



**Wiltshire and Swindon Minerals Core Strategy
Sustainability Appraisal Report for the Revised
Preferred Options Consultation**

Non-Technical Summary

Centre for Sustainability (C4S) *in association with*
Enfusion



Non-Technical Summary

Background

This Non-Technical Summary accompanies the Report that documents the processes of Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) that have been undertaken, alongside the development of the Wiltshire and Swindon Minerals Development Framework Core Strategy, as required by planning legislation and Government guidance.

SA and SEA assist Planning Authorities through ensuring the integration of sustainability considerations into their plans. The purpose of the Core Strategy is to set out the long-term spatial vision for minerals activities in Wiltshire and Swindon and the strategic policies to deliver that vision. It also sets a framework for other development planning documents that will follow at a later date, including the Development Control Policies Document and Site Allocations Document. Wiltshire County Council and Swindon Borough Council commissioned the Centre for Sustainability at TRL and Enfusion to progress the SA and SEA work in 2005.



During 2005 a Scoping process was carried out to help ensure that the SA covered the key sustainability issues relevant to land use planning for minerals development in Wiltshire and Swindon. Relevant plans and programmes were reviewed to develop a wider understanding of the issues and priorities for Wiltshire and Swindon, and information about the current and future social, environmental and economic characteristics of the County and Unitary Authority Areas was compiled.

A Sustainability Appraisal Framework was compiled setting out Sustainability Objectives that aim to resolve the issues and problems identified. The information compiled during the Scoping process was then written up into a SA Scoping Report that was sent to a wide range of organisations and also made available on the Wiltshire County Council website. Comments were invited and received from a number of these organisations; this helped improve the Appraisal Framework.

The Framework of objectives was then used to test the sustainability of the emerging Core Strategy. This was undertaken at each stage of the preparation of the Core Strategy – and included a comparative appraisal of Core Strategy Options (as represented in the document Wiltshire and Swindon Minerals Core Strategy Issues and Options Report), and a detailed appraisal of the Core Strategy Preferred Options that were published in June 2006. Where it was considered that there were opportunities to enhance the sustainability of the emerging policies, recommendations were made. There has also been ongoing interaction between the planning and sustainability teams which has resulted in other recommendations being made as to how the Core Strategy could be improved from a sustainability point of view.

A number of these recommendations have been progressed within the 'Revised Preferred Options' version of the Document (to be placed on public consultation in

