassland. Conservation objectives relating to Porton Down: To maintain, in favourable condition, the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) - • Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (important orchid sites) - • Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands • habitats for the population of: - Marsh Fritillary (<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>) (taken from the South Wiltshire Proposed Submission Core Strategy, HRA Report)
Main habitats within site which support the Primary Qualifying Features	Heath, Scrub Dry grassland Broad-leaved deciduous woodland Coniferous woodland

Site Name	Porton Down
Status	Special Protection Area
Condition assessment	Not available for the SPA
A summary of the Management Plan for the site (where one is in place)	Is included within the Salisbury Plain Integrated Land Management Plan
Information on whether or not the site is currently open to the public and whether or not any visitor survey data exists	No public access

Site Name	Salisbury Plain
Status	Special Area Conservation
Details of primary habitats for which site is designated	Annex I habitats that are primary reason for selection of this site: <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (important orchid sites)
Details of primary species for which site is designated	Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site: Marsh fritillary butterfly <i>Euphydryas</i> (<i>Eurodryas</i> , <i>Hypodryas</i>) <i>aurinia</i>
Other Qualifying Habitats/ Species	N/A
Site Vulnerability	This site comprises three landholdings: a military training area, a military research area and a National Nature Reserve. Each site requires low intensity grazing. Lack of management is a problem in some places on the training area, and the decline in the UK livestock industry has implications for all three areas, such that, future grazing management may require increased financial support. Increased numbers of vehicles and construction of roads and tracks to accommodate those vehicles have the potential to damage the qualifying interests, but are subject to prior assessment and are being strategically addressed through an integrated land management plan. The land that is subject to purely agricultural use is managed sympathetically through a National Nature Reserve management plan.
Conservation objectives	Conservation objectives relating specifically to Porton Down: To maintain, in favorable condition, the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) • Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) important orchid sites) • <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands • Habitats for the population of :- Marsh Fritillary (<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>) Conservation Objectives covering the Salisbury Plain SSSI: To maintain, in favourable condition, the Lowland Calcareous Grassland, with particular reference to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juniper • Tuberous Thistle • <i>Creastium pumilum</i>, <i>Dianthus deltoids</i> • <i>Minuartia</i> hybrid • Vascular plant assemblage: <i>Salvia pratensis</i>, <i>Carex humilis</i>, <i>Galium pumilum</i>, <i>Gentianella anglica</i>, <i>Orchis ustulata</i>, <i>Tephrosieris integrifolia</i>, <i>Thesium humifusum</i> • Non-vascular plant assemblage, including bryophyte species of disturbed open lowland calcareous grassland • Non-vascular plant assemblage, including bryophyte species of hedgerows and wayside trees

Site Name	Salisbury Plain
Status	Special Area Conservation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aggregations of breeding bird species, namely Stone Curlew, Quail and Hobby • Assemblage of breeding birds • Hen Harrier • Individually notified invertebrates: <i>Chirocephalus diaphanous</i>, <i>Polyommatus bellargus</i>, <i>Hamearis lucina</i>, <i>Thecla betulae</i>, <i>Hipparchia agestis</i>, <i>Hemaris tityus</i>, <i>Nomada armata</i>, <i>Bombus humilis</i>, <i>Bombus sylvarum</i>, <i>Bombylius minor</i> • Marsh Fritillary • Habitat-associated invertebrate assemblages: F111 sand & chalk (F11 unshaded early successional mosaic) • Habitat-associated invertebrate assemblages: F112 open short sward (F11 unshaded early successional mosaic)
Main habitats within site which support the Primary Qualifying Features	N/A
Condition assessment	Not available for this SAC
A summary of the Management Plan for the site (where one is in place)	Is included within the Salisbury Plain Integrated Land Management Plan
Information on whether or not the site is currently open to the public and whether or not any visitor survey data exists	Public access to the SPA/SAC is currently only a potential concern in the eastern part of the SPA/SAC (to the north of Bulford, west of Tidworth and east of Netheravon). There is normally no public access to the majority of the western part of Salisbury Plain SPA/SAC which comprises the Imber Live Firing Range, to the Porton Down part of the SAC, or to the central part of the SAC through the Larkhill / Westdown Artillery Ranges (along two routes only outside periods of live firing).

Site Name	Salisbury Plain
Status	Special Protection Area
Details of primary habitats for which site is designated	N/A
Details of primary species for which site is designated	<p>Article 4.1 Qualification (79/409/EEC) During the breeding season the area regularly supports: <i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>, 14.5% of the GB breeding population. Count, as at 1997 (Western Europe – breeding)</p> <p>Over winter the area regularly supports: <i>Circus cyaneus</i>, 0.7% of the GB population. Count, as at 1993</p> <p>Article 4.2 Qualification (79/409/EEC) During the breeding season the area regularly supports: <i>Coturnix coturnix</i>, 20% of the population in GB. Count, as at 1986 <i>Falco subbuteo</i>, 1.2% of the population in GB. Count, as at 1990</p>
Other Qualifying Habitats/ Species	N/A
Site Vulnerability	Salisbury Plain SPA is used intensively for military training. The grassland is robust and when dry is able to sustain considerable training pressure. Other land uses include agriculture, forestry and recreation. Military training requirements constrain ideal conservation management (including grazing and scrub management) and have led to the establishment of extensive plantations which, over time, may pose a threat to the open grassland landscape and its ecology. An additional threat is stone road construction: this has replaced rutted tracks with engineered stone roads over many kilometres. Any further road construction or development will be subject to stringent Environmental Assessments. The military training requirements, conservation management requirements and other land use issues have been brought together in an Integrated Land Management Plan (ILMP).
Conservation objectives	<p>Conservation Objectives covering the Salisbury Plain SSSI:</p> <p>To maintain, in favourable condition, the Lowland Calcareous Grassland, with particular reference to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juniper • Tuberous Thistle • <i>Creastium pumilum</i>, <i>Dianthus deltoids</i> • Minuartia hybrid • Vascular plant assemblage: <i>Salvia pratensis</i>, <i>Carex humilis</i>, <i>Galium pumilum</i>, <i>Gentianella anglica</i>, <i>Orchis ustulata</i>, <i>Tephrosia integrifolia</i>, <i>Thesium humifusum</i> • Non-vascular plant assemblage, including bryophyte species of disturbed open lowland calcareous grassland • Non-vascular plant assemblage, including bryophyte species of hedgerows and wayside trees • Aggregations of breeding bird species, namely Stone Curlew, Quail and Hobby

Site Name	Salisbury Plain
Status	Special Protection Area
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assemblage of breeding birds • Hen Harrier • Individually notified invertebrates: <i>Chirocephalus diaphanous</i>, <i>Polyommatus bellargus</i>, <i>Hamearis lucina</i>, <i>Thecla betulae</i>, <i>Hipparchia agestis</i>, <i>Hemaris tityus</i>, <i>Nomada armata</i>, <i>Bombus humilis</i>, <i>Bombus sylvarum</i>, <i>Bombylius minor</i> • Marsh Fritillary • Habitat-associated invertebrate assemblages: F111 sand & chalk (F11 unshaded early successional mosaic) • Habitat-associated invertebrate assemblages: F112 open short sward (F11 unshaded early successional mosaic)
Main habitats within site which support the Primary Qualifying Features	Dry grassland Humid grassland Improved grassland Other arable land
Condition assessment	Not available for this SPA
A summary of the Management Plan for the site (where one is in place)	Is included within the Salisbury Plain Integrated Land Management Plan
Information on whether or not the site is currently open to the public and whether or not any visitor survey data exists	Restricted access – no survey data

Site Name	Solent & Southampton Water
Status	Special Protection Area
Details of primary habitats for which site is designated	N/A
Details of primary species for which site is designated	<p>Article 4.1 Qualification (79/409/EEC) During the breeding season the area regularly supports: <i>Larus melanocephalus</i>, 15.4% of the GB breeding population. 5 year peak mean, 1994-1998 <i>Sterna albifrons</i> (Eastern Atlantic – breeding), 2% of the GB breeding population. 5 year peak mean, 1993-1997 <i>Sterna dougalli</i> (Europe – breeding), 3.1% of the GB breeding population. 5 year peak mean, 1993-1997 <i>Sterna hirundo</i> (Northern/Eastern Europe – breeding). 2.2% of the GB breeding population. 5 year peak mean, 1993-1997 <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> (Western Europe/Western Africa). 1.7% of the GB breeding population. 5 year peak mean, 1993-1997</p> <p>Article 4.2 Qualification (79/409/EEC) Over winter the area regularly supports: <i>Anas crecca</i> (North-western Europe) 1.1% of the population. 5 year peak mean, 1992/3-1996/7 <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> (Western Siberia/Western Europe) 2.5% of the population. 5 year peak mean, 1992/3-1996/7 <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> (Europe/Northern Africa – wintering) 1.2% of the population. 5 year peak mean, 1992/3-1996/7 <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> (Iceland – breeding) 1.7% of the population. 5 year peak mean, 1992/3-1996/7</p> <p>Article 4.2 Qualification (79/409/EEC): An internationally important assemblage of birds Over winter the area regularly supports: 51361 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 01/10/1998) Including: <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>, <i>Anas crecca</i>, <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>, <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i></p>
Other Qualifying Habitats/ Species	N/A
Site Vulnerability	<p>Key factors affecting the Solent and Southampton Water SPA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Previous flood and coastal defence works, land-claim and dredging operations have modified physical processes and sediment transfer patterns which can have a knock-on effect on the extent and distribution of intertidal habitats. 2) Sea level rise and issues related to coastal squeeze. 3) Potential for accidental pollution from shipping, heavy industrial activities and former waste disposal sites, as well as on-going impacts from wastewater discharge. 4) High levels of pressure both on shore and at sea from recreational and commercial interests, in what is a busy developed area. <p>These issues are dealt with through site management statements and joint projects with outside organisations.</p>

Site Name	Solent & Southampton Water
Status	Special Protection Area
Conservation objectives	<p>The conservation objective for the internationally important populations of the regularly occurring Annex I species: Subject to natural change, maintain in favourable condition the habitats for the internationally important populations of the regularly occurring Annex 1 species, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sand and shingle • Saltmarsh • Intertidal mudflats and sandflats • Shallow coastal waters <p>The conservation objective for the internationally important populations of the regularly occurring migratory species: Subject to natural change, maintain in favourable conditions the habitats for the internationally important populations of the regularly occurring migratory species, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saltmarsh • Intertidal mudflats and sandflats • Boulder and cobble shores • Mixed sediment shores <p>The conservation objective for the internationally important assemblage of waterfowl: Subject to natural change, maintain in favourable condition the habitats for the internationally important assemblage of waterfowl, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saltmarsh • Intertidal mudflats and sandflats • Boulder and cobble shores • Mixed sediment shores
Main habitats within site which support the Primary Qualifying Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tidal rivers, Estuaries, Mud flats, Sand flats, lagoons • Salt marshes • Shingle, Sea cliffs • Humid grassland
Condition assessment	Unfavourable due to inappropriate habitat loss, water levels and water quality.
A summary of the Management Plan for the site (where one is in place)	
Information on whether or not the site is currently open to the public and whether or not any visitor survey data exists	The SPA can be publically accessed through the Lower Test Valley SSSI, which has part public access.

Site Name	Bath & Bradford-on-Avon Bats
Status	Special Area Conservation
Details of primary habitats for which site is designated	N/A
Details of primary species for which site is designated	Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site: Greater horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>) - site includes the hibernation sites associated with 15% of the UK population and is selected on the basis of the importance of this exceptionally large overwintering population. Bechstein's bat (<i>Myotis bechsteinii</i>) - Small numbers have been recorded hibernating in abandoned mines in this area, though maternity sites remain unknown.
Other Qualifying Habitats/ Species	Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection: Lesser horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>)
Site Vulnerability	Disused stone mines are of key importance to greater horseshoe bats because of a combination of temperature and humidity conditions, suitable access for the bats, lack of pollution and infilling, and freedom from significant disturbance. In order to maintain these conditions, efforts are being made to fit grilles over the most vulnerable mine entrances. Some of the mines are unstable; there is a danger of collapse or subsidence. An environmental assessment is being prepared for the Combe Down Mines stabilisation project.
Conservation objectives	To maintain the site in favourable condition for hibernation by greater and lesser horseshoe bats and Bechstein's bat. To maintain the site in favourable condition for use as a maternity site by greater horseshoe bat and Bechstein's bat SAC objective.
Main habitats within site which support the Primary Qualifying Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disused mines
Condition assessment	Not available for this SAC
A summary of the Management Plan for the site (where one is in place)	
Information on whether or not the site is currently open to the public and whether or not any visitor survey data exists	The sites are subject to disturbance to roosts including public access. Certain areas of the mine systems are subject to stabilisation works and stone extraction may still be carried out in adjacent mines (**Somerset County Council, HRA 2011 - http://www.mendip.gov.uk/Documents/Organisational%20Development/LDF%20Consulation%202011/Other%20International%20Sites%20Habitats%20Regulation%20Assessment.pdf).

Site Name	Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain
Status	Special Area Conservation
Details of primary habitats for which site is designated	N/A
Details of primary species for which site is designated	Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site Desmoulin's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>) - one of the most extensive known in the UK and is one of two sites representing the species in the south-western part of its range in the important chalk stream habitat. Integrity of the population is being maintained by taking measures, including habitat creation, to safeguard populations.
Other Qualifying Habitats/ Species	N/A
Site Vulnerability	Two of the component parts of the site lie immediately adjacent to the Newbury bypass. The road design has incorporated features to reduce possible impacts, such as spray and run-off. These measures are intended to prevent direct damage or habitat change to populations adjacent to the road. Monitoring is in place to determine the status of the populations potentially most at risk from impacts arising from the new road. The results of monitoring to date indicate that conditions for the species are favourable. Within the entire site, current management practises are maintaining the required open, unshaded conditions. The management of one component part is supported by Countryside Stewardship grant-aid. <i>V. moulinsiana</i> is critically dependent upon an adequate supply of high quality water. The Environment Agency and Natural England are working together to ensure that all parts of the site have appropriate water levels, through measures such as the production of water level management plans and regular monitoring of water quality.
Conservation objectives	The Conservation Objectives for this site are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject to natural change, to maintain the Reed bed, Fen, marsh, swamp and lowland Neutral Grassland habitats in favourable condition (or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable). Standards for favourable condition are defined with particular reference to the specific designated features. • To maintain the designated features in favourable condition, which is defined in part in relation to a balance of habitat extents (extent attribute). Favourable condition is defined at this site in terms of site-specific standards. On this site favourable condition requires the maintenance of the extent of each habitat type (either designated habitat or habitat supporting designated species). Maintenance implies restoration if evidence from condition assessment suggests a reduction in extent. • To maintain the designated species in favourable condition, which is defined in part in relation to their population attributes. Favourable condition is defined at this site in terms of site-specific standards. On this site favourable condition requires the maintenance of the population of each designated species or assemblage. Maintenance implies restoration if evidence from condition assessment suggests a reduction in size of population or assemblage.
Main habitats within site which support the Primary Qualifying Features	The habitat occupied at this site differs from the Fenland sites in East Anglia in that it is predominantly reed sweet-grass <i>Glyceria maxima</i> swamp or tall sedges at the river margins, in ditches and in depressions in wet meadows

Site Name	Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain
Status	Special Area Conservation
Condition assessment	Mostly favourable but a small part is in unfavourable condition due to low water levels.
A summary of the Management Plan for the site (where one is in place)	Within the entire site, current management practises are maintaining the required open, unshaded conditions. The management of one component part is supported by Countryside Stewardship grant-aid.
Information on whether or not the site is currently open to the public and whether or not any visitor survey data exists	Open to the public - can be accessed along the Lambourn Valley Way footpath

Site Name	North Meadow and Clattinger Farm
Status	Special Area Conservation
Details of primary habitats for which site is designated	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site: Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>) One of two sites representing lowland hay meadows near the centre of its UK range. This site represents an exceptional survival of the traditional pattern of management and so exhibits a high degree of conservation of structure and function. It also contains a very high proportion (>90%) of the surviving UK population of fritillary <i>Fritillaria meleagris</i> , a species highly characteristic of damp lowland meadows in Europe and now rare throughout its range.
Details of primary species for which site is designated	N/A
Other Qualifying Habitats/ Species	N/A
Site Vulnerability	The habitat is dependent on traditional agricultural practices of hay-cutting with aftermath cattle grazing or seasonal cattle grazing. These management requirements are addressed in the NNR management plan and in a site management statement concerning the private land which stipulates an appropriate regime. The wildlife charity is developing a management plan with English Nature to secure the long-term maintenance of the interest feature. However the traditional hay meadow management is uneconomic in the present agricultural climate and support through agri-environment payments or a management agreement may be required in the long-term. Adjacent extraction and renovation of gravel workings are a potential threat to water levels and are subject to monitoring and mitigation measures.
Conservation objectives	The Conservation Objectives for this site are, subject to natural change, to maintain the Lowland neutral grassland in favourable condition, or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable.
Main habitats within site which support the Primary Qualifying Features	Dry grassland. Steppes (15%) Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland (71%) Improved grassland (12%)
Condition assessment	Favourable Condition
A summary of the Management Plan for the site (where one is in place)	Management requirements are addressed in the NNR Management Plan and in a site management statement concerning the private land which stipulates an appropriate regime. Natural England has owned most of the meadow since the early 1970s, working closely with the Court Leet and residents of Cricklade to ensure that traditional regimes continue. During the winter months the Rivers Thames and Churn frequently flood the meadow. Flooding is vital to the growth of many plants and helps to maintain the great variety of species at North Meadow. During the spring/early summer a hay crop is grown and cut after 1st July when the wildflowers have set seed and has to be removed by 12 August before the meadow becomes too wet for heavy vehicles. Several ancient carved stones positioned at various points across the meadow mark the boundaries separating the different 'hay lots'.

Site Name	North Meadow and Clattinger Farm
Status	Special Area Conservation
	Following the hay crop, the meadow is used as a common for the inhabitants of Cricklade to graze their livestock from the 12 August until 12 February of the following year. After this, the meadow is rested ready for the next year's hay season.
Information on whether or not the site is currently open to the public and whether or not any visitor survey data exists	Access is restricted to the public footpath. Current level of recreational activity is at or above capacity.

Site Name	Pewsey Downs
Status	Special Area Conservation
Details of primary habitats for which site is designated	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site: Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>)
Details of primary species for which site is designated	Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site: Early gentian <i>Gentianella anglica</i> Pewsey Downs is one of three sites selected in the central part of the range for early gentian <i>Gentianella anglica</i> . It holds a very significant population of plants growing in high-quality chalk grassland.
Other Qualifying Habitats/ Species	N/A
Site Vulnerability	Vital management by extensive grazing with cattle and sheep is threatened in the long-term by the decline of the livestock industry in the UK. It is likely that management will require increased support through agri-environment schemes/management agreements.
Conservation objectives	Maintain the unimproved calcareous (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) grassland of Pewsey Down in favourable condition with particular reference to:CG2 (<i>Festuca ovina</i> - <i>Avenula pratensis</i>) plant community & early gentian (<i>Gentianella anglica</i>).
Main habitats within site which support the Primary Qualifying Features	Heath, scrub, maquis and garrigue, phygrana – 1% Dry grassland, steppes – 96% Alpine and sub-alpine grassland – 3%
Condition assessment	Favourable
A summary of the Management Plan for the site (where one is in place)	Pewsey Downs SAC is managed under the North Wessex Downs Management Plan: AONB Partnership has commissioned a study of chalk grassland within the area. Strategies are in places to support the good management of waterways within the area, these include: the 'England Catchment Sensitive Farming Delivery Initiative' and 'Action for the River Kennet'. Management Plan identifies key general issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General lack of knowledge about the full biological resource of the North Wessex Downs in general and how to manage it most effectively for biodiversity, including the management of sites that may support BAP target species. • The vulnerability of fragmented habitats and species at the edge of their southern range to the effects of climate change. • Loss of wildlife corridors with the increasing scale and intensity of agriculture.

Site Name	Pewsey Downs
Status	Special Area Conservation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The implication of CAP reform and whether this will lead to agricultural extensification or land abandonment on less productive land and intensification elsewhere. • Uncertainty over the future of agri-environment schemes and their ability to deliver significant biodiversity improvements for the North Wessex Downs, including support for the appropriate management of existing valued habitats. • A continuing trend in the shift from spring sown to winter sown arable crops. • The continuing use of non-selective herbicides on arable crops, contributing to a steady decline in Corn Buttercup, Corn Cockle and Corn Bunting. • Lack of management of existing habitats due to fluctuations and uncertainties in farm incomes. • Lack of grazing livestock to manage remaining areas of semi-natural chalk grassland. • Problems, where grazing is still practiced, from recreational pressures. • Increasing erosion of remnant areas of chalk grassland as a result of recreational activities. • Erosion of byway verges by increased traffic use. <p>Objectives, Policies and Actions: <i>Objective:</i> To maintain and enhance distinctive landscape character of the North Wessex Downs. <i>Policies:</i> Use the AONB Landscape Character Assessment study to inform policy and strategy development. Maintain the integrity of the site. <i>Actions:</i> Prepare and publish landscape management strategy by 2014. Raise the policy profile locally, regionally and nationally to secure coordination of policy and plans. Explore the impacts of climate change and the role of North Wessex Downs in mitigation and adaptation role.</p> <p><i>Objective:</i> Ensure that characteristic habitats and species of the North Wessex Downs are conserved and enhanced. <i>Policy:</i> Ensure coordinated management of species and habitats. <i>Actions:</i> Secure management agreements and encourage environmental stewardship schemes.</p> <p><i>Objective:</i> Ensure that everyone has the opportunity to access and enjoy the special qualities of the North Wessex Downs while minimising the impacts of visitors. <i>Policy:</i> Manage and improve the network of public rights of way. <i>Actions:</i> Improvements to rights of way and linking existing routes with new circular routes.</p>
Information on whether or not the site is currently open to the public and whether or not any visitor survey data exists	The site is popular with tourists and locals. The site can be accessed via the White Horse Trail.

Site Name	River Avon
Status	Special Area Conservation
Details of primary habitats for which site is designated	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site: Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation The Avon in southern England is a large, lowland river system that includes sections running through chalk and clay, with transitions between the two. Five aquatic Ranunculus species occur in the river system, but stream water-crowfoot <i>Ranunculus penicillatus</i> ssp. <i>pseudofluitans</i> and river water-crowfoot <i>R. fluitans</i> are the main dominants. Some winterbourne reaches, where <i>R. peltatus</i> is the dominant water-crowfoot species, are included in the SAC.</p>
Details of primary species for which site is designated	<p>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site: Desmoulin's whorl snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> - There is an extensive population of Desmoulin's whorl snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> along 20 km of the margins and associated wetlands of the Rivers Avon, Bourne and Wylye. This is one of two sites representing the species in the south-western part of its range, in chalk stream habitat. It occurs here in a separate catchment from the Kennet and Lambourn, within an environment more heavily dominated by arable agriculture. Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> - There are excellent examples of the features that the species needs for survival, including extensive areas of sand and gravel in the middle to lower reaches of the river where sea lampreys are known to spawn. Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i> - A healthy, stable population occurs in the main river and in a number of tributaries. The main river, and in particular its tributaries, provides clean beds of gravel for spawning and extensive areas of fine silt for juveniles to burrow into. Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> - The salmon populations here are typical of a high-quality chalk stream, unaffected by the introduction of genetic stock of non-native origin. The Avon has an excellent mosaic of aquatic habitats, which include extensive areas of gravels essential for spawning and growth of juvenile fry. There has been limited modification of the river course by comparison with many other southern lowland rivers in England. Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i> - The Avon represents bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i> in a calcareous, relatively unmodified river in the southern part of its range in England. The River Avon has a mosaic of aquatic habitats that support a diverse fish community. The bullhead is an important component of this community, particularly in the tributaries.</p>
Other Qualifying Habitats/ Species	N/A
Site Vulnerability	The main factors influencing the river system are: historical modifications for mills, water meadows and more recently land drainage; land use in the catchment, abstraction of water for public supply and agricultural uses, disposal of sewage effluents and management of the water courses for fishery, agricultural and other uses. Currently much of the system is considered to be at risk from reduced flows, elevated nutrient levels and changes to sediment processes resulting from previous channel modifications.
Conservation objectives	<p>The general conservation objective for the River Avon SAC, subject to natural change, is to maintain or restore in favourable condition:</p> <p>The river habitat as characterised by submerged or floating formations of Ranunculus and associated <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation</p>

Site Name	River Avon
Status	Special Area Conservation
	<p>The river as habitat for populations of Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>), Bullhead (<i>Cottus gobio</i>), Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) and Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>)</p> <p>The river and adjoining land as habitat for populations of Desmoulin's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>).</p>
Main habitats within site which support the Primary Qualifying Features	Inland water bodies (standing water, running water) (95%)
Condition assessment	Unfavourable, no change
A summary of the Management Plan for the site (where one is in place)	<p>Phosphate concentrations in the River Avon SAC are currently in excess of the standards embedded within the Conservation Objectives for the SAC. Because current phosphate levels exceed these targets, the integrity of the site is considered to be threatened. To ensure that phosphate levels are reduced, the Environment Agency and Natural England have developed a 'Phosphate Management Plan for the River Avon SAC'.</p> <p>Coordination and implementation of the PMP: The plan will be implemented by a group including Natural England, the Environment Agency and Wessex Water. Measures aimed at reducing phosphate concentrations in the River Avon SAC are already being undertaken and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catchment-sensitive farming (CSF) initiative, which aims to advise farmers on effective land management and pollution reduction; • Agri-environment schemes, which promote environmentally sensitive farming; • Soils for Profit scheme (SFP), which focuses on how good environmental management can have financial benefits. <p>In addition, several research projects are underway which may eventually lead to specific schemes to be adopted within the PMP; for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studies on phosphate source apportionment; • Research on septic tank contributions; • Review of phosphate stripping technologies; and • River Avon Demonstration Test Catchment project. <p>Wiltshire Council will have the ultimate aim of achieving the Conservation Objectives of the SAC. In addition, they will prepare annual reports describing projects undertaken.</p> <p>There is also a strategy called 'The River Avon SAC Conservation Strategy'</p> <p>This conservation strategy aims to identify the issues affecting the River Avon cSAC, existing mechanisms to address these issues,</p>

Site Name	River Avon
Status	Special Area Conservation
	<p>whether these are working, and any further action required. It creates a framework for achieving favourable condition for the designated features, and extends in scope beyond the SAC boundaries where off-site impacts warrant this. Achieving favourable condition in the River Avon SAC will depend on the subsequent implementation of the strategy and other on-going related initiatives.</p> <p>The strategy highlights historic and current influences on the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The creation and manipulation (including bank stabilisation) of a network of channels across the river valleys to feed water meadows and mills. South of Ringwood, water meadow systems are replaced by grazing marsh systems, still with a network of channels and ditches. • Manipulation of flows using an elaborate system of hatches, sluices and weirs (affecting the whole channel network). • Management of in-channel and marginal vegetation, primarily for fishing and flood defence purposes. • Removal of woodland. • Conversion of swamp and fen habitats to agriculture (including pasture). • Abstraction of groundwater for agricultural and public water supply. • Fishery management including stocking, weed cutting and manipulation of wild fish populations, especially for control of coarse fish in the chalk stream reaches. • Built development. • Disposal of waste products, such as sewage. • Watercress farming using the headwater springs. • Substantial widening and deepening of the river channels for agricultural drainage and flood relief. This has resulted in the river becoming functionally separate from the floodplain in places, in particular on the Wylde. • Intensified grazing management adjacent to the rivers, especially north of Salisbury, leading to bank erosion. • Conversion of river valley pastures to arable or improved grassland, exacerbating the requirement for drainage and increasing runoff. • Development of intensive fish farms. • Intensification of arable cultivation in the wider catchment, increasing erosion of soils and siltation of the river.
Information on whether or not the site is currently open to the public and whether or not any visitor survey data exists	Not available

Site Name	Hackpen Hill
Status	Special Area Conservation
Details of primary habitats for which site is designated	N/A
Details of primary species for which site is designated	Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site: Early gentian, <i>Gentianella anglica</i> - The site has a variety of aspect and gradients, with the grassland dominated by red fescue <i>Festuca rubra</i> and upright brome. <i>Bromus erectus</i> . The herb flora includes a significant population of early gentian <i>Gentianella anglica</i> , as well as autumn gentian <i>Gentianella amarella</i> , fragrant orchid <i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i> , frog orchid <i>Coeloglossum viride</i> , horseshoe vetch <i>Hippocrepis comosa</i> , common rock-rose <i>Helianthemum nummularium</i> and dwarf thistle <i>Cirsium acaule</i> .
Other Qualifying Habitats/ Species	Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site: Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>)
Site Vulnerability	The site is subject to periodic damage by rapid fluctuations in rabbit numbers. Means of reducing the threat from this source are being investigated.
Conservation objectives	To maintain the designated interest features in favourable condition
Main habitats within site which support the Primary Qualifying Features	N/A
Condition assessment	Favourable
A summary of the Management Plan for the site (where one is in place)	
Information on whether or not the site is currently open to the public and whether or not any visitor survey data exists	In private ownership although accessible by virtue of it being designated access land under the CROW Act. Very limited parking on the Ridgeway which runs along the top of the scarp slope, the only access is by foot after a 15 minute walk. Visitor numbers to this site are very low due to the difficulty of access and parking.

Kennet Valley Alderwoods	
Status	Special Area Conservation
Details of primary habitats for which site is designated	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site: Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) These, the largest fragments of alder-ash woodland on the Kennet floodplain, lie on alluvium overlain by a shallow layer of moderately calcareous peat. The wettest areas are dominated by alder <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> over tall herbs, sedges and reeds, but dryer patches include a base-rich woodland flora with much dog's mercury <i>Mercurialis perennis</i> and also herb-Paris <i>Paris quadrifolia</i> . The occurrence of the latter is unusual, as it is more typically associated with ancient woodland, whereas the evidence suggests that these stands have largely developed over the past century.
Details of primary species for which site is designated	N/A
Other Qualifying Habitats/ Species	N/A
Site Vulnerability	The conservation interest of the site is critically dependent upon maintenance of constantly high groundwater levels. There are, however, no known threats to groundwater levels. The site is subject to low levels of intervention and natural processes are allowed to prevail to a large extent. A WGS scheme is in place which favours the maintenance of the characteristic alder woodland composition.
Conservation objectives	To maintain, in favourable condition, the alluvial forests with alder (<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>) and ash (<i>Fraxinus Excelsior</i>).
Main habitats within site which support the Primary Qualifying Features	Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (100%)
Condition assessment	Favourable
A summary of the Management Plan for the site (where one is in place)	
Information on whether or not the site is currently open to the public and whether or not any visitor survey data exists	The River Kennet is the focus of access as it runs through the site and to the north and south of it. Part of the site is on private land and therefore is protected from disturbance to some extent.

	River Lambourn
Status	Special Area Conservation
Details of primary habitats for which site is designated	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site: Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation. The Lambourn is an example of sub-type 1 in central southern England, a chalk stream discharging into the middle reaches of the Thames system. For part of its length it is a winterbourne, drying through the summer months. It is one of the least-modified rivers of this type, with a characteristic flora dominated by pond water-crowfoot <i>Ranunculus peltatus</i> . In the downstream perennial sections <i>R. peltatus</i> is replaced by stream water-crowfoot <i>R. penicillatus</i> var. <i>pseudofluitans</i> .
Details of primary species for which site is designated	Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site: Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i> - The Lambourn represents bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i> populations inhabiting chalk streams in central southern England. Good water quality, coarse sediments and extensive beds of submerged plants again provide excellent habitat for the species.
Other Qualifying Habitats/ Species	Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection: Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i>
Site Vulnerability	Localised higher water nutrient levels and siltation problems are associated with sewage treatment works. Measures to reduce these problems are being investigated through the AMP3 water company investment programme. Natural England and the Environment Agency have produced an agreed protocol for dealing with issues affecting the river.
Conservation objectives	To maintain, in a favourable condition, the floating formations of water crowfoot (<i>Ranunculus</i>) of plain and sub-mountainous river; and to maintain, in favourable condition, the habitats for the population of Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) and Bullhead (<i>Cottus gobio</i>).
Main habitats within site which support the Primary Qualifying Features	Inland water bodies (standing water, running water) (100%)
Condition assessment	The site is currently in unfavourable condition due to siltation, inappropriate weirs and dams, invasive freshwater species and polluting agricultural run-off.
A summary of the Management Plan for the site (where one is in place)	
Information on whether or not the site is currently open to the public and whether or not any visitor survey data exists	Not available

	Cotswolds Beechwood
Status	Special Area Conservation
Details of primary habitats for which site is designated	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site: <i>Asperulo-Fagetum</i> beech forests - The Cotswold Beechwoods represent the most westerly extensive blocks of <i>Asperulo-Fagetum</i> beech forests in the UK. The woods are floristically richer than the Chilterns, and rare plants include red helleborine <i>Cephalanthera rubra</i> , stinking hellebore <i>Helleborus foetidus</i> , narrow-lipped helleborine <i>Epipactis leptochila</i> and wood barley <i>Hordelymus europaeus</i> . There is a rich mollusc fauna. The woods are structurally varied, including blocks of high forest and some areas of remnant beech coppice.
Details of primary species for which site is designated	N/A
Other Qualifying Habitats/ Species	Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site: Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>)
Site Vulnerability	The woodland is being maintained by a variety of silvicultural practices including selective forestry, group fellings and small areas of coppicing. Age-class and structural diversity is being enhanced through a sympathetic Woodland Grant Scheme. Early removal of planted conifers is being encouraged in areas where planting occurred in the 1970s.
Conservation objectives	To maintain, in favourable condition, the <i>Asperulo Fagetum</i> beech forests and the semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies (<i>Festuco Brometalia</i>)
Main habitats within site which support the Primary Qualifying Features	Inland water bodies (standing water, running water) (1%) Dry grassland. Steppes (1.5%) Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (82%) Coniferous woodland (5%) Mixed woodland (10%)
Condition assessment	Unfavourable
A summary of the Management Plan for the site (where one is in place)	Cotswolds AONB Management Plan: Key principles for the management of the AONB: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implications of climate change – seeking to mitigate the causes of climate change by minimising the output of greenhouse gases and at the same time taking action to adapt to the effects of climate change in ways that conserve and enhance the Cotswolds' special qualities. • The landscape of the AONB must be managed in ways that conserve and enhance landscape character, local distinctiveness, geology and geomorphology, historic features, habitats and biological diversity. • A sustainable approach must be taken to all issues within the AONB, particularly in the development and management of

Status	Cotswolds Beechwood Special Area Conservation
	<p>its rural economy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is important to increase people's awareness, knowledge and understanding of the qualities of the AONB, and of the opportunities to enjoy and explore the area. <p>The identifies three interlinked overarching external 'forces for change' which will impact significantly on the AONB and highlights that the area will not be immune to their effects. Moreover these issues will affect the special qualities of the AONB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change and our response to it The effects of globalisation on agricultural land use Pressures from development, changing lifestyles and transportation <p>Objectives, policies and actions regarding the above issues:</p> <p><i>Climate Change:</i></p> <p><i>Objective:</i> By 2010, the likely impacts of climate change on the character of the Cotswolds are understood and a strategic response has been developed</p> <p><i>Policy:</i> That the impact of climate change on the Cotswolds AONB is understood and a strategic response is developed.</p> <p><i>Actions:</i> Encourage, support and analyse research on the impact of climate change on the Cotswolds AONB. Agree an action plan by 2010 to encourage all those involved in the management of the AONB to address climate change issues by adapting land uses and by exploiting new opportunities arising out of mitigation strategies.</p> <p><i>Objective:</i> By 2013, a comprehensive programme of measures to mitigate the effects of and adapt to the consequences of climate change is in place and being implemented.</p> <p><i>Policy:</i> That measures are taken to mitigate the causes of climate change and that the measures are in place to adapt to the likely impacts of climate change.</p> <p><i>Actions:</i> Encourage and support energy conservation measures in order to help meet national and regional targets for energy consumption in order to mitigate the impact of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Encourage and support appropriate scale renewable energy generation in order to help meet national and regional targets for renewable energy generation to mitigate the impact of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Analyse published research by 2010 to better understand and disseminate the implications of climate change on the special qualities of the Cotswolds and by 2013 to agree an action plan to implement measures to adapt to these impacts, and identify the effects of these measures on existing landscape character.</p> <p><i>Globalisation:</i></p> <p><i>Objective:</i> By 2010, the potential adverse impacts of globalisation on agricultural land use are understood, and a strategic response is in place to secure the conservation and enhancement of landscape character.</p> <p><i>Policy:</i> That the likely impact of globalisation on agricultural land use in the AONB is understood and a strategic response is in place.</p> <p><i>Action:</i> To analyse published research by 2009 to better understand and disseminate the implications of globalisation on the special</p>

Status	Cotswolds Beechwood Special Area Conservation
	<p>qualities of the Cotswolds and by 2010 agree an action plan to implement measures to adapt to these impacts and identify the effect of these measures on existing landscape character.</p> <p><i>Development:</i></p> <p><i>Objective:</i> By 2012, a robust framework of strategies and plans is in place to secure development in and around the AONB, which contributes to the social and economic wellbeing of the Cotswolds whilst conserving and enhancing its distinctive character and enabling greater understanding and enjoyment of its special qualities.</p> <p><i>Policy:</i> That the conservation and enhancement of the AONB and its special qualities is fully taken into account in strategies, plans and guidance produced to address development, transport and service provision in and around the AONB.</p> <p><i>Action:</i> Encourage and assist Government, regional agencies and local authorities when devising their policies, plans and strategies and implementing them, to understand and take properly into account the purpose of the designation of the Cotswolds AONB.</p> <p>Biodiversity Policies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats and species in the Cotswolds AONB have been maintained and where possible, enhanced, by the end of the plan period. • That 95% by area of designated sites and UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats in the Cotswolds AONB are in 'favourable' or 'unfavourable improving' condition by the end of the plan period. • That a co-ordinated programme of work is in place to restore, recreate, link and buffer UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats and species assemblages. • That by the end of the plan period, baseline biodiversity data will be available across the AONB in a readily accessible form. <p><i>Actions for the above:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage and support action during the plan period to prevent any further loss and enhance where possible designated areas and other areas known to contain priority Biodiversity Action Plan habitats and species when identified within, and adjoining, the AONB. • Encourage the improvement of priority habitat and species conservation by extending and improving ecological connections between habitats at an appropriate landscape scale. • Encourage and support measures, including financial subsidies under agri-environment schemes, targeted towards the protection and enhancement of the AONB's priority habitats and species. • Encourage the recording of the key priority biodiversity resource within the AONB in an easily accessible form.
Information on whether or not the site is currently open to the public and whether or not any visitor survey data exists	The majority of the area lies between the A46 and the B4070 near the villages of Sheepscombe and Cranham. It is open to the public and can be accessed by car via minor roads from the A46 and B4070. The Wysis Way also passes near the site.

	Rodborough Common
Status	Special Area Conservation
Details of primary habitats for which site is designated	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site: Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) - Rodborough Common is the most extensive area of semi-natural dry grasslands surviving in the Cotswolds of central southern England, and represents CG5 <i>Bromus erectus</i> – <i>Brachypodium pinnatum</i> grassland, which is more or less confined to the Cotswolds. The site contains a wide range of structural types, ranging from short turf through to scrub margins, although short-turf vegetation is mainly confined to areas of shallower soils.
Details of primary species for which site is designated	N/A
Other Qualifying Habitats/ Species	N/A
Site Vulnerability	The grassland is dependent upon the maintenance of grazing, and this is co-ordinated through a Commoners Committee. The numbers of cattle grazing has declined with the general decline in the livestock industry. The site owners (National Trust) have developed a project to restore management to the species-rich slopes of the site, and a number of authorities are working together to provide traffic-calming measures on busy through roads to reduce the number of livestock injuries and promote further uptake of common rights. Scrub management is being addressed through the Environmentally Sensitive Areas scheme. Recreation has an impact on areas accessible by cars, and is causing localised erosion. Management issues are being addressed through continued liaison, joint working and a Site Management Statement between Natural England and the National Trust.
Conservation objectives	To maintain, in favourable condition, the unimproved calcareous grassland, with particular reference to semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (CG3 & 5 grasslands).
Main habitats within site which support the Primary Qualifying Features	Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue. Phygrana (10%) Dry grassland. Steppes (70%) Improved grassland (10%) Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (10%)
Condition assessment	Not available.
A summary of the Management Plan for the site (where one is in place)	Cotswolds AONB Management Plan: Key principles for the management of the AONB: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implications of climate change – seeking to mitigate the causes of climate change by minimising the output of greenhouse gases and at the same time taking action to adapt to the effects of climate change in ways that conserve and enhance the Cotswolds' special qualities. • The landscape of the AONB must be managed in ways that conserve and enhance landscape character, local distinctiveness, geology and geomorphology, historic features, habitats and biological diversity. • A sustainable approach must be taken to all issues within the AONB, particularly in the development and management of its rural economy. • It is important to increase people's awareness, knowledge and understanding of the qualities of the AONB, and of the opportunities to enjoy and explore the area.

Status	Rodborough Common Special Area Conservation
	<p>The identifies three interlinked overarching external 'forces for change' which will impact significantly on the AONB and highlights that the area will not be immune to their effects. Moreover these issues will affect the special qualities of the AONB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change and our response to it • The effects of globalisation on agricultural land use • Pressures from development, changing lifestyles and transportation <p>Objectives, policies and actions regarding the above issues:</p> <p><i>Climate Change:</i></p> <p><i>Objective:</i> By 2010, the likely impacts of climate change on the character of the Cotswolds are understood and a strategic response has been developed</p> <p><i>Policy:</i> That the impact of climate change on the Cotswolds AONB is understood and a strategic response is developed.</p> <p><i>Actions:</i> Encourage, support and analyse research on the impact of climate change on the Cotswolds AONB. Agree an action plan by 2010 to encourage all those involved in the management of the AONB to address climate change issues by adapting land uses and by exploiting new opportunities arising out of mitigation strategies.</p> <p><i>Objective:</i> By 2013, a comprehensive programme of measures to mitigate the effects of and adapt to the consequences of climate change is in place and being implemented.</p> <p><i>Policy:</i> That measures are taken to mitigate the causes of climate change and that the measures are in place to adapt to the likely impacts of climate change.</p> <p><i>Actions:</i> Encourage and support energy conservation measures in order to help meet national and regional targets for energy consumption in order to mitigate the impact of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Encourage and support appropriate scale renewable energy generation in order to help meet national and regional targets for renewable energy generation to mitigate the impact of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Analyse published research by 2010 to better understand and disseminate the implications of climate change on the special qualities of the Cotswolds and by 2013 to agree an action plan to implement measures to adapt to these impacts, and identify the effects of these measures on existing landscape character.</p> <p><i>Globalisation:</i></p> <p><i>Objective:</i> By 2010, the potential adverse impacts of globalisation on agricultural land use are understood, and a strategic response is in place to secure the conservation and enhancement of landscape character.</p> <p><i>Policy:</i> That the likely impact of globalisation on agricultural land use in the AONB is understood and a strategic response is in place.</p> <p><i>Action:</i> To analyse published research by 2009 to better understand and disseminate the implications of globalisation on the special qualities of the Cotswolds and by 2010 agree an action plan to implement measures to adapt to these impacts and identify the effect of these measures on existing landscape character.</p>

Status	Rodborough Common Special Area Conservation
	<p><i>Development:</i></p> <p><i>Objective:</i> By 2012, a robust framework of strategies and plans is in place to secure development in and around the AONB, which contributes to the social and economic wellbeing of the Cotswolds whilst conserving and enhancing its distinctive character and enabling greater understanding and enjoyment of its special qualities.</p> <p><i>Policy:</i> That the conservation and enhancement of the AONB and its special qualities is fully taken into account in strategies, plans and guidance produced to address development, transport and service provision in and around the AONB.</p> <p><i>Action:</i> Encourage and assist Government, regional agencies and local authorities when devising their policies, plans and strategies and implementing them, to understand and take properly into account the purpose of the designation of the Cotswolds AONB.</p> <p>Biodiversity Policies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats and species in the Cotswolds AONB have been maintained and where possible, enhanced, by the end of the plan period. • That 95% by area of designated sites and UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats in the Cotswolds AONB are in 'favourable' or 'unfavourable improving' condition by the end of the plan period. • That a co-ordinated programme of work is in place to restore, recreate, link and buffer UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats and species assemblages. • That by the end of the plan period, baseline biodiversity data will be available across the AONB in a readily accessible form. <p><i>Actions for the above:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage and support action during the plan period to prevent any further loss and enhance where possible designated areas and other areas known to contain priority Biodiversity Action Plan habitats and species when identified within, and adjoining, the AONB. • Encourage the improvement of priority habitat and species conservation by extending and improving ecological connections between habitats at an appropriate landscape scale. • Encourage and support measures, including financial subsidies under agri-environment schemes, targeted towards the protection and enhancement of the AONB's priority habitats and species. • Encourage the recording of the key priority biodiversity resource within the AONB in an easily accessible form.
Information on whether or not the site is currently open to the public and whether or not any visitor survey data exists	Is open to the public.

Appendix C: Screening of Policies

Key to Table

- Category A1: The policy will not itself lead to development e.g. because it relates to design or other qualitative criteria for development;
- Category A2: The policy is intended to protect the natural environment;
- Category A3: The policy is intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment;
- Category A4: The policy would positively steer development away from European sites and associated sensitive areas;
- Category A5: The policy would have no effect because no development could occur through the policy itself, the development being implemented through later policies in the same plan, which are more specific and therefore more appropriate to assess for their effects on European Sites and associated sensitive areas.
- Category B – no significant effect;
- Category C – likely significant effect alone; and
- Category D – Likely significant effects in combination.

Section of Core Strategy Options Report	Element Screened	Categorisation in the Initial Screening	Comments and Recommendations
Strategic Objectives	Strategic objective 1: delivering a thriving economy which provides a range of job opportunities and enhances the vitality and viability of town centres	A5	
	Strategic objective 2: addressing climate change	A5	
	Strategic objective 3: providing everyone with access to a decent, affordable home..	A5	
	Strategic objective 4: helping to build resilient communities	A5	
	Strategic objective 5: protecting and enhancing the natural, historic and built environment	A5	
	Strategic objective 6: ensuring that adequate infrastructure is in place to support our communities	A5	
The Settlement Strategy	Core Policy 1: the settlement hierarchy	This relates to the categorisation of settlements within the settlement hierarchy.	

Section of Core Strategy Options Report	Element Screened	Categorisation in the Initial Screening	Comments and Recommendations
		This is judged to fall under category D	
The Distribution of Growth	Core Policy 2: Delivery Strategy	This quantifies how much growth in terms of housing numbers and employment land will be delivered in each settlement and associated community area. This is judged to fall under category A1	
	Core Policy 3: infrastructure requirements	This policy relates to the mechanisms for the delivery of infrastructure. This is judged to fall under category A1.	
Community Areas Spatial Strategies	Core Policy 4 – Spatial Strategy: Amesbury Community Area	This policy relates to development of new housing and employment land in the Amesbury Community Area. This is judged to fall under category B.	HRA for South Wiltshire considered potential for effects on European sites. Potential for development at Amesbury to increase disturbance to Salisbury Plain SPA/SAC and New Forest SPA/SAC identified – Policy 50 Biodiversity and Geodiversity addresses this.
	Core Policy 5 Porton Down	This policy relates to development at Porton Down Science Campus. This is judged to fall under category B.	HRA for South Wiltshire considered potential for effects on the Porton Down SPA. Inspector's recommendation for production of Integrated Business and Environmental Strategy to address potential impacts on the SPA.
	Core Policy 6 – Stonehenge	This policy relates to development of visitor facilities at Stonehenge. This is judged to fall under category B.	HRA for South Wiltshire considered potential for effects on European sites and none were identified.
	Core Policy 7: Spatial Strategy: Bradford on Avon Community Area	This policy relates to development of new housing and employment land in the Bradford-on-Avon Community Area. The supporting text states that all development will be planned and delivered in accordance with Wiltshire Council guidance to maintain the integrity of the Bath and Bradford-on-Avon Bats Special Area of Conservation (SAC) This policy is judged to fall under category D.	See Appendix D for Appropriate Assessment
	Core Policy 8: Spatial Strategy: Calne Community Area	This policy relates to development of new housing and employment land in the Calne Community Area. This policy is judged to fall under category D.	See Appendix D for Appropriate Assessment
	Core Policy 9: Spatial Strategy: Chippenham Central Area of Opportunity	This policy relates to development of new housing, leisure and employment in the Chippenham Central Area of Opportunity. This policy is judged to fall under category D	See Appendix D for Appropriate Assessment
	Core Policy 10: Spatial Strategy:	This policy relates to development of new housing and	See Appendix D for Appropriate

Section of Core Strategy Options Report	Element Screened	Categorisation in the Initial Screening	Comments and Recommendations
	Chippenham Community Area	employment in the Chippenham Community Area. This is judged as falling under category D.	Assessment
	Core Policy 11: Spatial Strategy: Corsham Community Area	This policy relates to development of new housing and employment in the Corsham Community Area. This is judged to fall under category D	See Appendix D for Appropriate Assessment
	Core Policy 12: Spatial Strategy: Devizes Community Area	This policy relates to development of new housing and employment in the Devizes Community Area. This is judged to fall under category D	See Appendix D for Appropriate Assessment
	Core Policy 13: Spatial Strategy: Malmesbury Community Area	This policy relates to development of new housing and employment in the Malmesbury Community Area. This is judged to fall under category D.	See Appendix D for Appropriate Assessment
	Core Policy 14: Spatial Strategy: Marlborough Community Area	This policy relates to development of new housing and employment in the Marlborough Community Area. This is judged to fall under category C.	See Appendix D for Appropriate Assessment
	Core Policy 15: Spatial Strategy: Melksham Community Area	This policy relates to development of new housing and employment in the Melksham Community Area. This is judged to fall under category D.	See Appendix D for Appropriate Assessment
	Core Policy 16: Melksham Link Project	This policy states that the proposed route for the Melksham link canal, as identified on the proposals map, will be safeguarded from inappropriate development. This is judged to fall under category B	The supporting text to the policy includes sufficient safeguards in relation to potential effects on European sites.
	Core Policy 17: Mere Community Area	This policy relates to development of new housing and employment in the Mere Community Area. This is judged to fall under category B.	HRA for South Wiltshire considered potential for effects on European sites and none were identified.
	Core Policy 18: Spatial Strategy: Pewsey Community Area	This policy relates to new housing and employment land in the Pewsey Community Area. The supporting text to the policy notes that development in the vicinity of the River Avon (Hampshire) or Salisbury Plain must protect the habitats, species and processes which maintain the integrity of these Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) This policy is judged to fall under category D.	No additional recommendations.

Section of Core Strategy Options Report	Element Screened	Categorisation in the Initial Screening	Comments and Recommendations
	Core Policy 19 - Spatial Strategy: Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Community Area	This policy relates to new housing and employment provision in the Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Community Area. This policy is judged to fall under category D.	No impacts associated with recreational pressure anticipated. Comments in relation to water consumption made elsewhere in this report apply to this settlement but apply equally to other areas.
	Core Policy 20 - Spatial Strategy: Salisbury Community Area	This policy relates to development of new housing and employment land in the Salisbury Community Area. Development in the vicinity of the River Avon (Hampshire) must protect the habitats, species and processes which maintain the integrity of the Special Area of Conservation This is judged to fall under category B.	HRA for South Wiltshire considered potential for effects on European sites and put forward avoidance/mitigation measures that are incorporated in the Wiltshire Core Strategy.
	Core Policy 21 - Maltings / Central Car Park	The area around the Maltings, Central Car Park, and Library is allocated for a retail-led mixed-use development to enhance Salisbury city centre's position as a sub-regional shopping and cultural centre. This is judged to fall under category B.	HRA for South Wiltshire considered potential for effects on European sites and put forward avoidance/mitigation measures that are incorporated in the Wiltshire Core Strategy.
	Core Policy 22 - Salisbury Skyline	Policy seeks to control development's impact on the skyline. This policy is just to fall into Category A3.	This policy was screened out as part of the South Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA.
	Core Policy 23 - Old Sarum Airfield	Criteria based policy for redevelopment of the airfield. This policy is judged to fall under category A1.	This policy was screened out as part of the South Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA.
	Core Policy 24 – Spatial Strategy: Southern Wiltshire Community Area	This policy relates to new housing and employment land in the Southern Wiltshire Community Area. Paragraph 5.126 sets out a range of mitigation/avoidance measures. This policy is judged to fall under category B.	Included in the HRA for the South Wiltshire Core Strategy. This put forward avoidance and mitigation measures that have been incorporated in the Wiltshire Core Strategy.
	Core policy 25 – New Forest National Park	Criteria based policy for development affecting the National Park. This policy is judged to fall under category A2	This policy was screened out as part of the South Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA.
	Core Policy 26: Spatial Strategy: Tidworth and Ludgershall Community Area	This policy relates to new housing and employment land in the Tidworth and Ludgershall Community Area. This policy is judged to fall under category D.	See Appendix D for Appropriate Assessment
	Core Policy 27 – Spatial Strategy: Tisbury Community Area	This policy relates to new housing and employment land in the Tisbury Community Area. This policy is judged to fall under category B.	The South Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA considered the potential for effects associated with development in the Community Area and did not identify and significant effects on European sites.

Section of Core Strategy Options Report	Element Screened	Categorisation in the Initial Screening	Comments and Recommendations
	Core Policy 28: Trowbridge Central Areas of Opportunity	This policy relates to areas of opportunity identified in the Trowbridge Town Centre Master Plan. This policy is judged to fall under category A1.	
	Core Policy 29: Spatial Strategy: Trowbridge Community Area	This policy relates to new housing and employment land in the Trowbridge Community Area. This policy is judged to fall under category D.	See Appendix D for Appropriate Assessment
	Core Policy 30: Trowbridge Low-Carbon / Renewable Energy Networks	The development of a low-carbon renewable district energy/ heat network in Trowbridge will be encouraged and supported. This policy is judged to fall under category A1.	No additional comments
	Core Policy 31: Spatial Strategy: Warminster Community Area	This policy relates to new housing and employment land in the Warminster Community Area. This policy is judged to fall under category D.	See Appendix D for Appropriate Assessment
	Core Policy 32: Spatial Strategy: Westbury Community Area	This policy relates to new housing and employment land in the Westbury Community Area. This policy is judged to fall under category D.	See Appendix D for Appropriate Assessment
	Core Policy 33 - Spatial Strategy: Wilton Community Area	This policy relates to new housing and employment land in the Wilton Community Area. This policy is judged to fall under category B.	Considered in the HRA for the South Wiltshire Core Strategy, no significant effects identified.
	Core Policy 34: Additional Employment Land	This policy sets out the criteria for the identification of additional employment land. This policy is judged to fall under category A1.	
	Core Policy 35: Existing Employment Sites	This policy relates to exiting employment sites and their continued use and the criteria which must be met if they are to be used for other purposes. This policy is judged to fall under category A1	
	Core Policy 36: Economic Regeneration	This policy relates to the use of brownfield sites in line with the overall vision for the town. This policy is judged to fall under category A1.	
	Core Policy 37: Military Establishments	This policy relates to criteria which must be met for any re-use of former MoD site. New development and changes of use at operational facilities that help enhance their operational capability will be supported. This policy is judged to fall under category A1.	Paragraph 5.59 provides sufficient safeguards in relation to potential effects on the Bath and Bradford-on-Avon Bats SAC.
	Core Policy 38: Retail and leisure	This policy sets out criteria for retail development outside of Primary or Secondary Retail Frontages. . This policy is judged to fall under category A1.	
	Core Policy 39: Tourist Development	This Policy seeks to direct tourist development to Principal Settlements and Market Towns. It also sets criteria for	Tourist related accommodation could lead to additional recreational pressure

Section of Core Strategy Options Report	Element Screened	Categorisation in the Initial Screening	Comments and Recommendations
		development outside of these locations. This policy is judged to fall under category A1/A2.	on European sites. Policy 50 provides sufficient criteria in relation to impact on European sites.
	Core Policy 40 - Hotels, Bed and Breakfasts, Guest Houses and Conference Facilities	Existing settlements are the preferred location for such facilities, criteria for facilities outside such areas are provided. This policy is judged to fall under category A1	Tourist related accommodation could lead to additional recreational pressure on European sites. Policy 50 provides sufficient criteria in relation to impact on European sites.
	Core Policy 41: Sustainable Construction and Low-Carbon Energy	This policy relates to the use of sustainable construction and low-carbon energy in new development. This policy is judged to fall under category A1.	
	Core Policy 42; Standalone Renewable Energy Installations.	This relates to the promotion of standalone energy installations. This policy is judged to fall under A1/A2.	This policy contains a requirement for all new installations to demonstrate that any site specific constraints have been resolved, including any impact on biodiversity
	Core Policy 43: Providing Affordable Homes	This policy relates to criteria relating to the provision of affordable homes. This policy is judged to fall under category A1.	
	Core Policy 44 – Rural exceptions sites	This exception to policy allows housing for local need to be permitted, solely for affordable housing in local centres and large and small villages. This policy is judged to fall under category A1.	
	Core Policy 45 - Meeting Wiltshire's housing needs	The policy seeks to secure different types, tenures and sizes of homes to create mixed and balanced communities. This policy is judged to fall under category A1.	
	Core Policy 46 - Meeting the needs of Wiltshire's vulnerable and older people	The Policy seeks to secure housing that is suitable for older people, including the use of Building for Life Standards. The needs of vulnerable groups are also considered. This policy is judged to fall under category A1.	
	Core Policy 47: Meeting the needs of Gypsies and Travellers	This policy relates to the location of future pitches and criteria for their location. This policy is judged fall under category A1	Previous version of the HRA considered the merits of an additional criterion relating to impact on European sites but an amendment to Policy 50 'Biodiversity and Geodiversity was considered sufficient
	Core Policy 48: Supporting Rural Life	This policy relates to criteria required for rural diversification and enterprise. Particular mention is made to the support of rural enterprise areas as mentioned in the Community Area	

Section of Core Strategy Options Report	Element Screened	Categorisation in the Initial Screening	Comments and Recommendations
		Strategies. This policy is judged to fall under category A1/.	
	Core Policy 49 – Protection of Services and Community Facilities	Proposals involving the loss of a community service or facility will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that the site/ building is no longer viable for an alternative community use. Preference will be given to retaining the existing use in the first instance, then for an alternative community use. Where this is not possible, a mixed use, which still retains a substantial portion of the community facility/service, will be supported. This policy is judged to fall under category A1.	
	Core Policy 50: Biodiversity and Geodiversity	This policy relates to the protection of biodiversity and geodiversity. This policy is judged to fall under category A3.	See main report for suggestions to further strengthen policy in relation to potential impacts on European sites.
	Core Policy 51: Landscape	This policy relates to the protection, conservation and enhancement of landscape character. This policy is judged to fall under category A3.	
	Core Policy 52: Green Infrastructure	This relates to the support of projects which contribute to the green infrastructure network. This policy is judged to fall under category A1.	
	Core Policy 53: Wilts and Berks and Thames and Severn Canals	The restoration and reconstruction of the Wilts and Berks and Thames and Severn Canals as navigable waterways is supported in principle. The historic alignments of the Wilts and Berks, including the North Wilts Branch, and Thames and Severn Canals, as identified on the proposals map, will be safeguarded with a view to their long-term re-establishment as navigable waterways. This policy is judged to fall under category A1/A2.	
	Core Policy 54: Cotswolds Water Park	This Policy sets out criteria for outdoor or water-based sports, leisure and recreation based development. This policy is judged to fall under category A1/A2	
	Core Policy 55: Air Quality	The Policy seeks to protect air quality and secure mitigation measures where necessary. This policy is judged to fall under category A1/A2	See recommendations in main report relating to addition of Low Emission Strategies and protection of European sites.
	Core Policy 56: Contaminated Land	The Policy sets out the information required for development proposals which are likely to be on or adjacent to land which may have been subject to contamination. The Policy is judged to fall within Category A2.	
	Core Policy 57 - Ensuring high quality	A high standard of design is required in all new	

Section of Core Strategy Options Report	Element Screened	Categorisation in the Initial Screening	Comments and Recommendations
	design and place shaping	developments. Development is expected to create a strong sense of place through drawing on the local context and being complimentary to the locality. Applications for new development must be accompanied by appropriate information to demonstrate how the proposal will make a positive contribution to the character of Wiltshire. This policy is judged to fall under category A1/A3.	
	Core Policy 58 - Ensuring the conservation of the historic environment	Development should protect, conserve and where possible enhance the historic environment, and should not have an unacceptable impact on the historic environment, particularly where this could be avoided or mitigated. This policy is judged to fall under category A3.	
	Core Policy 59 – The Stonehenge, Avebury and associated sites World Heritage Site and its setting	The Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the World Heritage Site and its setting will be protected and enhanced. This policy is judged to fall under category A3.	
	Core Policy 60: Sustainable Transport	The Council will use its planning and transport powers to help reduce the need to travel, and support and encourage the sustainable, safe and efficient movement of people and goods within and through Wiltshire. This policy is judged to fall under category A3	
	Core Policy 61: Transport and Development	New development should be located and designed to reduce the need to travel and to encourage the use of sustainable transport alternatives. This policy is judged to fall under category A3.	
	Core Policy 62: Development Impacts on the Transport Network	Developments should provide appropriate mitigating measures to offset any adverse impacts on the transport network at both the construction and operational stages. This policy is judged to fall under category A3.	
	Core Policy 63: Transport Strategies	Packages of integrated transport measures will be identified in Chippenham, Trowbridge and Salisbury to help facilitate sustainable development growth. The packages will seek to achieve a major shift to sustainable transport by helping to reduce reliance on the private car and by improving sustainable transport alternatives. The policy makes allowance for some road improvements and therefore this policy is judged to fall under category D.	
	Core Policy 64: Demand Management	Demand management measures will be promoted where appropriate to reduce reliance on the car and to encourage the use of sustainable transport alternatives. This policy is	

Section of Core Strategy Options Report	Element Screened	Categorisation in the Initial Screening	Comments and Recommendations
		judged to fall under category A3.	
	Core Policy 65: Movement of Goods	The Council and its partners will seek to achieve a sustainable freight distribution system which makes the most efficient use of road, rail and water networks. This policy is judged to fall under category A3.	
	Core Policy 66: Strategic Transport Network	Work will be undertaken in conjunction with the Highways Agency, Network Rail, transport operators and other agencies, that will seek to develop and improve the strategic transport network to support the objectives and policies in the core strategy and local transport plan. The Policy is judged to fall into Category D (see comments).	See Appendix D for Appropriate Assessment
	Core Policy 67 - Flood Risk	Development proposed in Flood Zones 2 and 3 as identified within the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment will need to refer to the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment when providing evidence to the local planning authority in order to apply the Sequential Test in line with the requirements of national policy and established best practice. The Policy is judged to fall under Category A3.	
	Core Policy 68 - Water Resources	Development must not prejudice the delivery of the actions and targets of the relevant River Basin Management Plan, and should contribute towards their delivery where possible. This Policy is judged to fall under Category A2.	
	Core Policy 69 – Protection of the River Avon SAC	This policy sets out measures to address issues associated with pollution and disturbance. It is judged to fall under Category A2	

Appendix D – Appropriate Assessment Tables

Porton Down SPA						
Potential significant effect	Which features might be affected?	Role of the Core Strategy in Causing This Effect	Likelihood of the Effect Occurring	How has the Core Strategy been Amended to Avoid the Potential Effect	Recommendations for other Parts of the LDF	Conclusion following implementation of suggested amendment: Likelihood of success and any residual significant adverse effect on integrity?
Disturbance and/or degradation associated with increased pressure for recreation.	No significant effect anticipated. All access to this military site is highly restricted – there is no public access therefore no pathway for impacts	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable
Water quality and phosphate levels	No pathway for impacts therefore no significant effect anticipated.	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable
Potential Changes to the Hydrological Regime of Catchment Areas	No pathway for impacts therefore no significant effect anticipated	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable
Water Abstraction	No pathway for impacts therefore no significant effect anticipated.	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable
Nitrogen Deposition	The SPA interest is dependent on the chalk grassland habitat. Exceedance impacts for Nitrogen include increase in tall grasses, decline in diversity,	Core Policy 1 Settlement Strategy but also applies across all Community Areas Housing and employment development will generate traffic. The site is within 200m of a major road and there	The SW RSS HRA recommended that Policy RE9 in the Proposed Changes to the South West RSS referenced the need to avoid and where necessary reduce the impacts of air quality problems arising from development on biodiversity, and in particular on Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites. In the supporting text, Local Development Documents and local	Policy 55 identifies the role of Low Emission Strategies (Defra 2010) as a way of tackling transport related emissions and the need to consider the potential for air quality impacts on European sites. This is consistent with Core Policy 25 in the South Wiltshire Core Strategy Core Policy 55 amended to state that assessment will be required for new industrial processes located within 10km of	No further recommendations	No residual adverse effect on site integrity

Porton Down SPA						
Potential significant effect	Which features might be affected?	Role of the Core Strategy in Causing This Effect	Likelihood of the Effect Occurring	How has the Core Strategy been Amended to Avoid the Potential Effect	Recommendations for other Parts of the LDF	Conclusion following implementation of suggested amendment: Likelihood of success and any residual significant adverse effect on integrity?
	<p>increased mineralization, N leaching; surface acidification (APIS).</p> <p>Transport contributes 5.8% of Nitrogen, compared to 42% for livestock production (APIS).</p>	<p>is there potential for transport related emissions to impact on the site. Point source emissions also provide potential for pollution.</p>	<p>transport plans should be required to take into account through HRA the potential effects on air quality arising from housing, airport and port development proposals, including from traffic generated by them, and in particular transport-related schemes, which could adversely affect Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites.</p>	<p>a European site.</p>		

Salisbury Plain SAC						
Potential significant effect	Which features might be affected?	Role of the Core Strategy in Causing This Effect	Likelihood of the Effect Occurring	How has the Core Strategy been Amended to Avoid the Potential Effect	Recommendations for other Parts of the LDF	Conclusion following implementation of suggested amendment: Likelihood of success and any residual significant adverse effect on integrity?
Disturbance and/or degradation associated with increased pressure for recreation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Juniper (<i>Juniperus communis</i>) ■ Semi-natural dry grassland (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) ■ Marsh fritillary butterfly Euphydryas (Eurodryas, Hypodryas) aurinia 	Increased housing provision could result in an increase in demand for recreation which could affect this site. However any increase in public access is anticipated to be insignificant compared to access levels by military activity. Management of site is undertaken by military under an agreement with Natural England.	None	Not applicable	None	Not applicable
Water quality and phosphate levels	No significant effect anticipated	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable
Potential Changes to the Hydrological Regime of Catchment Areas	No pathway for impacts therefore no significant effect anticipated	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable
Water Abstraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Juniper (<i>Juniperus communis</i>) ■ Semi-natural dry grassland (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) <p>Marsh fritillary butterfly Euphydryas (Eurodryas, Hypodryas) aurinia</p>	<p>Additional housing and employment development will lead to increased consumption of water which could impact on the hydrological regime of European sites through increased abstraction of water from rivers and/or groundwater.</p> <p>Policies that might contribute to this effect are: Core Policy 1 'Settlement Strategy' and the Area Strategies set out in the following Core policies because the settlements fall</p>	Site lies within the Wessex Water Northern Resource Zone and additional water consumption is planned for within the Water Resource Management Plan, which has itself been subjected to Habitats Regulations Assessment and concluded that additional housing would have no likely effects upon the site.	The Core Strategy includes policies relating to improved water consumption in non-residential developments (Core Policy 68 'Water Resources', Core Policy 41 'Sustainable Construction and Low-Carbon Energy' and The Code for Sustainable Homes will contribute to a reduction in water consumption. The policies will contribute the achievement of demand management measures in the WRMP area.	No further recommendations	No residual adverse effect on site integrity

Salisbury Plain SAC						
Potential significant effect	Which features might be affected?	Role of the Core Strategy in Causing This Effect	Likelihood of the Effect Occurring	How has the Core Strategy been Amended to Avoid the Potential Effect	Recommendations for other Parts of the LDF	Conclusion following implementation of suggested amendment: Likelihood of success and any residual significant adverse effect on integrity?
		<p>within the Wessex Water Northern Resource Zone: Chippenham - Policies 9/10 Trowbridge- Policy 29 Bradford-on-Avon Policy 7 Calne – Policy 8 Corsham – Policy 11 Devizes – Policy 12 Malmesbury – Policy 13 Melksham – Policy 15 Warminster – Policy 31 Westbury – Policy 32</p>				
Nitrogen Deposition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Juniper (<i>Juniperus communis</i>) ■ Semi-natural dry grassland (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) ■ Marsh fritillary butterfly <i>Euphydryas</i> (<i>Eurodryas</i>, <i>Hypodryas</i>) <i>aurinia</i> <p>Marsh fritillary butterfly - insufficient knowledge to make a judgment of the impacts on this species (APIS).</p> <p>Exceedence impacts on habitat - Increase in graminoids, decline of typical species, decrease in total species richness (APIS).</p>	<p>Core Policy 1 Settlement Strategy but also applies across all Community Areas.</p> <p>Housing and employment development will generate traffic. The site is within 200m of a major road and there is therefore potential for transport related emissions to impact on the site.</p> <p>Point source emissions also provide potential for pollution.</p>	<p>The SW RSS HRA recommended that Policy RE9 in the Proposed Changes to the South West RSS referenced the need to avoid and where necessary reduce the impacts of air quality problems arising from development on biodiversity, and in particular on Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites. In the supporting text, Local Development Documents and local transport plans should be required to take into account through HRA the potential effects on air quality arising from housing, airport and port development proposals, including from traffic generated by them, and in particular transport-related schemes, which could adversely affect Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites.</p>	<p>Policy 55 identifies the role of Low Emission Strategies (Defra 2010) as a way of tackling transport related emissions and the need to consider the potential for air quality impacts on European sites, this is consistent with Core Policy 25 in the South Wiltshire Core Strategy</p> <p>Core Policy 55 has been amended to state that assessment will be required for new industrial processes located within 10km of a European site.</p>	No further recommendations	No residual adverse effects on site integrity

Salisbury Plain SAC						
Potential significant effect	Which features might be affected?	Role of the Core Strategy in Causing This Effect	Likelihood of the Effect Occurring	How has the Core Strategy been Amended to Avoid the Potential Effect	Recommendations for other Parts of the LDF	Conclusion following implementation of suggested amendment: Likelihood of success and any residual significant adverse effect on integrity?
	Road traffic contributes around 6% of Nitrogen deposits compared to 35% from livestock production (APIS).					
Potential physical damage due to housing provision/transport infrastructure development	No pathway for impacts therefore no significant effect anticipated	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable

Salisbury Plain SPA						
Potential significant effect	Which features might be affected?	Role of the Core Strategy in Causing This Effect	Likelihood of the Effect Occurring	How has the Core Strategy been Amended to Avoid the Potential Effect	Recommendations for other Parts of the LDF	Conclusion following implementation of suggested amendment: Likelihood of success and any residual significant adverse effect on integrity?
Disturbance and/or degradation associated with increased pressure for recreation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Stone Curlew (<i>Burhinus oedichnemus</i>) ■ Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) ■ Common Quail (<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>) ■ Eurasian Hobby (<i>Falco subbuteo</i>) 	<p>Increased housing provision could result in an increase in population in this area. The increased population could result in an increase in demand for recreation which could affect this site.</p> <p>Core Policy 1 'Settlement Strategy' and Area Strategies for the following settlements, which are within 15km of the site:</p> <p>Devizes – Policy 12 Marlborough – Policy 14 Pewsey – Policy 18 Tidworth / Ludgershall – Policy 26 Warminster - Policy 31 Westbury Policy 32</p> <p>Research shows nesting birds are vulnerable to disturbance by dog walkers, which may increase from residential development within 15km of the eastern part of the SPA and 4km from any part of the SPA. Potential</p>	<p>Principle of avoidance / mitigation measures established through developer contributions towards Wessex Stone Curlew Project to inform future management by Ministry of Defence and private landowners/ tenants.</p> <p>Project has previously been successful in helping to raise numbers back to favourable status. This will include monitoring, to allow management to react to changes in recreational pressures.</p> <p>Core Strategy Policy 50 'Biodiversity and Geodiversity' includes the following: <i>"All development proposals shall incorporate appropriate measures to avoid and reduce disturbance of sensitive wildlife species and habitats throughout the lifetime of the development. Development likely to increase recreational pressure on Special Protection Areas (SPAs) will be required to deliver an appropriate level of mitigation to offset any potential impacts. Suitable mitigation strategies will include securing management measures for designated features of Salisbury Plain, New Forest National Park and surrounding areas. Designated features include Habitats Directive Annex I habitats and Annex II species. Provision of an appropriate area of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace to deter public use of Natura 2000 sites will only be acceptable in exceptional circumstances. Such measures shall be secured through reasonable and proportionate planning obligations and Agreements"</i>.</p>	No additional recommendations	Potential for such effects should be kept under review as Green Infrastructure Strategy and Infrastructure Delivery Plan are developed and individual sites in the Site Specific Allocations DPD are assessed through HRA.	No residual adverse effects on site integrity

Salisbury Plain SPA						
Potential significant effect	Which features might be affected?	Role of the Core Strategy in Causing This Effect	Likelihood of the Effect Occurring	How has the Core Strategy been Amended to Avoid the Potential Effect	Recommendations for other Parts of the LDF	Conclusion following implementation of suggested amendment: Likelihood of success and any residual significant adverse effect on integrity?
		reduction in number of SC breeding pairs (conservation objective for the site).				
Water quality and phosphate levels	No pathway for impacts therefore no significant effect anticipated	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable
Potential Changes to the Hydrological Regime of Catchment Areas	No pathway for impacts therefore no significant effect anticipated	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable
Water Abstraction	The SPA interest is dependent on the chalk grassland habitat.	<p>Additional housing and employment development will lead to increased consumption of water which could impact on the hydrological regime of European sites through increased abstraction of water from rivers and/or groundwater.</p> <p>Policies that might contribute to this effect are: Core Policy 1 'Settlement Strategy' and the Area Strategies set out in</p>	Site lies within the Wessex Water Northern Resource Zone and additional water consumption is planned for within the Water Resource Management Plan, which has itself been subjected to Habitats Regulations Assessment and concluded that additional housing would have no likely effects on the site.	The Core Strategy includes policies relating to improved water consumption in non-residential developments (Core Policy 68 'Water Resources', Core Policy 41 'Sustainable Construction and Low-Carbon Energy' and The Code for Sustainable Homes will contribute to a reduction in water consumption. The policies will contribute the achievement of demand management measures in the WRMP area.	No further recommendations	No residual adverse effect on site integrity

Salisbury Plain SPA						
Potential significant effect	Which features might be affected?	Role of the Core Strategy in Causing This Effect	Likelihood of the Effect Occurring	How has the Core Strategy been Amended to Avoid the Potential Effect	Recommendations for other Parts of the LDF	Conclusion following implementation of suggested amendment: Likelihood of success and any residual significant adverse effect on integrity?
		<p>the following Core policies because the settlements fall within the Wessex Water Northern Resource Zone.:</p> <p>Chippenham - Policies 9/10 Trowbridge- Policy 29 Bradford-on-Avon Policy 7 Calne – Policy 8 Corsham – Policy 11 Devizes – Policy 12 Malmesbury – Policy 13 Melksham – Policy 15 Warminster – Policy 31 Westbury – Policy 32</p>				
Nitrogen Deposition	<p>The SPA interest is dependent on the chalk grassland habitat.</p> <p>Stone curlew in particular could be vulnerable to change in sward structure due to its requirement for open conditions.</p> <p>Exceedance impacts for Nitrogen include increase in tall grasses, decline in diversity, increased</p>	<p>Core Policy 1 Settlement Strategy but also applies across all Community Areas.</p> <p>Housing and employment development will generate traffic. The site is within 200m of a major road and there is therefore potential for transport related emissions to impact on the site. Point source emissions also provide potential for pollution.</p>	<p>The SW RSS HRA recommended that Policy RE9 in the Proposed Changes to the South West RSS referenced the need to avoid and where necessary reduce the impacts of air quality problems arising from development on biodiversity, and in particular on Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites. In the supporting text, Local Development Documents and local transport plans should be required to take into account through HRA the potential effects on air quality arising from housing, airport and port development proposals, including from traffic generated by them, and in particular transport-related schemes, which could adversely affect Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites.</p>	<p>Policy 55 identifies the role of Low Emission Strategies (Defra 2010) as a way of tackling transport related emissions and the need to consider the potential for air quality impacts on European sites, this is consistent with Core Policy 25 in the South Wiltshire Core Strategy</p> <p>Core Policy 55 also states that assessment will be required for new industrial processes located within 10km of a European site.</p> <p>The HRA can also take account of safeguards put in place by the Core Strategy, relating to modal shift and the need for the impacts of development to be assessed</p>	No further recommendations	No residual adverse effects on site integrity

Salisbury Plain SPA						
Potential significant effect	Which features might be affected?	Role of the Core Strategy in Causing This Effect	Likelihood of the Effect Occurring	How has the Core Strategy been Amended to Avoid the Potential Effect	Recommendations for other Parts of the LDF	Conclusion following implementation of suggested amendment: Likelihood of success and any residual significant adverse effect on integrity?
	<p>mineralization, N leaching; surface acidification (APIS).</p> <p>Road traffic contributes around 6% of Nitrogen deposits compared to 35% from livestock production.</p>					
Potential physical damage due to housing provision/transport infrastructure development	No pathway for impacts therefore no significant effect anticipated	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable

Solent & Southampton Water SPA						
Potential significant effect	Which features might be affected?	Role of the Core Strategy in Causing This Effect	Likelihood of the Effect Occurring	How has the Core Strategy been Amended to Avoid the Potential Effect	Recommendations for other Parts of the LDF	Conclusion following implementation of suggested amendment: Likelihood of success and any residual significant adverse effect on integrity?
Disturbance and/or degradation associated with increased pressure for recreation.	No significant effect anticipated site is not within 5km of a settlement that the Wiltshire Core Strategy identifies for development.	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable
Water quality and phosphate levels	No significant effect anticipated	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable
Potential Changes to the Hydrological Regime of Catchment Areas	No pathway for impacts therefore no significant effect anticipated	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable
Water Abstraction	Effects of abstraction upstream are insignificant in relation to this estuarine site where water levels are more a function of sea levels. No significant effects anticipated	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable
Nitrogen Deposition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mediterranean Gull (<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>) ■ Little Turn (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) ■ Roseate Turn (<i>Sterna dougalli</i>) ■ Common Turn (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) ■ Sandwich Turn (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>) ■ Eurasian Teal (<i>Anas</i>) 	<p>Core Policy 1 Settlement Strategy but also applies across all Community Areas.</p> <p>Housing and employment development will generate traffic. The site is within 200m of a major road and there is therefore potential for transport related emissions to impact on the site. Point source emissions also provide potential for</p>	The SW RSS HRA recommended that Policy RE9 in the Proposed Changes to the South West RSS referenced the need to avoid and where necessary reduce the impacts of air quality problems arising from development on biodiversity, and in particular on Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites. In the supporting text, Local Development Documents and local transport plans should be required to take into	<p>Policy 55 identifies the role of Low Emission Strategies (Defra 2010) as a way of tackling transport related emissions and the need to consider the potential for air quality impacts on European sites, this is consistent with Core Policy 25 in the South Wiltshire Core Strategy</p> <p>Core Policy 55 has been amended to state that assessment will be required for new industrial processes located within 10km of a European site.</p>	No further recommendations	No residual adverse effects on site integrity

Solent & Southampton Water SPA						
Potential significant effect	Which features might be affected?	Role of the Core Strategy in Causing This Effect	Likelihood of the Effect Occurring	How has the Core Strategy been Amended to Avoid the Potential Effect	Recommendations for other Parts of the LDF	Conclusion following implementation of suggested amendment: Likelihood of success and any residual significant adverse effect on integrity?
	<p>crecca)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Brant Goose (<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>) ■ Common Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) ■ Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>) <p>Increase tall grasses, decrease prostrate plants, increased Nitrogen leaching, soil acidification, loss of typical lichen species (APIS).</p> <p>Road transport contributes 6% of deposition compared to 22% Livestock production and 29% from imported emissions (APIS).</p>	pollution.	account through HRA the potential effects on air quality arising from housing, airport and port development proposals, including from traffic generated by them, and in particular transport-related schemes, which could adversely affect Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites.			
Potential physical damage due to housing provision/transport infrastructure development	No pathway for impacts therefore no significant effect anticipated	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable

Bath & Bradford-on-Avon Bats SAC						
Potential significant effect	Which features might be affected?	Role of the Core Strategy in Causing This Effect	Likelihood of the Effect Occurring	How has the Core Strategy been Amended to Avoid the Potential Effect	Recommendations for other Parts of the LDF	Conclusion following implementation of suggested amendment: Likelihood of success and any residual significant adverse effect on integrity?
Disturbance and/or degradation associated with increased pressure for recreation.	<p>No significant effect anticipated although site is within 5km of settlements it is not vulnerable to recreational pressure due to the nature of the site.</p> <p>The Ashton Park allocation in Trowbridge is adjacent to Biss Wood and Green Lane Wood which are both known to support populations of Bechstein's bat.</p> <p>On a precautionary basis, it is assumed that at a landscape scale the population of Bechstein's bat associated with Biss Wood and Green Lane Wood may contribute towards the conservation status of the SAC.</p>	<p>Core Strategy makes provision for development at Bradford on Avon, Trowbridge and Corsham.</p> <p>Policies that could have an effect on the site are:</p> <p>Core Policy 1 Settlement Strategy and the Area Strategies and Core Policies for:</p> <p>Bradford on Avon – Policy 7 Corsham – Policy 11 Trowbridge – Policy 29</p> <p>Increased recreational pressure resulting from residential development at Ashton Park under Core Strategy Policy 29 has the potential to lead to the degradation of habitat used by Bechstein's bat through habitat loss and disturbance to individual bats present in the habitat.</p>	<p>Through a combination of measures required both under the Core Strategy and relevant legislation this risk can be mitigated as discussed below</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of a 100m buffer to Biss Wood • Creation of additional recreational space in the Development Template for the Ashton Park Urban Extension • Management of accessibility to Biss Wood. <p>Requirement for Bat roost sites, foraging habitat and flight lines within, and in the vicinity of the site must be identified, retained and protected in the long-term</p>	The Core Strategy, together with Council guidance to maintain the integrity of the SAC and a process to implement the guidance are considered to provide sufficient safeguards and no further amendments are suggested at this stage.	No further recommendations	No residual adverse effects on site integrity
Water quality and phosphate levels	No pathway for impacts therefore no significant effect anticipated	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable
Potential Changes to the Hydrological Regime of Catchment Areas	No pathway for impacts therefore no significant effect anticipated	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable
Water Abstraction	Abstraction levels not significant enough to present any risk to invertebrate prey	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable

Bath & Bradford-on-Avon Bats SAC						
Potential significant effect	Which features might be affected?	Role of the Core Strategy in Causing This Effect	Likelihood of the Effect Occurring	How has the Core Strategy been Amended to Avoid the Potential Effect	Recommendations for other Parts of the LDF	Conclusion following implementation of suggested amendment: Likelihood of success and any residual significant adverse effect on integrity?
	abundance for bats and humidity levels in bat hibernacula. No significant effects anticipated					
Nitrogen Deposition	No pathway for impacts therefore no significant effect anticipated	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable
Potential physical damage due to housing provision/transport infrastructure development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Greater horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>) ■ Bechstein's bat (<i>Myotis bechsteinii</i>) ■ Lesser horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) <p>Development may lead to impacts on habitats outside the SAC that are required for these bats to complete their life cycle e.g. breeding roosts foraging habitat and habitat used as flightlines</p>	<p>Policies that could have an effect on the site are:</p> <p>Core Policy 1 Settlement Strategy and the Area Strategies and Core Policies for:</p> <p>Bradford on Avon – Policy 7 Corsham – Policy 11 Trowbridge – Policy 29 Transport Strategies 63 Strategic Transport network 66</p> <p>The allocation in Trowbridge is adjacent to Biss Wood and Green Lane Wood which are both known to support populations of Bechstein's bat.</p> <p>On a precautionary basis, it is assumed that at a landscape scale the population of Bechstein's bat associated with Biss Wood and Green Lane Wood may contribute towards the conservation</p>	<p>Text in the Submission Core Strategy relating to the Corsham, Trowbridge and Bradford on Avon Community Areas states that development will need to protect the SAC and ensure that connectivity with the SAC is retained.</p> <p>The February 2012 HRA report also recommended that the draft Core Strategy committed the Council to developing a process for ensuring that development within 4km of the SAC will not have a significant adverse effect. Paragraphs 5.36 and 5.59 of the Core Strategy state that all development will be planned and delivered in accordance with Wiltshire Council guidance to maintain the integrity of the Bath and Bradford-on-Avon Bats Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Paragraph 5.143 requires all development to protect and maintain continuity with the SAC.</p>	<p>The council has prepared a guidance document for prospective developers, Bat Special Areas of Conservation Planning Guidance for Wiltshire Issue 1.0, (25.03.13) which identifies consultation zones around core roosts where developments may lead to impacts on the SAC. The council is entering a Memorandum of Understanding with NE to review this document once a year and revise practice as necessary to ensure the SAC remains in favourable condition.</p> <p>The Core Strategy should explain this process by referring to it in the Core Policy 50 'Biodiversity and Geodiversity'</p> <p>The A350 improvements planning application will only be approved following assessment under the Habitats Regulations (informed by new survey) and this will ensure that all necessary mitigation measures are included to maintain favourable condition of the SAC.</p>	<p>Lower tier plans covering Corsham, Trowbridge and Bradford on AvonCommunity Areas will to include measures to protect and secure habitats beyond the SAC that contribute to its favourable condition. .</p>	No residual adverse effects on site integrity

Bath & Bradford-on-Avon Bats SAC						
Potential significant effect	Which features might be affected?	Role of the Core Strategy in Causing This Effect	Likelihood of the Effect Occurring	How has the Core Strategy been Amended to Avoid the Potential Effect	Recommendations for other Parts of the LDF	Conclusion following implementation of suggested amendment: Likelihood of success and any residual significant adverse effect on integrity?
		<p>status of the SAC.</p> <p>Trowbridge Transport Strategy may involve selective road improvements and interchange enhancements. In particular the A350 will be maintained, managed and selectively improved to assist employment growth. These could be designed to avoid impacts to key foraging areas and flightiness.</p>	<p>The A350 improvements (Yarnbrook and West Ashton Relief Roads) connect the Urban Extension to existing infrastructure and the A361 to the north east. The proposed road has the potential to fragment habitat utilised by bats, specifically Bechstein's bats known to roost in Biss Wood which may also commute/forage along trees lines surrounding The Spinney residential area. It is considered possible that both LHS and GHS bats also utilise habitat which will be affected by the proposed road development for commuting, and woodland parcels nearby for foraging given their presence in the local area, however it is unlikely that the population associated with the Bath and Bradford-on-Avon SAC is dependent on the habitat in this location due to the distance from the SAC and intervening habitat.</p> <p>To enable development under Core Policy 66 to occur in the absence of likely significant effects upon the SAC, designs must avoid fragmentation of habitat utilised by Bechstein's bat (and other species present as good practice). In the first instance, baseline data will be</p>			

Bath & Bradford-on-Avon Bats SAC						
Potential significant effect	Which features might be affected?	Role of the Core Strategy in Causing This Effect	Likelihood of the Effect Occurring	How has the Core Strategy been Amended to Avoid the Potential Effect	Recommendations for other Parts of the LDF	Conclusion following implementation of suggested amendment: Likelihood of success and any residual significant adverse effect on integrity?
			<p>required to establish whether habitat in this location is used by this species, this can then be used to inform a bat mitigation and monitoring strategy and its implementation secured through a Section 106 agreement.</p> <p>Recent evidence indicates that underpasses located along existing bat flight lines can be successful in avoiding habitat fragmentation resulting from road construction (it also shows that for the majority of species 'bat gantries' are ineffective). Road developments in West Wales located in proximity to horseshoe roosts have successfully incorporated underpasses of varying design which have been shown through monitoring to be used by both GHS and LHS bats should these species also be recorded in the vicinity of the proposed link road.</p>			

Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain SAC						
Potential significant effect	Which features might be affected?	Role of the Core Strategy in Causing This Effect	Likelihood of the Effect Occurring	How has the Core Strategy been Amended to Avoid the Potential Effect	Recommendations for other Parts of the LDF	Conclusion following implementation of suggested amendment: Likelihood of success and any residual significant adverse effect on integrity?
Disturbance and/or degradation associated with increased pressure for recreation.	No significant effect anticipated site is not within 5km of a settlement that the Wiltshire Core Strategy identifies for development.	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable
Water quality and phosphate levels	No pathway therefore no significant effect anticipated	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable
Potential Changes to the Hydrological Regime of Catchment Areas	No significant effect anticipated	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable
Water Abstraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desmoulin's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>) 	<p>Additional housing and employment development will lead to increased consumption of water which could impact on the hydrological regime of European sites through increased abstraction of water from rivers and/or groundwater.</p> <p>Policies that might contribute to this effect are: Core Policy 1 'Settlement Strategy' and the Area Strategies set out in the following Core policies because the settlements fall within the Thames Water Swindon and Oxfordshire Water Resource Zone:</p> <p>Tidworth – Policy 26 Marlborough – Policy 14</p>	<p>Site lies within the Thames Water Swindon and Oxfordshire Water Resource Zone and additional water consumption is planned for within the Water Resource Management Plan, which has itself been subjected to Habitats Regulations Assessment and concluded that additional housing would have no likely effects upon the site.</p> <p>HRA for the WRMP notes that Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain SAC was potentially impacted on by groundwater abstraction from the Chalk aquifer at Speen. Licensed abstraction from the aquifer was reduced as part of the SWMP.</p>	No additional recommendations	No further recommendations	No residual adverse effects on site integrity

Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain SAC						
Potential significant effect	Which features might be affected?	Role of the Core Strategy in Causing This Effect	Likelihood of the Effect Occurring	How has the Core Strategy been Amended to Avoid the Potential Effect	Recommendations for other Parts of the LDF	Conclusion following implementation of suggested amendment: Likelihood of success and any residual significant adverse effect on integrity?
		Royal Wootton Bassett Policy 19 Pewsey – Policy 18 Swindon West (Moredon Bridge) – allowance in Core Policy 1	The Core Strategy includes policies relating to improved water consumption in non-residential developments (Core Policy 68 'Water Resources', Core Policy 41 'Sustainable Construction and Lo-Carbon Energy' and The Code for Sustainable Homes will contribute to a reduction in water consumption. The policies will contribute the achievement of demand management measures in the WRMP area.			
Nitrogen Deposition	No pathway for impacts therefore no significant effect anticipated	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable
Potential physical damage due to housing provision/transport infrastructure development	No pathway for impacts therefore no significant effect anticipated	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable
North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC						
Potential significant effect	Which features might be affected?	Role of the Core Strategy in Causing This Effect	Likelihood of the Effect Occurring	How has the Core Strategy been Amended to Avoid the Potential Effect	Recommendations for other Parts of the LDF	Conclusion following implementation of suggested amendment: Likelihood of success and any residual significant adverse effect on integrity?

Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain SAC						
Potential significant effect	Which features might be affected?	Role of the Core Strategy in Causing This Effect	Likelihood of the Effect Occurring	How has the Core Strategy been Amended to Avoid the Potential Effect	Recommendations for other Parts of the LDF	Conclusion following implementation of suggested amendment: Likelihood of success and any residual significant adverse effect on integrity?
Degradation associated with increased pressure for recreation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>, <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>) 	<p>Increased housing provision could result in an increase in demand for recreation which could affect this site.</p> <p>Core Policy 1 could potentially contribute to this effect. The Core Strategy includes allowance for a site with planning permission west of Swindon (200 dwellings at Moredon Bridge).</p> <p>Malmesbury is also within 5km of the site and Policy 13 sets out the strategy for the Community Area.</p>	<p>The HRA for the Swindon Core Strategy concluded the management of recreational activity at the SAC will need to continue to be dealt with at the site level through, for example, maintenance of the public footpaths and the restriction of access to areas of the site that are being adversely affected.</p> <p>North Meadow is a National Nature Reserve, and is therefore under the control of Natural England thus providing significant control over direct impacts caused by public access. Clattinger Farm is owned by the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust which works closely with NE to manage that site.</p>	No additional recommendations	Potential for such effects should be kept under review as Green Infrastructure Strategy and Infrastructure Delivery Plan are developed and individual sites in the Site Specific Allocations DPD in Malmesbury are assessed through HRA.	No residual adverse effects on site integrity
Water quality and phosphate levels	No pathway for impacts therefore no significant effect anticipated	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable
Potential Changes to the Hydrological Regime of Catchment Areas	. Scale of development proposed in catchment of SAC too small to cause significant effects.	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable
Water Abstraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>, <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>) 	Additional housing and employment development will lead to increased consumption of water which could impact on the hydrological regime of European sites through increased abstraction of	Site lies within the Wessex Water Northern Resource Zone and additional water consumption is planned for within the Water Resource Management Plan, which has itself been subjected to Habitats Regulations	The Core Strategy includes policies relating to improved water consumption in non-residential developments (Core Policy 68 'Water Resources', Core Policy 41 'Sustainable Construction and Low-Carbon Energy' and The Code for	No further recommendations	No residual adverse effects on site integrity

Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain SAC						
Potential significant effect	Which features might be affected?	Role of the Core Strategy in Causing This Effect	Likelihood of the Effect Occurring	How has the Core Strategy been Amended to Avoid the Potential Effect	Recommendations for other Parts of the LDF	Conclusion following implementation of suggested amendment: Likelihood of success and any residual significant adverse effect on integrity?
		<p>water from rivers and/or groundwater.</p> <p>Policies that might contribute to this effect are: Core Policy 1 'Settlement Strategy' and the Area Strategies set out in the following Core policies because the settlements fall within the Wessex Water Northern Resource Zone.:</p> <p>Chippenham - Policies 9/10 Trowbridge- Policy 29 Bradford-on-Avon Policy 7 Calne – Policy 8 Corsham – Policy 11 Devizes – Policy 12 Malmesbury – Policy 13 Melksham – Policy 15 Warminster – Policy 31 Westbury – Policy 32</p>	<p>Assessment and concluded that additional housing would have no likely effects upon the site.</p>	<p>Sustainable Homes will contribute to a reduction in water consumption. The policies will contribute the achievement of demand management measures in the WRMP area.</p>		
Nitrogen Deposition	<p>Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis</i>) Exceedence impacts on habitat - Increase in tall grasses, decrease in diversity (APIS).</p> <p>Road transport contributes 6% of deposition, Livestock production 44%.</p>	<p>Core Policy 1 Settlement Strategy but also applies across all Community Areas.</p> <p>Housing and employment development will generate traffic. The site is within 200m of a major road and there is therefore potential for transport related emissions to impact on the site.</p> <p>Point source emissions also provide potential for</p>	<p>The SW RSS HRA recommended that Policy RE9 in the Proposed Changes to the South West RSS referenced the need to avoid and where necessary reduce the impacts of air quality problems arising from development on biodiversity, and in particular on Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites. In the supporting text, Local Development Documents and local transport plans should be required to take into account through HRA the</p>	<p>Policy 55 identifies the role of Low Emission Strategies (Defra 2010) as a way of tackling transport related emissions and the need to consider the potential for air quality impacts on European sites, this is consistent with Core Policy 25 in the South Wiltshire Core Strategy</p> <p>Core Policy 55 has been amended to state that assessment will be required for new industrial processes located within 10km of a European site.</p>	No further recommendations	No residual adverse effects on site integrity

Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain SAC						
Potential significant effect	Which features might be affected?	Role of the Core Strategy in Causing This Effect	Likelihood of the Effect Occurring	How has the Core Strategy been Amended to Avoid the Potential Effect	Recommendations for other Parts of the LDF	Conclusion following implementation of suggested amendment: Likelihood of success and any residual significant adverse effect on integrity?
		<p>pollution</p> <p>According to the SW RSS HRA North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC is a site where Nitrogen deposition is currently exceeding critical loads but agricultural activity may be the source of the problem.</p>	<p>potential effects on air quality arising from housing, airport and port development proposals, including from traffic generated by them, and in particular transport-related schemes, which could adversely affect Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites.</p>			
Physical damage due to housing provision/transport infrastructure development	No pathway for impacts therefore no significant effect anticipated	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable

Pewsey Downs SAC						
Potential significant effect	Which features might be affected?	Role of the Core Strategy in Causing This Effect	Likelihood of the Effect Occurring	How has the Core Strategy been Amended to Avoid the Potential Effect	Recommendations for other Parts of the LDF	Conclusion following implementation of suggested amendment: Likelihood of success and any residual significant adverse effect on integrity?
Disturbance and/or degradation associated with increased pressure for recreation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) ■ Early gentian (<i>Gentianella anglica</i>) 	<p>Increased housing provision could result in an increase in demand for recreation which could affect this site.</p> <p>The Policies that could contribute to this effect are Core Policy 1 'Settlement Strategy' and Policy 12 which sets out the Area Strategy for Devizes</p>	Pewsey Downs SAC is a National Nature Reserve, and is therefore under the ownership/control of Natural England thus providing significant control over direct impacts caused by public access. The site is also part of the North Wessex Downs, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) which attracts millions of visitors a year. The AONB has a Management Plan and Delivery Plan which provides further support for managing impacts on the SAC.	Not applicable	Potential for such effects should be kept under review as Green Infrastructure Strategy and Infrastructure Delivery Plan are developed and individual sites in the Site Specific Allocations DPD are assessed through HRA.	No residual adverse effects on site integrity
Water quality and phosphate levels	No pathway for impacts therefore no significant effect anticipated	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable
Potential Changes to the Hydrological Regime of Catchment Areas	No pathway for impacts therefore no significant effect anticipated	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable
Water Abstraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) ■ Early gentian (<i>Gentianella anglica</i>) 	<p>Additional housing and employment development will lead to increased consumption of water which could impact on the hydrological regime of European sites through increased abstraction of water from rivers and/or groundwater.</p> <p>Policies that might contribute to this effect are: Core Policy 1 'Settlement Strategy' and the Area</p>	<p>Site lies within the Wessex Water Northern Resource Zone and additional water consumption is planned for within the Water Resource Management Plan, which has itself been subjected to Habitats Regulations Assessment and concluded that additional housing would have no likely effects upon the site.</p> <p>The Core Strategy includes</p>	No additional recommendations	No further recommendations	No residual adverse effects on site integrity

Pewsey Downs SAC						
Potential significant effect	Which features might be affected?	Role of the Core Strategy in Causing This Effect	Likelihood of the Effect Occurring	How has the Core Strategy been Amended to Avoid the Potential Effect	Recommendations for other Parts of the LDF	Conclusion following implementation of suggested amendment: Likelihood of success and any residual significant adverse effect on integrity?
		<p>Strategies set out in the following Core policies because the settlements fall within the Wessex Water Northern Resource Zone.:</p> <p>Chippenham - Policies 9/10 Trowbridge- Policy 29 Bradford-on-Avon Policy 7 Calne – Policy 8 Corsham – Policy 11 Devizes – Policy 12 Malmesbury – policy 13 Melksham – Policy 15 Warminster – Policy 31 Westbury – Policy 32</p>	<p>policies relating to improved water consumption in non-residential developments (Core Policy 68 'Water Resources', Core Policy 41 'Sustainable Construction and Lo-Carbon Energy' and The Code for Sustainable Homes will contribute to a reduction in water consumption. The policies will contribute the achievement of demand management measures in the WRMP area.</p>			
Nitrogen Deposition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) ■ Early gentian (<i>Gentianella anglica</i>) 	<p>Core Policy 1 Settlement Strategy but also applies across all Community Areas.</p> <p>Housing and employment development will generate traffic. The site is within 200m of a major road and there is therefore potential for transport related emissions to impact on the site.</p> <p>Point source emissions also provide potential for pollution.</p>	<p>The SW RSS HRA recommended that Policy RE9 in the Proposed Changes to the South West RSS referenced the need to avoid and where necessary reduce the impacts of air quality problems arising from development on biodiversity, and in particular on Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites. In the supporting text, Local Development Documents and local transport plans should be required to take into account through HRA the potential effects on air quality arising from housing, airport and port development proposals, including from traffic generated by them, and in particular transport-related schemes, which could</p>	<p>Policy 55 identifies the role of Low Emission Strategies (Defra 2010) as a way of tackling transport related emissions and the need to consider the potential for air quality impacts on European sites, this is consistent with Core Policy 25 in the South Wiltshire Core Strategy</p> <p>Core Policy 55 has been amended to state that assessment will be required for new industrial processes located within 10km of a European site.</p>	No further recommendations	No residual adverse effects on site integrity

Pewsey Downs SAC						
Potential significant effect	Which features might be affected?	Role of the Core Strategy in Causing This Effect	Likelihood of the Effect Occurring	How has the Core Strategy been Amended to Avoid the Potential Effect	Recommendations for other Parts of the LDF	Conclusion following implementation of suggested amendment: Likelihood of success and any residual significant adverse effect on integrity?
			adversely affect Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites.			
Potential physical damage due to housing provision/transport infrastructure development	No pathway for impacts therefore no significant effect anticipated	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable

River Avon SAC						
Potential significant effect	Which features might be affected?	Role of the Core Strategy in Causing This Effect	Likelihood of the Effect Occurring	How has the Core Strategy been Amended to Avoid the Potential Effect	Recommendations for other Parts of the LDF	Conclusion following implementation of suggested amendment: Likelihood of success and any residual significant adverse effect on integrity?
Disturbance and/or degradation associated with increased pressure for recreation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ranunculus fluitans and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation ■ Desmoulin's whorl snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> ■ Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> ■ Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i> ■ Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> ■ Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i> 	<p>Core Policy 1 Settlement Strategy but also applies across all Community Areas.</p> <p>Increased housing provision could result in an increase in demand for recreation which could affect this site.</p>	<p>Core Strategy Policy 69 'Protection of the River Avon SAC' states in part: <i>In order to avoid and reduce potential environmental effects on the River Avon SAC, development will need to incorporate measures during construction and operation to avoid and prevent pollution and mitigate potential disturbance effects; appropriate schemes of mitigation may include consideration of suitable buffer zones along watercourses, habitat enhancements and river access management measures.</i></p>	No additional recommendations.	Potential for such effects should be kept under review as Green Infrastructure Strategy and Infrastructure Delivery Plan are developed and individual sites in the Site Specific Allocations DPD are assessed through HRA.	No residual adverse effects on site integrity
Water quality and phosphate levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ranunculus fluitans and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation ■ Desmoulin's whorl snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> ■ Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> ■ Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i> ■ Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> ■ Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i> 	<p>Core Policy 1 Settlement Strategy and the following policies:</p> <p>Pewsey – Policy 18 Warminster – Policy 31 Tidworth and Ludgershall</p> <p>Increased housing and employment provision will lead to increased nutrient loading reaching the River and nutrient enrichment of aquatic systems.</p> <p>Potential for developments to cause water pollution during their construction phase.</p>	<p>Following the completion of significant upgrades to the sewage treatment infrastructure last year, the Environment Agency has issued a statement of intent (dated 23.01.13) to confirm that that sewage discharges projected by the Core Strategy will be compliant with the Habitats Regulations provided that a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) is put in place to bring down phosphate levels. The Environment Agency and Natural England are currently working on the Nutrient Management Plan. The plan will identify works that are</p>	No additional recommendations	No further recommendations	No residual adverse effects on site integrity

River Avon SAC						
Potential significant effect	Which features might be affected?	Role of the Core Strategy in Causing This Effect	Likelihood of the Effect Occurring	How has the Core Strategy been Amended to Avoid the Potential Effect	Recommendations for other Parts of the LDF	Conclusion following implementation of suggested amendment: Likelihood of success and any residual significant adverse effect on integrity?
			<p>required to reduce river phosphate levels and the funding required for these. Delivery of the NMP will enable development to take place, up to current permit headroom, without further adverse effect on the SAC. Where permitted volumetric headroom at STWs is likely to be exceeded due to new development, then case specific solutions will be needed. At that Wiltshire Council will consider whether it is appropriate for development to contribute to the implementation of the plan.</p> <p>Core Strategy Policy 69 'Protection of the River Avon SAC' states in part: Where additional sewage discharges to a STW cannot be accommodated without measures to offset phosphate loading, development will be required to undertake proportionate mitigation measures to demonstrate that the proposals would have no</p> <p>likely significant effects upon the SAC.</p> <p>In relation to construction related pollution, Core Policy 69 requires the use of</p>			

River Avon SAC						
Potential significant effect	Which features might be affected?	Role of the Core Strategy in Causing This Effect	Likelihood of the Effect Occurring	How has the Core Strategy been Amended to Avoid the Potential Effect	Recommendations for other Parts of the LDF	Conclusion following implementation of suggested amendment: Likelihood of success and any residual significant adverse effect on integrity?
			Construction Management Plans for developments within 20 metres of the river bank.			
Potential Changes to the Hydrological Regime of Catchment Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ranunculon fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation ■ Desmoulin's whorl snail Vertigo moulinsiana ■ Sea lamprey Petromyzon marinus ■ Brook lamprey Lampetra planeri ■ Atlantic salmon Salmo salar ■ Bullhead Cottus gobio 	<p>Core Policy 1 Settlement Strategy, Core policy 18 Pewsey and Core Policy 31 Warminster.</p> <p>Development in close proximity to the river has potential to change the hydrological regime.</p>	<p>In relation to the River Avon SAC Core Policy 67 'Flood Risk' requires that all new development will include measures to reduce the rate of rainwater run-off and improve rainwater infiltration to soil and ground (Sustainable Urban Drainage) unless site or environmental conditions make these measures unsuitable.</p>	No additional recommendations	No further recommendations	No residual adverse effects on site integrity
Water Abstraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ranunculon fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation ■ Desmoulin's whorl snail Vertigo moulinsiana ■ Sea lamprey Petromyzon marinus ■ Brook lamprey Lampetra planeri ■ Atlantic salmon Salmo salar ■ Bullhead Cottus gobio 	<p>Additional housing and employment development will lead to increased consumption of water which could impact on the hydrological regime of European sites through increased abstraction of water from rivers and/or groundwater.</p> <p>Policies that might contribute to this effect are: Core Policy 1 'Settlement Strategy' and the Area Strategies set out in the following Core policies because the settlements fall within the Wessex Water Northern Resource Zone.:</p>	<p>Site lies within the Wessex Water Northern Resource Zone and additional water consumption is planned for within the Water Resource Management Plan, which has itself been subjected to Habitats Regulations Assessment and concluded that additional housing would have no likely effects upon the site.</p> <p>The Core Strategy includes policies relating to improved water consumption in non-residential developments (Core Policy 68 'Water Resources', Core Policy 41 'Sustainable Construction and</p>	No additional recommendations	No further recommendations	No residual adverse effects on site integrity

River Avon SAC						
Potential significant effect	Which features might be affected?	Role of the Core Strategy in Causing This Effect	Likelihood of the Effect Occurring	How has the Core Strategy been Amended to Avoid the Potential Effect	Recommendations for other Parts of the LDF	Conclusion following implementation of suggested amendment: Likelihood of success and any residual significant adverse effect on integrity?
		Chippenham - Policies 9/10 Trowbridge- Policy 29 Bradford-on-Avon Policy 7 Calne – Policy 8 Corsham – Policy 11 Devizes – Policy 12 Malmesbury – Policy 13 Melksham – Policy 15 Warminster – Policy 31 Westbury – Policy 32	Lo-Carbon Energy' and The Code for Sustainable Homes will contribute to a reduction in water consumption. The policies will contribute the achievement of demand management measures in the WRMP area.			
Nitrogen Deposition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Brook lamprey - Potential negative impact on species due to impacts on the species' broad habitat (APIS). ■ Ranunculus fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation <p>Road transport contributes 14% of deposition, Livestock production accounts for 20% (APIS), imported emissions 27%.</p>	<p>Core Policy 1 Settlement Strategy but also applies across all Community Areas.</p> <p>Housing and employment development will generate traffic. The site is within 200m of major roads and there is therefore potential for transport related emissions to impact on the site.</p> <p>Point source emissions also provide potential for pollution.</p>	The SW RSS HRA recommended that Policy RE9 in the Proposed Changes to the South West RSS referenced the need to avoid and where necessary reduce the impacts of air quality problems arising from development on biodiversity, and in particular on Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites. In the supporting text, Local Development Documents and local transport plans should be required to take into account through HRA the potential effects on air quality arising from housing, airport and port development proposals, including from traffic generated by them, and in particular transport-related schemes, which could adversely affect Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites.	<p>Policy 55 identifies the role of Low Emission Strategies (Defra 2010) as a way of tackling transport related emissions and the need to consider the potential for air quality impacts on European sites. This is consistent with Core Policy 25 in the South Wiltshire Core Strategy</p> <p>Core Policy 55 amended to state that assessment will be required for new industrial processes located within 10km of a European site.</p>	No further recommendations	No residual adverse effects on site integrity
Potential physical damage due to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ranunculus fluitantis and Callitriche- 	Core Policy 1 'Settlement Strategy' and the Area	The risks associated with	No further recommendations	No further	No residual adverse

River Avon SAC						
Potential significant effect	Which features might be affected?	Role of the Core Strategy in Causing This Effect	Likelihood of the Effect Occurring	How has the Core Strategy been Amended to Avoid the Potential Effect	Recommendations for other Parts of the LDF	Conclusion following implementation of suggested amendment: Likelihood of success and any residual significant adverse effect on integrity?
housing provision/transport infrastructure development	<p>Batrachion vegetation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Desmoulin's whorl snail Vertigo moulinsiana ■ Sea lamprey Petromyzon marinus ■ Brook lamprey Lampetra planeri ■ Atlantic salmon Salmo salar ■ Bullhead Cottus gobio <p>Damage to River banks as a result of development could impact on SAC features, particularly Desmoulin's whorl snail, but also potentially other species if high sediment loads generated.</p>	<p>Strategies set out in the following Core policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warminster Policy 31 • Pewsey Policy 18 	<p>development next to the river are recognised in council procedure: "Habitats Regulations Assessments for projects potentially affecting the River Avon Special Area of Conservation" (version 1.0, March 2013). Core Policy 69 states: "development will need to incorporate measures during construction and operation to avoid and prevent pollution and mitigate potential disturbance effects...all development within 20m of the river banks should submit a construction management plan..."</p>		recommendations	effects on site integrity

Hackpen Hill SAC						
Potential significant effect	Which features might be affected?	Role of the Core Strategy in Causing This Effect	Likelihood of the Effect Occurring	How has the Core Strategy been Amended to Avoid the Potential Effect	Recommendations for other Parts of the LDF	Conclusion following implementation of suggested amendment: Likelihood of success and any residual significant adverse effect on integrity?
Disturbance and/or degradation associated with increased pressure for recreation.	No significant effect anticipated site is not within 5km of a settlement that the Wiltshire Core Strategy identifies for development.	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable
Water quality and phosphate levels	No pathway for impacts therefore no significant effect anticipated	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable
Potential Changes to the Hydrological Regime of Catchment Areas	No pathway for impacts therefore no significant effect anticipated	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable
Water Abstraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Early gentian, (<i>Gentianella anglica</i>) ■ Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) <p>Site's qualifying features are unlikely to be highly sensitive to water levels (HRA for WRMP).</p>	<p>Additional housing and employment development will lead to increased consumption of water which could impact on the hydrological regime of European sites through increased abstraction of water from rivers and/or groundwater.</p> <p>Policies that might contribute to this effect are: Core Policy 1 'Settlement Strategy' and the Area Strategies set out in the following Core policies because the settlements fall within the Thames Water Swindon and Oxfordshire Water Resource Zone:</p> <p>Tidworth – Policy 26 Marlborough – Policy 14</p>	<p>Site lies within the Thames Water Swindon and Oxfordshire Resource Zone and additional water consumption is planned for within the Water Resource Management Plan, which has itself been subjected to Habitats Regulations Assessment and concluded that additional housing would have no likely effects upon the site.</p> <p>The Core Strategy includes policies relating to improved water consumption in non-residential developments (Core Policy 68 'Water Resources', Core Policy 41 'Sustainable Construction and Lo-Carbon Energy' and The Code for Sustainable Homes</p>	No additional recommendations	No further recommendations	No residual adverse effects on site integrity

Hackpen Hill SAC						
Potential significant effect	Which features might be affected?	Role of the Core Strategy in Causing This Effect	Likelihood of the Effect Occurring	How has the Core Strategy been Amended to Avoid the Potential Effect	Recommendations for other Parts of the LDF	Conclusion following implementation of suggested amendment: Likelihood of success and any residual significant adverse effect on integrity?
		Royal Wootton Bassett Policy 19 Pewsey – Policy 18 Swindon West (Moredon Bridge) – allowance in Core Policy 1	will contribute to a reduction in water consumption. The policies will contribute the achievement of demand management measures in the WRMP area.			
Nitrogen Deposition	No significant effect anticipated (more than 200m from major road)	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable
Potential physical damage due to housing provision/transport infrastructure development	No pathway for impacts therefore no significant effect anticipated	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable

Kennet Valley Alderwoods SAC						
Potential significant effect	Which features might be affected?	Role of the Core Strategy in Causing This Effect	Likelihood of the Effect Occurring	How has the Core Strategy been Amended to Avoid the Potential Effect	Recommendations for other Parts of the LDF	Conclusion following implementation of suggested amendment: Likelihood of success and any residual significant adverse effect on integrity?
Disturbance and/or degradation associated with increased pressure for recreation.	No significant effect anticipated site is not within 5km of a settlement that the Wiltshire Core Strategy identifies for development.	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable
Water quality and phosphate levels	No pathway for impacts therefore no significant effect anticipated	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable
Potential Changes to the Hydrological Regime of Catchment Areas	No pathway for impacts therefore no significant effect anticipated	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable
Water Abstraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) 	<p>Additional housing and employment development will lead to increased consumption of water which could impact on the hydrological regime of European sites through increased abstraction of water from rivers and/or groundwater.</p> <p>Policies that might contribute to this effect are: Core Policy 1 'Settlement Strategy' and the Area Strategies set out in the following Core policies because the settlements fall within the Thames Water Swindon and Oxfordshire Water Resource Zone:</p> <p>Tidworth – Policy 26 Marlborough – Policy 14</p>	<p>Site lies within the Thames Water Swindon and Oxfordshire Resource Zone and additional water consumption is planned for within the Water Resource Management Plan, which has itself been subjected to Habitats Regulations Assessment and concluded that additional housing would have no likely effects upon the site.</p> <p>SWMP HRA notes that increased groundwater abstraction as part of proposed scheme is unlikely to affect site's qualifying features. The site is within the distributary channels formed by the River Kennet and Kennet & Avon</p>	No additional recommendations	No further recommendations	No residual adverse effects on site integrity

Kennet Valley Alderwoods SAC						
Potential significant effect	Which features might be affected?	Role of the Core Strategy in Causing This Effect	Likelihood of the Effect Occurring	How has the Core Strategy been Amended to Avoid the Potential Effect	Recommendations for other Parts of the LDF	Conclusion following implementation of suggested amendment: Likelihood of success and any residual significant adverse effect on integrity?
		Royal Wootton Bassett Policy 19 Pewsey – Policy 18 Swindon West (Moredon Bridge) – allowance in Core Policy 1	Canal, which will limit groundwater level changes. Any impact on groundwater levels beneath the floodplain at this large distance from the scheme will be minimal. The Core Strategy includes policies relating to improved water consumption in non-residential developments (Core Policy 68 'Water Resources', Core Policy 41 'Sustainable Construction and Lo-Carbon Energy' and The Code for Sustainable Homes will contribute to a reduction in water consumption. The policies will contribute the achievement of demand management measures in the WRMP area.			
Nitrogen Deposition	No significant effect anticipated SAC is further than 200m from major roads	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable
Potential physical damage due to housing provision/transport infrastructure development	No pathway for impacts therefore no significant effect anticipated	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable

River Lambourn SAC						
Potential significant effect	Which features might be affected?	Role of the Core Strategy in Causing This Effect	Likelihood of the Effect Occurring	How has the Core Strategy been Amended to Avoid the Potential Effect	Recommendations for other Parts of the LDF	Conclusion following implementation of suggested amendment: Likelihood of success and any residual significant adverse effect on integrity?
Disturbance and/or degradation associated with increased pressure for recreation.	No significant effect anticipated site is not within 5km of a settlement that the Wiltshire Core Strategy identifies for development.	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable
Water quality and phosphate levels	No pathway for impacts therefore no significant effect anticipated	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable
Potential Changes to the Hydrological Regime of Catchment Areas	No pathway for impacts therefore no significant effect anticipated	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable
Water Abstraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculus fluitans and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation. ■ Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i> 	<p>Additional housing and employment development will lead to increased consumption of water which could impact on the hydrological regime of European sites through increased abstraction of water from rivers and/or groundwater.</p> <p>Policies that might contribute to this effect are: Core Policy 1 'Settlement Strategy' and the Area Strategies set out in the following Core policies because the settlements fall within the Thames Water Swindon and Oxfordshire Water Resource Zone:</p> <p>Tidworth – Policy 26 Marlborough – Policy 14</p>	<p>Site lies within the Thames Water Swindon and Oxfordshire Resource Zone and additional water consumption is planned for within the Water Resource Management Plan, which has itself been subjected to Habitats Regulations Assessment.</p> <p>The HRA for the WRMP notes: The proposed increase in abstraction will not exceed the existing peak value permitted by the Environment Agency abstraction licence.</p> <p>The Core Strategy includes policies relating to improved water consumption in non-residential developments (Core Policy 68 'Water Resources', Core Policy 41</p>	No additional recommendations	No further recommendations	No residual adverse effects on site integrity

River Lambourn SAC						
Potential significant effect	Which features might be affected?	Role of the Core Strategy in Causing This Effect	Likelihood of the Effect Occurring	How has the Core Strategy been Amended to Avoid the Potential Effect	Recommendations for other Parts of the LDF	Conclusion following implementation of suggested amendment: Likelihood of success and any residual significant adverse effect on integrity?
		Royal Wootton Bassett Policy 19 Pewsey – Policy 18 Swindon West (Moredon Bridge) – allowance in Core Policy 1	'Sustainable Construction and Lo-Carbon Energy' and The Code for Sustainable Homes will contribute to a reduction in water consumption. The policies will contribute the achievement of demand management measures in the WRMP area.			
Nitrogen Deposition	No significant effect anticipated	Core Policy 1 Settlement Strategy but also applies across all Community Areas. Housing and employment development will generate traffic. The site is within 200m of major roads and there is therefore potential for transport related emissions to impact on the site. Point source emissions also provide potential for pollution.	The SW RSS HRA recommended that Policy RE9 in the Proposed Changes to the South West RSS referenced the need to avoid and where necessary reduce the impacts of air quality problems arising from development on biodiversity, and in particular on Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites. In the supporting text, Local Development Documents and local transport plans should be required to take into account through HRA the potential effects on air quality arising from housing, airport and port development proposals, including from traffic generated by them, and in particular transport-related schemes, which could adversely affect Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites.	Policy 55 identifies the role of Low Emission Strategies (Defra 2010) as a way of tackling transport related emissions and the need to consider the potential for air quality impacts on European sites. This is consistent with Core Policy 25 in the South Wiltshire Core Strategy Core Policy 55 amended to state that assessment will be required for new industrial processes located within 10km of a European site.	None	Not applicable
Potential physical damage due to housing provision/transport infrastructure	No pathway for impacts therefore no significant effect anticipated	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable

River Lambourn SAC						
Potential significant effect	Which features might be affected?	Role of the Core Strategy in Causing This Effect	Likelihood of the Effect Occurring	How has the Core Strategy been Amended to Avoid the Potential Effect	Recommendations for other Parts of the LDF	Conclusion following implementation of suggested amendment: Likelihood of success and any residual significant adverse effect on integrity?
development						

Cotswolds Beechwood SAC						
Potential significant effect	Which features might be affected?	Role of the Core Strategy in Causing This Effect	Likelihood of the Effect Occurring	How has the Core Strategy been Amended to Avoid the Potential Effect	Recommendations for other Parts of the LDF	Conclusion following implementation of suggested amendment: Likelihood of success and any residual significant adverse effect on integrity?
Disturbance and/or degradation associated with increased pressure for recreation.	No significant effect anticipated site is not within 5km of a settlement that the Wiltshire Core Strategy identifies for development.	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable
Water quality and phosphate levels	No pathway for impacts therefore no significant effect anticipated	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable
Potential Changes to the Hydrological Regime of Catchment Areas	No pathway for impacts therefore no significant effect anticipated	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable
Water Abstraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>Asperulo-Fagetum</i> beech forests ■ Rare plants include red helleborine (<i>Cephalanthera rubra</i>), stinking hellebore (<i>Helleborus foetidus</i>), narrow-lipped helleborine (<i>Epipactis leptochila</i>) and wood barley (<i>Hordelymus europaeus</i>). ■ Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) 	<p>Additional housing and employment development will lead to increased consumption of water which could impact on the hydrological regime of European sites through increased abstraction of water from rivers and/or groundwater.</p> <p>Policies that might contribute to this effect are: Core Policy 1 'Settlement Strategy' and the Area Strategies set out in the following Core policies because the settlements fall within the Thames Water Swindon and Oxfordshire Water Resource Zone:</p> <p>Tidworth – Policy 26 Marlborough – Policy 14</p>	<p>Site lies within / close to the Thames Water Swindon and Oxfordshire Resource Zone and additional water consumption is planned for within the Water Resource Management Plan, which has itself been subjected to Habitats Regulations Assessment and concluded that additional housing would have no likely effects upon the site.</p> <p>The WRMP HRA notes: Site's in the context of a planned increase in abstraction, qualifying features for this site are unlikely to be highly sensitive to water levels, as the Beechwoods are sited on the Chalk where the water table</p>	No additional recommendations	No further recommendations	No residual adverse effects on site integrity

Cotswolds Beechwood SAC						
Potential significant effect	Which features might be affected?	Role of the Core Strategy in Causing This Effect	Likelihood of the Effect Occurring	How has the Core Strategy been Amended to Avoid the Potential Effect	Recommendations for other Parts of the LDF	Conclusion following implementation of suggested amendment: Likelihood of success and any residual significant adverse effect on integrity?
		Royal Wootton Bassett Policy 19 Pewsey – Policy 18 Swindon West (Moredon Bridge) – allowance in Core Policy 1	is deep. Proposed scheme will not require landtake from within SAC boundaries, and construction activities are at sufficient distance from SAC that no impacts on qualifying features are anticipated. The Core Strategy includes policies relating to improved water consumption in non-residential developments (Core Policy 68 'Water Resources', Core Policy 41 'Sustainable Construction and Lo-Carbon Energy' and The Code for Sustainable Homes will contribute to a reduction in water consumption. The policies will contribute the achievement of demand management measures in the WRMP area.			
Nitrogen Deposition	Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests – Exceedence impacts - Changes in ground vegetation and mycorrhiza, nutrient imbalance, changes soil fauns Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) – Exceedence impacts Increase in tall grasses,	Core Policy 1 Settlement Strategy but also applies across all Community Areas. Housing and employment development will generate traffic. The site is within 200m of a major road and there is therefore potential for transport related emissions to impact on the site. Point source emissions also provide potential for pollution.	The SW RSS HRA recommended that Policy RE9 in the Proposed Changes to the South West RSS referenced the need to avoid and where necessary reduce the impacts of air quality problems arising from development on biodiversity, and in particular on Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites. In the supporting text, Local Development Documents and local transport plans should be required to take into account through HRA the	Policy 55 identifies the role of Low Emission Strategies (Defra 2010) as a way of tackling transport related emissions and the need to consider the potential for air quality impacts on European sites. This is consistent with Core Policy 25 in the South Wiltshire Core Strategy Core Policy 55 amended to state that assessment will be required for new industrial processes located within 10km of a European site.	No further recommendations	No residual adverse effects on site integrity

Cotswolds Beechwood SAC						
Potential significant effect	Which features might be affected?	Role of the Core Strategy in Causing This Effect	Likelihood of the Effect Occurring	How has the Core Strategy been Amended to Avoid the Potential Effect	Recommendations for other Parts of the LDF	Conclusion following implementation of suggested amendment: Likelihood of success and any residual significant adverse effect on integrity?
	<p>decline in diversity, increased mineralization, Nitrogen leaching; surface acidification.</p> <p>Road transport accounts for 18% of Nitrogen compared to 30% for Livestock production.</p>	<p>Although the site is within 200m of a major road, it is located >15km from any market towns, therefore development is highly unlikely to trigger DMRB increases in traffic levels.</p>	<p>potential effects on air quality arising from housing, airport and port development proposals, including from traffic generated by them, and in particular transport-related schemes, which could adversely affect Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites.</p> <p>The HRA can also take account of safeguards put in place by the Core Strategy, relating to modal shift and the need for the impacts of development to be assessed.</p>			
Potential physical damage due to housing provision/transport infrastructure development	No pathway for impacts therefore no significant effect anticipated	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable

Rodborough Common SAC						
Potential significant effect	Which features might be affected?	Role of the Core Strategy in Causing This Effect	Likelihood of the Effect Occurring	How has the Core Strategy been Amended to Avoid the Potential Effect	Recommendations for other Parts of the LDF	Conclusion following implementation of suggested amendment: Likelihood of success and any residual significant adverse effect on integrity?
Disturbance and/or degradation associated with increased pressure for recreation.	No significant effect anticipated site is not within 5km of a settlement that the Wiltshire Core Strategy identifies for development.	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable
Water quality and phosphate levels	No pathway for impacts therefore no significant effect anticipated	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable
Potential Changes to the Hydrological Regime of Catchment Areas	No pathway for impacts therefore no significant effect anticipated	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable
Water Abstraction	Site lies outside water resource zones that could be affected by the Wiltshire Core Strategy	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable
Nitrogen Deposition	<p>Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland</p> <p>Exceedence impacts - Increase in tall grasses, decline in diversity, increased mineralization, N leaching; surface acidification.</p> <p>Road transport contributes 9% of deposition compared to 33% from livestock production and 25% from other sources.</p>	<p>Core Policy 1 Settlement Strategy but also applies across all Community Areas.</p> <p>Housing and employment development will generate traffic. The site is within 200m of a major road and there is therefore potential for transport related emissions to impact on the site.</p> <p>Point source emissions also provide potential for pollution.</p>	<p>The SW RSS HRA recommended that Policy RE9 in the Proposed Changes to the South West RSS referenced the need to avoid and where necessary reduce the impacts of air quality problems arising from development on biodiversity, and in particular on Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites. In the supporting text, Local Development Documents and local transport plans should be required to take into account through HRA the potential effects on air quality arising from housing, airport and port development</p>	<p>Policy 55 identifies the role of Low Emission Strategies (Defra 2010) as a way of tackling transport related emissions and the need to consider the potential for air quality impacts on European sites., This is consistent with Core Policy 25 in the South Wiltshire Core Strategy</p> <p>Core Policy 55 amended to state that assessment will be required for new industrial processes located within 10km of a European site.</p>	No further recommendations	No residual adverse effects on site integrity

Rodborough Common SAC						
Potential significant effect	Which features might be affected?	Role of the Core Strategy in Causing This Effect	Likelihood of the Effect Occurring	How has the Core Strategy been Amended to Avoid the Potential Effect	Recommendations for other Parts of the LDF	Conclusion following implementation of suggested amendment: Likelihood of success and any residual significant adverse effect on integrity?
			proposals, including from traffic generated by them, and in particular transport-related schemes, which could adversely affect Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites.			
Potential physical damage due to housing provision/transport infrastructure development	No pathway for impacts therefore no significant effect anticipated	None	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Not applicable

Appendix E: Plans Assessed for Potential for In-Combination Effects

Plan or Programme	Subjected to HRA (Yes/No)	Key issues in HRA and sites considered	Potential for Significant In-Combination Effect with Wiltshire Core Strategy?
The Draft Revised Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West incorporating the Secretary of States Proposed Changes for Public Consultation July 2008 (proposed for revocation)	Yes	<p>South West Regional Spatial Strategy Proposed Changes Habitats Regulations Assessment Final Report July 2008</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Damage due to Housing Provision and Recreation • Physical Damage due to Transport Infrastructure Development and Recreation • Water Abstraction • Water Pollution • Air Pollution • Disturbance from Plane Flight paths <p>Relevant sites considered: Too numerous to list here but the main HRA report for the Wiltshire Core Strategy identifies relevant sites.</p>	<p>No – factors considered in the HRA for the RSS considered for relevant sites in the HRA for the Wiltshire Core Strategy and mitigation put forward as necessary, with the exception of disturbance associated with flight paths – not relevant to the Core Strategy.</p>
South Wiltshire Core Strategy, (Adopted February 2012)	Yes	<p>South Wiltshire Core Strategy Proposed Submission Draft, July 2009: Habitats Regulations Assessment Report Final, July 2009</p> <p>Issues identified:</p> <p>Sites identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River Avon SAC • Salisbury Plain SAC, SPA • Porton Down SPA • Prescombe Down SAC • Chilmark Quarries SAC • Great Yews SAC • Avon Valley SPA, Ramsar site 	<p>No - factors considered in the HRA for the South Wiltshire Core Strategy considered for relevant sites in the HRA for the Wiltshire Core Strategy. Wiltshire Core Strategy also incorporates recommendations from the HRA for the South Wiltshire Core Strategy.</p>

Plan or Programme	Subjected to HRA (Yes/No)	Key issues in HRA and sites considered	Potential for Significant In-Combination Effect with Wiltshire Core Strategy?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset Heaths SAC • Dorset Heathlands SPA, Ramsar site • Fontmell and Melbury Downs SAC • Mells Valley SAC • Mendip Woodlands SAC • Montisfont Bats SAC • New Forest SAC, SPA and Ramsar site • Solent Maritime SAC • Solent & Southampton Water SPA, Ramsar site 	
Wiltshire Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2011 – 2026	Yes	<p>Wiltshire Local Transport Plan 2011 – 2026 Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening, October 2010</p> <p>Issues considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water pollution • Air pollution • Land-take • Disturbance • Mortality • Changes to hydrology • Lighting • Pests/invasive species <p>Sites considered (post screening):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bath & Bradford on Avon Bats SAC; • Kennet & Lambourn floodplain SAC; • New Forest SPA; • Salisbury Plain SPA; • North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC • River Lambourn SAC; and • River Avon SAC. 	No - The HRA for the LTP concluded that potential significant effects could be avoided through mitigation. No likely significant effects (alone or in combination) were identified. No potential for in-combination effects with the Wiltshire Core Strategy identified.
Wiltshire County Council & Swindon	Yes	Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Wiltshire & Swindon Minerals and Waste Core Strategies (July 2008)	No - The appropriate assessment identified that there would be no in-combination effects related to 7 of the sites. Control measures considered to ensure this are: the

Plan or Programme	Subjected to HRA (Yes/No)	Key issues in HRA and sites considered	Potential for Significant In-Combination Effect with Wiltshire Core Strategy?
Borough Council Minerals and Waste Core Strategies (June 2009)		<p>Sites considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bath & Bradford on Avon Bats SAC • Chilmark Quarries SAC • Great Yews SAC • Kennet & Lambourn Floodplain SAC • New Forest SAC, SPA, Ramsar • North Meadon & Clattinger Farm SAC • Pewsey Downs SAC • Porton Down SPA • Prescombe Down SAC • River Avon SAC • Salisbury Plain SAC, SPA • Avon Valley SPA, Ramsar • Dorset Heathlands SAC, SPA • Fontmell and Melbury Downs SAC • Hackpen Hill SAC • Kennet Valley Alderwoods SAC • Mells Valley SAC • Mendip Woodlands SAC • Mottisfont Bats SAC • River Lambourn SAC • Solent and Southampton Water SPA, Ramsar • Solent Maritime SAC <p>Issues considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emissions / particulates • Dust • Noise / light • Odour • Litter • Liquid pollutant • Spores / non-native release • Land take / habitat fragmentation • Topography alterations (change to landscape form) • Contamination / accumulation of toxic substances • Attraction of vermin / invasion / alien species 	<p>need for lower level Development Plan Documents (DPDs), site level design and for the construction and operation to be sensitive to the designated sites in question.</p> <p>Where potential significant effects still exist, this specifically relates to hydrological connectivity in relation to North Meadow & Clattinger Farm SAC and the River Avon SAC. The assessment identifies the need for robust policy wording, mitigation measures within subsequent DPDs and planning consents where appropriate. Such measures should include avoidance of development at sites where hydrological connectivity is found.</p> <p>The Wiltshire Core Strategy contains policies in relation to the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems and specific policies relating to the control of development near the River Avon SAC – no significant in combination effects are anticipated.</p>

Plan or Programme	Subjected to HRA (Yes/No)	Key issues in HRA and sites considered	Potential for Significant In-Combination Effect with Wiltshire Core Strategy?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration potential for wildlife • Alteration of hydrology • Potential for combustion 	
Wiltshire & Swindon Waste Site Allocations DPD (February 2012)*	Yes	<p>Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report (April 2011)</p> <p>Sites considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bath & Bradford on Avon Bat SAC • New Forest SAC, SPA, Ramsar site • North Meadow & Clattinger Farm SAC • Porton Down SPA • River Avon SAC • Salisbury Plain SAC & SPA <p>Issues considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airbourne pollutants (dust & litter) • Discharge to surface/ground water • Potential landtake • Disturbance to habitat • Changes in water chemistry • Increased turbidity • Pollution of Watercourses • Changes to oxygen levels in watercourses • Disturbance to habitat 	<p>No - Although the potential for adverse effects was identified (including disturbance, atmospheric pollution, changes to turbidity and land take) it was considered that appropriate site level mitigation would be available to mitigate these potential effects. Control measures include: robust site management plans and planning conditions to restrict operations to daylight hours in order to avoid disturbance to Stone Curlews. The assessment concluded that the development of waste facilities on the 7 sites will not have likely significant effects on the identified European sites, either alone or in-combination with other plans/projects.</p> <p>Wiltshire Core Strategy already contains measures to protect Stone Curlews. Suggested amendments to the Wiltshire Core Strategy will address the potential for in-combination effects associated with atmospheric pollution.</p>
Swindon Borough Core Strategy and Development Management Policies 2026 (March 2011)	Yes	<p>Habitats Regulations Assessment Report Core Strategy and Development Management Policies (Submission Draft) July 2009 and Update Note March 2011.</p> <p>Issues identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational Pressure 	<p>No – Factors considered in the HRA for the Swindon Core Strategy considered in the HRA for the Wiltshire Core Strategy and avoidance and mitigation put forward as necessary.</p> <p>The Swindon HRA (July 2009) concluded that potential effects associated with recreational pressure could be avoided through management. North Meadow and</p>

Plan or Programme	Subjected to HRA (Yes/No)	Key issues in HRA and sites considered	Potential for Significant In-Combination Effect with Wiltshire Core Strategy?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Resources • Water Quality • Atmospheric Pollution <p>Sites considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain SAC • North Meadow & Clattinger Farm SAC • Pewsey Downs SAC • River Lambourn SAC 	<p>Clattinger Farm SAC, for example, maintenance of the public footpaths and the restriction of access to areas of the site that are being adversely affected.</p> <p>The Swindon HRA (March 2011) concluded that indirect pressures on water resources and water quality, which may lead to likely significant effects, could arise from the predicted growth in demand resulting from new development. The Core Strategy in part would be a cause of this, however, it was assessed that these issues are addressed systematically through water resource planning, regulatory assessments and augmentation / management measures.</p> <p>The Swindon HRA (March 2011) noted that extension to the north and west of Swindon could increase traffic on the A419 and the North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC is within 200m of the A419. However, the current condition assessments for this site indicate that air pollution is not having an adverse effect on the site and that site level management is the key factor in maintaining site integrity.</p>
Vale of White Horse District Council Core Strategy Preferred Options Report (February 2009)	Yes	<p>Habitat Regulations Assessment of the Vale of the White Horse LDF Core Strategy Issues and Options Screening Report – Final November 2008 and additional Statement February 2009.</p> <p>Issues considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urbanisation (fly tipping, cat predation) • Recreation • Atmospheric pollution • Water resources • Water quality 	<p>No – Vale of White Horse HRA acknowledges that issues around urbanisation are only relevant where development is in close proximity to a European site (500 metres).</p> <p>Factors considered in the HRA for the Vale of White Horse Core Strategy considered in the HRA for the Wiltshire Core Strategy and avoidance and mitigation put forward as necessary.</p>

Plan or Programme	Subjected to HRA (Yes/No)	Key issues in HRA and sites considered	Potential for Significant In-Combination Effect with Wiltshire Core Strategy?
		Sites considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cothill Fen SAC • Hackpen Hill SAC • Aston Rowant SAC • Hartslock Wood SAC • Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain SAC • Kennet Valley Alderwoods SAC • Little Wittenham SAC • North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC • Oxford Meadows SAC • River Lambourn SAC 	
West Berkshire Core Submission Draft Strategy was submitted to the Secretary of State on 9 July 2010. Further consultation was undertaken in December 2011 following suspension of the Examination by the Inspector.	Yes	Habitats Regulations Assessment of the West Berkshire Core Strategy, July 2010. Issues considered <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality • Water abstraction • Recreation/disturbance Sites considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain SAC • River Lambourn SAC • Kennet Valley Alderwoods SAC 	No – Factors considered in the HRA for the West Berkshire Core Strategy considered in the HRA for the Wiltshire Core Strategy and avoidance and mitigation put forward as necessary. No significant effects around water quality and water abstraction identified in the West Berkshire HRA. Mitigation in place for anticipated recreational issues for the Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain SAC.
Draft West Oxfordshire Core Strategy January 2011	Yes	HRA integrated with Sustainability Appraisal – see West Oxfordshire Local Development Framework Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, December 2009.	No – Assessment work undertaken to date for West Oxfordshire Core Strategy does not identify any additional issues not already considered in the HRA for the Wiltshire Core Strategy.

Plan or Programme	Subjected to HRA (Yes/No)	Key issues in HRA and sites considered	Potential for Significant In-Combination Effect with Wiltshire Core Strategy?
Cotswold District Core Strategy Second Issues and Options Consultation Paper (December 2010)	No	Habitats Regulations Assessment yet to commence. A Scoping Report for the Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment was produced in 2008.	No – relevant sites are likely to include Cotswolds Beachwood SAC and North Meadow & Clattinger Farm SAC. The HRA for the Wiltshire Core Strategy has already considered these sites and no in-combination effects are anticipated.
North Dorset District Council Draft Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD (March 2010)	Yes	<p>Habitats Regulations Assessment of the North Dorset Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD, Preferred Options, 2009.</p> <p>Issues considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation • Impacts of recreation and housing, • Water issues: abstraction and water quality issues relating in particular to • Air quality issues for sites within 200m of roads • Implications of increased traffic on the management of Lydlinch Common (Rooksmoor SAC). <p>Sites considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA/Ramsar, • Fontmell and Melbury Downs SAC, • the New Forest SAC/SPA/Ramsar • Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar. • Rooksmoor SAC, • the Avon Valley sites (SAC/SPA/Ramsar), Fontmell 	<p>No - Assessment work undertaken to date for West Oxfordshire Core Strategy does not identify any additional relevant issues not already considered in the HRA for the Wiltshire Core Strategy.</p> <p>The HRA for the North Dorset Core Strategy suggests further work is needed to clarify the level of impact associated with air quality and for the management of Lydlinch Common (Rooksmoor SAC) but in any event the Wiltshire Core Strategy is unlikely to contribute to such impacts because of the distance from the Wiltshire Core Strategy plan area to the SAC which falls outside the 15km buffer used for screening purposes.</p>
Christchurch Borough Council and East Dorset District Council Core Strategy Options	Yes	<p>Christchurch and East Dorset Joint Core Strategy options consultation document – Habitats Regulations Assessment Report, September 2010.</p> <p>Issues considered:</p>	No - Assessment work undertaken to date for Christchurch Borough Council and East Dorset Borough Council Core Strategy does not identify any additional relevant issues not already considered in the HRA for the Wiltshire Core Strategy. Issues around physical damage loss are associated with potential road improvements

Plan or Programme	Subjected to HRA (Yes/No)	Key issues in HRA and sites considered	Potential for Significant In-Combination Effect with Wiltshire Core Strategy?
(October 2010)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical loss or damage to habitat • Recreation or 'urban pressures' • Noise and light pollution • Air pollution • Water quality and quantity <p>Sites considered (after screening):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset Heathlands SPA and Ramsar site • Dorset Heaths SAC • River Avon SAC • Avon Valley SPA and Ramsar site • New Forest SAC/SPA/Ramsar 	<p>within that plan area.</p> <p>The HRA identifies the potential for impacts on the River Avon SAC and Avon Valley SPA and Ramsar site associated with a Bypass for Christchurch but no alignment is proposed and any effects are likely to be local in nature (could only occur if the provisions of the Habitats Directive were complied with and no in-combination effects are anticipated.</p>
New Forest District Council Core Strategy (adopted October 2009)	Yes	<p>Screening Statement and Appropriate Assessment for New Forest District Council Core Strategy - Submission document, September 2008.</p> <p>Issues considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor pressure on sensitive habitats, in particular the New Forest and coastal Special Protection Areas for birds • Water abstraction to serve new development • Water pollution e.g. arising from sewage and effluent disposal • Air pollution and noise disturbance, in particular from traffic <p>Sites considered:</p>	<p>No - Assessment work undertaken for the New Forest District Council Core Strategy does not identify any additional issues not already considered in the HRA for the Wiltshire Core Strategy.</p>

Plan or Programme	Subjected to HRA (Yes/No)	Key issues in HRA and sites considered	Potential for Significant In-Combination Effect with Wiltshire Core Strategy?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River Avon SAC • Avon Valley SPA • Avon Valley Ramsar • Dorset Heathlands SAC • Dorset Heathlands SPA • Dorset Heathlands Ramsar • The New Forest SAC • New Forest SPA • The New Forest Ramsar • Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC • Solent Maritime SAC • Solent and Southampton Water SPA • Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar 	
New Forest National Park Core Strategy Submission (February	Yes	New Forest National Park Authority Core Strategy and Development Management Policies. Habitat Regulations Assessment Report January 2010	No - Assessment work undertaken for the New Forest National Park Core Strategy does not identify any additional relevant issues not already considered in the HRA for the Wiltshire Core Strategy.

Plan or Programme	Subjected to HRA (Yes/No)	Key issues in HRA and sites considered	Potential for Significant In-Combination Effect with Wiltshire Core Strategy?
2010)		<p>Issues considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational pressure on the New Forest SAC, SPA and Ramsar and the Solent Maritime SAC and Solent & Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar • Urbanisation (including cat predation) • The potential for interruption of commuting routes and possible disruption of foraging for barbastelle bats arising from the Mottisfont Bats SAC <p>Sites considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solent Maritime SAC; • Southampton and Solent Water SPA and Ramsar sites; • Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC. • Mottisfont Bats SAC 	<p>The Wiltshire Core Strategy will not contribute to issues associated with urbanisation and potential impacts on Mottisfont Bats SAC.</p>
Test Valley Borough Council Core Strategy Regulation 25 Version January 2012.	Yes	<p>Test Valley Core Strategy – Preferred Development Options Further Habitats Regulations Screening Report Background Paper, July 2008.</p> <p>Issues Considered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor pressure • Hydro-ecology (Emer Bog SAC) • Urbanisation • Water quality 	<p>No - Assessment work undertaken for the Test Valley Core Strategy does not identify any additional relevant issues not already considered in the HRA for the Wiltshire Core Strategy.</p> <p>The Wiltshire Core Strategy will not contribute to issues associated with urbanisation and potential impacts on Mottisfont Bats SAC.</p>

Plan or Programme	Subjected to HRA (Yes/No)	Key issues in HRA and sites considered	Potential for Significant In-Combination Effect with Wiltshire Core Strategy?
		Sites Considered <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emer Bog SAC • Mottisfont Bats SAC • The New Forest SAC,SPA and Ramsar • The Solent Maritime SAC and Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar 	The Wiltshire Core Strategy will not contribute to issues associated with Emor Bog SAC.
South Gloucestershire Council Core Strategy 2011 Core Strategy incorporating Post-Submission Changes, December 2011	Yes	Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the pre-submission draft of the South Gloucestershire Core Strategy, March 2011 Issues considered: Sites considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avon Gorge Woodlands SAC • Bath & Bradford on Avon Bats SAC • Chew Valley Lake SPA • River Usk/Afon Wysg SAC • River Wye/Afon Gwy SAC • Severn Estuary SPA and SAC • Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC 	No - Assessment work undertaken for the South Gloucestershire Core Strategy does not identify any additional relevant issues not already considered in the HRA for the Wiltshire Core Strategy.

Plan or Programme	Subjected to HRA (Yes/No)	Key issues in HRA and sites considered	Potential for Significant In-Combination Effect with Wiltshire Core Strategy?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wye Valley Woodlands/Coetrioedd Dyffryn Gwy SAC <p>Issues considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in water levels, water quality, including impact on fish species • Recreational pressure. • Changes to management regimes • Air quality. • Air quality • Loss of supporting habitat in floodplain used by qualifying migratory birds 	
Bath and North East Somerset Council Submission Draft May 2011	Yes	<p>Habitat Regulation Assessment for the Bath & North East Somerset Draft Core Strategy Publication Document, November 2010, HRA updated 2013.</p> <p>Issues considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss & damage to roost sites • Disturbance to bats • Loss & damage of foraging habitats • Loss & damage of flight-lines • Damage to habitat through reduction of water levels • Damage to habitat through changes to water quality; • Disturbance to birds <p>Sites considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bath & Bradford on Avon SAC • North Somerset and Mendip SAC • Mells Valley SAC • Chew Valley Lake SPA. 	No - Assessment work undertaken for the Bath and North East Somerset Core Strategy does not identify any additional relevant issues not already considered in the HRA for the Wiltshire Core Strategy.
Mendip District Council Core Strategy Draft	Yes	Habitats Regulations Assessment – Core Strategy (Preferred Option), January 2011.	No - Assessment work undertaken for the Mendip Core Strategy does not identify any additional relevant issues not already considered in the HRA for the Wiltshire

Plan or Programme	Subjected to HRA (Yes/No)	Key issues in HRA and sites considered	Potential for Significant In-Combination Effect with Wiltshire Core Strategy?
Preferred Options 2011		<p>Issues considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of Habitat • Loss of Supporting Habitat • Habitat Fragmentation Impacts • Proximity Impacts • Hydrological Impacts • Impacts for Increased Use of Roads • Impacts from Recreational Pressure • Impacts from Renewable Energy Schemes <p>Sites considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mells Valley SAC • Mendip Woodlands SAC • North Somerset and Mendip Bats SAC • Chew Valley Lake SPA (Bath & North East Somerset) • Bathand Bradford-on-Avon Bats SAC (Bath & North East Somerset) <p>..</p>	Core Strategy.
South Somerset District Council Core Strategy Draft (October 2010)	Yes	<p>South Somerset District Council draft Core Strategy incorporating preferred options</p> <p>Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Somerset Levels and Moors International Sites South Somerset District Council 5 October 2010</p> <p>Issues considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased disturbance to birds from recreational activities; • Impacts upon invertebrates owing to reductions in water quality; and • Impacts upon birds from renewable energy infrastructure (especially wind turbines) along or in proximity to flight lines. 	No - Assessment work undertaken for the South Somerset Core Strategy does not identify any additional relevant issues not already considered in the HRA for the Wiltshire Core Strategy.

Plan or Programme	Subjected to HRA (Yes/No)	Key issues in HRA and sites considered	Potential for Significant In-Combination Effect with Wiltshire Core Strategy?
		Sites considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Somerset Levels and Moors SPA and Ramsar 	

Appendix F: Screening of Saved Policies

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
Kennet District Local Plan - Adopted April 2004			
PD1 Development & Design	No - Replaced by CP57	N/A	N/A
HC1 Strategic housing provision	No - Replaced by CP1,CP2 and the Area Strategies.	N/A	N/A
HC2 Housing allocations	No in relation to the following policies which have not been saved: Quakers Walk, Devizes (230 dwellings) – site is already under development Roundway Mill, Devizes (30 dwellings) – built out Former Le Marchant Barracks, Devizes (50 dwellings) – built out Naughton Avenue, Devizes (100 dwellings) – site is already under development Chopping Knife Lane, Marlborough (150 dwellings) – site is already under development Pewsey Hospital Phase II (110 dwellings) – built out	N/A	N/A
HC2 Housing allocations	Yes - saved allocations:		
	The North Gate/Wharf/Devizes Hospital (150 dwellings)	B	The 'Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA 2012' report identified the potential for development in this settlement to have the potential to lead to effects in relation to recreation, water and air quality at the following European sites: Porton Down SPA, Salisbury Plain SPA and SAC, Solent and Southampton SPA, Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC, North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC, Pewsey Downs SAC, River Avon SAC, Cotswolds and Beechwood SAC and Rodborough Common SAC. It has been assessed within Appendix D of the 'Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA 2012' report that Core Strategy policy 50 'Biodiversity and Geodiversity' states that all development which may affect SPAs will be required to deliver appropriate mitigation measures. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. In addition, potential for such effects should be kept under review through further HRAs of relevant LDF documents and screening under the Habitats Regulations for individual planning applications. Therefore, significant effects are not anticipated as a result of this allocation in relation to recreation. In terms of water quality effects, Core Strategy policies 41 and 68 relate to improved water consumption in both residential and non-residential developments. Both

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
			<p>policies contribute to the achievement of demand management measures in the WRMP area. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. No significant effects are anticipated as a result of this allocation in relation to water quality.</p> <p>Core Strategy policy 55 'Air Quality' suggests avoidance and monitoring measures for new developments in relation to air quality. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. Significant effects in relation to air quality are therefore not anticipated as a result of this allocation.</p> <p>The allocation has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.</p>
	Garden Centre, Granby Gardens, Ludgershall (130 dwellings)	B	<p>The 'Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA 2012' report identified the potential for development in this settlement to lead to effects in relation to recreation, water and air quality at the following sites: Porton Down SPA, Salisbury Plain SPA and SAC, Solent and Southampton SPA, Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain SAC, North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC, River Avon SAC, Hackpen Hill SAC, Kennet Valley Alderwoods SAC, River Lambourn SAC, Cotswolds and Beechwood SAC and Rodborough Common SAC.</p> <p>It has been assessed within Appendix D of the 'Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA 2012' report that Core Strategy policy 50 'Biodiversity and Geodiversity' states that all development which may affect SPAs will be required to deliver appropriate mitigation measures. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. In addition, potential for such effects should be kept under review through further HRAs of relevant LDF documents and screening under the Habitats Regulations for individual planning applications. Therefore, significant effects are not anticipated as a result of this allocation in relation to recreation.</p> <p>In terms of water quality effects, Core Strategy policies 41 and 68 relate to improved water consumption in both residential and non-residential developments. Both policies contribute to the achievement of demand management measures in the WRMP area. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. No significant effects are anticipated as a result of this allocation in relation to water quality.</p> <p>Core Strategy policy 55 'Air Quality' suggests avoidance and monitoring measures for new developments in relation to air quality. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. Significant effects in relation to air quality are therefore not anticipated as a result of this allocation.</p> <p>The allocation has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.</p>
	Broomcroft Road/Avonside area, Pewsey (30 dwellings)	B	Any development at this location would need to comply with Core Policies 18 and 50. These are judged to provide sufficient protection.
	North East Quadrant, Tidworth (150 dwellings)		The 'Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA 2012' report identified the potential for

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies

Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
			<p>development in this settlement to lead to effects in relation to recreation, water and air quality at the following sites: Porton Down SPA, Salisbury Plain SPA and SAC, Solent and Southampton SPA, Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain SAC, North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC, River Avon SAC, Hackpen Hill SAC, Kennet Valley Alderwoods SAC, River Lambourn SAC, Cotswolds and Beechwood SAC and Rodborough Common SAC.</p> <p>It has been assessed within Appendix D of the 'Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA 2012' report that Core Strategy policy 50 'Biodiversity and Geodiversity' states that all development which may affect SPAs will be required to deliver appropriate mitigation measures. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. In addition, potential for such effects should be kept under review through further HRAs of relevant LDF documents and screening under the Habitats Regulations for individual planning applications. Therefore, significant effects are not anticipated as a result of this allocation in relation to recreation.</p> <p>In terms of water quality effects, Core Strategy policies 41 and 68 relate to improved water consumption in both residential and non-residential developments. Both policies contribute to the achievement of demand management measures in the WRMP area. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. No significant effects are anticipated as a result of this allocation in relation to water quality.</p> <p>Core Strategy policy 55 'Air Quality' suggests avoidance and monitoring measures for new developments in relation to air quality. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. Significant effects in relation to air quality are therefore not anticipated as a result of this allocation.</p> <p>The allocation has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.</p>
HC5 Net housing density	No -Replaced by CP57	N/A	
HC6 Efficient use of land	No- Replaced by CP57	N/A	
HC7 Housing layout	No -Replaced by CP57	N/A	
HC9 Quakers Walk	No - Do not continue to save.	N/A	
HC10 The North Gate, the Wharf and Devizes Hospital	Yes - Continue to save.	B	This community area lies adjacent to the Salisbury Plain SAC/SPA. Policy 50 is judged to provide sufficient safeguards. The allocation has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.
HC11 Devizes Hospital	Yes - Continue to save.	B	The above comment also applies to this site.
HC12 Roundway Mill	No - Development complete, policy not saved.	N/A	
HC13 Former Le Marchant Barracks	No - Development complete, policy not saved	N/A	

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
HC14 Naughton Avenue, Devizes	No - Development complete, policy not saved	N/A	
HC15 Chopping Knife Lane	No - Permitted development under construction, policy not saved.	N/A	
HC16 Garden Centre, Granby Gardens	Yes - Continue to save.	B	This community area lies adjacent to the Salisbury Plain SAC/SPA. Both policies 26 and 50 are judged to provide sufficient safeguards. The allocation has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.
HC17 Pewsey Hospital Phase II	No - Development complete, policy not saved.	N/A	
HC18 Broomcroft Road/Avonside area	Yes - Continue to save.	B	Allocation falls within 5km of the River Avon SAC in Pewsey. Any development at this location would need to comply with Core Policies 18 and 50. These are judged to provide sufficient protection.
HC19 North East Quadrant	Yes - Continue to save.	B	This community area lies adjacent to the Salisbury Plain SAC/SPA. Both policies 26 and 50 are judged to provide sufficient safeguards. The allocation has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.
HC20 Old Rectory/Portando House	No - Development complete, policy not saved.	N/A	
HC22 Villages with a range of facilities	No - Replaced by CP1 and CP2	N/A	
HC23 Housing in Avebury	No -Replaced by CP1 and CP2	N/A	
HC24 Villages with limited facilities	No -Replaced by CP1 and CP2	N/A	
HC25 Replacement of existing dwellings	Yes - Continue to save.	B	Any proposals to replace dwellings would need to be consistent with Core Policy 50.
HC26 Housing in the countryside	No - Replaced by CP1, CP2 and CP48	N/A	
HC28 Affordable homes target	No - Replaced by CP43	N/A	
HC29 Definition of affordable housing	No - Replaced by CP43	N/A	
HC30 Affordable Housing on Large Sites	No - Replaced by CP43	N/A	
HC31 Integration of affordable	No -Replaced by CP43	N/A	

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
housing			
HC32 Affordable Housing Contributions in Rural Areas	No - Replaced by CP43	N/A	
HC33 Rural Exceptions Policy	No - Replaced by CP44	N/A	
HC34 Recreation provision on large housing sites	Yes - Continue to save.	A4	Provision of recreational space will also need to be consistent with other policies in the Core Strategy.
HC35 Recreation provision on small housing sites	Yes - Continue to save.	A4	Provision of recreational space will also need to be consistent with other policies in the Core Strategy.
HC37 Demand for Education	Yes - Continue to save.	B	The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
HC38 New Primary School in Devizes	No - Permitted development, policy not saved.	N/A	
HC42 Additional social & community needs	No - Replaced by CP3	N/A	
HC45 Gypsy sites	No- Replaced by CP47	N/A	
ED1 Strategic employment allocations	No – Policy not saved, general allocations policy which is no-longer needed.	N/A	
ED3 Nursteed Road, Devizes	Yes - Continue to save.	B	This community area lies adjacent to the Salisbury Plain SAC/SPA. Policy 50 is judged to provide sufficient safeguards. The allocation has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.
ED4 Hambleton Avenue, Devizes	No – Policy not saved, employment potential has been eroded and the remaining area could not be classed as a strategic site.	N/A	
ED5 Marlborough Road, Pewsey	Yes - Continue to save.	B	Any development at this location would need to comply with Core Policies 18 and 50. These are judged to provide sufficient protection.
ED7 Protect strategic employment sites	No - Replaced by CP35	N/A	
ED8 Employment development on unallocated sites	No - Replaced by CP34	N/A	
ED9 Rural employment locations	No -Replaced by CP34	N/A	
ED10 Employment	No - Replaced by CP34	N/A	

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
development within or on the edge of villages			
ED11 Employment Development in Avebury	No - Replaced by CP34 and CP59	N/A	
ED12 Protecting employment and within villages	No - Replaced by CP35) and CP39	N/A	
ED13 Protecting employment and tourism uses on the edge of villages	No - Replaced by CP35, CP39 and CP48	N/A	
ED16 Farm shops	No - Replaced by CP48	N/A	
ED17 Town centre development	No - Replaced by CP58 and CP38	N/A	
ED18 Prime shopping areas	Yes - Continue to save.	B	The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
ED19 Devizes and Marlborough Town Centres	Yes - Continue to save.	B	The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
ED20 Retail Development in Devizes Town Centre	Yes - Continue to save.	B	The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
ED21 The North gate, The Wharf and Devizes Hospital	Yes - Continue to save.	B	This community area lies adjacent to the Salisbury Plain SAC/SPA. Policy 50 is judged to provide sufficient safeguards. The allocation has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.
ED22 Lower Wharf, Devizes	Yes - Continue to save.	B	This community area lies adjacent to the Salisbury Plain SAC/SPA. Policy 50 is judged to provide sufficient safeguards. The allocation has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.
ED24 New development in service centres	Yes - Continue to save.	B	The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
ED28 Shopping facilities in rural areas	No -Replaced by CP48	N/A	
ED29 Retention of social & community uses	No - Replaced CP49	N/A	
AT1 Transport appraisal process	No - Replaced by CP61 and CP62	N/A	

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
AT9 Motor vehicle parking standards	No - Replaced by CP64	N/A	
AT10 Developer contributions	No - Replaced by CP3 and CP61	N/A	
AT18 Intermodal freight facilities	No - Replaced by CP65	N/A	
AT24 Riverside walks in Marlborough and Pewsey	Yes - Continue to save.	B	<p>The policy states in part that the Council proposes the establishment of a riverside walk in Marlborough and Pewsey. Development or redevelopment of land within 5 metres of the banks of the River Kennet within the Limits of Development of Marlborough, and the River Avon within the Limits of Development of Pewsey, should contribute to the establishment of a riverside walk and the enhancement of the amenities of the riverside.</p> <p>Wiltshire Core Policy 69 'Protection of the River Avon SAC' would be a material consideration in relation to development at Pewsey.</p> <p>Saved Policy AT24 has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.</p>
AT25 A342 –A3026 Western Link Road	Yes - Continue to save.	B	<p>The policy states in part that The District Council will protect a line for the construction of a road to link the A342 and the A3026 to the west of Ludgershall. The alignment is approximately 2.5km east of Salisbury Plain SAC / SPA.</p> <p>Due to the distance from the European site, this policy is not deemed to have a significant effect and has therefore been screening out.</p>
NR3 Local sites	No - Replaced by CP50	N/A	
NR4 Nature conservation outside designated sites	No - Replaced by CP50	N/A	
NR6 Sustainability and protection of the countryside	No - Replaced by CP1 and CP2	N/A	
NR7 Protection of the landscape	No - Replaced by CP51	N/A	
NR19 Renewable energy proposals	No - Replaced by CP42	N/A	
HH1 Protection of archaeological remains	No - Replaced by CP58	N/A	
HH3 Avebury World Heritage Site	No - Replaced by CP59	N/A	

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
HH10 Areas of minimum change	No - Replaced by CP57	N/A	
HH11 Marlborough area of special quality	No - Replaced by CP57	N/A	
TR2 Facilities for boat users on the Kennet and Avon Canal	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	The policy states in part that, with the exception of the proposals at Caen Hill Flight and Martinslade/Upper Foxhangers, proposals for facilities for boat users will be restricted to the redevelopment, improvement or modest extension of existing canalside infrastructure at Devizes Wharf, Devizes Marina, Horton Bridge, Honeystreet Wharf, Pewsey Wharf, Burbage Wharf and Great Bedwyn Wharf. Any proposals would be subject to screening under the Habitats Regulations and, if necessary, Appropriate Assessment. Wiltshire Core Policy 69 'Protection of the River Avon SAC' would also be a material consideration. Saved Policy TR2 has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.
TR4 Permanent off-channel boating facilities at Martinslade/Upper Foxhangers	No – Policy not saved, already complete.	N/A	
TR6 Tourist facilities in the Avebury World Heritage Site	Yes - Continue to save.	A3	This is a criteria based policy relating to the provision of facilities for tourists. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
TR7 Facilities for visitors to Avebury	Yes - Continue to save.	A3	This is a criteria based policy relating to the provision of facilities for visitors to the site. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
TR8 Visitor accommodation in the Avebury World Heritage Site	Yes - Continue to save.	A3	This policy relates to the conversion of buildings in the site to provide hostel/budget accommodation and study facilities. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
TR9 Car parking in Avebury World Heritage Site	Yes - Continue to save.	A2, A4	The policy sets out criteria for a car park off the A4361 to the north side of the Henge, or other small car parks which would disperse visitor pressure within the Avebury World Heritage Site. The area of search is not close to any European sites and the policy is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
TR17 Existing Outdoor Sport &	Yes - Continue to save.		This policy relates to the protection of existing outdoor sport and recreation facilities.

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
Recreation Facilities			In addition to this policy, any proposals would need to demonstrate compliance with Wiltshire Core Policy 50 'Biodiversity and geodiversity' and Wiltshire Core Policy 69 'Protection of the River Avon SAC'. Policy TR17 has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.
TR20 Protection of allotments	Yes - Continue to save.	A3	The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
North Wiltshire Local Plan 2011-Adopted June 2006			
C1 Sustainability Core Policy	No - Replaced by CP1 and CP57	N/A	
C2 Community Infrastructure Core Policy	No - Replaced by CP3	N/A	
C3 Development Control Core Policy	No - Replaced by CP57	N/A	
C4 Business Development Core Policy	No - Replaced by CP35	N/A	
NE1 Western Wiltshire Green Belt	No – No longer required, repeats PPG2 / draft NPPF. However GB boundary must be shown on proposals map.	N/A	
NE4 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	Yes - Continue to save.	A2, A3	The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
NE5 Nature Conservation Sites of International Importance	No - No longer required. Repeats national policy / legislation.	N/A	
NE6 Nature Conservation Sites of National Importance	No – No longer required. Repeats national policy / legislation.	N/A	
NE7 Nature Conservation Sites of Local Importance	No - Replaced by CP50	N/A	
NE8 Nature Conservation Sites in the Cotswold Water Park	No - Replaced by CP50	N/A	
NE9 Protection of Species	No – no longer required. Repeats national policy / legislation.	N/A	
NE10 Managing Nature Conservation Features	No - Replaced by CP50	N/A	
NE11 Conserving Biodiversity	No - Replaced by CP50	N/A	

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
NE12 Woodland	Yes - Continue to save.	A2, A3	The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
NE13 The Great Western Community Forest	No - Replaced by CP52	N/A	
NE14 Trees and the control of new development	Yes - Continue to save.	A2	The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
NE15 The landscape character of the countryside	No - Replaced by CP51	N/A	
NE16 Renewable energy	No - Replaced by CP42	N/A	
NE17 Contaminated land	No - Replaced by CP56	N/A	
NE18 Noise and pollution	Yes - Continue to save.	A2, A3	The policy is intended to protect the environment, no significant effects alone or in-combination anticipated.
NE19 Ministry of Defence land	No - Replaced by CP37	N/A	
NE20 Re-use of military establishments in the countryside	No - Replaced by CP37	N/A	
HE1 Development in Conservation Areas	No - Replaced by CP58	N/A	
HE2 Demolition in Conservation Areas	No - Replaced by CP58	N/A	
HE3 Historic Parks and Gardens	No - Replaced by CP58	N/A	
HE4 Development, demolition or alterations involving listed buildings	No - Replaced by CP58	N/A	
HE5 Scheduled Ancient Monuments and nationally important features	No - Replaced by CP58	N/A	
HE6 Locally important archaeological sites	No - Replaced by CP58	N/A	
HE7 Enabling development – historic environment	No - Replaced by CP58	N/A	

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
HE8 Archaeological evaluation	No - Replaced by CP58	N/A	
T1 Minimising the need to travel	No - Replaced by CP60 and CP61	N/A	
T2 Transport Assessment and Travel Plans	No - Replaced by CP61	N/A	
T3 Parking	No - Replaced by CP64	N/A	
T4 Cycling, Walking and Public Transport	No - Replaced by CP61	N/A	
T5 Safeguarding	Yes - Continue to save.	A1/A3	This policy relates to the protection of existing public rights of way at specified locations. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
H1 Required level of residential development	No - No longer relevant, refers to period 1991-2011.	N/A	
H2 Allocated residential sites	Not in relation to the following, policies not saved: Works Site, Pound Mead/Valley Road, Corsham (20 dwellings) – site is already under development. Works Site, Pound Mead, Corsham (20 dwellings) – site is already under development. Cattlemarket Site, Cocklebury Road, Chippenham (as part of a mixed use scheme) (150 dwellings) - site is largely developed, remainder expected to be developed in coming years. Flowers Site, Wood Lane, Chippenham (as part of a mixed use scheme) (50 dwellings) – built out. Works Site, The Forty, Cricklade (12 dwellings) – site is already under development. Outdoor Swimming Pool, Malmesbury (18 dwellings) – built out. The Elms, Green Lane, Sherston (12 dwellings) – built out. Former St Ivel Site, Wootton Bassett (as part of a mixed use scheme) (280 dwellings) – site is already under development. Filands School, Malmesbury (140 dwellings) – built out. Springfield School, Calne (110 dwellings) - the school is not intended to be closed and so is undeliverable for housing. Goldney Avenue, Chippenham (60 dwellings) – built out.	N/A	

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
	Primary School, Tetbury Hill, Malmesbury (30 dwellings) – built out.		
H2 Allocated residential sites	Yes - Continue to save the following allocations:		
	Quemerford House and Land, Calne (16 dwellings)	B	<p>The 'Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA 2012' report identified the potential for development in this settlement to lead to effects in relation to recreation, water and air quality at the following sites: Porton Down SPA, Salisbury Plain SPA and SAC, Solent and Southampton SPA, Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC, North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC, Pewsey Downs SAC, River Avon SAC, Cotswolds and Beechwood SAC and Rodborough Common SAC.</p> <p>It has been assessed within Appendix D of the 'Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA 2012' report that Core Strategy policy 50 'Biodiversity and Geodiversity' states that all development which may affect SPAs will be required to deliver appropriate mitigation measures. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. In addition, potential for such effects should be kept under review through further HRAs of relevant LDF documents and screening under the Habitats Regulations for individual planning applications. Therefore, significant effects are not anticipated as a result of this allocation in relation to recreation.</p> <p>In terms of water quality effects, Core Strategy policies 41 and 68 relate to improved water consumption in both residential and non-residential developments. Both policies contribute to the achievement of demand management measures in the WRMP area. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. No significant effects are anticipated as a result of this allocation in relation to water quality.</p> <p>Core Strategy policy 55 'Air Quality' suggests avoidance and monitoring measures for new developments in relation to air quality. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. Significant effects in relation to air quality are therefore not anticipated as a result of this allocation.</p> <p>The allocation has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.</p>
	Lower Quemerford Mill, Calne (12 dwellings)	B	The above comment also applies to this site.
	Works, Cocklebury Road, Chippenham (as part of a mixed use scheme) (66 dwellings)	B	<p>The 'Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA 2012' report identified the potential for development in this settlement to lead to effects in relation to recreation, water and air quality at the following sites: Porton Down SPA, Salisbury Plain SPA and SAC, Solent and Southampton SPA, Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC, North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC, Pewsey Downs SAC, River Avon SAC, Cotswolds and Beechwood SAC and Rodborough Common SAC.</p> <p>It has been assessed within Appendix D of the 'Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA 2012' report that Core Strategy policy 50 'Biodiversity and Geodiversity' states that all development which may affect SPAs will be required to deliver appropriate mitigation measures. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. In</p>

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
			<p>addition, potential for such effects should be kept under review through further HRAs of relevant LDF documents and screening under the Habitats Regulations for individual planning applications. Therefore, significant effects are not anticipated as a result of this allocation in relation to recreation.</p> <p>In terms of water quality effects, Core Strategy policies 41 and 68 relate to improved water consumption in both residential and non-residential developments. Both policies contribute to the achievement of demand management measures in the WRMP area. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. No significant effects are anticipated as a result of this allocation in relation to water quality.</p> <p>Core Strategy policy 55 'Air Quality' suggests avoidance and monitoring measures for new developments in relation to air quality. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. Significant effects in relation to air quality are therefore not anticipated as a result of this allocation.</p> <p>The allocation has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.</p>
	Foundary Lane, Chippenham (as part of a mixed use scheme) (250 dwellings)	B	The above comment also applies to this site.
	Land at Preston Lane, Lyneham (15 dwellings)	B	<p>The 'Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA 2012' report identified the potential for development in this settlement to lead to effects in relation to recreation, water and air quality at the following sites: Porton Down SPA, Salisbury Plain SPA and SAC, Solent and Southampton SPA, Kennet and Lambourn SAC, North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC, River Avon SAC, Hackpen Hill SAC, Kennet Valley Alderwoods SAC, River Lambourn SAC, Cotswolds and Beechwood SAC and Rodborough Common SAC.</p> <p>It has been assessed within Appendix D of the 'Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA 2012' report that Core Strategy policy 50 'Biodiversity and Geodiversity' states that all development which may affect SPAs will be required to deliver appropriate mitigation measures. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. In addition, potential for such effects should be kept under review through further HRAs of relevant LDF documents and screening under the Habitats Regulations for individual planning applications. Therefore, significant effects are not anticipated as a result of this allocation in relation to recreation.</p> <p>In terms of water quality effects, Core Strategy policies 41 and 68 relate to improved water consumption in both residential and non-residential developments. Both policies contribute to the achievement of demand management measures in the WRMP area. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. No significant effects are anticipated as a result of this allocation in relation to water quality.</p> <p>Core Strategy policy 55 'Air Quality' suggests avoidance and monitoring measures for new developments in relation to air quality. Any development at this location</p>

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
			would need to comply with the policy. Significant effects in relation to air quality are therefore not anticipated as a result of this allocation. The allocation has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.
	AB Carter Haulage Contractors, 14 Happy Land, Ashton Keynes (11 dwellings)	B	<p>The 'Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA 2012' report identified the potential for development in this settlement to lead to effects in relation to recreation, water and air quality at the following sites: Porton Down SPA, Salisbury Plain SPA and SAC, Solent and Southampton SPA, Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC, North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC, Pewsey Downs SAC, River Avon SAC, Cotswolds and Beechwood SAC and Rodborough Common SAC.</p> <p>It has been assessed within Appendix D of the 'Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA 2012' report that Core Strategy policy 50 'Biodiversity and Geodiversity' states that all development which may affect SPAs will be required to deliver appropriate mitigation measures. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. In addition, potential for such effects should be kept under review through further HRAs of relevant LDF documents and screening under the Habitats Regulations for individual planning applications. Therefore, significant effects are not anticipated as a result of this allocation in relation to recreation.</p> <p>In terms of water quality effects, Core Strategy policies 41 and 68 relate to improved water consumption in both residential and non-residential developments. Both policies contribute to the achievement of demand management measures in the WRMP area. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. No significant effects are anticipated as a result of this allocation in relation to water quality.</p> <p>Core Strategy policy 55 'Air Quality' suggests avoidance and monitoring measures for new developments in relation to air quality. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. Significant effects in relation to air quality are therefore not anticipated as a result of this allocation.</p> <p>The allocation has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.</p>
	Brook Farm, Great Somerford (30 dwellings)	B	The above comment also applies to this site.
	Chicken Factory, Sutton Benger (60 dwellings as part of a mixed use development)	B	The above comment also applies to this site.
	Rugby Club, Stoneover Lane, Wootton Bassett (100 dwellings)	B	<p>The 'Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA 2012' report identified the potential for development in this settlement to lead to effects in relation to recreation, water and air quality at the following sites: Porton Down SPA, Salisbury Plain SPA and SAC, Solent and Southampton SPA, Kennet and Lambourn SAC, North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC, River Avon SAC, Hackpen Hill SAC, Kennet Valley Alderwoods SAC, River Lambourn SAC, Cotswolds and Beechwood SAC and Rodborough Common SAC.</p>

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies

Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
			<p>It has been assessed within Appendix D of the 'Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA 2012' report that Core Strategy policy 50 'Biodiversity and Geodiversity' states that all development which may affect SPAs will be required to deliver appropriate mitigation measures. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. In addition, potential for such effects should be kept under review through further HRAs of relevant LDF documents and screening under the Habitats Regulations for individual planning applications. Therefore, significant effects are not anticipated as a result of this allocation in relation to recreation.</p> <p>In terms of water quality effects, Core Strategy policies 41 and 68 relate to improved water consumption in both residential and non-residential developments. Both policies contribute to the achievement of demand management measures in the WRMP area. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. No significant effects are anticipated as a result of this allocation in relation to water quality.</p> <p>Core Strategy policy 55 'Air Quality' suggests avoidance and monitoring measures for new developments in relation to air quality. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. Significant effects in relation to air quality are therefore not anticipated as a result of this allocation.</p> <p>The allocation has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.</p>
	Station Road, Calne (100 dwellings)	B	<p>The 'Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA 2012' report identified the potential for development in this settlement to effects in relation to recreation, water and air quality at the following sites: Porton Down SPA, Salisbury Plain SPA and SAC, Solent and Southampton SPA, Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC, North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC, Pewsey Downs SAC, River Avon SAC, Cotswolds and Beechwood SAC and Rodborough Common SAC.</p> <p>It has been assessed within Appendix D of the 'Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA 2012' report that Core Strategy policy 50 'Biodiversity and Geodiversity' states that all development which may affect SPAs will be required to deliver appropriate mitigation measures. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. In addition, potential for such effects should be kept under review through further HRAs of relevant LDF documents and screening under the Habitats Regulations for individual planning applications. Therefore, significant effects are not anticipated as a result of this allocation in relation to recreation.</p> <p>In terms of water quality effects, Core Strategy policies 41 and 68 relate to improved water consumption in both residential and non-residential developments. Both policies contribute to the achievement of demand management measures in the WRMP area. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. No significant effects are anticipated as a result of this allocation in relation to water quality.</p> <p>Core Strategy policy 55 'Air Quality' suggests avoidance and monitoring measures for new developments in relation to air quality. Any development at this location</p>

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
			would need to comply with the policy. Significant effects in relation to air quality are therefore not anticipated as a result of this allocation. The allocation has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.
H3 Residential development within framework boundaries	No - Replaced by CP1 and CP2	N/A	
H4 Residential development in the open countryside	Yes - Continue to save.	A3	This policy controls residential development outside of framework boundaries. Any proposals would need to demonstrate compliance with Wiltshire Core Policy 50 'Biodiversity and geodiversity' and Wiltshire Core Policy 69 'Protection of the River Avon SAC'. Policy H4 has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination
H5 Affordable housing in urban areas	No - Replaced by CP43	N/A	
H6 Affordable housing in rural areas	No - Replaced by CP43	N/A	
H7 Affordable housing on rural exception sites	No - Replaced by CP44	N/A	
H8 Residential extensions	No - Replaced by CP57	N/A	
H9 Gypsy sites	No -Replaced by CP47	N/A	
BD1 Employment land	No in relation to the following: Hunters Moon, Chippenham (5 ha) – not deliverable for employment Cocklebury Road, Chippenham (as part of a mixed use scheme) (2.5 ha) – built out Littlefields (Bath Road), Chippenham (13.2 ha) – built out Braydon Lane, Cricklade (2.7 ha) – built out Brickworks, Purton (3.1 ha) – built out Interface Business Park, Wootton Bassett (1.85 ha) – built out Former St Ivel Site, Wootton Bassett (as part of a mixed use scheme) (3 ha) – built out East of Leafield Industrial Estate, Corsham (3.29 ha) – no need for allocation	N/A	
BD1 Employment land	Yes - Continue to save the following allocations: East of Beversbrook Farm and Porte Marsh Industrial	B	The 'Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA 2012' report identified the potential for

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
	Estate, Calne (4.4 ha)		<p>development in this settlement to lead to effects in relation to recreation, water and air quality at the following sites: Porton Down SPA, Salisbury Plain SPA and SAC, Solent and Southampton SPA, Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC, North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC, Pewsey Downs SAC, River Avon SAC, Cotswolds and Beechwood SAC and Rodborough Common SAC.</p> <p>It has been assessed within Appendix D of the 'Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA 2012' report that Core Strategy policy 50 'Biodiversity and Geodiversity' states that all development which may affect SPAs will be required to deliver appropriate mitigation measures. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. In addition, potential for such effects should be kept under review through further HRAs of relevant LDF documents and screening under the Habitats Regulations for individual planning applications. Therefore, significant effects are not anticipated as a result of this allocation in relation to recreation.</p> <p>In terms of water quality effects, Core Strategy policies 41 and 68 relate to improved water consumption in both residential and non-residential developments. Both policies contribute to the achievement of demand management measures in the WRMP area. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. No significant effects are anticipated as a result of this allocation in relation to water quality.</p> <p>Core Strategy policy 55 'Air Quality' suggests avoidance and monitoring measures for new developments in relation to air quality. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. Significant effects in relation to air quality are therefore not anticipated as a result of this allocation.</p> <p>The allocation has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.</p>
	Garden Centre, Malmesbury (3.9 ha)	B	Same comment as above
	Land to the North of Tetbury Hill, Malmesbury (1 ha)	B	Same comment as above
	Templars Way, Wootton Bassett (3.44 ha)	B	<p>The 'Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA 2012' report identified the potential for development in this settlement to lead to effects in relation to recreation, water and air quality at the following sites: Porton Down SPA, Salisbury Plain SPA and SAC, Solent and Southampton SPA, Kennet and Lambourn SAC, North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC, River Avon SAC, Hackpen Hill SAC, Kennet Valley Alderwoods SAC, River Lambourn SAC, Cotswolds and Beechwood SAC and Rodborough Common SAC.</p> <p>It has been assessed within Appendix D of the 'Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA 2012' report that Core Strategy policy 50 'Biodiversity and Geodiversity' states that all development which may affect SPAs will be required to deliver appropriate mitigation measures. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. In addition, potential for such effects should be kept under review through further HRAs of relevant LDF documents and screening under the Habitats Regulations for</p>

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
			individual planning applications. Therefore, significant effects are not anticipated as a result of this allocation in relation to recreation. In terms of water quality effects, Core Strategy policies 41 and 68 relate to improved water consumption in both residential and non-residential developments. Both policies contribute to the achievement of demand management measures in the WRMP area. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. No significant effects are anticipated as a result of this allocation in relation to water quality. Core Strategy policy 55 'Air Quality' suggests avoidance and monitoring measures for new developments in relation to air quality. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. Significant effects in relation to air quality are therefore not anticipated as a result of this allocation. The allocation has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.
BD2 Safeguarding existing business uses	No - Replaced by CP35	N/A	
BD3 Business development on unallocated sites	No - Replaced by CP34	N/A	
BD4 Business development within or on edge of villages	No - Replaced by CP34	N/A	
BD5 Rural business development	No - Replaced by CP34 and CP48	N/A	
BD6 Re-use of rural buildings	No - Replaced by CP48	N/A	
BD7 Farm diversification	No - Replaced by CP34 and CP48	N/A	
BD9 Signs and advertisements	No - Replaced by CP57	N/A	
R1 Town centre primary frontage areas	Yes - Continue to save.	B	The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
R2 Town centre secondary frontage areas	Yes - Continue to save.	B	The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
R3 Retail designations	No - Replaced by CP9	N/A	
R4 Proposals outside town centre primary and town centre secondary frontage areas	No - Replaced by CP38	N/A	
R5 Local shops and services	No - Replaced by CP38 and CP48	N/A	
R6 Existing local shops and	No - Replaced by CP49	N/A	

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
services			
R7 Upper floors in town centres	Continue to save.	A1, B	The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
CF1 Local community and education facilities	No - Note that the first paragraph of the policy will be superseded by CP2 (Delivery Strategy). Land off Blackwell Hams, Pewsham Way, Chippenham (proposed community hall) Stoneover Lane, Wootton Bassett (proposed school) Barn at Derriards Farm, Chippenham (proposed community use) Do not continue to safeguard the following sites: Land between Knockdown Lane and Sopworth Lane (proposed school) - a new school has been built in Sherston on a different site	N/A	
CF2 Leisure facilities and open space	Yes - Continue to save.	A1, B	The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
CF3 Provision of open space	Yes - Continue to save.	A3	The policy seeks to secure provision of open space, including local parks and could therefore help divert recreational pressure from European sites.
TM2 Wilts and Berks/Thames Severn Canals	No - Replaced by CP53	N/A	
TM3 Swindon and Cricklade Railway Line	Yes - Continue to save.	B	It is proposed to restore, for leisure purposes, the route of the former railway line from Tadpole Lane, Swindon to Cricklade, subject to not causing demonstrable harm to any areas of nature conservation interest along its route. The Policy is considered to have sufficient safeguards and is not anticipated to give rise to a significant effect, alone or in combination.
TM4 The Thames Path National Trail	Yes - Continue to save.	A3	This policy relates to establishment of the Thames Path and includes criterion relating to its protection from development that would impact on amenity or open landscape. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
West Wiltshire District Plan 1st Alteration- Adopted June 2004			
GB1 Western Wiltshire Green Belt	Yes - Continue to save.	A1, A2	This policy defines the extent of the Green Belt. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
GB3 Safeguarded Land - Bradford on Avon	Yes - Continue to save.	B	Land will be safeguarded to meet the longer term development needs of Bradford on Avon beyond the period of the Wiltshire County Structure Plan 2011 within the area to the east of Bradford on Avon. Text in the Draft Core Strategy relating to the Corsham and Bradford – on – Avon Community Areas states that all development will be planned and delivered in accordance with Wiltshire Council guidance to maintain the integrity of the Bath and Bradford-on-Avon Bats Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The HRA report suggested that the Draft Core Strategy could go further by committing the Council to developing a process for ensuring that developments within 4km of the SAC will not have a significant adverse effect on it. Such a statement could be included in Core Policy 50 'Biodiversity and Geodiversity.' The allocation has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.
C1 Countryside Protection	No - Replaced by CP50, CP52, CP34 and CP48	N/A	
C2 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	No - No longer required. Repeats national policy.	N/A	
C3 Special Landscape Areas	Yes - Continue to save. Will be subject to a forthcoming review.	A3	The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
C4 Landscape Setting	No - Replaced by CP58	N/A	
C6 Areas of High Ecological Value, Regionally Important Geological or Geomorphological Sites (RIGS), and Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCIs).	No - Replaced by CP50	N/A	
C6a Landscape Features	No - Replaced by CP50 and CP51	N/A	
C9 Rivers	No - Replaced by CP50, CP51, CP52 and CP67	N/A	
C10 Local Nature Reserves	No - Replaced by CP50 and CP52	N/A	

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
C11 Military Land	No - Replaced by CP37	N/A	
C12 Redundant Military Land	No - Replaced by CP37	N/A	
C15 Archaeological Assessment	No - Replaced by CP58	N/A	
C17 Conservation Areas	No - Replaced by CP58	N/A	
C18 New Development in Conservation Areas	No - Replaced by CP58	N/A	
C19 Alterations in Conservation Areas	No - Replaced by CP58	N/A	
C20 Change of Use in Conservation Areas	No - Replaced by CP58	N/A	
C21 Planning Permission in Conservation Areas	No - Replaced by CP58	N/A	
C22 Demolition in Conservation Areas	No - Replaced by CP58	N/A	
C23 Street Scene	No - Replaced by CP58	N/A	
C24 Advertisements	No - Replaced by CP57	N/A	
C25 Shopfronts	No - Replaced by CP58	N/A	
C26 Maintenance of Buildings	No - Replaced by CP58	N/A	
C28 Alterations and Extensions to Listed Buildings	No - Replaced by CP58	N/A	
C30 Skylines	No - Replaced by CP57	N/A	
C31a Design	No - Replaced by CP57	N/A	
C32 Landscaping	No - Replaced by CP57	N/A	
C33 Recycling	No - Do not continue to save. Waste and Recycling Service not	N/A	

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
	looking to increase number of local recycling centres. Service provision is now focussed on supporting household collection (e.g. bins, storage facilities etc). Policy WCS6 in the Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Core Strategy provides a more up-to-date and flexible basis for securing developer contributions.		
C34a Resource Consumption and Reduction	No - Replaced by CP41	N/A	
C34 Renewable Energy	No - Replaced by CP42	N/A	
C35 Light Pollution	No - Replaced by CP57	N/A	
C37 Contaminated Land	No - Replaced by CP56	N/A	
C38 Nuisance	No - Replaced by CP57	N/A	
C39 Environmental Enhancement	Yes - Continue to save.	A2	The policy is intended to protect the environment, no significant effects alone or in-combination anticipated.
C40 Tree Planting	Yes - Continue to save.	A2	The policy is intended to protect the environment, no significant effects alone or in-combination anticipated.
C41 Areas of Opportunity	Not in relation to the following site: Land at former GEC site, Beanacre Road, Melksham - built out	N/A	
C41 Areas of Opportunity	Yes - Continue to save for the following sites:		
	Land East of Edward Street, Westbury	B	The 'Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA 2012' report identified the potential for development in this settlement to lead to effects in relation to recreation, water and air quality at the following sites: Porton Down SPA, Salisbury Plain SPA and SAC, Solent and Southampton SPA, Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC, North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC, Pewsey Downs SAC, River Avon SAC, Cotswolds and Beechwood SAC and Rodborough Common SAC. It has been assessed within Appendix D of the 'Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA 2012' report that Core Strategy policy 50 'Biodiversity and Geodiversity' states that all development which may affect SPAs will be required to deliver appropriate mitigation measures. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. In addition, potential for such effects should be kept under review through further HRAs of relevant LDF documents and screening under the Habitats Regulations for individual planning applications. Therefore, significant effects are not anticipated as a result of this allocation in relation to recreation.

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
			<p>In terms of water quality effects, Core Strategy policies 41 and 68 relate to improved water consumption in both residential and non-residential developments. Both policies contribute to the achievement of demand management measures in the WRMP area. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. No significant effects are anticipated as a result of this allocation in relation to water quality.</p> <p>Core Strategy policy 55 'Air Quality' suggests avoidance and monitoring measures for new developments in relation to air quality. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. Significant effects in relation to air quality are therefore not anticipated as a result of this allocation.</p> <p>The allocation has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.</p>
	Vivash Park	B	<p>The policy states in part that this area consists of several derelict and underused sites which would be particularly suitable for recreational development, light industrial workshops and community facilities to help uplift such a neglected area to the benefit of the adjacent housing areas.</p> <p>Given the nature and location of the allocation it is not considered to give rise to significant effects on a European site, alone or in combination.</p>
	Land at the Midlands, Holt	B	<p>This site falls within the Bradford on Avon Community Area. Development has been screened within Appendix D of the 'Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA 2012' report as having the potential to lead to effects in relation to recreation, water, air quality and physical damage at the following sites: Porton Down SPA, Salisbury Plain SPA and SAC, Solent and Southampton SPA, Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC, North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC, Pewsey Downs SAC, River Avon SAC, Cotswolds and Beechwood SAC and Rodborough Common SAC.</p> <p>It has been assessed within Appendix D of the 'Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA 2012' report that Core Strategy policy 50 'Biodiversity and Geodiversity' states that all development which may affect SPAs will be required to deliver appropriate mitigation measures. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. In addition, potential for such effects should be kept under review through further HRAs of relevant LDF documents and screening under the Habitats Regulations for individual planning applications. Therefore, significant effects are not anticipated as a result of this allocation in relation to recreation.</p> <p>In terms of water quality effects, Core Strategy policies 41 and 68 relate to improved water consumption in both residential and non-residential developments. Both policies contribute to the achievement of demand management measures in the WRMP area. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. No significant effects are anticipated as a result of this allocation in relation to water quality.</p> <p>Core Strategy policy 55 'Air Quality' suggests avoidance and monitoring measures for new developments in relation to air quality. Any development at this location</p>

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
			would need to comply with the policy. Significant effects in relation to air quality are therefore not anticipated as a result of this allocation. In relation to physical damage to bat habitat, the Core Strategy states that development will need to protect the Bath and Bradford on Avon SAC and ensure that connectivity within it is retained. Therefore, no significant effects are anticipated as a result of this allocation. The allocation has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.
R7 Trowbridge Cricket Ground	Yes - Continue to save.	B	The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
R10 Poulton Field Bradford On Avon	Yes - Continue to save.	A3	More effective use of Poulton Field, Bradford on Avon will be sought for recreational purposes. Development proposals for recreational use will be permitted and the improvement of on-site facilities and the dual use of adjacent school fields for wider community use will be encouraged. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
R12 Allotments	Yes - Continue to save.	A2	The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
R13 Sailing Lakes	Yes - Continue to save.	A3	The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
R15 Development at Golf Courses	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	This policy would need to be read in conjunction with other policies in the Core Strategy and screening under the Habitats Regulations would be required for any specific proposals.
H1 Further Housing Development Within Towns	No - Replaced by CP2 ,CP3, CP50, CP52, CP57, CP61, CP67, and CP68	N/A	
H2 Affordable Housing Within Towns and Villages	No - Replaced by CP43	N/A	
H3 Urban Brownfield Allocations	Not in relation to the following allocations: Frome Road, Trowbridge (15 dwellings) – built out Silver St Lane, Trowbridge (15 dwellings) – built out Cedar Grove, Trowbridge (15 dwellings) - the Council owns and do not believe this site will come forward County Way, Trowbridge (76 dwellings) – built out Rear of Wesley Road, Trowbridge (20 dwellings) - The remainder of the site is occupied by a social club which has no intention of relocating	N/A	

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
	<p>Bythesea Road, Trowbridge (20 dwellings) - Site is largely developed, remainder expected to be developed in coming years</p> <p>Hilperton Road, Trowbridge (15 dwellings) – Cannot demonstrate that the site will be delivered</p> <p>TA Centre, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge (59 dwellings) – built out</p> <p>Uitenage Farm, Westbury (63 dwellings) – built out</p> <p>Coalyard, Bratton Road, Westbury (52 dwellings) – built out</p> <p>Becks Mill, Westbury (50 dwellings) – built out</p> <p>R/O Vicarage St/West St, Warminster (20 dwellings) - Much of the site has a covenant preventing development; the remainder may be able to be brought forward but is not demonstrably deliverable</p> <p>Land off George Street, Warminster (30 dwellings) - The majority of the site has been built out, and the remainder is occupied by a shop</p> <p>Land fronting Boot Hill, Warminster (18 dwellings) – built out</p> <p>Fairfield Road, Warminster (98 dwellings) – Developed for alternative uses</p> <p>Imber Road, Warminster (15 dwellings) - This site is an orchard that the landowner does not wish to develop</p>		
H3 Urban Brownfield Allocations	Yes in relation to the following allocations:		
	Holtbrook Lane, Trowbridge (20 dwellings)	B	<p>The 'Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA 2012' report identified the potential for development in this settlement to lead to effects in relation to recreation, water and air quality at the following sites: Porton Down SPA, Salisbury Plain SPA and SAC, Solent and Southampton SPA, Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC, North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC, Pewsey Downs SAC, River Avon SAC, Cotswolds and Beechwood SAC and Rodborough Common SAC.</p> <p>It has been assessed within Appendix D of the 'Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA 2012' report that Core Strategy policy 50 'Biodiversity and Geodiversity' states that all development which may affect SPAs will be required to deliver appropriate mitigation measures. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. In addition, potential for such effects should be kept under review through further HRAs of relevant LDF documents and screening under the Habitats Regulations for individual planning applications. Therefore, significant effects are not anticipated as a result of this allocation in relation to recreation.</p> <p>In terms of water quality effects, Core Strategy policies 41 and 68 relate to improved water consumption in both residential and non-residential developments. Both policies contribute to the achievement of demand management measures in the WRMP area. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. No significant effects are anticipated as a result of this allocation in relation to water quality.</p> <p>Core Strategy policy 55 'Air Quality' suggests avoidance and monitoring measures</p>

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
			for new developments in relation to air quality. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. Significant effects in relation to air quality are therefore not anticipated as a result of this allocation. The allocation has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.
	Station Road, Westbury (90 dwellings)	B	The above comment also applies to this site.
	Land off Oldfield Road, Westbury (30 dwellings)	B	The above comment also applies to this site.
	Land at West Street, Warminster (12 dwellings)	B	The 'Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA 2012' report identified the potential for development in this settlement to lead to effects in relation to recreation, water and air quality at the following sites: Porton Down SPA, Salisbury Plain SPA and SAC, Solent and Southampton SPA, Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC, North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC, Pewsey Downs SAC, River Avon SAC, Cotswolds and Beechwood SAC and Rodborough Common SAC. It has been assessed within Appendix D of the 'Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA 2012' report that Core Strategy policy 50 'Biodiversity and Geodiversity' states that all development which may affect SPAs will be required to deliver appropriate mitigation measures. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. In addition, potential for such effects should be kept under review through further HRAs of relevant LDF documents and screening under the Habitats Regulations for individual planning applications. Therefore, significant effects are not anticipated as a result of this allocation in relation to recreation. In terms of water quality effects, Core Strategy policies 41 and 68 relate to improved water consumption in both residential and non-residential developments. Both policies contribute to the achievement of demand management measures in the WRMP area. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. No significant effects are anticipated as a result of this allocation in relation to water quality. Core Strategy policy 55 'Air Quality' suggests avoidance and monitoring measures for new developments in relation to air quality. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. Significant effects in relation to air quality are therefore not anticipated as a result of this allocation. The allocation has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.
	Rear of Westbury Road, Warminster (10 dwellings)	B	The above comment also applies to this site.
	Station Road, Warminster (30 dwellings)	B	The above comment also applies to this site.
H4 Urban Mixed Use Brownfield Allocations	Not in relation to the following allocations: Kingston Mills, Bradford on Avon - site is largely developed, remainder expected to be developed in coming years Stratton House, Melksham – built out		

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
	<p>Land at Shails Lane/Broad Street, Trowbridge – built out Former Brewery Site, Trowbridge - site is largely developed, remainder expected to be developed in coming years Ashton Mill, West Ashton Road, Trowbridge - no proposal to develop the site at present. If it was to be developed the owner would look for retail development Yeoman Way, Trowbridge – built out Land at Market Place / East Street, Warminster - the site is not considered developable Land off The Close, Warminster - the site is not considered developable</p>		
H4 Urban Mixed Use Brownfield Allocations	Yes in relation to the following allocations:		
	Court Street, Trowbridge	B	<p>The 'Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA 2012' report identified the potential for development in this settlement to lead to effects in relation to recreation, water and air quality at the following sites: Porton Down SPA, Salisbury Plain SPA and SAC, Solent and Southampton SPA, Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC, North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC, Pewsey Downs SAC, River Avon SAC, Cotswolds and Beechwood SAC and Rodborough Common SAC.</p> <p>It has been assessed within Appendix D of the 'Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA 2012' report that Core Strategy policy 50 'Biodiversity and Geodiversity' states that all development which may affect SPAs will be required to deliver appropriate mitigation measures. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. In addition, potential for such effects should be kept under review through further HRAs of relevant LDF documents and screening under the Habitats Regulations for individual planning applications. Therefore, significant effects are not anticipated as a result of this allocation in relation to recreation.</p> <p>In terms of water quality effects, Core Strategy policies 41 and 68 relate to improved water consumption in both residential and non-residential developments. Both policies contribute to the achievement of demand management measures in the WRMP area. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. No significant effects are anticipated as a result of this allocation in relation to water quality.</p> <p>Core Strategy policy 55 'Air Quality' suggests avoidance and monitoring measures for new developments in relation to air quality. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. Significant effects in relation to air quality are therefore not anticipated as a result of this allocation.</p> <p>The allocation has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.</p>

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
H6 Land East of Melksham	No – Policy not saved. Site is largely developed, remainder expected to be developed in coming years.	N/A	
H7 Staverton Triangle	No – Policy not saved, do not continue to save. Unlikely to come forward.	N/A	
H7A New Terrace Staverton	No - Do not continue to save. Built out.	N/A	
H8 Land at Paxcroft Way, Trowbridge	No - Do not continue to save. Built out.	N/A	
H8a Land South of The Grange, Trowbridge	No - Do not continue to save. Site is largely developed, remainder expected to be developed in coming years.	N/A	
H8b Blue Hills, Devizes Road, Trowbridge	Yes - Continue to save.	B	<p>The 'Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA 2012' report identified the potential for development in this settlement to lead to effects in relation to recreation, water and air quality at the following sites: Porton Down SPA, Salisbury Plain SPA and SAC, Solent and Southampton SPA, Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC, North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC, Pewsey Downs SAC, River Avon SAC, Cotswolds and Beechwood SAC and Rodborough Common SAC.</p> <p>It has been assessed within Appendix D of the 'Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA 2012' report that Core Strategy policy 50 'Biodiversity and Geodiversity' states that all development which may affect SPAs will be required to deliver appropriate mitigation measures. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. In addition, potential for such effects should be kept under review through further HRAs of relevant LDF documents and screening under the Habitats Regulations for individual planning applications. Therefore, significant effects are not anticipated as a result of this allocation in relation to recreation.</p> <p>In terms of water quality effects, Core Strategy policies 41 and 68 relate to improved water consumption in both residential and non-residential developments. Both policies contribute to the achievement of demand management measures in the WRMP area. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. No significant effects are anticipated as a result of this allocation in relation to water quality.</p> <p>Core Strategy policy 55 'Air Quality' suggests avoidance and monitoring measures for new developments in relation to air quality. Any development at this location would need to comply with the policy. Significant effects in relation to air quality are therefore not anticipated as a result of this allocation.</p> <p>The allocation has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.</p>
H8c Land North of Green Lane,	Yes - Continue to save.	B	See comments above.

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
Trowbridge			
H9 Land at Southview, Trowbridge	No – Policy not saved, site is largely developed, remainder expected to be developed in coming years.	N/A	
H11 land South of Paxcroft Mead, Trowbridge	Yes - Continue to save.		
H12 Land North of Victoria Road, Warminster	No – Policy not saved, site is largely developed, remainder expected to be developed in coming years.	N/A	
H13a Land Adjacent to Westbury Hospital	Yes - Continue to save.	B	This allocation falls within Westbury Community Area and is within 15km of Salisbury Plain SAC/SPA. It is a site with a net development area of approximately 0.6ha and is allocated for about 25 dwellings adjacent to Westbury Hospital. The policy should respond to Core Strategy policies 50, this is judged to provide sufficient protection should development occur at the site.
H13 Leigh Park, Westbury	No – Policy not saved, site is largely developed, remainder expected to be developed in coming years.	N/A	
H14 Land at Station Road, Westbury	No – policy not saved, this site is being designated as a strategic site.	N/A	
H16 Flat Conversions	Yes - Continue to save.	A1/A3	The policy sets out criteria for the conversion of dwellings to flats. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
H17 Village Policy Limits	No - Replaced by CP1 and CP2	N/A	
H18 Areas of Minimum Change	No - Replaced by CP57	N/A	
H19 Development in Open Countryside	No - Replaced by CP2 and CP48	N/A	
H20 Replacement Dwellings	Yes - Continue to save.	A1/A3	The Policy sets out criteria for the replacement of dwellings. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
H21 Conversions of Rural Buildings	Replaced by CP48 (Supporting rural life).	N/A	
H22 Affordable	Replaced by CP44 (Rural exceptions sites).	N/A	

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
Housing on Rural Exception Sites			
H23 New Housing Near Intensive Livestock Units	Yes - Continue to save.	A1/A3	This policy sets out criteria for the control of new housing within 400m of existing livestock units. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
H24 New Housing Design	No - Replaced by CP57	N/A	
E1A New Employment Land Allocation: West Ashton Road, Trowbridge (12.1 ha)	Yes - Continue to save.	B	See comments under H8b above, which apply equally to this policy. .
E1B New Employment Land Allocation: south and west of Bowerhill industrial estate, Melksham (34.5 ha)	Yes - Continue to save.	B	The land is approximately 12km north of Salisbury Plain at Melksham. Any proposals would need to demonstrate compliance with Wiltshire Core Policy 50 'Biodiversity and Geodiversity'. Allocation E1B has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.
E1C New Employment Land Allocation: Station Road, Westbury (4 ha)	No – policy not saved, not deliverable for employment.	N/A	
E1D New Employment Land Allocation: Northacre/Brook Lane Trading Estate, Westbury (13 ha)	Yes - Continue to save.	B	The land is approximately 12km north of Salisbury Plain at Melksham. Any proposals would need to demonstrate compliance with Wiltshire Core Policy 50 'Biodiversity and Geodiversity'. Allocation E1B has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.
E2 Employment Policy Areas	No - Replaced by CP35	N/A	
E4 Premises Outside Employment Policy Areas	No - Replaced by CP34	N/A	
E5 Loss of Employment	No - Replaced by CP35	N/A	

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
Floorspace			
E6 Rural Employment	No - Replaced by CP34 and CP48	N/A	
E7 Farm Diversification	No - Replaced by CP34 and CP48	N/A	
E8 Rural Conversions	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	The conversion of rural buildings in villages or the open countryside for business, tourism or sport and recreational uses will be permitted subject to the criteria set out in this policy. Any proposals would need to demonstrate compliance with Wiltshire Core Policy 50 'Biodiversity and geodiversity' and Wiltshire Core Policy 69 'Protection of the River Avon SAC'. Policy E8 has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.
E10 Horse Related Development	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	The policy states in part that proposals for equestrian facilities and changes of use will be required to have regard to minimising their effects on the appearance of the countryside and to highway implications. In addition to this policy, any proposals would need to demonstrate compliance with Wiltshire Core Policy 50 'Biodiversity and geodiversity' and Wiltshire Core Policy 69 'Protection of the River Avon SAC'. Policy E10 has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.
T1a Westbury Bypass Package	Yes - Continue to save.	B	The safeguarded route (from land to the north and east of Westbury, from north of the existing Cement Works Roundabout and to the south of Madbrook Farm) does not fall within 200m of a European site. Therefore this site has been screened out as having no significant effect alone or in combination. Natural England confirmed during a recent public inquiry that the road proposals would not have any likely significant effects upon the bath and Bradford Bats SAC.
T2 A36 Trunk Road	No – policy not saved. Funding bids for A36 Heytesbury to Codford Improvements and A303 Wyle to Stockton Wood were unsuccessful. Some parts of Trowbridge Inner Relief Road were built and the significant remaining stages were abandoned some years ago.	N/A	
T4 New Distributor Roads	Yes - Continue to save. New Distributor Roads are proposed at the sites listed below		
	Paxcroft Mead, Trowbridge	B	Allocation does not fall within 200m of a European site. Therefore this site has been

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
			screened out as having no significant effect alone or in combination.
	West Ashton Road, Trowbridge	B	Same comment as above
	Land to the east and south of Paxcroft Mead	B	Same comments as above
	Land to the east of Melksham	B	Same comment as above
	Land west of Bowerhill	B	Same comment as above
	Land south of Westbury and north of Westbury Leigh with connection to Oldfield Road and Leigh Road/Laverton Road	B	Same comment as above
T5 New Link Roads	Yes - Continue to save.	B	Land is safeguarded for a new link road at Paxcroft Mead and Hammond Way, Trowbridge. Both are approximately 10km north of Salisbury Plain at Trowbridge. Given the location of the proposal no significant effect on a European site, alone or in combination, is anticipated.
T6 Railway Services	No - Replaced by CP66	N/A	
T7 Westbury – Swindon Railway Services	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	The policy states that the retention and further enhancement of the rail link between Westbury and Swindon via Melksham is supported and development proposals will be permitted which enhance the rail services and facilities along the route subject to environmental and highway considerations. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
T8 Melksham Railway Station	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	Land at Melksham Station, as shown on the Proposals Map, is safeguarded from inappropriate development. Planning permission will not be permitted on the safeguarded land if it would be likely to prejudice the future enhancement of rail services from the station. The nature of the policy and location of the site is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
T8a Rail Freight Facility	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	Land at Northacre / Brook Lane Trading Estate, Westbury, as shown on the Proposals Map, is safeguarded for the development of a multi-user rail freight facility. Planning permission will not be permitted on the safeguarded land if it would be likely to prejudice the future enhancement of rail freight services from the site. The nature of the policy and location of the site is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
T9 Bus Services	No - Replaced by CP60, CP61 and CP63	N/A	

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
T10 Car Parking	No - Replaced by CP64	N/A	
T11 Cycleways	No - Replaced by CP60, CP61 and CP63	N/A	
T12 Footpaths and Bridleways	No - Replaced by CP60, CP61 and CP63	N/A	
SP1 Town Centre Shopping	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	The policy sets out criteria for retail development in town centres. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
SP2 Land at Court Street/ Castle Street, Trowbridge	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	The site is identified for further retail development. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
SP3 Out of Centre Shopping	No - Replaced by CP38	N/A	
SP4 Primary Retail Frontages	Yes - Continue to save.	A1, B	The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
SP5 Secondary Retail Frontages	Yes - Continue to save.	A1, B	The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
SP6 Local Shopping in Towns and Villages	Yes - Continue to save. Note that the first paragraph of the policy will be superseded by CP38 (Retail and leisure) and CP48 (Supporting rural life).	A1, B	The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
SP7 Village Shops	No - Replaced by CP49	N/A	
LE1 Leisure and Entertainment	No - Replaced by CP38	N/A	
LE2 St Stephens Place, Trowbridge	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	The former Tesco store, St Stephens Place, Trowbridge, as identified on the Proposals Map, is allocated for further town centre uses such as retail or leisure and civic provision. Given the location of the proposals no significant effects on a European site 'alone or in combination, are anticipated.
TC1 Upper Floor Uses in Town Centres	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
TC2 Traffic management and pedestrian Priority	Yes - Continue to save.	A3	The policy sets out the intention to work with the highways authority to introduce measures that will improve the environment in specified town centres. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
			effects on a European site.
TO1 Tourist Attractions	No - Replaced by CP39	N/A	
TO2 Minor Tourist Facilities	No - Replaced by CP39	N/A	
TO3 Hotels, Guest Houses and Self Catering Accommodation	No - Replaced by CP39	N/A	
TO4 Camping, Caravans, Holiday Homes	No - Replaced by CP39	N/A	
CF1 Community Facilities and Services General	No - Replaced by CP49	N/A	
CF2 Re-Use of Community Facilities	No - Replaced by CP49	N/A	
CF3 Villages and Rural Areas	No - Replaced by CP49	N/A	
S2 Primary Schools	Yes - Continue to save.	B	The policy identifies sites for Primary Schools in Melksham and Trowbridge. Given the location and nature of the allocation no significant effects, alone or in combination .are anticipated.
CF6 Leigh Park	No – Policy not saved. Site has been developed for retail and residential uses.	N/A	
CF7 Bowerhill	Yes - Continue to save.		A site for a community hall and educational use is allocated to the east of Halifax Road, Bowerhill. Site is approximately 11km north of Salisbury Plain at Melksham.. Given the location and nature of the allocation no significant effects, alone or in combination .are anticipated.
CF8 Community Health	Yes - Continue to save.	B	Land adjacent to and including the Melksham and Trowbridge Hospitals, as defined on the Proposals Map, is allocated for the development of community health care facilities. Both within 15km of Salisbury Plain. Given the location and nature of the allocation no significant effects, alone or in combination .are anticipated.
CF9 Bradford on Avon Police Station	Yes - Continue to save.	B	A site to the west of the fire station in Bradford on Avon is safeguarded for a police station.

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
			Any development would need to demonstrate compliance with Wiltshire Council guidance to maintain the integrity of the Bath and Bradford-on-Avon Bats Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Policy CF9 is an allocation with supporting criteria and any proposals would have to demonstrate that there would be no harm to European sites. The suggested changes to the Wiltshire Core Strategy are relevant in this respect. The policy is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site, alone or in combination.
CF10 Cemeteries	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	A need has been identified for new cemeteries in Bradford on Avon and Melksham and proposals to meet this need will be permitted subject to highway, amenity and environmental considerations. Text in the Draft Core Strategy relating to the Corsham and Bradford – on – Avon Community Areas states that all development will be planned and delivered in accordance with Wiltshire Council guidance to maintain the integrity of the Bath and Bradford-on-Avon Bats Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The HRA report suggested that the Draft Core Strategy could go further by committing the Council to developing a process for ensuring that developments within 4km of the SAC will not have a significant adverse effect on it. Such a statement could be included in Core Policy 50 'Biodiversity and Geodiversity.' This is a criteria based policy and any proposals would have to demonstrate that there would be no harm to European sites. The suggested changes to the Wiltshire Core Strategy are relevant in this respect. The policy is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site, alone or in combination.
CF11 Travelling Show People	No - Replaced by CP47	N/A	
CF12 Gypsy Caravan Sites	No - Replaced by CP47	N/A	
U1a Foul Water Disposal	Yes - Continue to save.	A1/A2	Development will only be permitted where adequate foul drainage, sewerage and sewage treatment facilities are available or where suitable arrangements are made for their provision. In sewerred areas new development will be expected to connect to mains drainage. New sewers will be expected to be constructed to a standard adoptable by Wessex Water.

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
			The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
U2 Surface Water Disposal	No - Replaced by CP67	N/A	
U4 Groundwater Source Protection Areas	No - Replaced by CP68	N/A	
U4a Sewage Treatment Works	Yes - Continue to save.	A2	Land adjacent to Bowerhill Sewage Treatment Works, as shown on the Proposals Map, is safeguarded from development. Planning permission will not be permitted on the safeguarded land if it is likely to prejudice the future extension of the Sewage Treatment Works.
U5 Sewage Treatment Works Buffer Zones	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	This policy seeks to establish a buffer zone between new development and sewage treatment works. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
U6 Telecommunications	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	The policy provides criteria for the control of new telecommunications related development. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
I1 Implementation	No - Replaced by CP3	N/A	
I2 The Arts	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	The policy seeks to secure public art. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
I3 Access for Everyone	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	The needs of the disabled should be adequately catered for in new development proposals for buildings open to the public and buildings used for employment or education purposes. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
West Wiltshire Leisure and Recreation DPD- Adopted February 2009			
LP1 Protection and enhancement of existing open space or sport and recreation provision	Yes - Continue to save.	A3	The policy is intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment.

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
LP2 Proposals that involve the loss of open space or sport and recreation provision	Yes - Continue to save.	A1/A3	This is a criteria based policy relating to the protection of existing open space or sport and recreation provision.
LP3 Review of low value sites	Yes - Continue to save.	A1/A3	This is a criteria based policy relating to the re-use of spaces that are identified as being of low recreational value. The policy seeks to find alternative community uses. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
LP4 Providing recreation facilities in new developments	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	This policy sets criteria for the provision of new recreational space and whether this should be on or off-site. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
LP5 New sport and recreation facilities	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	Proposals for new sport and recreation facilities within the District will be supported provided that they meet needs identified in an up to date needs assessment, are located at the most accessible location possible at the settlements they are intended to serve, are readily accessible by sustainable modes of transport and are in accordance with the principles of sustainable development. Proposals for new open space provision in Bradford on Avon and Melksham or for new sports pitch provision in Bradford on Avon, Melksham, Trowbridge and Westbury will be particularly encouraged given the current lack of facilities at these towns. Any proposals would need to be compliant with other policies in the Wiltshire Core Strategy relating to the protection of European sites and planned guidance for development in Bradford on Avon. The policy is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site, alone or in combination.
OS1 New artificial turf pitch provision	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	The District Council will support, and facilitate where it can, the development of artificial turf provision on school sites, specifically third generation artificial turf pitches, designed to support multi-team and multi-age community clubs, on secondary school sites. Any proposals would need to be compliant with other policies in the Wiltshire Core Strategy relating to the protection of European sites and planned guidance for development in Bradford on Avon. The policy is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site, alone or in combination.
OS2 New grass pitch provision	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	Proposals for the development of grass sports pitches and ancillary facilities will be permitted at the following locations to address the shortage of pitch provision at Melksham, Trowbridge and Westbury: (A) Land at Woolmore Farm, Melksham; (B) Land adjacent to Woodmarsh, North Bradley (Trowbridge);

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
			(C) Land at Leigh Park, Westbury; (D) Vivash Park, Westbury; provided that development protects and where possible enhances wildlife habitats, historic and landscape features, delivers a sustainable drainage solution and creates a safe and convenient connection to existing pedestrian, cycle and public transport networks and the highway without creating transport problems. Acceptable mitigation measures will be implemented where appropriate. Any proposals would need to be compliant with other policies in the Wiltshire Core Strategy relating to the protection of European sites and planned guidance for development in Bradford on Avon. The policy is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site, alone or in combination.
CR1 Footpaths and rights of way	Yes - Continue to save.	A1, A2	The public rights of way network will be protected from development for other land uses and extensions and improvements will be sought, where appropriate, as part of development proposals. Any proposals would need to be compliant with other policies in the Wiltshire Core Strategy relating to the protection of European sites and planned guidance for development in Bradford on Avon. The policy is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site, alone or in combination.
CR2 Country Parks	Yes - Continue to save.	A2	Policy CR2 Country Parks Country parks will be protected from development for uses other than recreational and enhanced for recreation and wildlife where possible at the following locations: A Biss Meadows, Trowbridge B Paxcroft Brook, Hilperton C Southwick D Barton Farm, Bradford on Avon At Biss Meadows and Paxcroft Brook, enhancements and extensions will be sought through negotiations on the development of adjacent allocated housing sites. At Southwick, the District Council will maintain the current uses on site and make improvements to signage and maintenance regimes to meet local visitor needs and to enhance biodiversity. At Barton Farm, there are opportunities to develop better public access to the River Avon for bathing, rowing, canoeing and angling as well as improve visitor interpretation and habitat enhancement. Provision and enhancement of Country Parks will help divert recreational pressure from European sites. Any proposals for access to the River Avon would need to be consistent with Wiltshire Core Policy 69. The policy is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site,

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
			alone or in combination.
CR3 Greenspace Network	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	The development of a greenspace network will be sought in and around the urban areas within the District. Development proposals will be permitted which extend and enhance existing riverside walks, recreational areas and fragmented habitats, and in addition, secure and maintain public access to the banks of rivers, canals and other habitats, where they will have no adverse impacts on wildlife. The establishment of Local Nature Reserves as part of the network will be addressed. This policy could help avoid recreational pressure on European sites. Any proposals would need to be compliant with other policies in the Wiltshire Core Strategy relating to the protection of European sites and planned guidance for development in Bradford on Avon. The policy is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site, alone or in combination.
GM1 Maintenance of existing open space	Yes - Continue to save.	A2	The District Council will implement a flexible and varied maintenance regime rather than a uniform approach across all spaces. The policy is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site, alone or in combination.
GM2 Management and maintenance of new or enhanced open space	Yes - Continue to save.	A2	Developers will be required to make arrangements for the long term management and maintenance of all new or enhanced provision resulting from development including management for wildlife. The policy is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site, alone or in combination.
GM3 Future management partnerships	Yes - Continue to save.	A3	The District Council will work with "friends" groups and other partner organisations to identify the best approach to the future management and maintenance of public open space. New arrangements will be subject to local consultation.
IS1 Indoor Leisure Centres	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	The District Council will develop a programme for the refurbishment and/or replacement of Council owned leisure centres The policy is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site, alone or in combination.
IS2 Joint indoor leisure centres	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	When considering the provision of new or replacement indoor sports facilities, the District Council will investigate with the County Council and secondary schools the potential for joint facility developments. The policy is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site, alone or in combination.
YP1 Children's play areas	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	The policy sets out criteria for the provision of play areas. The policy is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site, alone or in combination.

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
YP2 Provision for teenagers	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	The District Council will consult with local teenagers and youth groups to provide a network of facilities that meet needs and comply with adopted quantity and accessibility standards and with appropriate quality standards. The policy is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site, alone or in combination.
WR1 River based recreation	Yes - Continue to save.	A3	Proposals to develop river areas for better public access and for all types of water sports, including fishing, bathing, rowing and canoeing, will be encouraged provided that they do not adversely affect the water quality or quantity, amenity, visual quality or value as a wildlife habitat of a river or watercourse and associated wetlands. The County Council, working with partner organisations, will investigate opportunities to increase public access to river areas. The policy contains criteria that would protect the River Avon SAC but any proposals would also need to comply with Policy 69 of the Wiltshire Core Strategy.
WR2 Kennet and Avon Canal	Yes - Continue to save.	B	Proposals for recreational and tourist development on the Kennet and Avon Canal will be permitted, provided they do not detract from the navigation of the canal, its ecological value or its local environment. The development should be integrated into the existing footpath, cycleway and public transport network and highway access and parking issues should be satisfactorily resolved. The HRA carried out for the DPD and this policy concluded that there would be no significant effects. Any development must comply with policy 53.
WR3 Wilts and Berks Canal	No - Replaced by CP16 and CP53	N/A	
SC1 Dual-use of school facilities	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	Proposals for the dual use of school playing fields and indoor sports facilities will be encouraged to help meet the needs of local communities. The policy is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site, alone or in combination.
Salisbury District Local Plan 2011- Adopted June 2003			
G1 General principles for development policies	No - Replaced by CP57	N/A	
G2 General criteria for development	Yes - Continue to save.	A1/A2/A3	This is a criteria based policy setting out general criteria for development. The policy is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site, alone or in combination.
G3 The water environment (Abstraction)	No - Replaced by CP68	N/A	
G5 The water environment (Water Services)	No - No longer required. Covered	N/A	

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
	by PPS 23 and Circular 03/99.		
G7 The water environment (Development Restraint Areas)	Yes - Continue to save.	A2	Development which would result in the regular occupation of premises will not be permitted within the Development Restraint Areas shown on the proposals map. The policy is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site, alone or in combination.
G8 The water environment (Groundwater Source Protection Areas)	No - Deleted within South Wiltshire Core Strategy (SWCS).	N/A	
G9 Planning Obligations	No - Replaced by CP3	N/A	
G10 Enabling Development	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	Proposals involving enabling development will be considered favourably only in exceptional circumstances where specified criteria are met. The policy is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site, alone or in combination.
G12 MOD land	No - Replaced by CP37	N/A	
G13 MOD land	No - Replaced by CP37	N/A	
D1 General Townscape (Extensive Development)	No - Replaced by CP57	N/A	
D2 General Townscape (Infill Development)	No - Replaced by CP57	N/A	
D3 General Townscape (Extensions)	No - Replaced by CP57	N/A	
D4 Salisbury Townscape (Chequers)	Yes - Continue to save.	A3	Development in the Chequers which would result in the erosion of the traditional back of pavement line, would produce a break in the street frontage or would obscure the Chequers street patterns will not be permitted. The policy is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site, alone or in combination.
D5 Salisbury Townscape (Open Space)	Yes - Continue to save.	A3	Proposals to alter or change any part of the open urban space network within the Salisbury Central Area will be granted only where they are likely to enhance further the provision or use of such space. The loss of open spaces within the Central Area will not be permitted. The policy is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site,

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
			alone or in combination.
D6 Roofscape and skyline	No - Deleted by Core Policy 8 of the SWCS.	N/A	
D7 Site Analysis	No - Replaced by CP57	N/A	
D8 Public Art	Yes - Continue to save.	A3,	Where appropriate, the District Council will encourage proposals for public art, of a high standard and quality, in the provision and enhancement of buildings and open spaces. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
H1 Housing (district wide)	No - Deleted by Core Policy 2 of the SWCS.	N/A	
H2 D Housing (Salisbury Old Sarum)	Yes - Continue to save.	B	This allocation site is within 5km of the River Avon SAC and 15km of Salisbury Plain SAC/SPA. Any development at this allocation should follow policies 23, 50 and 68. These are considered appropriate to ensure that significant effects do not arise, alone or in combination.
H2 E Housing (Salisbury District Hospital)	Yes - Continue to save..	B	This allocation is within 5km of the River Avon SAC and 15km of Salisbury Plain SAC/SPA. Any development at this allocation should follow policies 20, 50 and 69. Policy H2E has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.
H2 F Housing (Salisbury Downton Road)	No - site now predominantly built out.	N/A	
H3 Housing (Old Manor Hospital)	Yes - Continue to save.	B	This allocation is within 5km of the River Avon SAC and 15km of Salisbury Plain SAC/SPA. Any development at this allocation should follow policies 20, 50 and 69. Policy H3 has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.
H4 Housing (Eastern Chequers)	Yes - Continue to save.	B	Same comment as above
H5 Housing (Salt Lane car park)	Yes - Continue to save.	B	Allocation falls within 5km of the River Avon SAC and 15km of Salisbury Plain. The policy forms part of the 'Salisbury Central Area Regeneration' programme. Development should be in accordance with policy 20, 50 and 69.

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
			Policy H5 has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.
H6 Housing (Brown Street Car Park)	Yes - Continue to save.	B	Same comment as above
H7 Housing (Salisbury Central Area)	Yes - Continue to save.	B	This allocation is within 5km of the River Avon SAC and 15km of Salisbury Plain SAC/SPA. Any development at this allocation should follow policies 20, 50 and 69. Policy H7 has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.
H8 Housing (Salisbury HPB)	Yes - Continue to save.	B	Same comment as above
H9 Housing (Boscombe Road, Amesbury)	No - now predominantly built out.	N/A	
H10 Housing (RAF Baverstock, Dinton)	Yes - Continue to save.	B	This allocation falls within the Wilton Community Area and falls within 5km of the River Avon SAC. To prevent significant effects occurring as a result of any development, policies 33, 50 and 69 should be followed.
H11 A Housing (Downton Wick Lane)	No - now built out.	N/A	
H12 Housing (Netheravon Road, Durrington)	No - predominantly built out.	N/A	
H14 Housing (Weaveland Road, Tisbury)	Yes - Continue to save.	B	The community area is adjacent to the River Avon SAC. Any development at this location would need to comply with Core Strategy policies 27, 50 and 69. These are judged to provide sufficient protection.
H15 Housing (Bulbridge Estate)	Yes - Continue to save.	B	Any development at this location would need to comply with Core Strategy policies 50 and 69. These are judged to provide sufficient protection.
H16 Residential Development within Housing Policy Boundaries	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	This is a criteria based policy relating to the control of small scale housing development in specified settlements. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
H17 Important Open Spaces within Housing Policy Boundaries	Yes - Continue to save.	A3	Development will not be permitted in those areas within Housing Policy Boundaries which are indicated as Important Open Spaces, if it would erode the visual quality of the open space and/or would detrimentally affect the character of the settlement. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
H18 Amenity open space within Housing Policy Boundaries	Yes - Continue to save.	A3	Development will not be permitted on areas within Housing Policy Boundaries which are formally laid out as amenity open space.
H19 Housing restraint areas	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	This is a criteria based policy relating to the control of small scale housing development in specified locations. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
H20 New residential within Special Restraint Areas	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	New residential development will not be permitted where it would mar the outstanding appearance of the Special Restraint Areas. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
H21 Extensions etc within Special Restraint Areas	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	The policy provides criteria for proposals to extend dwellings or to construct separate buildings within the curtilage of existing dwellings. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
H22 Application of Housing Policy Boundaries	No - Replaced by CP2	N/A	
H23 Residential development outside Housing Policy Boundaries	No - Replaced by CP2	N/A	
H24 Housing for the elderly	No - Replaced by CP46	N/A	
H25 Affordable housing	No - Deleted by Core Policy 3 of the SWCS.	N/A	
H26 Rural exceptions	No - Deleted by Core Policy 3 of the SWCS.	N/A	
H27 Permanent Housing for Rural Workers	No - Replaced by CP48	N/A	
H28 Temporary Housing for Rural Workers	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	The policy provides criteria that proposals for temporary housing for rural workers will need to meet. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
H29 Removal of Conditions regarding Housing for Rural Workers	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	The removal of conditions restricting the occupancy of dwellings to agricultural or forestry workers will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that there is no longer a need for such a dwelling on the holding or in the surrounding area. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
			effects on a European site.
H30 Replacement Dwellings in the Countryside	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	The policy provides criteria for the replacement of existing dwellings in the countryside. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site..
H31 Extensions to Dwellings in the Countryside	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	The policy provides criteria for extensions to new dwellings in the countryside. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site..
H32 Mobile Homes	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	Proposals for the siting of mobile homes, including residential caravans, will be subject to the same policies and criteria as for permanent housing, although for environmental reasons they may not be acceptable on all sites where permanent housing would be acceptable. Temporary permission will be considered favourably in order to provide accommodation for a dependent person or whilst an existing dwelling is being restored. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
H33 Accommodation for Dependent Persons	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	The policy provides criteria for the extension of existing dwellings to provide accommodation for dependent persons. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
H34 Gypsy Sites	No - Deleted by Core Policy 4 of the SWCS. (To be replaced by CP47 of the WCS).	N/A	
E1 Employment (Land at Old Sarum)	Yes - Continue to save.	B	Land to the north and south will be released for mixed development, including employment. The allocation falls within 5km of the River Avon SAC and 15km of Salisbury Plain. Any development at this location would need to comply with Core Strategy policies 50 and 69. These are judged to provide sufficient protection.
E2 Employment (London Road site)	No - Deleted by Core Policy 5 of the SWCS / Built out.	N/A	
E3 Employment (Central Salisbury)	Yes - Continue to save.	B	This policy looks to develop small-scale office schemes. It falls within 5km of the River Avon SAC and 15km of Salisbury Plain. Core Strategy policies 50 and 69 are judged to provide sufficient protection.
E4 Employment (Salisbury Chequers)	Yes - Continue to	B	This policy sets maximum plot ratios for office development within the Eastern

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
	save.		Chequers with the intention of ensuring that not more than half the development site is used for building, with at least half the remainder being landscaped. The land falls within 5km of the River Avon SAC and 15km of Salisbury Plain. Any development at this location would need to comply with Core Strategy policies 50 and 69, which are judged to provide sufficient protection.
E5 Employment (Salisbury Brown Street)	Yes - Continue to save.	B	This allocation is within 'Salisbury Central Area Regeneration' programme and falls within 5km of the River Avon SAC and 15km of Salisbury Plain. Any development at this location should comply with Core Strategy policies 50 and 69. These are judged to provide sufficient protection.
E6 Employment (Salisbury Old Manor)	Yes - Continue to save.	B	The south site of the Old Manor offers potential for office development and falls within 5km of the River Avon SAC and 15km of Salisbury Plain. Core Strategy policies 50 and 69 are judged to provide sufficient protection.
E7 Employment (Salisbury Southampton Road)	Yes - Continue to save.	B	Due to the fact the allocation lies within floodplain and an area of high ecological value, the Local Planning Authority is of the opinion that the open land outside of the current and proposed limits of building at Southampton Road should remain undeveloped. The land falls within 5km of the River Avon SAC and 15km of Salisbury Plain. Any development should comply with Core Strategy policies 50 and 69, which are deemed to provide sufficient protection. However, the allocation is not likely to have significant effects.
E8A Employment (Porton Road, Amesbury)	No - Deleted within SWCS as site has extant consent (SWCS).	N/A	
E8B Land at Boscombe and Porton Down	Yes - Continue to save.	B	This lands falls within the Amesbury Area Strategy and is approximately 5km of the River Avon SAC, Salisbury Plain SAC and Porton Down SPA. Any development at this site will need to respond to Core Strategy policies 50 and 69. These are judged to provide sufficient protection.
E10 Employment- Dinton	Yes - Continue to save.	B	This allocation falls within Winton Community area and is approximately 1km north of the River Avon and 10km south of Salisbury Plain SAC/SPA. Any development at the site will need to respond to Core Strategy policies 50 and 69, which have been judged to provide sufficient protection.
E12 Land at Mere	Yes - Continue to save.	B	Land to the west of Dead Maid Quarry industrial estate at Mere has been allocated for employment uses. Given its nature and location the allocation has been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.
E14A Land at Hindon Lane	Yes - Continue to save.	B	This allocation falls within Tisbury Community Area and is approximately 4km west of the River Avon and 15km south of Salisbury Plain SAC/SPA.

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
			Any development at the site will need to respond to Core Strategy policies 27, 50 and 69, which have been judged to provide sufficient protection.
E14B Tisbury	Yes - Continue to save.	B	See comment above
E16 Employment – Change of use of allocated land	No - Deleted by Core Policy 5 of the SWCS.	N/A	
E17 New Employment Development	No - Replaced by CP34	N/A	
E18 New Employment Development in Special Restraint Areas	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	Within Special Restraint Areas, employment development will not be permitted unless it involved the sensitive conversion of buildings worth of retention, as it would alter the village scene detrimentally. Any development within these areas would need to comply with Core Strategy policies 50 and 69.
E19 Employment in the countryside (existing sites)	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	On existing sites within the countryside, the enlargement or redevelopment of premises will be permitted within existing site boundaries. Expansion on to adjacent land will be considered if the proposal would result in improved local employment opportunities were available. Due to the nature of this policy, it is not expected to lead to significant effects on European sites, however any development should comply with policies 50 and 69.
E21 Employment in the countryside (change of use)	No - Replaced by CP48	N/A	
CN1 Demolition of Listed Buildings	No - Replaced by CP58	N/A	
CN2 Demolition of Listed Buildings	No - Replaced by CP58	N/A	
CN3 Listed Buildings	No - Replaced by CP58	N/A	
CN4 Changes of use in Conservation Areas	No - Replaced by CP58	N/A	
CN5 Listed Building cartilage development	No - Replaced by CP58	N/A	
CN6 Change of use of Listed agricultural buildings	No - Replaced by CP58	N/A	
CN7 Residential use of Listed agricultural buildings	No - Replaced by	N/A	

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
	CP58		
CN8 Development in Conservation Areas	No - Replaced by CP58	N/A	
CN9 Demolition in Conservation Areas	No - Replaced by CP58	N/A	
CN10 Open Spaces in Conservation Areas	No - Replaced by CP58	N/A	
CN11 Views in and out of Conservation Areas	No - Replaced by CP58	N/A	
CN12 Features in Conservation Areas	No - Replaced by CP58	N/A	
CN13 Retention of Shopfronts in Conservation Areas	No - Replaced by CP58	N/A	
CN14 Shopfronts	No - Replaced by CP58	N/A	
CN15 Internally illuminated signs in Conservation Areas	No - Replaced by CP58	N/A	
CN16 Shopfront Grilles	No - Replaced by CP58	N/A	
CN17 Trees	Yes - Continue to save.	A3	Where permission is granted for the felling of a tree covered by a Tree Preservation Order, or of a tree located in a Conservation Area, the Local Planning Authority will seek, where appropriate, the planting of at least one replacement tree, of a species and size appropriate to the locality. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
CN18 Historic Parks and Gardens	No - Replaced by CP58	N/A	
CN19 Environmental Enhancement	No - Replaced by CP52, CP57 and CP58	N/A	
CN20 Archaeology	No - Replaced by CP58	N/A	
CN21 Archaeological Assessments	No - Replaced by	N/A	

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
	CP58		
CN22 Preservation of Archaeological Remains	No - Replaced by CP58	N/A	
CN23 Archaeological implications of development in Salisbury, Amesbury, Downton, Hindon, Mere, Old Sarum, Shrewton, Tilshead and Wilton	No - Replaced by CP58	N/A	
CN24 Stonehenge WHS	No - Replaced by CP58 and CP59	N/A	
C2 Development in the Countryside	No - Replaced by CP48	N/A	
C3 Small scale utility development in the Countryside	No - Replaced by CP48	N/A	
C4 AONB	No - No longer required. Repeats national policy (PPS7/draft NPPF).	N/A	
C5 AONB	No - no longer required. Repeats national policy (PPS7/draft NPPF).	N/A	
C6 Special Landscape Area	Yes - Continue to save. Will be subject to a forthcoming review.	A1	This policy provides criteria for development within the SLA. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
C7 Landscape Setting of Salisbury and Wilton	No - Replaced by CP51	N/A	
C8 Landscape (Trees and hedging)	No - Replaced by CP51 and CP50	N/A	
C9 Loss of woodland	Yes - Continue to save.	A3	Using the limited powers available to it (such as imposing Tree Preservation Orders and planning conditions, and commenting on felling licence applications and forestry/woodland grant applications) the Local Planning Authority will seek to prevent the loss of woodland of landscape, historical or nature conservation value and to encourage the planting of indigenous tree species appropriate to the area. Tree planting proposals which are detrimental to the landscape or nature conservation value of downland or river valley meadows will not be supported. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
			effects on a European site.
C11 Nature Conservation	No - Replaced by CP50	N/A	
C12 Protected species	No - No longer required. Repeats national policy / legislation.	N/A	
C13 Enhancement of retained wildlife sites	No - Replaced by CP50	N/A	
C14 Features of geological or geomorphological importance	No - Replaced by CP50	N/A	
C15 Nature Conservation	No - Replaced by CP50 and CP51	N/A	
C16 Local Nature Reserves	No - Replaced by CP50 and CP51	N/A	
C17 Conservation of rivers and river valleys	No - Replaced by CP52	N/A	
C18 Development affecting rivers and river valleys	Yes - Continue to save.	A2	<p>Planning permission will not be given for development which would adversely affect the water quality, amenity, visual quality or public enjoyment of a river or floodplain or its value as a wildlife habitat.</p> <p>Approval will not be granted for the culverting of watercourses unless there is a demonstrable need for granting an exception</p> <p>Bank protection works, which will only be permitted where property or statutory rights of way are threatened, should involve the use of appropriate materials and should protect nature conservation interests.</p> <p>Any development affecting the River Avon SAC would also be subject to the provision of Policy 69 of the Wiltshire Core Strategy.</p> <p>Policy C18 is not therefore anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site, alone or in-combination..</p>
C19 Best and most versatile agricultural land	No – No longer required. Repeats national policy.	N/A	
C20 Agricultural, forestry and horticultural development	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	<p>The policy provides criteria for agriculture, forestry and horticulture related development. This includes water quality as an issue.</p> <p>Any development affecting the River Avon SAC would also be subject to the provision of Policy 69 of the Wiltshire Core Strategy.</p>

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
			Policy C18 is not therefore anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site, alone or in-combination.
C21 Farm diversification	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	This is a criteria based policy relating to the diversification of farms into other uses. Nature conservation interests are identified as an issue. Policy C21 is not therefore anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site, alone or in-combination.
C22 Change of Use & Conversion of Buildings	No - Replaced by CP48	N/A	
C23 Change of use of large houses in the countryside	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	This policy provides criteria relating to the change of use of large houses in the countryside to flats, hotels, restaurants, public houses, offices or institutional uses. Nature conservation interests are not identified as a factor however any proposals would need to demonstrate compliance with Wiltshire Core Policy 50 'Biodiversity and geodiversity' and Wiltshire Core Policy 69 'Protection of the River Avon SAC. Policy C23 has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.
C24 Extensions to buildings in the countryside	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	Extensions and additions to buildings in the countryside will only be permitted if they are sympathetic in scale and character with the existing building and surroundings, and fall within the existing curtilage. Any proposals would need to demonstrate compliance with Wiltshire Core Policy 50 'Biodiversity and geodiversity' and Wiltshire Core Policy 69 'Protection of the River Avon SAC. Policy C24 has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.
HA1 Development in the New Forest	No - Deleted and replaced by New Forest National Park Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD (adopted 9 December 2010).	N/A	
HA2 Housing within the New Forest Villages	No - Deleted and replaced by New Forest National Park Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD	N/A	

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
	(adopted 9 December 2010).		
HA3 Commoner's dwellings in the New Forest	No - Deleted and replaced by New Forest National Park Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD (adopted 9 December 2010).	N/A	
HA4 Replacement of existing dwellings in the New Forest	No - Deleted and replaced by New Forest National Park Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD (adopted 9 December 2010).	N/A	
HA5 Small-scale business development in the New Forest	No - Deleted and replaced by New Forest National Park Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD (adopted 9 December 2010).	N/A	
HA6 Extensions or redevelopment of existing business premises in the New Forest	No - Deleted and replaced by New Forest National Park Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD (adopted 9 December 2010).	N/A	
HA7 Change of use of buildings in the New Forest	No - Deleted and	N/A	

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
	replaced by New Forest National Park Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD (adopted 9 December 2010).		
HA8 Indoor sports and recreation facilities in the New Forest	No - Deleted and replaced by New Forest National Park Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD (adopted 9 December 2010).	N/A	
HA9 Outdoor recreation facilities in the New Forest	No - Deleted and replaced by New Forest National Park Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD (adopted 9 December 2010).	N/A	
HA10 Golf courses in the New Forest	No - Deleted and replaced by New Forest National Park Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD (adopted 9 December 2010).	N/A	
HA11 Riding establishments in the New Forest	No - Deleted and replaced by New Forest National Park Core Strategy and Development	N/A	

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
	Management Policies DPD (adopted 9 December 2010).		
HA12 Private non-commercial stables in the New Forest	No - Deleted and replaced by New Forest National Park Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD (adopted 9 December 2010).	N/A	
HA13 Tourist attractions in the New Forest	No - Deleted and replaced by New Forest National Park Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD (adopted 9 December 2010).	N/A	
HA14 New hotels in the New Forest	No - Deleted and replaced by New Forest National Park Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD (adopted 9 December 2010).	N/A	
HA15 Change of use of buildings to hotel, B&B, guest house or self-catering accommodation in the New Forest	No - Deleted and replaced by New Forest National Park Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD (adopted 9 December 2010).	N/A	

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
HA16 Holiday chalet accommodation in the New Forest	No - Deleted and replaced by New Forest National Park Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD (adopted 9 December 2010).	N/A	
S1 Primary Shopping Frontages in Salisbury and Amesbury	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
S2 Secondary Shopping Areas in Salisbury and Amesbury	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
S3 Location of Retail Development	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	This policy defines the extent of the central shopping area. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
S5 Shopping (Brown Street Car Park)	Yes - Continue to save.	B	The redevelopment of the city centre site at The Maltings, which will include the provision of a larger foodstore, is expected to meet the convenience shopping needs of the urban area during the plan period. Proposals will be expected to have regard to the adopted development brief for the site. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
S6 The Maltings	No - Deleted by Core Policy 7 of the SWCS.	N/A	
S7 London Road	No - Deleted by Core Policy 7 of the SWCS / has extant consent.	N/A	
S9 Local shops	No - Replaced by CP48	N/A	
S10 Shopfronts	Yes - Continue to save.	A1,A3	The policy relates to the protection of old shopfronts. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
S11 Farm shops	No - Replaced by CP48	N/A	

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
R1A Sports and Leisure	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	Recreation development [in the countryside] will be restricted to uses and facilities which do not detract from the nature conservation value, landscape quality, agricultural quality, archaeological value, or rural character of the area. Any proposals would need to demonstrate compliance with Wiltshire Core Policy 50 'Biodiversity and geodiversity' and Wiltshire Core Policy 69 'Protection of the River Avon SAC'. Policy R1A has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.
R1C Outdoor Recreation	Yes - Continue to save.	A1/A3	This policy seeks to improve outdoor recreational facilities within the plan area. Any proposals would need to demonstrate compliance with Wiltshire Core Policy 50 'Biodiversity and geodiversity' and Wiltshire Core Policy 69 'Protection of the River Avon SAC'. Policy R1C has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.
R2 Open Space Provision	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	This policy discusses the delivery of recreational open spaces, either on-site or through developer contributions. Any proposals would need to demonstrate compliance with Wiltshire Core Policy 50 'Biodiversity and geodiversity' and Wiltshire Core Policy 69 'Protection of the River Avon SAC'. Policy R1C has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.
R3 Accommodation for the Elderly	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	This policy recognises that retirement homes will not generate the same demand for recreational open space. Policy R3 has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.
R4 Indoor Community and Leisure Provision	Yes - Continue to save.	A3	This policy sets out the intention to deliver indoor community and leisure provision. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
R5 Protection of Outdoor Facilities	Yes - Continue to save.	A2	The policy protects existing outdoor spaces from development. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
R6 Urban Parks	Yes - Continue to save.	A2	Urban parks will be retained for their recreational and aesthetic value and development unrelated to their recreational use will not generally be allowed. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
R7 Dual use of educational facilities	Yes - Continue to save.	A3	The policy seeks to utilise any surplus school fields for wider community use and protect them from development. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
			effects on a European site.
R8 New Sports and Recreation Provision (Stockport Road, Amesbury)	Yes - Continue to save.	B	The policy relates to the provision of open space at Amesbury. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
R9 New Sports and Recreation Provision (Wick Lane, Downton)	Yes - Continue to save.	B	The policy relates to the provision of open space at Downton. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
R10 New Sports and Recreation Provision (Netheravon Road, Durrington)	Yes - Continue to save.	B	The policy relates to the provision of open space at Durrington. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
R11 New Sports and Recreation Provision (The Street, West Knoyle)	Yes - Continue to save.	B	The policy relates to the provision of open space at West Knoyle. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
R12 New Sports and Recreation Provision (The Avenue, Wilton)	Yes - Continue to save.	B	The policy relates to the provision of open space at Wilton. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
R13 New Sports and Recreation Provision (Middleton, Winterslow)	Yes - Continue to save.	B	The policy relates to the provision of open space at Winterslow through expansion of an existing open space. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
R14 New Leisure Provision (London Road, Salisbury)	No - Deleted by SWCS as site built out (SWCS).	N/A	
R15 Golf courses	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	This is a criteria based policy restricting new golf courses. Any proposals would need to demonstrate compliance with Wiltshire Core Policy 50 'Biodiversity and geodiversity' and Wiltshire Core Policy 69 'Protection of the River Avon SAC. Policy R15 has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.
R16 Developments With River Frontages And Public Access	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	The policy provides criteria relating to access to rivers and public access along riverbanks. Any proposals would need to demonstrate compliance with Wiltshire Core Policy 50 'Biodiversity and geodiversity' and Wiltshire Core Policy 69 'Protection of the River Avon SAC. Policy R16 has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
R17 Public Rights of Way (Existing network)	No - Replaced by CP52	N/A	
R18 Public rights of way (increased access)	No - Replaced by CP52	N/A	
R20 Allotments	Yes - Continue to save.	A3	This policy resists the loss of allotments and seek compensatory provision if sites are lost. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
TR1 Transport (Salisbury Urban Area)	No - Replaced by CP63	N/A	
TR2 Salisbury Market Place Car Parking	No - Replaced by CP63 and CP64, and Policy PS2 in the LTP3 Car Parking Strategy.	N/A	
TR3 Salisbury Coach Strategy	No - Replaced by CP63 and Policy PS9 in the LTP3 Car Parking Strategy.	N/A	
TR4 The former eastern goods yard	No - Deleted by the SWCS as site already built out.	N/A	
TR5 Commutation of Car Parking	No - Replaced by CP3 and CP61	N/A	
TR6 Private non-residential car parks	No - Replaced by CP64 and Policy PS4 and PS5 in the LTP3 Car Parking Strategy.	N/A	
TR7 Residents parking schemes	No - Do not continue to save. Replaced by PS8 of the LTP3 Car Parking Strategy.	N/A	

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
TR8 Park and Ride	No - Deleted by the SWCS as all Park and Ride sites are now built out and operating.	N/A	
TR9 City Centre Parking	No - Replaced by CP63 and CP64 , and Policy PS2 in the LTP3 Car Parking Strategy.	N/A	
TR10 Brunel Link	No - Do not continue to save – see report 'Review of Road Schemes Revealed on Land Charges Searches' (Ref. HT-030-10).	N/A	
TR11 Off Street Parking Spaces	No - Replaced by CP64 and Policy PS4 and PS6 in the LTP3 Car Parking Strategy.	N/A	
TR12 Transport Requirements in Major Developments	Replaced by CP61 (Transport and development) and CP62 (Development impacts on the transport network).	N/A	
TR13 Extensions to public footpath, bridleway and cycle way networks	No - Replaced by CP60 and CP61	N/A	
TR14 Secure bicycle parking spaces	No - Replaced by CP61	N/A	
TR15 Highway safety measures in villages	No - Replaced by CP60 and CP65	N/A	
TR16 Existing Bus and Rail Services	No - Replaced by CP60 and CP66	N/A	

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
TR17 New Rail Development	No - Replaced by CP60 and CP66	N/A	
TR18 Measures to assist motorcycling	No - Replaced by CP61	N/A	
TR20 A350 Shaftesbury Eastern Bypass	Yes - Continue to save.	B	The Shaftesbury Eastern Bypass is part of a planned strategic upgrading of the A350 which runs through the western part of the District. A route corridor has been defined and this will be protected. The route does not fall within 200m of a European site. Therefore this site has been screened out as having no significant effect alone or in combination. In addition any development will need to respond to Core Strategy policies 50 and 69. These policies are judged to provide sufficient protection.
T1 Tourist attractions and facilities	No - Replaced by CP39	N/A	
T2 Tourist attractions in the Countryside	No - Replaced by CP39	N/A	
T3 Stonehenge WHS visitor centre	No - Replaced by CP6	N/A	
T4 Tourist Accommodation	No - Deleted by Core Policy 24 of the SWCS.	N/A	
T6 Change of use to tourist accommodation	No - Deleted by Core Policy 24 of the SWCS.	N/A	
T7 Tourist accommodation in the countryside	No - Replaced by CP39	N/A	
T8 Camping sites in the AONB	No - Replaced by CP39	N/A	
T9 Touring caravans and tents	No - Replaced by CP39	N/A	
PS1 Community Facilities	Yes - Continue to save.	B	The policy recognises the need for improved health facilities in some settlements. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
PS2 Nursing homes	No - Replaced by CP46	N/A	
PS3 Facilities and services within smaller settlements	No - Replaced by	N/A	

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
	Core Policy 22 of the SWCS.		
PS4 New school sites at Landford and Shrewton	Yes - Continue to save.	B	The allocation for a school site at Landford falls within the Southern Wiltshire Community Area. The site falls within 5km of the New Forest SAC/SPA. Any development at this site should respond with Core Strategy policies 25 and 50. The allocation for Shrewton falls within the Amesbury Community Area and is within 5km of the River Avon SAC. Development which occurs at this location should respond to Core Strategy policies 50 and 69. These are judged to provide sufficient protection.
PS 5 New education facilities	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	The policy sets out the Council's intention to seek developer contributions towards school facilities. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
PS 6 Playgroups, childminding facilities and day nurseries	Yes - Continue to save.	A1	This policy provides criteria for the location of new Playgroups, day nurseries and child minding facilities. The nature of the policy is such that it is not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on a European site.
PS7 Telecommunications	Yes - Continue to save.	A1, A2	This policy provides criteria for the location of new telecommunication facilities. Any proposals would need to demonstrate compliance with Wiltshire Core Policy 50 'Biodiversity and geodiversity' and Wiltshire Core Policy 69 'Protection of the River Avon SAC. Policy PS7 has therefore been screened as having no significant effect alone or in combination.
PS8 Renewable Energy	No - Replaced by CP42	N/A	
PS9 Cemetery (Fugglestone Red)	No - Replaced by CP2	N/A	
South Wiltshire Core Strategy-Approved by Full Council 7 February 2012			
Core Policy 1 - The Settlement Strategy and distribution of growth in south Wiltshire	No -Replaced and incorporated into CP1	N/A	
Core Policy 2: Strategic Allocations	No - Incorporated into CP2	N/A	
Core Policy 3 - Meeting Local Needs for Affordable Housing	No - Incorporated and amended by	N/A	

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
	CP43		
Core Policy 4 - Making adequate provision for gypsies and travellers	Amended by CP47	N/A	
Core Policy 5 - Employment Land	Yes- Taken forward and broadened to cover the whole of Wiltshire by CP35 (Existing employment sites).	N/A	Subsumed within Wiltshire Core Strategy CP35 which has already been assessed.
Core Policy 6 - Meeting Salisbury's Housing Needs	No - Replaced by CP45	N/A	
Core Policy 7 - Maltings / Central Car Park	Yes - Taken forward and re-numbered as CP21 (Maltings / Central Car Park).	N/A	Subsumed within Wiltshire Core Strategy CP21 which has already been assessed.
Core Policy 8 Salisbury Skyline	Yes - Taken forward and re-numbered as CP22 (Salisbury Skyline).	N/A	Subsumed within Wiltshire Core Strategy CP22 which has already been assessed.
Core Policy 9 - Old Sarum Airfield	Yes - Taken forward and re-numbered as CP23 (Old Sarum Airfield).	N/A	Subsumed within Wiltshire Core Strategy CP23 which has already been assessed.
Core Policy 10 - Meeting Housing Needs in Wilton Community Area	No - Replaced by CP45	N/A	
Core Policy 11 - Meeting the housing needs for the Amesbury Community Area	No - Replaced by CP45	N/A	
Core Policy 12 - Porton Down	Yes - Taken forward and re-numbered as CP5	N/A	Subsumed within Wiltshire Core Strategy CP5 which has already been assessed.
Core Policy 13 - Stonehenge	Yes - Incorporated and re-numbered as CP6 (Stonehenge).	N/A	Subsumed within Wiltshire Core Strategy CP6 which has already been assessed.
Core Policy 14 - Meeting Housing Needs In The Southern Wiltshire	No - Replaced by	N/A	

Wiltshire Core Strategy: HRA Screening of Saved Policies			
Policy	Does the policy give rise to a potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy?	Screening Result	Additional Comments
Community Area	CP45 (Meeting Wiltshire's housing needs).		
Core Policy 15 - New Forest National Park	Yes - Taken forward and re-numbered as CP25	N/A	Subsumed within Wiltshire Core Strategy CP25 which has already been assessed.
Core Policy 16 - Meeting Housing Needs In The Mere Community Area	No - Replaced by CP45		
Core Policy 17 - Meeting Housing Needs in the Tisbury Community Area	No - Replaced by CP45		
Core Policy 18 - Lifetime Homes Standards	No - Replaced by CP46	N/A	
Core Policy 19 - Water Efficiency and the River Avon Special Area of Conservation	No - Replaced by CP68	N/A	
Core Policy 20- Pollution and phosphate Levels in the Water Environment	Yes - Re-worded and broadened to cover the whole of Wiltshire by CP69, although thrust of policy is similar.	N/A	Subsumed within Wiltshire Core Strategy CP69 which has already been assessed.
Core Policy 21- Protection of Services and Community Facilities	Yes - Taken forward and broadened to cover the whole of Wiltshire by CP49	N/A	Subsumed within Wiltshire Core Strategy CP49 which has already been assessed.
Core Policy 22 - Green infrastructure and Habitat networks	Yes - Taken forward and reworded into CP50 and CP52	NA	Core Policy CP50 and CP52 of the Wiltshire Core Strategy have already been screened.
Core Policy 23 - Hotels, Bed and Breakfasts, Guest Houses and Conference Facilities	Yes - Taken forward and broadened to cover the whole of Wiltshire by CP40	NA	Policy CP40 of the Wiltshire Core Strategy has already been screened.

Appendix G: Consultation responses by Natural England

Date: 2nd April 2012

Our ref: 46291

Your Ref: None Supplied

SpatialPlanning@Wiltshire.gov.uk

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By email only, no hard copy to follow.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Wiltshire Core Strategy Pre-Submission Document, Habitats Regulations Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal.

Thank you for your consultation on the above. Based on the information provided as part of this consultation, we have the following comments to make.

Summary

Natural England advises that the Core Strategy has not adequately demonstrated that it will not have a likely significant effect on the Bath and Bradford on Avon SAC. **We thus advise that the Wiltshire Core Strategy it thus not legally compliant, and is therefore unsound and should not be adopted.**

We also believe that the Council has not demonstrated that it has adequately considered the impacts on designated landscapes in writing its policies. **As a result it has not discharged its duties to have regard for the purposes for which the AONBs were designated and in addition, the rationale for its policies are not justified, and that therefore the policies may be unsound.**

Wiltshire Core Strategy Pre-Submission Document

Potential impacts on AONBs Natural England is very concerned that the Council has not demonstrated that it has adequately considered the impacts on designated landscapes in writing its policies. The Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000 places a statutory duty on the local authorities to have regard for the primary purpose of the AONB to "conserve and enhance natural beauty." The National Planning Policy Framework says: Para 115: "Great weight should be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty".

Our concerns are three fold:

Firstly, we have a generic concern with respect to the non strategic allocations to community areas which include AONBs, namely how has the ability of the AONB to accommodate such growth been assessed.

Secondly, it is far from clear how the size of allocations have been adjusted to reflect the presence of the AONB.

Thirdly, we advise that the *Appraisal of Strategic Site Options capacity to accommodate landscape and visual change Autumn 2011*, does not provide adequate information to demonstrate the suitability of these sites. Indeed the document does not seem to differentiate (in terms of the level of detail provided) between sites affecting an AONB and those not. If, as it seems, the entire acceptability of a number of strategic allocations (notably Marlborough and Warminster) are dependent on the information contained in this appraisal, it seems inadequate. Natural England supports the responses made on behalf of North Wessex Downs AONB and Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB which go into these issues in considerably more detail.

CP20. We note that the development templates have not been to formal public consultation to date as far as we are aware. We welcome the fact that the wording in policies e.g. CP20 includes "strategic allocations will be brought forward through a master planning process agreed between the community, local planning authority, and developer and should deliver any requirements as set out in the development templates". We construe this to

mean that should the community identify further requirements not within the development template, then these will not be ruled “out of court”. It would aid in clarity if this was made explicit.

Para 6.76. We note that para 6.76 makes reference to Core policy 40. This appears to be a mistake.

CP52. We note that this policy states “make provision for accessible open spaces in accordance with the requirements of the adopted Wiltshire Open Space Standards” We are not aware that there are adopted Wiltshire Open Space Standards, and we advise that these standards should be developed as a matter of priority, based on dialogue with stakeholders including ourselves. Similarly, we note that this policy states “provide appropriate contributions towards the delivery of the Wiltshire Green Infrastructure Strategy”. This strategy has not yet been developed, and we advise that this is similarly developed as a matter of priority.

Para 6.178. We note that para 6.178 says “Furthermore, new development must not preclude achievement of conservation objectives for the SAC over the long term.” We advise that “preclude” should read “prejudice”.

Development templates

Land at Kingston Farm, Bradford-on-Avon. We advise that consideration should be given to including the area of woodland immediately to the east of the site as accessible greenspace within the development template.

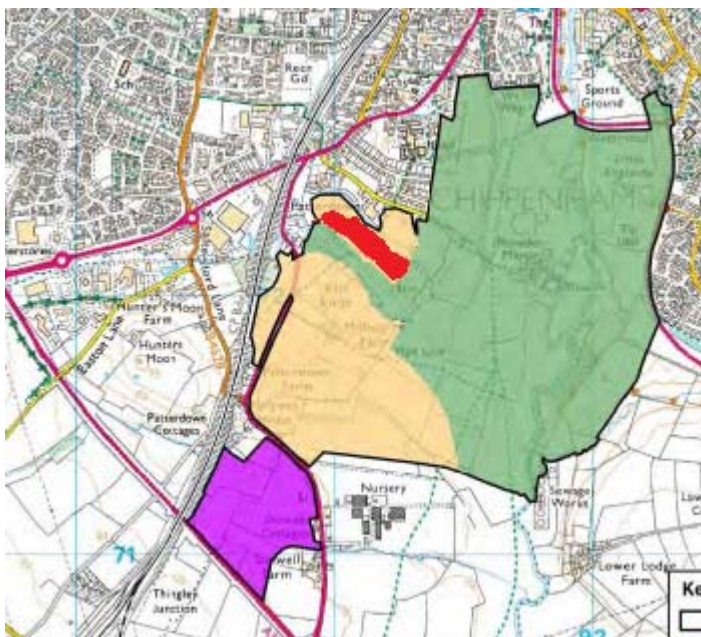
Rawlings Green, East Chippenham Strategic Site. We advise that it may be appropriate for the indicative greenspace to run to the North East of the Employment site, so that there can be public access direct to the public right of way link over the railway and serve as a landscape buffer. Similarly it may be appropriate to have some greenspace and public access along the north west side of the allocated site.

We note that the template makes reference to a Country Park, but it is not clear what space this park will occupy, and its specifications. There is no reference to this in the IDP.

South West Chippenham Strategic Site. The development template states “A 400m radius should be left clear around the sewage treatment works”, but does not state what should be kept clear from this area. It would aid in clarity if this was made explicit.

Reference is made to Rowden Country Park. It is not explicit that this country park is the same as the area marked as indicative greenspace on the South West Chippenham Strategic Site map. It would aid in clarity if this was made explicit.

In our response to the June 2011 consultation we said: “We note that one area of the South West Chippenham site is of more visually prominent than the rest. This is the land within Chippenham Community area. Consideration should be given to this sensitivity, and possibly using this as additional parkland area.” Wiltshire Council have asked for clarification as to the location of this land. This is the fairly steep hillside, very roughly marked in red on the map below.



Corsham Area Strategy. No comments.

Land at Horton Road, Devizes. We note that in the development template it states “A safe and quiet area of the site should be retained for public recreation – this should be landscaped naturally and screened from the main development as far as possible. This area should be accessible from Horton Road and London Road” and that “Development should not impinge on footpath BCAN6” We advise that it would be desirable if the template mandated that the footpath is linked to the area retained for public recreation.

Malmesbury Area Strategy. No comments.

Marlborough Area Strategy. The *Appraisal of Strategic Site Options capacity to accommodate landscape and visual change Autumn 2011* says that the landscape has the capacity to accommodate the allocation with appropriate mitigation. We are unable to agree with the conclusion that there is the capacity to accommodate the landscape changes likely to result from this site, given the mitigation specification in the development template and the limited information in the *Appraisal*. We therefore advise that the document may be unsound on this basis, and seek reassurance within the Core Strategy that a full Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment will be undertaken, and that should it conclude that the site cannot be developed without unacceptable landscape changes, then the strategic allocation will be withdrawn.

We further note that “A Sustainable Energy Strategy will be required for the site, in accordance with proposed Core Policy 41”. We advise that the following is appended to this sentence: “...having regard to the capacity of the AONB’s capacity to produce sustainable wood fuel”, given the close proximity of a good potential resource and the benefits to the AONB of utilising this resource.

Melksham Area Strategy. No comments.

Mere Area Strategy. No comments.

Pewsey Area Strategy. No comments.

Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Strategy. No comments.

Southern Wiltshire Area Strategy.

We note that these appear to be largely cut and pasted from South Wiltshire Core Strategy, and as such a number of references are not correct (e.g. using policy numbering in South Wiltshire Core Strategy). It would be desirable if the format of the South Wiltshire IDP and development templates were the same as the rest of the county.

For all these sites, we do not believe the same rigour has been applied to detailing the essential infrastructure requirements. For example in other parts of the county a percentage of green/brown roofs are required on employment sites. In particular Natural England is concerned that there has been inadequate consideration as to whether new developments will have adequate accessible natural greenspace. While we welcome the statement that “other essential GI and BAP habitat and species requirements will be determined at or prior to master planning”, we remain concerned that the quanta of development will preclude the provision of significant additional greenspace.

Hampton Park, Salisbury. No specific comments.

Fugglestone Red, Salisbury. We are concerned with respect to the lack of public open space within or near by the development, and suggest that the GI policy may not be able to be delivered. The use of the land between this site and UK Land Forces Head Quarters to deliver this should be considered.

Land at the Maltings and Central Car Park, Salisbury. No specific comments.

Churchfields and the Engine Sheds, Salisbury. No specific comments.

UK Land Forces Head Quarters, Wilton. We are concerned with respect to the lack of Public Open Space within or near by the development, and suggest that GI policy may not be able to be delivered. The use of the land between this site and Fugglestone Red to deliver this should be considered.

Longhedge, Old Sarum, Salisbury. We are concerned with respect to the lack of Public Open Space within or near by the development, and suggest that GI policy may not be able to be delivered. In addition, essential infrastructure requirements should include two public right of way links to the public right of way to the north of the site.

King's Gate, Amesbury. The use of the land to the north of this site to deliver additional public open space should be considered.

Former Imerys Quarry, Salisbury. No specific comments.

Tidworth Area Strategy. We note that there is no development template of the 12 ha site Land North of Tidworth Road. It is not clear why there is not one, and we suggest it would be helpful if there was one.

Tisbury Area Strategy. No comments.

Ashton Park Urban Extension, South East of Trowbridge. We note that the Infrastructure delivery plan proposes "Extension of and buffering to existing Biss Meadows CWS and Country Park" as essential infrastructure. We are not clear why this has not been mapped (at least indicatively) in the development template as it was in the June 2011 consultation document (or as Rowden Country Park has been mapped) and explicitly mentioned within the development template. Mapping and setting out the country park requirement within the development template would aid in clarity. Please also note comments relating to the Habitats Regulations Assessment below.

West Warminster Urban Extension. The development template says "Buffer and enhance sections of the River Were corridor through creation of a mosaic of wetland and grassland habitats, linking with Coldharbour Meadows CWS". This has not been mapped, and so it is not clear where this will take place. Mapping this requirement within the development template would aid in clarity. We reiterate our comment made about the June 2011 consultation that it is unclear what "green space" means on the strategic sites map. We advise that the bulk of this space should be accessible natural greenspace.

We note that the *Appraisal of Strategic Site Options capacity to accommodate landscape and visual change Autumn 2011* says: "Development should also have regard to the protected AONB landscape to the west and south. It is therefore proposed to include a large buffer of green space to the boundary of the A36 to avoid a hard urban edge and reduce harm to the landscape. The buffer should also be extended into the southern end of the site to Folly Farm". We note that the map in the development template has not been extended as advised into the southern end of the site.

The *Appraisal of Strategic Site Options capacity to accommodate landscape and visual change Autumn 2011* also says that the landscape has the capacity to accommodate the allocation with appropriate mitigation. We are unable to agree with the conclusion that there is the capacity to accommodate the landscape changes likely to result from this site, given the mitigation specification in the development template and the limited information in the *Appraisal*. We therefore advise that the document may be unsound on this basis, and seek reassurance within the Core Strategy that a full Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment will be undertaken, and that should it conclude that the site cannot be developed without unacceptable landscape changes, then the strategic allocation will be withdrawn.

We further note that "A Sustainable Energy Strategy will be required for the site, in accordance with proposed Core Policy 41". We advise that the following is appended to this sentence: "...having regard to the capacity of the AONB's capacity to produce sustainable wood fuel", given the close proximity of a good potential resource and the benefits to the AONB of utilising this resource.

Westbury Area Strategy. No comments.

Wilton Area Strategy. No comments.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

Natural England understands from Wiltshire Council that the following documents will be finalised prior to the examination of this strategy:

- The Stone Curlew Mitigation Strategy;
- The River Avon Planning Procedure;
- The Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats Planning Protocol.

Natural England anticipates that that these documents will be sufficient to allow conclusions of no likely significant effect to be made with respect to the issues they are intended to address with one caveat. This caveat relates to The Stone Curlew Mitigation Strategy, in which it is proposed that CIL will be used to offset recreational impacts on stone curlew. Natural England remains concerned that it is still unclear as to whether delivering mitigation through CIL complies with the requirements of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. As the competent authority the Council must satisfy itself that the proposed approach does comply. We therefore urge the council to seek further legal advice on this matter and to liaise accordingly with ourselves and the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

Natural England's views on the soundness of the Core Strategy are contingent on the timeliness of production and the content of these three documents. However, on the assumption that these documents are produced prior to adoption, and the content is sufficient (and the CIL issue above is resolved), we concur with the conclusion of the Habitats Regulations Assessment, other than the following point:

Ashton Park Urban Extension, South East of Trowbridge, has the potential to affect the Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC. Our response to the Wiltshire Core Strategy October 2009 consultation stated; "The allocated sites are in close proximity to an important maternity roost of Bechstein's bats. There is evidence that these are part of the population which uses the Bath and Bradford on Avon Special Area of Conservation (SAC). There is a risk this roost will be adversely affected by increased recreational pressure. Consequently impacts on these bats will need to be considered under Habitats Regulations Assessment regulations." This has not been addressed or even acknowledged by the Habitats Regulations Assessment. We thus disagree with the conclusions of the Habitats Regulations Assessment and advise that the strategy is unsound.

Sustainability Appraisal

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.

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.

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".

The advice given by Natural England in this letter is made for the purpose of the present consultation only. Natural England retains its statutory discretion to modify its present advice or opinion in view of any and all such additional matters or any additional information related to this consultation that may come to our attention.

Should you wish to discuss this response please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Charles Routh

Lead Adviser, Winchester Land Use Operations Team, Natural England.

Date: 4th August 2011

Our ref: 25476

spatialplanningpolicy@wiltshire.gov.uk

Wiltshire Council



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By email only, no hard copy to follow.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Wiltshire Core Strategy consultation document June 2011, and associated topic papers, Habitats Regulations Assessment, and Sustainability Appraisal.

Thank you for your consultation on the above.

Summary

We have reviewed the documents and believe that the Core Strategy has not adequately demonstrated that it will not have a likely significant effect on the Bath and Bradford on Avon SAC, and the River Avon SAC. **Natural England's advice is that the Wiltshire Core Strategy is thus not legally compliant, and is currently unsound.**

We are also concerned that the Council has not demonstrated that it has adequately considered the impacts on designated landscapes in writing its policies. **As a result it has not discharged its duties to have regard for the purposes for which the AONBs were designated, nor justified the rationale for its policies, and that the policies may be unsound.**

Our concerns are detailed below.

We have a number of other detailed comments, which are set out in this letter in an order reflecting that of the Strategy for ease of reference.

Wiltshire Core Strategy

Strategic objective 5. Paragraph 3.5 says "...The reuse of Wiltshire's limited amount of previously developed land should be maximised...". It should be noted that Brownfield sites can be important habitats (in some cases a UK BAP priority habitat – Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land), and in these situations, reuse should not necessarily be maximised. An alternative wording might be "The reuse of Wiltshire's limited amount of previously developed land should be maximised unless of high environmental value..." For more information on this subject, see <http://www.buglife.org.uk/Resources/Buglife/Planning%20for%20Brownfield%20Biodiversity.pdf>

CP1. There is an inconsistency in that Wilton is not a listed market town in CP1, but is shown as one of the map on page 28.

Q3. The preface to this section says "...priorities will be set to manage competing demands...". The overriding principle of government planning policy is that development should be sustainable. If additional infrastructure is required to make a development sustainable, then it must be provided, or planning permission should not be granted. We would suggest rather than a hierarchy of priority, the Core Strategy should state that unless all necessary infrastructure is provided the development will be unsustainable, and thus not be permitted.

If a hierarchal approach is to be pursued, we advise that green infrastructure should be regarded as essential infrastructure. Planning Policy Statement 12 recognizes the importance of green infrastructure, alongside social and physical infrastructure and is seen as essential to deliver sustainable communities. It states "*The core strategy should be supported by evidence of what physical, social and green infrastructure is needed to enable the amount of development proposed for the area, taking account of its type and distribution. This evidence should cover who will provide the infrastructure and when it will be provided. The core strategy should draw on and in parallel influence any strategies and investment plans of the local authority and other organizations*". The fact that the benefits of green infrastructure are diffused over time and benefit types makes green infrastructure no less essential. The essential role that green infrastructure has in underpinning sustainable development is not currently recognised in the Core Strategy.

Chippenham (CP5). Natural England appreciates that there are considerable number of factors to be weighed in deciding between the two options. However, based on natural environment considerations

only, we advise that option 1 may result in better natural environment outcomes than option 2. This is because:

1. It will be harder to mitigate the visual impact of the East of Chippenham site, particularly south east of the site. This edge of Chippenham is neatly contained within the topography of the area. The landscape to the south West of Chippenham may be more capable of accommodating development.
2. Transport infrastructure requirements will form an expensive element of the infrastructure requirements of East of Chippenham site. This will in turn reduce the resources available for rendering the development sustainable in other regards, including the natural environment.

In common with all strategic site maps, green space is shown but not defined. We advise that the bulk of this space should be accessible natural greenspace. **This comment applies to all strategic site maps.** We welcome the country park proposals, but the extent of the South West corner of the South West Chippenham park site is unclear. In terms of making this park (and the housing development) attractive, options for reducing the odour from the nearby Sewage Treatment Works should be investigated.

We note that one area of the South West Chippenham site is of more visually prominent than the rest. This is the land within Chippenham Community area. Consideration should be given to this sensitivity, and possibly using this as additional parkland area.

Trowbridge (CP7). The Strategic sites map on page 54 includes an area marked as “green space”. We advise that the bulk of this space should be accessible natural greenspace, much of it planted to woodland to help link the existing woods.

As per our response to the 2009 consultation, the Council will need to ensure that the proposals are Habitats Regulations compliant with respect to the bat interest in Biss Wood, related to the Bath and Bradford on Avon SAC. As they stand at present the proposals are not. Please see our comment on the Habitats Regulations Assessment below.

We understand that there have been difficulties in implementing the ecological aspects of the River Biss Public Realm Design Guide SPD. We consequently advise that consideration is given as to how the Core Strategy can best support the implementation of this SPD.

Bradford on Avon. This site is less than 1km from the edge of the Cotswold AONB. There does not appear to be any statement regarding the acceptability of the likely impact of the allocation on the AONB. In the absence of such an assessment (including comparisons with other potential strategic sites), we advise that the strategy may be unsound in that this policy is unjustified, not having had due regard to the AONB. Please also see our comments on the Habitats Regulations Assessment below.

Calne. Reference should be made in the text (as shown on the map) of the existence of the AONB and particular issues relating to development within its setting.

Corsham. See Habitats Regulations Assessment comments below. Also see comments with respect to CP24 below with respect to former MOD sites.

Devizes The proposed employment site is less than 400m from the edge of the North Wessex Downs AONB. There does not appear to be any statement regarding the acceptability of the likely impact of the allocation on the AONB. In the absence of such an assessment (including comparisons with other locations), we advise that the strategy may be unsound in that this policy is unjustified, not having had due regard to the AONB. We recognise that the policy requires the development to provide landscape screening, but there is no information to demonstrate that screening is capable of adequately addressing the site’s landscape impacts. We note and welcome the statement in the Site Selection topic paper that “a detailed landscape assessment of the sites will be completed.” However, this assessment will be too late in the process to ensure that the site’s impact is acceptable and is deliverable.

We also note that there is an allocation of 1,730 homes at Devizes but no strategic sites are allocated. There is no assessment as to whether it is viable to deliver this housing growth in a way which has an acceptable impact on the AONB, and consequently the strategy may be unsound for reasons given above.

Malmesbury. No comments.

Marlborough. We note that there is an allocation of 610 homes at Marlborough (240 within the rest of the community area) but no strategic sites are allocated. As referred to in our 2009 response, Marlborough has a number of environmental features which may pose constraints to developments. Savernake Tunnel is an important bat roost. We advise that the Strategy should make clear that the numerical allocation can be delivered without compromising this roost. Savernake Forest is a SSSI. We advise that the Strategy should make clear that the numerical allocation can be delivered without adversely affecting the features for which the SSSI is designated. Finally, there is no assessment as to whether it is viable to deliver the housing growth in a way which has an acceptable impact on the AONB, and consequently the strategy may be unsound in that this policy is unjustified, not having had due regard to the AONB.

Melksham. No comments.

Pewsey. We note that there is an allocation of 600 homes within Pewsey community area but no strategic sites are allocated. There is no assessment as to whether it is viable to deliver this housing growth in a way which has an acceptable impact on the AONB, and consequently the strategy may be unsound in that this policy is unjustified, not having had due regard to the AONB.

Tidworth. We note that the Site Selection topic paper states that the only strategic allocation in this Community Area is 550 dwellings on brownfield land on land at Drummond Park, Ludgershall. However, we also note that the strategic allocation includes land to the north east of the A342. Whilst detailed work (not submitted as part of this consultation) has established that, subject to suitable landscaping, the land to the south west of the A342 could be developed without unacceptable impact on the North Wessex Downs AONB, there is no evidence to demonstrate that the land to the north east of the A342 would have an acceptable impact. It also includes greenfield land to the South East of Drummond Park, which we regard as a valuable (albeit non designated) landscape asset. We are thus not clear why the boundaries of the allocation extend beyond that stated in the Site Selection topic paper, and advise that, to be justified, they are adjusted to that given in the Site Selection topic paper.

Warminster. It is unclear what “green space” means on the strategic sites map. We advise that the bulk of this space should be accessible natural greenspace. The council should consider whether tree planting would be appropriate to ensure the A36 is screened from the site.

It is unclear the extent and location of the “wetland corridor” and what this means in terms of wildlife management and public access.

It would be desirable to have better public rights of way links over the A36 to allow better access to the countryside. At present, two of the three public rights of way involve walking over the A36 itself, something which will discourage many future residents from accessing the countryside.

There does not appear to be any statement regarding the acceptability of the likely impact of the allocation on the AONB. In the absence of such an assessment (including comparisons with other potential strategic sites), we advise that the strategy may be unsound in that this policy is unjustified, not having had due regard to the AONB. It would appear that the allocation will have a significant impact from a prominent AONB landmark (Cley Hill), reducing the distance from it to Warminster edge by around 25%.

We note that the policy says that developments must ensure that “contributions are made towards a Phosphates Management Plan”. This is the only community area where this is a policy requirement. We advise that Warminster Community area is only one of the community areas where policy CP51 (Pollution and phosphate levels in the water environment) should apply. We thus are not clear why Warminster is the only Community Area where this requirement is specified, and advise that this may cause confusion.

Westbury. no comments.

Wootton Bassett. Reference should be made in the text (as shown on the map) to the existence of the North Wessex Downs AONB and views of it towards Wootton Bassett.

CP23. Please see comments under Strategic Objective 5, regarding the potential biodiversity value of Brownfield land.

CP24. See comments relating to policy CP23 above. We welcome the supporting text that particular consideration will be given to “measures for reversion of parts of the site to a natural state”. However, MOD sites can have higher biodiversity value than other Brownfield sites, as they often include larger areas of landscaping, and may be managed non-intensively. We thus advise that this should be amended to say “retaining existing biodiversity and measures for reversion of parts of the site to a natural state”.

CP25. We note that one requirement for rural diversification is that it must not give rise to unacceptable levels of traffic. Unacceptable levels are not defined, giving rise to uncertainties over what considerations this will include. For example will air pollution and tranquillity be considered or simply the number of vehicle movements?

CP33. In general terms we very much welcome this policy.

We note that 6.5.1. says, “Ensuring the special characteristics of Wiltshire’s environment are not harmed by growth is a key challenge.” However, Strategic objective 5 is “to protect and enhance the natural environment”. We thus advise that 6.5.1 sets the wrong tone, and should be amended conform with the Strategic Objective and read “Ensuring the special characteristics of Wiltshire’s environment are protected and enhanced by growth is a key challenge, but necessary to ensure sustainable development”. We further advise that this sentence should preface all policies associated with SO5, not just biodiversity. This sentence should form a separate paragraph, above “Biodiversity and Geodiversity”.

We note that the policy says “Major development in particular will include measures to deliver biodiversity gains...” It would be helpful, if as part of the planning process, there was a requirement for developers to demonstrate that all reasonable measures to enhance biodiversity have been considered, and a sound justification provided for dropping those measures which are not taken forward.

CP34. The policy does not make it clear what supporting information will be required as part of a planning application. We advise that there should be explicit criteria for when a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment should be required, (as advised on P22 of the Natural environment topic paper) and that it should be based on good practice guidelines such as those produced jointly by the Landscape Institute/Institute of Environmental Assessment 2002.

It is unclear what the policy approach to development is, if it does not “protects, conserves, and where possible enhances landscape character”. Many developments fail to do this, and retail developments in particular often seek to have a high visual impact at the expense of the landscape character. In some cases this issue can be addressed by better on site landscaping requirements, while in others contributions to offsite landscape enhancements would be needed to ensure no net degradation of landscape character. We therefore advise Core Policy 34 should be revised to say “Development should protect, conserve, and where possible enhance ~~will be supported where it protects, conserves, and where possible enhances~~ landscape character.”

A related issue is the species selection of the planting regimes (tree, shrub and ground cover). All too often they have no reference to the local landscape character, and do not support a sense of place. We therefore advise that the policy or supporting text includes the following: “Planting regimes should reflect the local landscape character, and take opportunities to support biodiversity.”

In general terms LDFs should include policies that facilitate the enhancement of landscapes. We therefore advise that the policy or supporting text includes the following: “Developments should embrace opportunities to enhance the character and appearance of an area and contribute to creating a sense of local distinctiveness.”

We welcome the statement in the Site Selection topic paper that “a detailed landscape assessment of the sites will be completed.” It is not clear when this will be done. We would encourage this to be done in

time to inform the submission draft, particularly in so far as the sites may affect Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

6.5.21 makes reference to the Wiltshire GI strategy being delivered through a Wiltshire GI partnership. It should be noted that as far as we are aware, no such partnership currently exists.

CP 36 It is unclear what classes of development the requirement to “to make provision for accessible green infrastructure in accordance with the requirements” it applies to. It is also unclear what level of provision is required. We advise that this is clarified through further discussions with ourselves and other interested parties.

We welcome that “Proposals for major development should be accompanied by an audit of the existing green infrastructure within and around the site and a statement demonstrating how this will be retained and enhanced through the development process.” At some stage guidance will be needed on how “around the site” is to be interpreted. Certainly as far as strategic sites are concerned, we see this is an ideal opportunity to look at the local GI opportunities/requirements for a settlement, and support the creation of a GI master plan for the settlement.

It would assist in the clarity of this policy if it was made clear that the bullet points were “and” not “or”.

An earlier draft of this policy included a bullet points which read:

- *Contribute towards the delivery of the Wiltshire Green Infrastructure Strategy objectives.*

This has now been removed. This means that there is no requirement for any strategic contribution to GI through this policy, merely that the development will be required to meet the standards. We advise that in order to deliver Strategic Objective 5, this bullet point should be reinstated.

CP36 states: “developers will be required to ...put measures in place to ensure appropriate long-term management of green infrastructure”. It would be helpful if it were made clear which bits of Green infrastructure this relates to.

CP51. Natural England welcomes this policy. In particular we advise that the text: “All relevant developments identified in the River Avon SAC catchment will be required, by means of financial contribution, to contribute to the undertaking and implementation of a Nutrient Management Plan, to ensure that their development will not cause detriment to watercourses through unmitigated addition of phosphates.” is required to provide sufficient certainty to ensure the Strategy is Habitats Regulations compliant.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

Natural England has a number of concerns with respect to the conclusions of the Habitats Regulations Assessment.

Bath and Bradford on Avon SAC

1. The conclusion states: *The Draft Core Strategy physical damage to sites and supporting habitats as an issue where bats are the qualifying feature and while it is not addressed in the thematic policies it is considered in relevant Community Areas. It is also understood that additional guidance will be provided by the Council in a Supplementary Planning Document on this issue. It can therefore be concluded that the Core Strategy will not give rise to significant adverse effects on European sites.*
2. The Corsham policy makes no reference to the SAC.
3. While the Bradford on Avon, and Trowbridge policies do refer to the SAC, there is no demonstration that the allocated sites can be delivered without having a likely significant effect on the SAC whether or not a SPD is produced.
4. It should be noted that by virtue of the close proximity of the Bradford on Avon to a bat roost which may well be part of the SAC meta population, there are a range of vectors by which the site could affect the SAC.

5. It is not clear why the provision of a SPD is necessary. If it is necessary, the parameters for the SPD are too vague to provide certainty. If it is not necessary, it should be omitted as a relevant measure to address this issue.
6. We consequently advise that these three policies are unsound on the basis that they are potentially undeliverable/not in line with the Habitats Regulations.

River Avon SAC

7. The conclusion states: *Issues relating to potential effects on water quality associated with development in the Warminster Community Area have been addressed by Policies 45 and 46. It can therefore be concluded that the Core Strategy will not give rise to significant adverse effects on the River Avon SAC;*
8. It should be noted that this is an issue not limited to Warminster Community Area, but a catchment wide issue. It is thus unclear why it is mentioned solely for Warminster, especially as there is a catchment wide policy.
9. Please see also comments under CP51 with respect to Phosphate levels and the Avon SAC.
10. As Natural England has advised the Council in previous consultations, road verge erosion from elevated traffic levels within the catchment may be having a significant effect on sediment levels within the Avon SAC. We advise that the impact of the Core Strategy on this aspect of the SAC should be assessed (including South Wiltshire sites).

Porton Down SPA

11. We note that all the policies intended to address potential impacts on N2K sites in South Wiltshire Core Strategy have been picked up in the Wiltshire Core Strategy except Core Policy 12 (Porton Down), in which there is a requirement to produce a Wildlife Management Plan for the site. It is not clear how this policy will be retained when the Wiltshire Core Strategy is adopted. We also note that since this was included in the Proposed submission document, in July 2009, there has been little if any progress in creating the Wildlife Management Plan. As a result, we feel less confident about the deliverability of this policy. In order to ensure that this policy is deliverable, we would welcome reassurances from Wiltshire Council that the plan will be progressed.

Draft Topic paper 5 - Natural environment

This topic paper gives a good overview of the current natural environment policy context in Wiltshire. There is however one aspect of the natural environment which it might have been useful to draw out, namely the perceived current areas of policy failure, i.e. examples of development where inadequate policy has led to sub optimal natural environment outcomes. Whilst we are aware of a number of these (and have used them to illustrate policy modifications) a more considered collation of these would be appropriate. The topic paper also serves to illustrate a significant structural weakness when considering the natural environment. This is, that broadly, there is very little monitoring of how development affects the natural environment. It would, perhaps be helpful if this were acknowledged, and proposals put forward to address this.

Draft Topic paper 13 - Green infrastructure

Vision

We endorse the vision in this document.

Objectives

Transport. There is a range of evidence that green infrastructure can contribute, via transport vectors to a range of social goods. These include direct modal change towards active travel (e.g. creation of new or improving attractiveness of existing cycle routes) indirect modal change towards active travel (e.g. proximity to greenspace positively associated with active travel to work). Tree lined roads have lower

traffic speeds, lower KSI rates, and thus (presumably) are more attractive to active travel use, lower noise pollution etc.

Children. Whilst children are mentioned under “education and understanding”, the emphasis is on the ultimate benefits to the natural environment by giving children access to the natural environment, not the benefits to children themselves. There are a wide range of benefits to children themselves including better educational performance, independence and social skills. We suggest that there is a specific objective regarding children.

Climate change adaptation. While the vision refers to the function green infrastructure serves in climate change adaptation, none of the objectives captures this element of the vision.

Long Term Management, Working in Partnership, Funding. The last three objectives are a different class of thing to the preceding ones. They are means rather than ends in themselves. Important as they are, careful thought should be given to whether they should be classed as objectives, bearing in mind CP36.

Standards

We regard the development of these standards as a critical element of the Green infrastructure policy, and one which will be of considerable public interest. It is therefore disappointing that they are not well developed in the current consultation. We hope that they will be subject to wide consultation prior to the submission draft (or at the submission draft, but with the scope to comment on matters wider than the tests of soundness).

Table 5: the cell for Accessibility (threshold / catchment distances) and general recreation area is unclear. I suggest a clearer format is:

There should be an area of X ha within 300m of new dwellings.
There should be an area of Y - Z ha within 2km of new dwellings.
There should be an area of over Z ha within 5km of new dwellings.

Areas for clarification include:

1. Y - Z ha. Which is it? We advise that a range is not given, as in our experience the lower limit will usually be that submitted in the application, and there will be little scope for the planning authority to require more. If more is volunteered, there does not seem any good reason to provide a fixed upper limit.
2. Is the distance as the crow flies or as people move?
3. How should existing areas be aggregated, e.g. if two areas are close by joined by a public right of way, should their areas be aggregated? This needs further guidance.
4. How should quality be assessed? We need to ensure that this land is fit for purpose, and not just the bit of undevelopable land by the main road or under the power lines.
5. What values should X, Y and Z take? Natural England supports the access to natural greenspace standard which has values of 2, 20 and 100ha respectively, and we advise the adoption of these in Wiltshire. If X was 1 ha (100m x 100m), as proposed, this could easily equate to a path through the edge of site landscaping (a 20m x 500m strip). This therefore seems too small. Similarly if Y was a 2 ha site within 2km (as proposed), assuming you walk around the edge of a 100mx200m block 2km away, only 15% of your time would be spent on site, the remainder walking to the site (compare with a 1000m x 200m block when 55% of time would be on site). Furthermore the site would only support very limited routes within it, and lose its appeal to users fairly rapidly. NE’s evidence is set out at <http://naturalengland.etraderstores.com/NaturalEnglandShop/product.aspx?ProductID=5e441c75-2609-4816-9e61-82aba4f2fee8> (part 3 page 30).
6. The question then arises what level of provision should developments provide? We advise that this is clarified through further discussions with ourselves and other interested parties.

The definition of “General recreation area of natural green space” is given as “Country Parks, nature/ecology areas, city parks, POS, amenity land of significant recreation function”. Some of these terms are quite vague (e.g. what is an ecology area, and do all such have public access?), while others are not, by definition, necessarily “natural greenspace” e.g. POS. This definition should be tightened up.

Draft Topic paper 14 – Site Selection process

The details of the site selection process are provided in the “Wiltshire 2026 Strategic Sites Background Paper (October 2009)”. As we responded at the time, we advise that it has not been demonstrated that the impacts on AONBs has been adequately assessed and considered. For example, the only detail provided with respect to justifying the preferred option for Warminster is “The Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is located to the west of the option. The impact on the setting of this would need to be assessed but careful masterplanning and design would protect this.” The SA of the Wiltshire 2026 provides no additional detail, but advises that “More detailed assessment required to assess the degree of effect and value of mitigation needed”. It is disappointing that this has not been undertaken to date.

Sustainability Appraisal

The SA analysis between different site allocations was undertaken in detail in the Wiltshire 2026 consultation, and the SA associated with the current consultation does not add significantly to this analysis. We appreciate that the SA of non spatial policy options is difficult, and have no detailed comments to make on this.

The advice given by Natural England in this letter is made for the purpose of the present consultation only. In accordance with Section 4 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, Natural England expects to be included as a consultee in relation to any additional matters to be determined by the Council that may arise as a result of, or are related to, the present proposal. Natural England retains its statutory discretion to modify its present advice or opinion in view of any and all such additional matters or any additional information related to this consultation that may come to our attention.

We hope these comments are helpful, and would be glad to discuss any of these points in detail should the need arise.

Yours sincerely,

Charles Routh

Planning and Local Government lead, Wiltshire and Swindon

Date: 2nd April 2012

Our ref: 46291

Your Ref: None Supplied

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By email only, no hard copy to follow.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Wiltshire Core Strategy Pre-Submission Document, Habitats Regulations Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal.

Thank you for your consultation on the above. Based on the information provided as part of this consultation, we have the following comments to make.

Summary

Natural England advises that the Core Strategy has not adequately demonstrated that it will not have a likely significant effect on the Bath and Bradford on Avon SAC. **We thus advise that the Wiltshire Core Strategy it thus not legally compliant, and is therefore unsound and should not be adopted.**

We also believe that the Council has not demonstrated that it has adequately considered the impacts on designated landscapes in writing its policies. **As a result it has not discharged its duties to have regard for the purposes for which the AONBs were designated and in addition, the rationale for its policies are not justified, and that therefore the policies may be unsound.**

Wiltshire Core Strategy Pre-Submission Document

Potential impacts on AONBs Natural England is very concerned that the Council has not demonstrated that it has adequately considered the impacts on designated landscapes in writing its policies. The Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000 places a statutory duty on the local authorities to have regard for the primary purpose of the AONB to "conserve and enhance natural beauty." The National Planning Policy Framework says: Para 115: "Great weight should be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty".

Our concerns are three fold:

Firstly, we have a generic concern with respect to the non strategic allocations to community areas which include AONBs, namely how has the ability of the AONB to accommodate such growth been assessed.

Secondly, it is far from clear how the size of allocations have been adjusted to reflect the presence of the AONB.

Thirdly, we advise that the *Appraisal of Strategic Site Options capacity to accommodate landscape and visual change Autumn 2011*, does not provide adequate information to demonstrate the suitability of these sites. Indeed the document does not seem to differentiate (in terms of the level of detail provided) between sites affecting an AONB and those not. If, as it seems, the entire acceptability of a number of strategic allocations (notably Marlborough and Warminster) are dependent on the information contained in this appraisal, it seems inadequate. Natural England supports the responses made on behalf of North Wessex Downs AONB and Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB which go into these issues in considerably more detail.

CP20. We note that the development templates have not been to formal public consultation to date as far as we are aware. We welcome the fact that the wording in policies e.g. CP20 includes "strategic allocations will be brought forward through a master planning process agreed between the community, local planning authority, and developer and should deliver any requirements as set out in the development templates". We construe this to

mean that should the community identify further requirements not within the development template, then these will not be ruled “out of court”. It would aid in clarity if this was made explicit.

Para 6.76. We note that para 6.76 makes reference to Core policy 40. This appears to be a mistake.

CP52. We note that this policy states “make provision for accessible open spaces in accordance with the requirements of the adopted Wiltshire Open Space Standards” We are not aware that there are adopted Wiltshire Open Space Standards, and we advise that these standards should be developed as a matter of priority, based on dialogue with stakeholders including ourselves. Similarly, we note that this policy states “provide appropriate contributions towards the delivery of the Wiltshire Green Infrastructure Strategy”. This strategy has not yet been developed, and we advise that this is similarly developed as a matter of priority.

Para 6.178. We note that para 6.178 says “Furthermore, new development must not preclude achievement of conservation objectives for the SAC over the long term.” We advise that “preclude” should read “prejudice”.

Development templates

Land at Kingston Farm, Bradford-on-Avon. We advise that consideration should be given to including the area of woodland immediately to the east of the site as accessible greenspace within the development template.

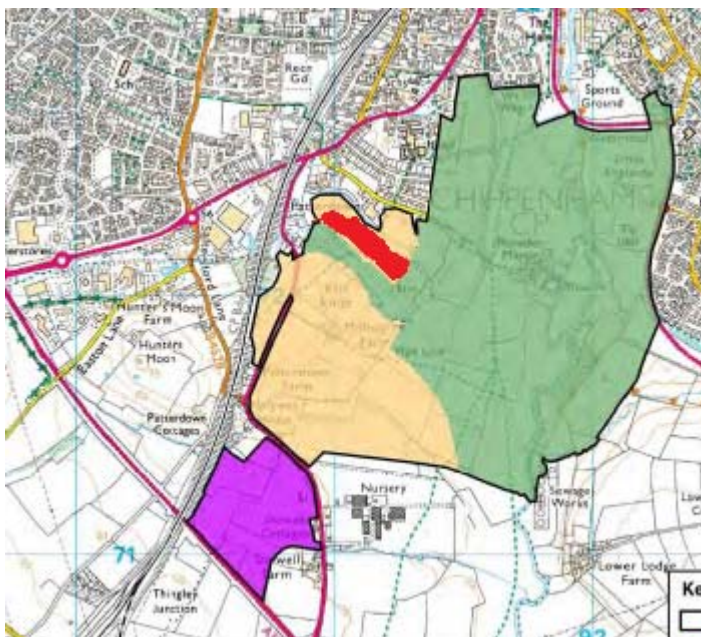
Rawlings Green, East Chippenham Strategic Site. We advise that it may be appropriate for the indicative greenspace to run to the North East of the Employment site, so that there can be public access direct to the public right of way link over the railway and serve as a landscape buffer. Similarly it may be appropriate to have some greenspace and public access along the north west side of the allocated site.

We note that the template makes reference to a Country Park, but it is not clear what space this park will occupy, and its specifications. There is no reference to this in the IDP.

South West Chippenham Strategic Site. The development template states “A 400m radius should be left clear around the sewage treatment works”, but does not state what should be kept clear from this area. It would aid in clarity if this was made explicit.

Reference is made to Rowden Country Park. It is not explicit that this country park is the same as the area marked as indicative greenspace on the South West Chippenham Strategic Site map. It would aid in clarity if this was made explicit.

In our response to the June 2011 consultation we said: “We note that one area of the South West Chippenham site is of more visually prominent than the rest. This is the land within Chippenham Community area. Consideration should be given to this sensitivity, and possibly using this as additional parkland area.” Wiltshire Council have asked for clarification as to the location of this land. This is the fairly steep hillside, very roughly marked in red on the map below.



Corsham Area Strategy. No comments.

Land at Horton Road, Devizes. We note that in the development template it states “A safe and quiet area of the site should be retained for public recreation – this should be landscaped naturally and screened from the main development as far as possible. This area should be accessible from Horton Road and London Road” and that “Development should not impinge on footpath BCAN6” We advise that it would be desirable if the template mandated that the footpath is linked to the area retained for public recreation.

Malmesbury Area Strategy. No comments.

Marlborough Area Strategy. The *Appraisal of Strategic Site Options capacity to accommodate landscape and visual change Autumn 2011* says that the landscape has the capacity to accommodate the allocation with appropriate mitigation. We are unable to agree with the conclusion that there is the capacity to accommodate the landscape changes likely to result from this site, given the mitigation specification in the development template and the limited information in the *Appraisal*. We therefore advise that the document may be unsound on this basis, and seek reassurance within the Core Strategy that a full Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment will be undertaken, and that should it conclude that the site cannot be developed without unacceptable landscape changes, then the strategic allocation will be withdrawn.

We further note that “A Sustainable Energy Strategy will be required for the site, in accordance with proposed Core Policy 41”. We advise that the following is appended to this sentence: “...having regard to the capacity of the AONB’s capacity to produce sustainable wood fuel”, given the close proximity of a good potential resource and the benefits to the AONB of utilising this resource.

Melksham Area Strategy. No comments.

Mere Area Strategy. No comments.

Pewsey Area Strategy. No comments.

Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Strategy. No comments.

Southern Wiltshire Area Strategy.

We note that these appear to be largely cut and pasted from South Wiltshire Core Strategy, and as such a number of references are not correct (e.g. using policy numbering in South Wiltshire Core Strategy). It would be desirable if the format of the South Wiltshire IDP and development templates were the same as the rest of the county.

For all these sites, we do not believe the same rigour has been applied to detailing the essential infrastructure requirements. For example in other parts of the county a percentage of green/brown roofs are required on employment sites. In particular Natural England is concerned that there has been inadequate consideration as to whether new developments will have adequate accessible natural greenspace. While we welcome the statement that “other essential GI and BAP habitat and species requirements will be determined at or prior to master planning”, we remain concerned that the quanta of development will preclude the provision of significant additional greenspace.

Hampton Park, Salisbury. No specific comments.

Fugglestone Red, Salisbury. We are concerned with respect to the lack of public open space within or near by the development, and suggest that the GI policy may not be able to be delivered. The use of the land between this site and UK Land Forces Head Quarters to deliver this should be considered.

Land at the Maltings and Central Car Park, Salisbury. No specific comments.

Churchfields and the Engine Sheds, Salisbury. No specific comments.

UK Land Forces Head Quarters, Wilton. We are concerned with respect to the lack of Public Open Space within or near by the development, and suggest that GI policy may not be able to be delivered. The use of the land between this site and Fugglestone Red to deliver this should be considered.

Longhedge, Old Sarum, Salisbury. We are concerned with respect to the lack of Public Open Space within or near by the development, and suggest that GI policy may not be able to be delivered. In addition, essential infrastructure requirements should include two public right of way links to the public right of way to the north of the site.

King's Gate, Amesbury. The use of the land to the north of this site to deliver additional public open space should be considered.

Former Imerys Quarry, Salisbury. No specific comments.

Tidworth Area Strategy. We note that there is no development template of the 12 ha site Land North of Tidworth Road. It is not clear why there is not one, and we suggest it would be helpful if there was one.

Tisbury Area Strategy. No comments.

Ashton Park Urban Extension, South East of Trowbridge. We note that the Infrastructure delivery plan proposes "Extension of and buffering to existing Biss Meadows CWS and Country Park" as essential infrastructure. We are not clear why this has not been mapped (at least indicatively) in the development template as it was in the June 2011 consultation document (or as Rowden Country Park has been mapped) and explicitly mentioned within the development template. Mapping and setting out the country park requirement within the development template would aid in clarity. Please also note comments relating to the Habitats Regulations Assessment below.

West Warminster Urban Extension. The development template says "Buffer and enhance sections of the River Were corridor through creation of a mosaic of wetland and grassland habitats, linking with Coldharbour Meadows CWS". This has not been mapped, and so it is not clear where this will take place. Mapping this requirement within the development template would aid in clarity. We reiterate our comment made about the June 2011 consultation that it is unclear what "green space" means on the strategic sites map. We advise that the bulk of this space should be accessible natural greenspace.

We note that the *Appraisal of Strategic Site Options capacity to accommodate landscape and visual change Autumn 2011* says: "Development should also have regard to the protected AONB landscape to the west and south. It is therefore proposed to include a large buffer of green space to the boundary of the A36 to avoid a hard urban edge and reduce harm to the landscape. The buffer should also be extended into the southern end of the site to Folly Farm". We note that the map in the development template has not been extended as advised into the southern end of the site.

The *Appraisal of Strategic Site Options capacity to accommodate landscape and visual change Autumn 2011* also says that the landscape has the capacity to accommodate the allocation with appropriate mitigation. We are unable to agree with the conclusion that there is the capacity to accommodate the landscape changes likely to result from this site, given the mitigation specification in the development template and the limited information in the *Appraisal*. We therefore advise that the document may be unsound on this basis, and seek reassurance within the Core Strategy that a full Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment will be undertaken, and that should it conclude that the site cannot be developed without unacceptable landscape changes, then the strategic allocation will be withdrawn.

We further note that "A Sustainable Energy Strategy will be required for the site, in accordance with proposed Core Policy 41". We advise that the following is appended to this sentence: "...having regard to the capacity of the AONB's capacity to produce sustainable wood fuel", given the close proximity of a good potential resource and the benefits to the AONB of utilising this resource.

Westbury Area Strategy. No comments.

Wilton Area Strategy. No comments.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

Natural England understands from Wiltshire Council that the following documents will be finalised prior to the examination of this strategy:

- The Stone Curlew Mitigation Strategy;
- The River Avon Planning Procedure;
- The Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats Planning Protocol.

Natural England anticipates that that these documents will be sufficient to allow conclusions of no likely significant effect to be made with respect to the issues they are intended to address with one caveat. This caveat relates to The Stone Curlew Mitigation Strategy, in which it is proposed that CIL will be used to offset recreational impacts on stone curlew. Natural England remains concerned that it is still unclear as to whether delivering mitigation through CIL complies with the requirements of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. As the competent authority the Council must satisfy itself that the proposed approach does comply. We therefore urge the council to seek further legal advice on this matter and to liaise accordingly with ourselves and the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

Natural England's views on the soundness of the Core Strategy are contingent on the timeliness of production and the content of these three documents. However, on the assumption that these documents are produced prior to adoption, and the content is sufficient (and the CIL issue above is resolved), we concur with the conclusion of the Habitats Regulations Assessment, other than the following point:

Ashton Park Urban Extension, South East of Trowbridge, has the potential to affect the Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC. Our response to the Wiltshire Core Strategy October 2009 consultation stated; "The allocated sites are in close proximity to an important maternity roost of Bechstein's bats. There is evidence that these are part of the population which uses the Bath and Bradford on Avon Special Area of Conservation (SAC). There is a risk this roost will be adversely affected by increased recreational pressure. Consequently impacts on these bats will need to be considered under Habitats Regulations Assessment regulations." This has not been addressed or even acknowledged by the Habitats Regulations Assessment. We thus disagree with the conclusions of the Habitats Regulations Assessment and advise that the strategy is unsound.

Sustainability Appraisal

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.

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.

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".

The advice given by Natural England in this letter is made for the purpose of the present consultation only. Natural England retains its statutory discretion to modify its present advice or opinion in view of any and all such additional matters or any additional information related to this consultation that may come to our attention.

Should you wish to discuss this response please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Charles Routh

Lead Adviser, Winchester Land Use Operations Team, Natural England.