



# Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan

Pre-submission  
draft plan

Sustainability Appraisal (SA)  
Non-technical Summary

June 2017

# Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan

## Sustainability Appraisal Report

### Non Technical Summary

Wiltshire Council

June 2017

ATKINS

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## Document history

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## Client signoff

Client	Wiltshire Council
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# Non Technical Summary

## Purpose of this report

This report is the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Report of the Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan (the Plan). The purpose of this SA Report is to assess and inform the development of the Housing Site Allocations Plan. The report has been produced jointly by Atkins and Wiltshire Council.

This section is the non-technical summary of the SA Report, setting out the SA process for the Plan and summarising the key assessment findings and recommendations. Wiltshire Council is preparing the Plan to support the delivery of new housing set out in the Wiltshire Core Strategy (adopted January 2015). The Plan will identify sufficient land (in the form of sites) across Wiltshire to ensure delivery of the Wiltshire Core Strategy housing requirement and maintain a five year housing land supply up to the end of the plan period to 2026. It will also review settlement boundaries across Wiltshire.

This SA Report is being published for pre-submission consultation at the same time as the draft Plan. Following consultation on the draft Plan and draft SA Report, consultee comments will be reviewed and the implications for both documents considered.

## Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan – Purpose and Objectives

### Purpose

The purpose of the Plan is twofold:

- revise, where necessary, settlement boundaries in relation to the Principal Settlements of Salisbury and Trowbridge, Market Towns, Local Service Centres and Large Villages; and
- allocate new sites for housing to ensure the delivery of homes across the plan period in order to maintain a five year land supply in each of Wiltshire's three HMAs over the period to 2026.

### Objectives

The Plan has three objectives:

#### Settlement boundary review

- Objective 1: To ensure there is a clear definition to the extent of the built up areas at principal settlements, market towns, local service centres and large villages

#### Housing site allocations

- Objective 2: To help demonstrate a rolling five year supply of deliverable land for housing development - a duty on each Local Planning Authority required by the National Planning Policy Framework
- Objective 3: To allocate sites at the settlements in the County that support the spatial strategy of the Wiltshire Core Strategy. The spatial strategy for Wiltshire contained in the Core Strategy promotes the sustainable development of the County

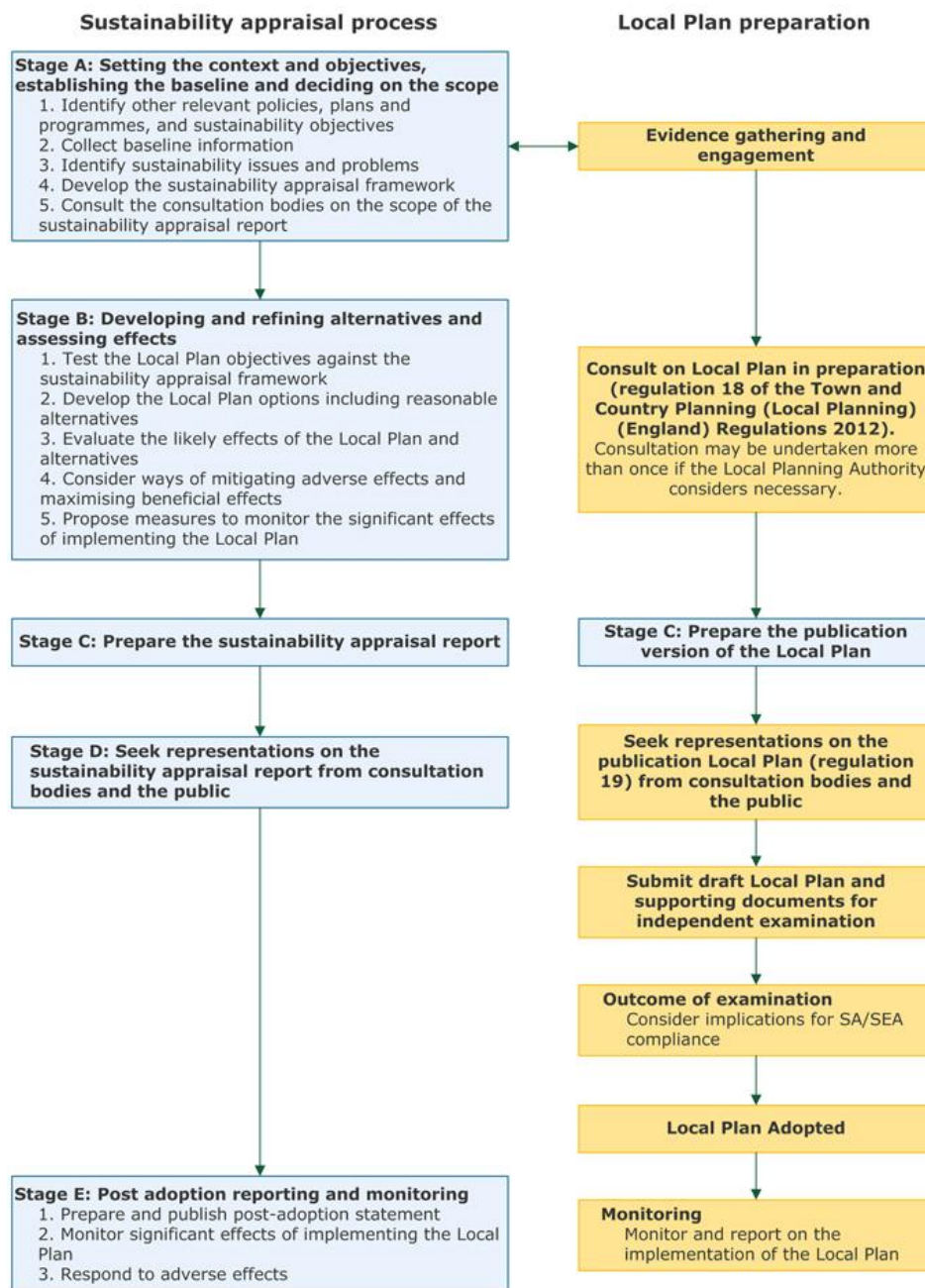
## Sustainability Appraisal

SA is required during the preparation of a Local Plan. SA promotes sustainable development by assessing the extent to which the emerging plan, when judged against reasonable alternatives, will help to achieve relevant environmental, economic and social objectives.

This SA Report has been produced in line with national guidance and legislation. It is also in line with the SA Scoping Report which was published for stakeholder consultation in the middle of 2014 which set out how the SA would be undertaken.

The main stages in the SA process are shown below and involve:

- Stage A – Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on scope;
- Stage B – Developing and refining options and assessing effects;
- Stage C – Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report;
- Stage D – Consultation on the Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal Report; and
- Stage E – Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the plan.



This SA Report document forms part of SA Stage C. It is being published for pre-submission consultation at the same time as the draft version of the Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan.

## **Habitats Regulations Assessment**

Alongside the SA process it is also necessary to assess whether the sites contained in the Plan are likely to have a significant effect upon Natura 2000 sites. These comprise designated and candidate Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar sites, which are designated as European sites for their ecological value.

The HRA prepared by Wiltshire Council comprised an early HRA Settlement Level Screening Assessment for the Wiltshire housing sites during the initial development of the Plan. This was used to inform the assessment of the individual site options in Chapter 7 of this report.

A Screening Assessment and Appropriate Assessment of the Plan policies was also undertaken as part of the HRA, which has been used to update the findings of the screening exercise and to inform the assessment of the Plan policies in Chapter 8 of this report.

In conclusion, the HRA identified no adverse effects on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites as a result of the Plan, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, assuming that the mitigation proposed in the HRA is implemented.

## **Key sustainability issues**

The SA process involves setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope of issues to assess. This was done by reviewing various relevant plans and programmes and gathering baseline information on current and likely trends.

From this analysis, the key sustainability issues identified for Wiltshire are briefly summarised below:

### **Biodiversity**

There are numerous Natura 2000 sites in Wiltshire. Development has the potential to affect a number of these sites through habitat disturbance, recreational pressure, water abstraction and pollution.

There are also approximately 1,550 County Wildlife Sites (CWSs) in Wiltshire covering approximately 21,000ha of semi-natural habitats. The CWS network does not receive any statutory protection and is vulnerable as a result.

Development has the potential to result in long and short term disturbance of the natural environment resulting in a range of effects on species and habitats (both direct and indirect), which, particularly when taken in combination can be significant.

Across Wiltshire there are opportunities to restore major areas of broadleaved woodland, neutral grassland, limestone grassland, chalk downland, river networks and wetland habitats linking to features shown on the South West Nature Map.

### **Land and Soil Resources**

Due to the county's predominantly rural nature, there is low availability of brownfield land meaning development on greenfield sites is necessary. Nevertheless, the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land should be recognised and priority for development should be given to poorer quality land. Future development needs to provide the opportunity to remediate and redevelop Wiltshire's remaining brownfield sites, particularly in town centres.

### **Water Resources and Flood Risk**

Several key locations within the administrative area of Wiltshire Council have been identified as the focus of a Strategic Water Management Plan – Chippenham, Trowbridge and Salisbury. Historically, the majority of

reported flooding issues within Trowbridge have been linked with fluvial flooding from the River Biss. Surface water flooding incidents have been limited, with no significant issues identified.

Historically, the majority of reported flooding issues within Salisbury and the surrounding area have been linked with fluvial flooding from the River Avon (Hampshire), River Nadder and River Bourne. However, due to the nature of the underlying bedrock, base flows within these rivers are inherently linked with groundwater levels. During wet periods, surface water infiltration into the underlying aquifer causes groundwater levels to rise causing increases in base flow within river channels. These cause longer duration flood events that are a combination of groundwater and fluvial flows.

The River Avon SAC and ground water sources are particularly vulnerable to the effects of diffuse and point source pollution, in particular to elevated phosphate levels from additional sewage discharges in the catchment. This can be addressed through the introduction of a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) to reduce phosphate levels.

Nitrogen enrichment of surface waters and groundwater is already regarded as problem in a number of areas. Wiltshire's chalk streams are internationally important for biodiversity, but currently suffer from a number of interacting factors that are having negative impacts.

Groundwater resources need to be protected and managed to ensure sustainable future supplies. There are two key risks to groundwater: pollution / contamination; and over use of groundwater.

### **Air Quality and Environmental Pollution**

Wiltshire Council has declared a number of AQMAs due to exceedances in nitrogen dioxide. Future development has the potential to result in air quality impacts on biodiversity. Development may also affect noise, vibration and light pollution levels.

### **Climatic Factors**

Wiltshire's ecological footprint is significantly greater than the average global ecological footprint. Efforts directed at climate change adaptation and mitigation at the local level such as reducing the use of non-renewable energy and reducing vehicle journeys, will contribute to reducing the county's ecological footprint. In Wiltshire, there is a local need to reduce carbon emissions and deliver an increased level of renewable energy.

### **Heritage**

Within wider Wiltshire district there is a rich and historic landscape which forms part of Wiltshire's rich natural heritage.

Wiltshire has nearly 20,000 archaeological sites ranging from the prehistoric through to Roman and medieval times and the civil war battlefield at Roundway Down. There are also approximately 12,000 listed buildings, 37 historic parks and gardens and more than 200 conservation areas. There is a need to retain/ preserve and where possible enhance designated and non designated heritage assets. Wiltshire's rural settlements and villages include many historic farm buildings.

Opportunities exist to promote the wider contribution of the historic environment to sustainable development.

### **Landscape**

Wiltshire has high quality and valued landscapes. There are 3 AONBs in Wiltshire: Management plans have been prepared for the three AONBs and will need to be considered in proposals for future development.

With regards to Wiltshire Council's Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) and Special Landscape Areas (SLA) there may be an opportunity to identify those truly unique areas of Wiltshire and protect them for the future, while also avoiding unnecessarily rigid local designations which restrict opportunities for sustainable

development. Through new development there are opportunities as well as a need to promote sustainable design in Wiltshire that respects and complements the character of the local landscape.

Part of the Western Wiltshire Green Belt falls in Wiltshire including land surrounding Bradford on Avon, Trowbridge and west of Corsham. The particular objectives of the Western Wiltshire Green Belt are to maintain the open character of undeveloped land adjacent to Bath, Trowbridge and Bradford on Avon, to limit the spread of development along the A4 between Batheaston and Corsham and to protect the historic character and setting of Bradford upon Avon.

### **Population and Housing**

Wiltshire faces a number of challenges including an ageing population, issues in respect to provision of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation and lack of affordable housing.

Efficient use of land in Wiltshire is very important, particularly given the rural nature of the county with low levels of previously developed land. It is essential that design solutions are encouraged which will achieve higher density levels wherever possible. There is the opportunity through new development to significantly increase the affordable housing stock.

### **Healthy and Inclusive Communities**

Wiltshire is not a deprived county however there are three small areas - two in Trowbridge and one in Salisbury - which are in the top 20% of deprived areas nationally; they are home to slightly more than 5,000 people. There are also scattered areas of poverty in rural Wiltshire. The most prevalent form of deprivation in Wiltshire relates to barriers to housing and services.

There are a number of challenges faced by rural areas in Wiltshire. These include lack of affordable housing, an ageing population, rural isolation, and lesser accessibility as well as a decline in basic facilities.

New development should be designed to enhance a sense of community through the provision of public/ community spaces and facilities, with the provision of appropriate levels of good quality affordable housing to meet local need. Development should also be located within easy access of local services so that these can be accessed on foot, by bike or using public transport.

### **Education and Skills**

Wiltshire has a higher than average proportion of young people not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET). Data suggests that many jobs taken by 16-18 year olds are often temporary; either genuinely short contract or seasonal jobs or the young people move between jobs until they settle.

With regards to workplace skills, Wiltshire has been dominated by low value, low skilled manufacturing and service sectors, resulting in the county becoming an attractive place for the higher skilled and higher paid in which to live, but not to work.

The skills base of Wiltshire is relatively polarised with a high proportion of residents with high skills levels, but equally a significant proportion with poor basic skills and, as a result of the recession, increasing unemployment levels.

Policies should seek to match housing allocations to employment opportunities within the county, to assist in reducing trends of out-migration for work. An appropriate level of high quality educational facilities in accessible locations to meet the needs of the community is also required.

### **Transport**

High car ownership is reflective of the rural nature of the county although there are clear geographic differences in the distribution of households without access to cars. The future growth of Wiltshire's largest towns should focus on creating more favourable conditions for people to be less reliant on the car.



There is a need to ensure that employment, education, health, shops, and other essential facilities are accessible to all, and not just those with access to a private car.

There are opportunities to increase the proportion of journeys made on foot as well as increasing the percentage of people cycling to work. Wiltshire's relative affluence and high levels of cycle ownership offer a good opportunity to increase levels of cycling. There is scope for improving walking and cycling facilities in town centres.

### **Economy and Enterprise**

There are discrepancies between average earnings by workplace and average earnings by residence in Wiltshire suggesting that Wiltshire's higher skilled resident workers are unable to secure the higher than average earnings within Wiltshire and therefore commute outside of the county for work.

Housing development should be located in proximity to employment sites in order to reduce out-commuting and promote travel to work using sustainable modes of transport.

Chippenham, Salisbury and Trowbridge should be the focus of both housing and employment development in the future.

### **The Sustainability Appraisal Framework**

The SA Framework is a key component in undertaking the SA by creating a systematic and easily understood tool that allows the prediction and assessment of effects considered likely to arise from the implementation of the Plan.

The SA objectives are as follows:

1. Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geological features and avoid irreversible losses
2. Ensure efficient and effective use of land and the use of suitably located previously developed land and buildings.
3. Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner.
4. Improve air quality throughout Wiltshire and minimise all sources of environmental pollution
- 5a. Minimise our impacts on climate change – through reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- 5b. Minimise our impacts on climate change – through reducing our vulnerability to future climate change effects.
6. Protect, maintain and enhance the historic environment
7. Conserve and enhance the character and quality of Wiltshire's rural and urban landscapes, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place
8. Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures.
9. Reduce poverty and deprivation and promote more inclusive and self-contained communities.
10. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable transport choices.
11. Encourage a vibrant and diversified economy and provide for long-term sustainable economic growth
12. Ensure adequate provision of high quality employment land and diverse employment opportunities to meet the needs of local businesses and a changing workforce.

## Assessment of effects

The Plan has been subject to the SA to predict and evaluate the nature and scale of sustainability effects. The sites and related policies were assessed in two main stages:

- Assessment of a range of reasonable alternative sites using the SA Framework; and
- Assessment of policies for allocation of sites, building on the existing sites assessments, using an assessment rationale derived from the SA Framework of objectives.

An SA assessment scale was used for both assessments, as shown below; further details are provided in Chapter 2.

### Generic Assessment Scale

Major adverse effect (- - -)	Option likely to have a <b>major adverse</b> effect on the objective with no satisfactory mitigation possible. <b>Option may be inappropriate for housing development.</b>
Moderate adverse effect (- -)	Option likely to have a <b>moderate adverse</b> effect on the objective. Mitigation likely to be difficult or problematic.
Minor adverse effect (-)	Option likely to have a <b>minor adverse</b> effect on the objective. Mitigation measures are readily achievable.
Neutral or no effect (0)	On balance option likely to have a neutral effect on the objective or no effect on the objective.
Minor positive effect (+)	Option likely to have a <b>minor positive</b> effect on the objective as enhancement of existing conditions may result.
Moderate positive effect (+ +)	Option likely to have a <b>moderate positive</b> effect on the objective as it would help resolve an existing issue.
Major positive effect (+ + +)	Option likely to have a <b>major positive</b> effect on the objective as it would help maximise opportunities.

## Assessment of sites

Reasonable alternative site options were assessed against this scoring system, the results of which were used to identify whether a site was 'more sustainable', 'less sustainable', or not to be considered further, in order to inform the sites to be taken forward by Wiltshire Council to Stage 4 (the selection of preferred sites stage).

In terms of identification of 'more sustainable' site options, prediction of minor adverse effects indicate that mitigation is possible and resulting effects are likely be minor (not significant) and thus not a cause of concern. The same is true for site options with neutral or no effects. Thus site options exhibiting the most number of this type of effect across SA objectives were considered 'more sustainable'.

Moderate adverse effects, on the other hand, indicate that mitigation is problematic, potentially resulting in the occurrence of undesirable significant adverse effects. On this basis, the least number of moderate adverse effects a site option presents, the more preferred it becomes from a sustainability perspective as the risks involved are less.

As a general rule of thumb, site options with five or more moderate adverse effects result in a site being considered 'less sustainable'; and site options with four or less moderate adverse effects are considered 'more sustainable'.

It should be noted that 'less sustainable' sites might nonetheless be taken forward by the Council to Stage 4 if 'more sustainable' options have become undeliverable for various reasons, or where a site presents

significant beneficial effects, or if there are other reasons for considering these sites beyond the criteria of the SA.

Major adverse effects indicate that mitigation of effects is not considered possible for a particular site option, and therefore that site should not be considered further.

The following sites were assessed in the SA as either 'more sustainable', 'less sustainable', or not to be considered further:

Area of search	Site	SA assessment conclusion
<b>Amesbury Community Area Remainder</b>		
Shrewton	S146 Land to the west of Tanner's Lane and south of the Hollow, Shrewton	Not to be considered further
	S150 Land north of the A360, Shrewton	Not to be considered further
	S151 Land South of Nettley Farm, Shrewton	Not to be considered further
	S152 Land at Rollestone Manor Farm, Shrewton	Not to be considered further
	S154 Land to the south of London Road, Shrewton	Not to be considered further
	S1067 Land off Maddington Street, Shrewton	Not to be considered further
The Winterbournes	S90 Land between Winterbourne Earls Village School and the Railway Line, The Winterbournes	Not to be considered further
	S91 Land by Summerlug Estate and Railway, The Winterbournes	Not to be considered further
	S92 Land by Railway Line and Vicarage, The Winterbournes	Not to be considered further
	3528 Land adjacent and including Winterbourne Motors, The Winterbournes	Not to be considered further
<b>Amesbury (including Bulford and Durrington)</b>		
Durrington	S98 Land to Rear of Durrington Manor, Durrington	Less sustainable
	3154 Piece Meadow, Durrington	More sustainable
	3179 Land to the south of Larkhill Road, Durrington	More sustainable
Amesbury	3379 Land north of London Road, Amesbury	Less sustainable
<b>Chippenham Community Area Remainder</b>		
Hullavington	689 Land directly behind Gardeners Drive	More sustainable
	690 The Street, Hullavington	More sustainable
	1112 Land to rear of Newton	More sustainable
	3162 Rear of Darley House, The Street	More sustainable
	3377 Land at Green Lane	More sustainable
Kington St Michael	797 Manor Farm	Not to be considered further
Yatton Keynell	474b Land adjacent to The Old Forge, The Street	More sustainable
	482 Land East of Farrells Field	More sustainable
	643 Land at Littlemead Farm	Not to be considered further
<b>Devizes Community Area Remainder</b>		

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Area of search	Site	SA assessment conclusion
Market Lavington	529 Land at Southcliffe Road	More sustainable
	530 Fiddington Hill	More sustainable
	374 R/O 37 White Street	More sustainable
	3268 Land at the Spring	Not to be considered further
	1089 Southcliffe	More sustainable
	2055 Underhill Nursery	More sustainable
	3443 Land to the east of Lavington School	More sustainable
<b>Malmesbury Community Area</b>		
Crudwell	3233 Land at Ridgeway Farm	More sustainable
Oaksey	3128 Land off Wick Road	More sustainable
<b>Salisbury Principal Settlement (including Wilton Town)</b>		
Salisbury	S61 Land at Hilltop Way	More sustainable
	S80 Land to the north of Old Sarum	Less sustainable
	S159 Land to the north of Downton Rd	Less sustainable
	S178 Land to the south of Roman Road, Old Sarum	Not to be considered further
	S1027 North of Netherhampton Rd	More sustainable
	S1028 Land at Netherhampton Rd	More sustainable
	3187 Land at Harnham Business Park	Not to be considered further
	3272 Land at Rowbarrow, Odstock Rd	More sustainable
	3421 Land adjacent to A354, Harnham	Less sustainable
	3554a Land to west of Milford Care Home, Salisbury	Not to be considered further
Wilton	S1057 Land rear of Bulbridge Rd	More sustainable
<b>Tidworth and Ludgershall Market Town</b>		
Ludgershall	553 Land at Empress Way	More sustainable
<b>Tisbury Community Area</b>		
Fovant	3449 Badges View	Not to be considered further
	3450 Land at Pembroke Farm	Not to be considered further
<b>Trowbridge Principal Settlement</b>		
Trowbridge	613 Elm Grove Farm/Land off A363 at White Horse Business Park, Drynham Lane (now incorporates Site: 248)	More sustainable
	261 Land at Lower Biss Farm	Not to be considered further
	262 Land west of Yarnbrook Road (A350)	Not to be considered further
	256 Land south of Green Lane, Trowbridge	Not to be considered further
	292 Land north of Green Lane	Not to be considered further
	297 Elizabeth Way	More sustainable

Area of search	Site	SA assessment conclusion
	263 Elizabeth Way	More sustainable
	293 Land to the east of Elizabeth Way	Less sustainable
	1021 Church Lane	More sustainable
	3260 Upper Studley	More sustainable
	298 Land off A363 at White Horse Business Park	More sustainable
	3565 Land east of the A361 at Southwick Court	Less sustainable
<b>Warminster Community Area Remainder</b>		
Chapmanslade	316 Barbers Farm	More sustainable
	1022 Green Farm Industrial Estate and adjacent land	Not to be considered further
	3203 Land at North West Chapmanslade	More sustainable
Codford	612 Chitterne Road	Not to be considered further
	3397 Bury Farmyard, Green Lane	Not to be considered further
	3491 Mayflower Farm	Not to be considered further
	3506 Manor House Grounds	Not to be considered further
Heytesbury	3486 Heytesbury Park	Not to be considered further
<b>Warminster Market Town</b>		
Warminster Market Town	302 Land at Bradley Road	More sustainable
	603 Land east of The Dene	Less sustainable
	793 Westbury Road	Not to be considered further
	1032 Bore Hill Farm	Less sustainable
	3242 Land adjacent to Fanshaw Way	Not to be considered further
	304 Land at Boreham Road	More sustainable
<b>Westbury Community Area Remainder</b>		
Bratton	321 Land off B3098 adjacent to Court Orchard/Cassways, Bratton	More sustainable

## Assessment of policies

The Plan pre-submission document proposes three policies relating to the Housing Market Areas of Wiltshire and a number of other policies and site allocations for individual sites as set out in the table below:

### Sites proposed for housing development within Plan pre-submission document:

Policy	Community Area	Policy/site allocation	Site Name	No. of Dwellings
<b>H1 East Wiltshire Housing Market Area</b>	Tidworth	Policy H1.1	Empress Way, Ludgershall	270
	Devizes	Site allocation H1.2	Underhill Nursery, Market Lavington	50
		Site allocation H1.3	Southcliffe, Market Lavington	15
		Site allocation H1.4	East of Lavington School, Market Lavington	15

Policy	Community Area	Policy/site allocation	Site Name	No. of Dwellings
<b>H2 North and West Wiltshire Housing Market Area</b>	Trowbridge	Policy H2.1	Elm Grove Farm, Trowbridge	200
		Site allocation H2.2	Land off A363 at White Horse Business Park, Trowbridge	150
		Site allocation H2.3	Elizabeth Way, Trowbridge	205
		Site allocation H2.4	Church Lane, Trowbridge	45
		Site allocation H2.5	Upper Studley, Trowbridge	20
		Site allocation H2.6	Southwick Court, Trowbridge	180
	Warminster	Policy H2.7	East of the Dene, Warminster	100
		Site allocation H2.8	Bore Hill Farm, Warminster	70
		Site allocation H2.9	Boreham Road, Warminster	30
		Site allocation H2.10	Barthers Farm Nurseries, Chapmanslade	35
	Chippenham	Policy H2.11	The Street, Hullavington	50
		Site allocation H2.12	East of Farrells Field, Yatton Keynell	30
	Malmesbury	Site allocation H2.13	Ridgeway Farm, Crudwell	50
	Westbury	Site allocation H2.14	Off B3098 adjacent to Court Orchard / Cassways, Bratton	40
<b>H3 South Wiltshire Housing Market Area</b>	Salisbury	Policy H3.1	Netherhampton Road, Salisbury	640
		Site allocation H3.2	Hilltop Way, Salisbury	10
		Site allocation H3.3	North of Netherhampton Road, Salisbury	100
		Site allocation H3.4	Land at Rowbarrow, Salisbury	100
	Amesbury	Site allocation H3.5	Clover Lane, Durrington (comprising sites S98 and 3154)	30
		Site allocation H3.6	Larkhill Road, Durrington	15

The three Housing Market Area policy options were reviewed taking into account the combination of the site allocations, individual sites making up the Policy and the mitigation measures proposed in the Plan for that Policy. Each Housing Market Area Policy was then assessed using the generic assessment scale identified above. A summary table of the overall sustainability effects of the three Housing Market Area policies is presented below. The assessment takes into account the mitigation measures proposed within the Plan, which to a large part covers the issues identified in the SA of the individual sites; as such, the overall score of the Policies against certain SA Objectives may be more positive than the sum of individual site assessment scores, as appropriate mitigation has been proposed within the Policy.

For some SA Objectives, both positive and negative effects have been identified for the Housing Market Area Policy; this reflects that either sufficient mitigation has been included in the policy or site allocation within the Policy, but for others further mitigation is recommended; and / or that both positive and negative effects can be anticipated as a result of the Policy e.g. adverse effects on biodiversity due to the loss of existing habitats, however the potential for longer term benefits through improved planting and landscaping on site leading to biodiversity gain.

The specific details for each score are presented in the SA Report at Table 8.5.

**Summary effects of Housing Market Area policies**

SA Objective		Policy H1	Policy H2	Policy H3
1	Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geological features and avoid irreversible losses	+ / -	+ / -	+ / -
2	Ensure efficient and effective use of land and the use of suitably located previously developed land and buildings	+ / -	+ / - -	+ / - -
3	Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner	+ / -	+ / -	+ / -
4	Improve air quality throughout Wiltshire and minimise all sources of environmental pollution	+ / -	+ / -	+ / -
5a	Minimise our impacts on climate change – through reducing greenhouse gas emissions	+ / -	+ / -	+ / -
5b	Minimise our impacts on climate change – through reducing our vulnerability to future climate change effects	+ / -	+ / -	+ / -
6	Protect, maintain and enhance the historic environment	-	-	-
7	Conserve and enhance the character and quality of Wiltshire's rural and urban landscapes, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place	+ / -	+ / -	+ / -
8	Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures	++	+++	++
9	Reduce poverty and deprivation and promote more inclusive and self-contained communities	+	+ / -	+ / -
10	Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable transport choices	+ / -	+ / -	+ / -
11	Encourage a vibrant and diversified economy and provide for long-term sustainable economic growth	+	++	+++
12	Ensure adequate provision of high quality employment land and diverse employment opportunities to meet the needs of local business and a changing workforce	+	+	+

The three Housing Market Area policies which relate to specific sites have been assessed both individually, in-combination with one another and cumulatively with other plans. The results are as follows:

**Policy H1**

Policy H1 allocates land in the East Wiltshire Housing Market Area, in Tidworth and Devizes Community Areas. The policy will deliver 350 dwellings.

Mixed effects (minor positive and minor negative) and minor adverse are predicted in relation to a number of objectives. Negative effects may occur on biodiversity as a result of construction due to the removal for example of hedgerows, however positive effects may occur in the long term as a result of enhancement measures. The HRA has identified no LSE in relation to these sites (SA Obj. 1). Development of the proposed sites will result in the inevitable loss of greenfield/ agricultural land (SA Obj. 2). There are potential negative effects on surface water management, however the policy identifies the need for further assessment of drainage and flood risk assessments (SA Obj. 3 and 5b).

Minor negative effects are identified in relation to air quality and the policy identifies general mitigation to this effect, though some of the wording could be strengthened. Ultimately, though, the allocation of a number of sites will result in an increase in the number of private car journeys (SA Obj. 4).

Though the proposed policy requires that new development adheres to high quality design and construction standards and that for more substantial sites, a Sustainable Energy Strategy will be required, the development of the sites is likely to result in an inevitable increase in the carbon footprint of Wiltshire (SA Obj. 5a).

Localised effects may occur on cultural heritage and archaeology, although the policy within the cross-cutting themes provides for the requirement of heritage impact assessments where appropriate (SA Obj. 6).

Impacts on the landscape will be inevitable and result in the increased urbanisation of Wiltshire villages and towns, however the policy provides for the requirement for appropriate landscaping, planting and screening (SA Obj. 7).

The policy will promote more inclusive and self-contained communities, however at some sites this could result in increased pressure on local school and health care facility capacity; however, given the overall quantum of development, these issues are addressed directly through the provision of a school as part of the policy or through infrastructure contributions (SA Obj. 9).

The allocation is likely to provide significant social and economic benefits such as providing good quality, affordable housing and varied housing (SA Obj. 8) and contributing positively to the growth of the local economy and to the provision of jobs (SA Objs. 11 and 12).

## **Policy H2**

Policy H2 allocates land in the North and West Wiltshire Housing Market Area, in Trowbridge, Warminster, Chippenham, Malmesbury and Westbury Community Areas. The policy will deliver 1205 dwellings.

Mixed effects (minor positive and minor negative) and minor adverse are predicted in relation to a number of objectives. Negative effects may occur on biodiversity as a result of construction due to the removal for example of hedgerows, however positive effects may occur in the long term as a result of enhancement measures. The HRA has identified no LSE in relation to these sites (SA Obj. 1). Development of the proposed sites will result in the inevitable loss of greenfield/ agricultural land, with sites identified within this policy as containing best and most versatile land, as well as one site containing a landfill (SA Obj. 2).

There are potential negative effects on surface water management, however the policy identifies the need for further assessment of drainage and flood risk assessments (SA Obj. 3 and 5b).

Minor negative effects are identified in relation to air quality and the policy identifies general mitigation to this effect, though some of the wording could be strengthened. Ultimately, though the allocation of a number of sites will result in an increase in the number of private car journeys (SA Obj. 4).

Though the proposed policy requires that new development adheres to high quality design and construction standards and that for more substantial sites, a Sustainable Energy Strategy will be required, the development of the sites is likely to result in an inevitable increase in the carbon footprint of Wiltshire (SA Obj. 5a).

Localised effects may occur on cultural heritage and archaeology, although the policy within the cross-cutting themes provides for the requirement of heritage impact assessments where appropriate (SA Obj. 6).

Impacts on the landscape will be inevitable and result in the increased urbanisation of Wiltshire villages and towns, however the policy provides for the requirement for appropriate landscaping, planting and screening (SA Obj. 7).

The policy will promote more inclusive and self-contained communities, however at some sites this could result in increased pressure on local school and health care facility capacity; however, given the overall quantum of development, these issues are addressed directly through the provision of a school as part of the policy or through infrastructure contributions (SA Obj. 9).



The allocation is likely to provide social and economic significant benefits such as providing good quality, affordable housing and varied housing (SA Obj. 8) and contributing positively to the growth of the local economy and to the provision of jobs (SA Objs. 11 and 12).

### **Policy H3**

Policy H3 allocates land in the South Wiltshire Housing Market Area, in Salisbury and Amesbury Community Areas. The policy will deliver 895 dwellings.

Mixed effects (minor positive and minor negative) and minor adverse are predicted in relation to a number of objectives. Negative effects may occur on biodiversity as a result of construction due to the removal for example of hedgerows, however positive effects may occur in the long term as a result of enhancement measures. Whilst the HRA has identified no LSE in relation to these sites on the River Avon SAC, recommendations have been made in the HRA and incorporated into the Policy (SA Obj. 1). There are potential negative effects on surface water management, however the policy identifies the need for further assessment of drainage and flood risk assessments (SA Obj. 3 and 5b).

Development of the proposed sites will result in the inevitable loss of greenfield/ agricultural land (SA Obj. 2). Minor effects are identified in relation to air quality and the policy identifies general mitigation to this effect, though some of the wording could be strengthened. Ultimately, though the allocation of a number of sites will result in an increase in the number of private car journeys (SA Obj. 4).

Though the proposed policy requires that new development adheres to high quality design and construction standards and that for more substantial sites, a Sustainable Energy Strategy will be required, the development of the sites is likely to result in an inevitable increase in the carbon footprint of Wiltshire (SA Obj. 5a).

Localised effects may occur on cultural heritage and archaeology, although the policy within the cross-cutting themes provides for the requirement of heritage impact assessments where appropriate (SA Obj. 6).

Impacts on the landscape will be inevitable and result in the increased urbanisation of Wiltshire villages and towns, however the policy provides for the requirement for appropriate landscaping, planting and screening (SA Obj. 7).

The policy will promote more inclusive and self-contained communities, however at some sites this could result in increased pressure on local school and health care facility capacity; however, given the overall quantum of development, these issues are addressed directly through the provision of a school as part of the policy or through infrastructure contributions (SA Obj. 9).

The allocation is likely to provide social and economic significant benefits such as providing good quality, affordable housing and varied housing (SA Obj. 8) and contributing positively to the growth of the local economy and to the provision of jobs (SA Objs. 11 and 12).

### **Combined effects**

When considering cumulative effects across the three Housing Market Area policies, there are likely to be elevated effects, both beneficial and adverse.

The main significant adverse cumulative effects relate to environmental issues, predominantly as the policies allocate sites on greenfield land. Significant adverse effects also arise from the scale of housing and associated development proposed.

The elevated adverse effects that are likely to arise from the combination of policies H1, H2 and H3 include:

- The total loss of best and most versatile land (SA Obj. 2);
- Effects on air quality, noise and light pollution (SA Obj. 4) – the overall scale of development and provision of new roads is likely to increase air, noise and light significantly for new and existing sensitive receptors.

- Effects on the use and management of water resources in a sustainable manner (SA Obj. 3) – due to existing issues related to surface water management, drainage and flood risk that extend beyond the localised area.
- Effects on climate change as a result of greenhouse gas emissions (SA Obj. 5a) – the scale of development is likely to see a significant increase in the number of private car journeys, which may for example affect greenhouse gas emissions.
- Effects on climate change (vulnerability to future climate change effects) (SA Obj. 5b) – similar to SA Obj. 3, whereby existing issues related to surface water management, drainage and flood risk extend beyond the localised area.
- Effects on transport and travel (SA Obj. 10) – the scale of development is likely to see a considerable increase in the number of private car journeys.

A number of significant beneficial effects will also arise, related to social and economic considerations. The combination of the policies will result in a substantial contribution to the provision of, and the opportunity to live in, good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures (SA Obj. 8) and contribute significantly to the local economy and enterprise (SA Obj. 11 and 12).

### **Cumulative effects**

Cumulative effects have been considered in terms of the Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan and the Core Strategy strategic sites at Amesbury, Trowbridge, Tidworth and Ludgershall, Warminster and Salisbury, the Chippenham Site Allocations Plan and the Army Basing Programme.

There may be cumulative effects as a result of Policy H1 with land identified for housing development at Drummond Park (MSA) Depot, Ludgershall in the Core Strategy; as a result of Policy H2 with land identified to the south east of the town at Ashton Park, Trowbridge in the Core Strategy; and land identified to the west of Warminster for strategic growth in the Core Strategy; and housing development identified in the Chippenham Site Allocations; and as a result of Policy H3 with strategic sites proposed at Salisbury and Amesbury in the Core Strategy. There may also be cumulative effects at Durrington associated with the Army Basing Programme and Policy H3.

In general, cumulative effects are likely to occur due to the additional scale of development potentially leading to elevated effects, which will generally be beneficial in social and economic terms and adverse in environmental terms within the general area (rather than site specific cumulative effects given the general distribution of the developments in relation to each other). Where environmental adverse effects are likely, these are capable of being mitigated in line with the policies set in the Chippenham Site Allocations Plan and the emerging masterplans for the strategic sites together with the SA recommendations made for the Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan.

In most cases these adverse effects are the same as the combined effects for Policies H1, H2 and H3, however elevated effects may occur in relation to:

- SA Obj. 5a. Minimise our impacts on climate change – through reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The various Plans are likely to see an increase in the amount of development and associated infrastructure such as roads, which is likely to lead to increased greenhouse gas emissions both during construction and operation. Overall, there will be an increase in the carbon footprint.
- SA Obj 7. Conserve and enhance the character and quality of Wiltshire’s rural and urban landscapes, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place. Overall, there will be increased urbanisation, in particular at Warminster, Trowbridge and Chippenham. There may also be similar adverse cumulative effects in relation to the Policy H3 in Salisbury with strategic sites in the Core Strategy. Overall, landscaping should help to reduce adverse effects.
- SA Obj 9. Healthy and inclusive communities, SA Obj. 11 Economy and enterprise and SA Obj. 12 Economy and enterprise. Overall the cumulative beneficial effects should be considerable, as all the new developments proposed across the Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations and the Core Strategy Strategic Sites will assist in the support of viable local shops and services as well as generate direct and indirect construction employment, and will help stimulate the local economy once built.

## Assessment of settlement boundaries

The Council has developed a revised methodology to review its settlement boundaries as part of the Plan. An assessment of the settlement boundaries was undertaken as part of the SA. Settlement boundaries (or 'limits of development') define the built form of a settlement by, where practicable, following but not including clearly defined physical features, such as walls, fences, hedgerows, roads and water courses.

This revised methodology (refer to the Council's Topic Paper 1) consists of six themes, as follows:

- Theme 1 'Physical features on the ground' lists specific land uses and their physical relationship to the existing settlement;
- Theme 2 'Different types of Development' covers specific land uses and their physical relationship to the existing settlement;
- Theme 3 'Planning Permissions' explores which kind of planning permissions should be brought forward within the revised settlement boundary;
- Theme 4 'Sites allocated for development in the local plan' identifies whether planning allocations should be included within the revised settlement boundary of Wiltshire Council;
- Theme 5 'The curtilage of properties, including large gardens' covers the type of back garden to be included within the settlement boundary based on their capacity to extend the built form and their location in regards the existing settlement; and
- Theme 6 'Recreational or amenity space at the edge of settlements' covers whether to include recreational and amenity spaces within the revised settlement boundary of Wiltshire Council based on their size and location.

From an SA perspective, the review of settlement boundaries is welcomed, however it is not the purpose of the SA to decide on the revised settlement boundary methodology as part of the Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan. This is the role of Wiltshire Council who will have to make decisions about what physical elements to include within its revised boundaries.

## Mitigation measures

A number of recommendations have been made in order to mitigate adverse effects that have been identified. These are both a mix of improvements to the policies in terms of wording and requirements, and further assessment. Measures are proposed in Chapter 8, and summarised in the table below, together with the Council's response to the recommendations::

Plan policy	Recommendations	Council Response	Plan amendment
Cross-cutting themes in Chapter 5 of the Plan	As all sites will require ecological assessment, it is recommended that paragraph 5.4 is amended as follows (proposed addition in <b>bold</b> ): " <b>An ecological assessment will be required for all sites. The development will protect and improve opportunities for biodiversity and wildlife corridors within and adjoining the site in accordance with Core Policy 50 (Biodiversity and Geodiversity)</b> ".	Plan allocations involve greenfield sites. The suggested text provides useful further clarification.	Add to paragraph 5.4 " <b>An ecological assessment will be required for all sites. The development will...</b> "
	In paragraph 5.7, the policy could be strengthened by requiring that some of the new housing meets the specific needs of vulnerable and older people.	Further material would replicate measures already included in the development plan, in Core Policy 46.	No change
	It is recommended that the following sentence (in bold) is added to paragraph 5.10: " <b>As appropriate, additional evidence will need to be prepared at a level of detail to support a planning application. In many cases,</b>	Further material would replicate measures already provided as standing advice. Measures would be	No change

Plan policy	Recommendations	Council Response	Plan amendment
	<p><i>particularly important items are referred to for each allocation. Such evidence may include, but is not limited to a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Heritage Assessment, Biodiversity Report, Surface Water Management plan, Flood Risk Assessment and Transport Statement. <b>This should include a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to capture the management measures proposed by individual assessments.</b> Such new evidence can be used as a material consideration when considering a specific planning application."</i></p>	<p>sought as a part of the master planning process and/or conditioned as part of planning permission.</p>	
	<p>It is recommended that the following sentence is added in after paragraph 5.10: <i>"Depending on the size of the site and likely impacts, as appropriate, a statutory Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) may be required"</i>.</p>	<p>Additional text replicates measures already included in the planning system. All planning applications are screened for the likelihood of significant environmental effects in accordance with regulations.</p>	<p>No change</p>
	<p>It is recommended that the following requirements are also included:</p> <p><i>"Development will consider opportunities for integrated surface water management and pollution prevention measures such as Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS); Surface water management should achieve equivalent or less than current Greenfield rates of run-off so there will be no deterioration of current run-off conditions"</i>.</p> <p><i>"Where applicable, development will consider school and healthcare facility capacity and ensure that a sustainable solution is provided"</i>.</p> <p><i>"Wherever possible, development will provide for sustainable modes of travel, including safe access for vulnerable road users (pedestrians, cyclists) and incorporate footpaths and cycle lanes"</i>.</p> <p><i>"Developments will seek to protect air quality and ensure that noise impact is properly considered during the construction and operational phases."</i></p> <p><i>"Development will seek to reduce the overall loss of best and most versatile agricultural land wherever possible. The loss of soil resources can be mitigated by re-using as much of the surplus resources on-site for amenity spaces and disposing any surplus soils thereafter in a sustainable manner (i.e. as close to the site as possible and to an after use appropriate to the soil's quality)."</i></p>	<p>Further text replicates measures or objectives already included in the development plan or elsewhere:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• regarding surface water management, in Core Policy 67</li> <li>• regarding air quality, in Core Policy 55</li> <li>• regarding sustainable modes of travel in Core Policy 61</li> </ul> <p>Individual Plan allocations identify where additional school or healthcare capacity is necessary to enable development to go ahead.</p> <p>Individual Plan allocations identify where additional measures may be required to protect against noise pollution.</p> <p>Minimising the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land, in accordance with national policy, and Re-use of soil along these lines would be sought as a part of the master planning process and/or conditioned as</p>	<p>No change</p>

Plan policy	Recommendations	Council Response	Plan amendment
		part of planning permission.	
<b>Policy H1 East Wiltshire Housing Market Area</b>			
<b>Individual site policy/site allocation within Policy H1</b>			
Site allocation H1.2 Underhill Nursery, Market Lavington	It is recommended that this site allocation could be strengthened by identifying the need for further cultural heritage assessment given that potential effects on SA Objective 6 are identified as moderate adverse at this site.	Medieval remains have been found on or adjacent to the site and further investigation and appraisal would be required. Reference is already made to the need for assessment so is already included.	No change
	The reference in the Plan to the site being within Groundwater Source Protection Zone 2 should be deleted because the SA states that the site is not within a Groundwater Source Protection Zone.	A portion of the site is subject to this protection.	No change
	It is recommended that the requirement for a noise impact assessment is included within the text of this site allocation.	Neighbouring uses are residential and low key business. Any need for an assessment will be considered through a planning application process.	No change
Site allocation H1.3 Southcliffe, Market Lavington	It is recommended that the requirement for the retention of priority habitat on site, a noise impact assessment and an archaeological assessment be included within the text of site allocation H1.3.	Further text would replicate measures or objectives already included in the development plan or elsewhere: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>regarding biodiversity, in Core Policy 50</li> <li>regarding heritage assets, in Core Policy 58</li> </ul> Neighbouring uses are residential and low key business. Any need for an assessment will be considered through a planning application process.	No change
Site allocation H1.4 East of Lavington School, Market Lavington	It is recommended that the requirement for a noise impact assessment and an archaeological assessment should be included within the text of the site allocation H1.4.	Further text would replicate measures or objectives already included in the development plan or elsewhere: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>regarding biodiversity, in Core Policy 50</li> <li>regarding heritage</li> </ul>	No change

Plan policy	Recommendations	Council Response	Plan amendment
		assets, in Core Policy 58  Neighbouring uses are residential and low key business. Any need for an assessment will be considered through a planning application process.	
<b>Policy H2 North and West Wiltshire Housing Market Area</b>			
Policy H2 North and West Wiltshire Housing Market Area	It is recommended that the supporting text for Policy H2 in relation to Trowbridge is amended as follows:  Paragraph 5.45: “ <i>Despite the need to identify sites for additional housing at the town, there are significant ecological (<b>protected species and potential impacts upon the Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC</b>)</i> <del>(e.g. protected bat species)</del> , <del>landscape (Green Belt)</del> and infrastructure (i.e. <del>e.g. education and health facility capacity</del> ) constraints that limit the choice of available sites.”  The reference to mitigation for landscape and cultural heritage should be added to site allocation H2.4 – see the section on H2.4 below.	Paragraph 5.45 does not provide an exhaustive list of constraints that affect the town.  Additional text referring to site specific mitigation measures is already included.	No change
	In addition to the Priority Biodiversity Action Plan habitats, reference should be made at paragraph 5.45 to the HRA recommendations:  <i>“Habitats Regulations Assessment: Potential impacts upon the Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC through habitat loss and disturbance have been identified in the HRA for sites in Trowbridge, and the HRA identifies mitigation that is required for specific sites. These measures are identified under relevant site allocation supporting text”.</i>	Reference is made in paragraph 5.46.  The HRA concludes that Plan allocations will not be likely to have significant adverse effects on the integrity of the R Avon SAC	No change
	Whilst no LSE on the River Avon SAC and phosphate loading has been identified in the HRA, it is recommended that, when available, Annex 2 of the River Avon Special Area of Conservation Nutrient Management Plan for Phosphorus is reviewed for any additional mitigation measures that may be proposed.	Any implications arising from review of the Nutrient Management Plan will be addressed as Plan preparation progresses.	No change
<b>Individual site policy/site allocation within Policy H2</b>			
Policy H2.1 Elm Grove Farm, Trowbridge	It is recommended that the requirement for potential statutory easements, as the existing foul sewerage infrastructure crosses the site, and a Noise Impact Assessment should be included within the text of the Policy H2.1.	The treatment of statutory easements is a common feature of detailed design and layout that will be considered as part of the master plan process.  Small parts of the site could potentially be	Add to paragraph 5.53:  <i>“...In addition, development will need to minimise the potential to harm the significance of the Grade II Listed Drynham Lane Farmhouse. <b>Measures</b></i>

Plan policy	Recommendations	Council Response	Plan amendment
		affected by noise from a main road and railway, so additional text would be useful clarification.	<b><i>may also be necessary to prevent potential noise pollution from the existing main road and railway.</i></b>
Site allocation H2.2 Land off A363 at White Horse Business Park	<p>Given the original size of development, moderate adverse effects regarding loss of Best and Most Versatile agricultural land were identified in the site assessment in Chapter 7; due to the reduction in the site size this effect has been mitigated to some degree though a moderate adverse effect is still possible. Should the site be developed, the cross-cutting theme in relation to soil retention on site should be applied to the site allocation supporting text: <i>“Development will seek to reduce the overall loss of best and most versatile agricultural land wherever possible. The loss of soil resources can be mitigated by re-using as much of the surplus resources on-site for amenity spaces and disposing any surplus soils thereafter in a sustainable manner (i.e. as close to the site as possible and to an after use appropriate to the soil’s quality).”</i></p>	Minimising the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land, in accordance with national policy, and re-use of soil along these lines would be sought as a part of the master planning process and/or conditioned as part of planning permission.	No change
	Due to the size of the site, development would potentially lead to increased car-based movements and hence impact on the local highway network, even with the reduction in the number of dwellings proposed. The requirement for a Transport Assessment for this site should be identified in the site allocation.	Further text would replicate measures or objectives already included in the development plan regarding travel in Core Policy 61.	No change
Site allocation H2.3 Elizabeth Way	<p>Approximately three quarters of the land within Site 263 appears to be underlain by Grade 3a Best and Most Versatile agricultural land; the reduction in site capacity will reduce some of the negative effects; however, the site is still of a significant size and therefore all effects cannot be mitigated totally. It is recommended that should the site be developed, the following text is added to this site allocation: <i>“Development will seek to reduce the overall loss of best and most versatile agricultural land wherever possible. The loss of soil resources can be mitigated by re-using as much of the surplus resources on-site for amenity spaces and disposing any surplus soils thereafter in a sustainable manner (i.e. as close to the site as possible and to an after use appropriate to the soil’s quality).”</i></p>	Minimising the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land, in accordance with national policy, and re-use of soil along these lines would be sought as a part of the master planning process and/or conditioned as part of planning permission.	No change
Site allocation H2.5 Upper Studley	<p>It is recommended that the following text is added to this site allocation: <i>“In order to facilitate development, appropriate contributions would be likely to be sought to help fund additional local school capacity. Funding contributions may also be sought</i></p>	The scale of development and its impact is not considered to be of a scale that contributions could be justified as fairly and reasonably related or	No change

Plan policy	Recommendations	Council Response	Plan amendment
	<i>where needed to increase capacity at local GP surgeries and dentistry at the town.</i>	necessary to enable it to go ahead.	
Policy H2.7 East of the Dene, Warminster	It is recommended that the Policy text identifies the need to reduce the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land where possible. It is recommended that should the site be developed, the following text is added to this Policy: <i>“Development will seek to reduce the overall loss of best and most versatile agricultural land wherever possible. The loss of soil resources can be mitigated by re-using as much of the surplus resources on-site for amenity spaces and disposing any surplus soils thereafter in a sustainable manner (i.e. as close to the site as possible and to an after use appropriate to the soil’s quality).”</i>	Minimising the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land, in accordance with national policy, and re-use of soil along these lines would be sought as a part of the master planning process and/or conditioned as part of planning permission.	No change
	It is recommended that the following text is added to this Policy:  <i>“In order to facilitate development, appropriate contributions would be likely to be sought to help fund additional local school capacity. Funding contributions may also be sought where needed to increase capacity at local GP surgeries and dentistry at the town.”</i>	The additional text provides useful clarification.	Additional text after paragraph 5.89:  <b><i>“In order to facilitate development, appropriate contributions would be likely to be sought to help fund additional local school capacity. Funding contributions may also be sought where needed to increase capacity at local GP surgeries at the town.”</i></b>
Site allocation H2.8 Bore Hill Farm	It is recommended that further consideration is required within the Plan to the extent of development at this site to reduce the impact on BMV.	The benefits of proposals outweigh harm from any loss of BMV. Minimising the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land, in accordance with national policy, and the re-use of soil would be sought as a part of the planning application process and may be conditioned as part of planning permission.	No change
	It is recommended that the following text is added to this site allocation:  <i>“In order to facilitate development, appropriate contributions would be likely to be sought to help fund additional local school capacity. Funding contributions may also be sought where needed to increase capacity at local GP surgeries and dentistry at the town.”</i>	The additional text provides useful clarification.	Additional text after paragraph 5.92:  <b><i>“In order to facilitate development, appropriate contributions would be likely to be sought to help fund additional local school capacity. Funding contributions may also be sought where needed to increase capacity at</i></b>



Plan policy	Recommendations	Council Response	Plan amendment
			<b>local GP surgeries at the town.”</b>
	Although only minor adverse effects, to ensure that the full suite of measures identified for this site are covered, it is recommended that the requirement for a noise impact assessment is included within the text of site allocation H2.8.	Parts of the site could potentially be affected by noise, so additional text would be useful clarification.	Add to paragraph 5.92:  “... located between the operational bio-digester and proposed residential development, to provide separation between these uses. <b>A noise assessment would form part of the planning application process and to inform detailed design and layout. Future development...</b> ”
Site allocation H2.9 Boreham Road	It is recommended that appropriate mitigation for the landfill / rubble within this site should be identified within the site allocation supporting text.	Soil condition would be considered as a part of the application process and/or conditioned as part of planning permission.	No change
	The moderate adverse effect on education and health facility capacity is not addressed in the supporting text for Warminster or the site allocation. It is recommended that the following text is added to this site allocation.  <i>“In order to facilitate development, appropriate contributions would be likely to be sought to help fund additional local school capacity. Funding contributions may also be sought where needed to increase capacity at local GP surgeries and dentistry at the town.”</i>	The additional text provides useful clarification	Additional text after paragraph 5.98:  <b>“In order to facilitate development, appropriate contributions would be likely to be sought to help fund additional local school capacity. Funding contributions may also be sought where needed to increase capacity at local GP surgeries at the town.”</b>
Site allocation H2.10 Barbers Farm Nurseries, Chapmanslade	It is recommended that the site allocation text specifically identifies the need for detailed ecological assessment at this site.	Further text would replicate measures or objectives already included in the development plan regarding biodiversity, in Core Policy 50.	No change
Policy H2.11 The Street, Hullavington	It is recommended that the Policy text specifically identifies the need for detailed ecological assessment at this site. Furthermore, it is recommended that the requirement for a Heritage Impact Assessment is specifically identified in the Policy text.	Further text would replicate measures or objectives already included in the development plan regarding biodiversity, in Core Policy 50, and Heritage Impact Assessment in Core Policy 58.	No change

Plan policy	Recommendations	Council Response	Plan amendment
Site allocation H2.12 East of Farrells Field, Yatton Keynall	Site allocation H2.12 and its supporting text does not specifically address the moderate adverse effects related to the limited supply capacity in local distribution mains, the potential need to serve the site by a pumped connection for foul water and that the site falls within a groundwater vulnerability area. It is recommended that these issues are identified in the site allocation supporting text, and the need for a capacity appraisal and further assessment is required.	Infrastructure upgrades may be required and agreed through dialogue with the relevant water utilities company. This is a matter for detailed design and consideration as part of the planning application process in accordance with Core Policy 3.	No change
	Given the medium potential for archaeology at this site, it is recommended that the requirement for an archaeological assessment is specifically identified in the site allocation text.	Further text would replicate measures or objectives already included in the development plan regarding biodiversity, in Core Policy 58.	No change
Site allocation H2.13 Ridgeway Farm, Crudwell	Site allocation H2.13 and its supporting text does not address the moderate adverse effect related to the fact that the site is within Groundwater Source Protection Zone 1 and potential significant effects on water quality could arise from development. Any discharge into the local watercourses would need to be at a controlled rate, however surface water systems are already at capacity in this location. It is recommended that these issues are identified in the site allocation supporting text, and the need for further assessment is required.	A hydrological/ hydrogeological risk assessment may be required in order to support development proposals. This would form part of detailed design and consideration as part of the planning application process in accordance with Core Policy 67.	No change
	Given the medium potential for archaeology, it is recommended that the requirement for an archaeological assessment as well as a Heritage Impact Assessment as this site is near Crudwell Conservation Area is specifically identified in the site allocation text.	Further text would replicate measures or objectives already included in the development plan regarding heritage assets, in Core Policy 58.	No change
Site allocation H2.14 Court Orchard / Cassways Bratton	Site allocation H2.14 and its supporting text does not address the moderate adverse effect related to the fact that there are water pressure problems associated with the supply of water in Bratton and therefore a long offsite connection to mains water would be needed to provide capacity. Various infrastructure upgrades would be required for foul and surface water connections. It is recommended that these issues are identified in the site allocation supporting text, and the need for a foul flow capacity assessment is identified in the supporting text.	Infrastructure upgrades may be required and agreed through dialogue with the relevant water utilities company. This is a matter for detailed design and consideration as part of the planning application process in accordance with Core Policy 3.	No change
	Given the medium potential for archaeology, it is recommended that the requirement for an archaeological assessment is specifically identified in the site allocation text.	Further text would replicate measures or objectives already included in the development plan regarding heritage assets, in Core Policy 58.	No change

Plan policy	Recommendations	Council Response	Plan amendment
<b>Policy H3 South Wiltshire Housing Market Area</b>			
<b>Individual site policy/site allocation within Policy H3</b>			
Policy H3.1 Netherhampton Road, Salisbury	It is recommended that the Policy text identifies the need to reduce the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land where possible. It is recommended that should the site be developed, the following text is added to this Policy: <i>“Development will seek to reduce the overall loss of best and most versatile agricultural land wherever possible. The loss of soil resources can be mitigated by re-using as much of the surplus resources on-site for amenity spaces and disposing any surplus soils thereafter in a sustainable manner (i.e. as close to the site as possible and to an after use appropriate to the soil’s quality).”</i>	Minimising the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land, in accordance with national policy, and re-use of soil along these lines would be sought as a part of the master planning process and/or conditioned as part of planning permission.	No change
	Given the high potential for archaeology, it is recommended that the requirement for an archaeological assessment and a noise impact assessment are specifically identified in the Policy text.	Further text would replicate measures or objectives already included in the development plan regarding heritage assets, in Core Policy 58.	No change
Site allocation H3.2 Hilltop Way	Although only minor adverse effects, to ensure that the full suite of measures identified for this site are covered, it is recommended that the requirement for a noise impact assessment is included within the text of site allocation H3.2.	Any need for an assessment will be considered through a planning application process.	No change
Site allocation H3.3 North of Netherhampton Road	Site allocation H3.3 and its supporting text addresses the moderate adverse effect in relation to flood risk, however does not specifically identify the limited capacity in local sewers; it would need to be confirmed whether any network reinforcement is necessary to maintain satisfactory service levels. It is recommended that this is identified in the site allocation supporting text and the need for further assessment identified.	Infrastructure upgrades may be required and agreed through dialogue with the relevant water utilities company. This is a matter for detailed design and consideration as part of the planning application process in accordance with Core Policy 3.	No change
	Given the medium potential for archaeology, it is recommended that the requirement for an archaeological assessment is specifically identified in the site allocation supporting text.	Further text would replicate measures or objectives already included in the development plan regarding heritage assets, in Core Policy 58	No change
Site allocation H3.4 Land at Rowbarrow	Although only minor adverse effects, to ensure that the full suite of measures identified for this site are covered, it is recommended that the requirement for a noise impact assessment is included within the text of site allocation H3.4.	Neighbouring uses are generally low key. Any need for an assessment will be considered through a planning application process.	No change
Site allocation H3.5 Clover Lane,	Site allocation H3.5 and its supporting text addresses the moderate adverse effects in relation to cultural heritage and school and health facility capacity. However, the potential exacerbation of flood risk and difficulty in	Infrastructure upgrades may be required and agreed through dialogue with the relevant water utilities company. This is	No change

Plan policy	Recommendations	Council Response	Plan amendment
Durrington	mitigating due to ground conditions and capacity of drainage is not identified in this site allocation and is not fully covered by the Amesbury, Bulford and Durrington supporting text. It is recommended that additional text should be added to this site allocation to address the requirement for further assessment.	a matter for detailed design and consideration as part of the planning application process in accordance with Core Policies 3 and 67.	
	It is recommended that the HRA proposed wording is added to site allocation H3.5, or that general wording is added to Policy H3 that identifies that upgrades [by others] may need to be completed before development at this site can commence.	The HRA concludes that Plan allocations will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the R Avon SAC  Paragraph 5.147 alludes to this possibility. Infrastructure upgrades may be required and agreed through dialogue with the relevant water utilities company. This is also a matter for detailed design and consideration as part of the planning application process in accordance with Core Policy 3.	No change
	The supporting text for Amesbury, Bulford and Durrington identifies the need for potential upgrades to the local water supply network; however, the supporting text does not identify that this site is within a Groundwater Source Protection Zone 2. It is recommended that the site allocation supporting text is strengthened by identifying this and the need for further assessment.	Infrastructure upgrades may be required and agreed through dialogue with the relevant water utilities company. This is a matter for detailed design and consideration as part of the planning application process in accordance with Core Policies 3 and 67.  The protection of groundwater resources is a matter of detailed design that accords with the Environment Agency's (EA) standing policy advice. Further text would replicate this position.	No change
	Although only minor adverse effects, to ensure that the full suite of measures identified for this site are covered, it is recommended that the requirement for a noise impact assessment is included within the text of site allocation H3.5.	Neighbouring uses are generally low key. Any need for an assessment will be considered through a planning application process.	No change
	It is recommended that the requirement for a Heritage Impact Assessment is included in the site allocation supporting text.	Further text would replicate measures or objectives already included in the development plan regarding heritage	No change

Plan policy	Recommendations	Council Response	Plan amendment
		assets, in Core Policy 58	
Site allocation H3.6 Larkhill Road	The supporting text for Amesbury, Bulford and Durrington identifies the need for potential upgrades to the local water supply network; however, site allocation H3.6 and its supporting text does not identify that this site is within a Groundwater Source Protection Zone 1. It is recommended that the site allocation supporting text is strengthened by identifying this and the need for further assessment.	Infrastructure upgrades may be required and agreed through dialogue with the relevant water utilities company. This is a matter for detailed design and consideration as part of the planning application process in accordance with Core Policies 3 and 67.  The protection of groundwater resources is a matter of detailed design that accords with the Environment Agency's (EA) standing policy advice. Further text would replicate this position.	No change
	It is recommended that the HRA proposed wording is added to site allocation H3.6, or that general wording is added to Policy H3 that identifies that upgrades [by others] may need to be completed before development at this site can commence.	Paragraph 5.147 alludes to this possibility. Infrastructure upgrades may be required and agreed through dialogue with the relevant water utilities company. This is also a matter for detailed design and consideration as part of the planning application process in accordance with Core Policy 3.	No change
	It is recommended that the requirement for a Heritage Impact Assessment is included in the site allocation supporting text.	Further text would replicate measures or objectives already included in the development plan regarding heritage assets, in Core Policy 58	No change

## Monitoring

The Wiltshire Monitoring Framework has been published alongside the Core Strategy, and will be used to check on the effectiveness of the Core Policies and whether they are delivering sustainable development. The Monitoring Framework will be used to ask whether the policy is working, whether it is delivering the underlying objectives of the policy, and what the significant effects of this are. It sets out objectives and targets for each policy, and identifies the indicators which will be used to assess progress against these.

Potential indicators for monitoring the likely significant effects of the Plan have been identified as part of this appraisal and are listed under the relevant objective in the SA Framework. The monitoring framework proposed in this SA Report complements the Wiltshire Monitoring Framework.

Identified significant effects against which monitoring should be undertaken are:

- SA Objective 2: Ensure efficient and effective use of land and the use of suitably located previously developed land and buildings

- SA Objective 3: Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner
- SA Objective 4: Improve air quality throughout Wiltshire and minimise all sources of environmental pollution
- SA Objective 5a: Minimise our impacts on climate change – through reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- SA Objective 5b: Minimise our impacts on climate change – through reducing our vulnerability to future climate change effects
- SA Objective 8: Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures
- SA Objective 10: Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable transport choices
- SA Objective 11: Encourage a vibrant and diversified economy and provide for long-term sustainable economic growth
- SA Objective 12: Ensure adequate provision of high quality employment land and diverse employment opportunities to meet the needs of local businesses and a changing workforce

In order to reach a final framework of indicators for the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) for the Housing Site Allocations Plan, the Council will need to consider the indicators proposed in the SA to identify those which can be most effectively used to monitor the sustainability effects. This will need to be undertaken in dialogue with statutory consultees and other bodies, as in many cases the monitoring information may need to be provided by outside bodies.

## Conclusions

From this sustainability assessment, it is clear that many of the significant beneficial effects relate to social and economic considerations. The main significant adverse effects that have been identified relate to environmental issues, due in part to policies allocating sites on greenfield land but also due to the general effects of housing development and population growth.

Overall, it is concluded that the Draft Housing Site Allocations Plan is broadly compatible with sustainability objectives; adverse effects identified are capable of being mitigated and significant social and economic sustainability benefits are likely. However, further requirements to reduce adverse effects could be added to the Plan to strengthen the overall sustainability of the policies and site allocations.

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This document was published by the Spatial Planning team, Wiltshire Council, Economic Development and Planning Services.

For further information please visit the following website:

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/wiltshsgsiteallocationsplan.htm>