

**SOUTH WILTSHIRE PROPOSED SUBMISSION CORE STRATEGY HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT, JULY 2009
 APPENDIX 9: REVIEW OF OTHER PLANS AND PROJECTS: KEY DOCUMENTS**

PLAN / PROJECT	POTENTIAL FOR CORE STRATEGY TO HAVE SIGNIFICANT / ADVERSE EFFECTS IN-COMBINATION WITH PLAN / PROJECT
<p>Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West 2006-2026</p> <p>Draft RSS for the South West will replace the existing Regional Planning Guidance for the South West, so will form part of the 'development plan'. Outlines regional policy and guidance for housing development, transport, economic development, and the environment. Includes the Government's requirements for the quantity of residential and economic development local authorities should provide in their areas.</p> <p>Secretary of State's Proposed Changes to the Draft RSS (July 2008) includes for at least 12,400 new dwellings to be developed, and for about 13900 jobs to be provided, in the Salisbury Housing Market Area (equivalent to the South Wiltshire Core Strategy area) over the RSS period. Of these, 6000 dwellings and 13400 jobs, with about 37 ha employment land, are to be provided in the Salisbury Travel to Work Area (TTWA). Includes draft policies G11 (Green Infrastructure), RE6 (Water Resources) and RE9 (Air Quality) to address identified impacts on N2K sites.</p>	<p>HRA report for Proposed Changes to Draft RSS (July 2008) identifies following potential effects and recommended mitigation measures for local authorities including former Salisbury District Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RSS and its HRA identified that River Avon SAC is currently being adversely affected by water abstraction and that the Environment Agency are trying to reduce this through the review of consents process. Considered effects of regional housing growth on water levels in River Avon SAC to be uncertain as increases in water abstraction were assumed which could affect SAC habitats and species. Recommended local authorities consider locally justified policies to require higher standards of water efficiency in new housing developments. Previously recommended regional policy on sustainable construction (which included standards for water efficiency) had been deleted from SoS Proposed Changes. - RSS and HRA identified that River Avon SAC is currently being adversely affected by nutrient overloading from some sewage treatment works (Pewsey, Warminster, Salisbury) which the EA and water companies are seeking to address through nutrient stripping processes. Notes that further development in these areas will put pressure on existing STWs and could have adverse effects on the SAC, and identifies need for further discussions to ensure that development growth is subject to appropriate infrastructure to avoid or mitigate effects. - RSS HRA identified that Natural England had identified Salisbury Plain SAC as one of many N2K sites particularly vulnerable to recreational impacts. That HRA concluded that there would be no adverse effect on the SAC or other N2K sites from policies in the proposed changes RSS, assuming that the mitigation measures included in the revised draft policy G11, Green Infrastructure, will be implemented successfully. - identifies the New Forest N2K sites as some of many sites vulnerable to tourism, urbanisation and recreational pressures, and highlights the need for local authorities to protect sites from such impacts, including through: the restriction of access,

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	<p>visitor management, provision of suitable alternative natural greenspace (SANG). That HRA refers to the Thames Basin Heaths and Dorset Heathlands approaches, and recommends changes to the RSS to strengthen RSS policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HRA identifies specific N2K sites vulnerable to air pollution, including those within or near South Wiltshire. Policy RE9 requires consideration of potential impacts of new developments and increased traffic levels on internationally designated nature conservation sites, and adopt mitigation measures to address these impacts.
<p>South East Regional Spatial Strategy: The South East Plan (April 2009)</p>	
<p>Adopted RSS for the South East region, outlining regional policy and guidance for housing development, transport, economic development, and the environment. Includes the Government's requirements for the quantity of residential and economic development local authorities should provide in their areas. Includes policies on biodiversity (NRM5), green infrastructure (CC8), and countryside access and rights of way management (C6).</p>	<p>HRA has identified the New Forest as vulnerable to disturbance from recreational pressures as a result of new development. RSS policy NRM5 includes strict protection for N2K sites and notes that DPDs should locate and limit development in a ways that avoids adverse effects on N2K sites. Policy CC8 promotes Green Infrastructure strategies and joint working between authorities. The HRA recommended specific reference to a required standard of SANG provision (including Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt), and application of the standards applied to the Thames Basin Heaths SPA in RSS policy to all N2K sites under such pressures) and to the broad mechanisms to mitigate recreational and urbanisation effects which are available to local authorities, of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical separation from developments to N2K sites (including buffer zones); • access management; • SANG provision; and • (to a lesser extent) site management. <p>SE RSS Policy C6 also requires that, where there are identified risks to N2K sites of adverse impact from recreational use or other urbanisation impacts, local authorities' right of way improvement plans and other access and management measures are used to promote appropriate measures to avoid such risks. The SE RSS HRA Report noted that there should not be an over-reliance on provision of SANG as further safeguards may be required for some N2K sites, specifically referring to the need for stricter access management in the New Forest. It also recommended that the Government assist access management in the New Forest and concluded that if stricter access management was not acceptable to stakeholders, the RSS would inevitably lead to adverse impacts on the New Forest sites.</p>

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<u>Salisbury District Local Plan</u>	
<p>Adopted 2003, provided local development policies for Salisbury District for 1991-2011. Local Plan policies are saved until South Wiltshire Core Strategy becomes current. Core Strategy proposes to further save policies on specific housing and employment allocations, recreational open space and other policies. Plan concentrated employment development at Salisbury and Amesbury, including provision of 10 hectares at Porton Down. Plan allocated 5500 dwellings for development in plan period, concentrating 70% at Salisbury and Amesbury, with remaining allocations at smaller scale in smaller settlements.</p>	<p>Policies include for protection of N2K sites. Potential effects arising from specific continuation of saved policies in relation to recreational disturbance, and employment development (saved policy allocation E8B at Porton Down), are considered within HRA of Core Strategy.</p>
<u>Porton Down Masterplan</u>	
<p>Adopted by Salisbury District Council as Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) to the Salisbury District Local Plan in January 2007, as a framework to guide the development of the Porton Down area.</p>	<p>Masterplan document acknowledges the need for all developments proposed in accordance with it to be assessed for their impact on the European sites and other nature conservation interests, noting that DSTL manage the Porton Down SPA through an Integrated Land Management Plan and have a Memorandum of Cooperation with Natural England which covers all activities.</p>
<u>Porton Bioscience and Technology Centre Development Brief</u>	
<p>Adopted by Salisbury District Council as Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) to the Salisbury District Local Plan in February 2007). This sets out a more detailed development framework for the PBTC development site of 10 ha than the Porton Down Masterplan, and refers to the need for appropriate assessment of effects on the SPA and SAC.</p>	<p>Identifies potential issues on Porton Down nature conservation designated sites, but does not include substantial information to further inform the assessment of potential effects.</p>
<u>Wiltshire and Swindon Minerals and Waste Core Strategies</u>	
<p>The Minerals Core Strategy and Waste Core Strategy for Wiltshire and Swindon were adopted in July 2009, providing the strategic planning policy for waste management and minerals development in the Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council areas. The Waste Core Strategy identify the strategic requirements for waste management infrastructure arising from the predicted growth in wastes generated in the area, mainly from strategic cities and towns such as Salisbury, and includes policies for the development of waste</p>	<p>Minerals Core Strategy policy MCSIA identifies a requirement that new or extended sites for sand and gravel extraction should be located (for sites to be allocated in the Minerals Site Allocations DPD) within the Mineral Resource Zones including: land to the south east of Salisbury, and land within the Salisbury / Hampshire Avon. Sustainability Appraisal report (February 2008) states 'HRA Screening Report for the Minerals Core Strategy (April 2007) identified that significant effects were possible at nine N2K sites due to the Minerals Core Strategy. These potential effects were primarily due to</p>

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<p>management facilities that will be required. Strategic waste site allocations will need to be identified within 16km of Salisbury.</p> <p>The Council's proposed methodologies for waste and minerals site selection, to progress the Waste Site Allocations DPD and the Minerals Site Allocations DPD), were subject to consultation in May-June 2009, and draft options for site allocations are to be subject to consultation shortly (July 2009).</p>	<p>the anticipated proximity of the minerals activities to N2K sites and the known sensitivities/vulnerabilities of the receiving environment. The key impacts identified in the screening process were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Air quality issues – potentially impacting Salisbury Plain SAC, Porton Down SPA, North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC and the New Forest SAC/SPA/Ramsar; - Water quality issues and impacts on hydrology - potentially impacting the River Avon SAC, North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC, the Avon Valley SPA; - Land take and the disturbance to foraging and flightpaths – potentially impacting the Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC, Chilmark Quarries SAC and Mottisfont Bats SAC; and_ Habitat loss and fragmentation – potentially impacting the North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC and Chilmark Quarries SAC. <p>The nine sites identified during the screening process were then taken forward into a full Appropriate Assessment. These sites include: Avon Valley SPA/ Ramsar, North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC; Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC; Porton Down SPA; Chilmark Quarries SAC; River Avon SAC; Mottisfont Bats SAC; Salisbury Plain SAC/SPA; New Forest SAC/SPA/Ramsar. The Appropriate Assessment shows that the Minerals Core Strategy provides strong policy protection for designated sites and the spatial intent for minerals sites, as directed by the strategy, will lead to no significant effect on the integrity of 7 N2K sites considered (Avon Valley SAC, Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC, Chilmark Quarries SAC, Mottisfont Bats SAC, New Forest SPA/Ramsar, Porton Down SAC, Salisbury Plain SAC/SPA). Recommendations for these sites, where necessary, focus on the need for lower level DPDs and site level design, construction and operation to be cognisant of the sensitivities of the designated site interest features. Where potential for significant effect exists, this relates primarily to site specific hydrological connectivity and the recommendations for these sites (North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC and the River Avon SAC) note the need for policy wording to be robust, and also suggest mitigation measures to be incorporated into subsequent DPDs and planning consents as appropriate.'</p> <p>The separate Minerals and Waste Site Allocations DPDs (drafts forthcoming) will also need to be subject to HRA to assess the potential adverse effects of minerals site development on N2K sites, in particular on the River Avon SAC as identified above.</p>

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<p>Test Valley Borough Core Strategy</p> <p>Proposed Submission Core Strategy (Marsh 2009) for Test Valley Borough. Includes policies for development of key towns. Proposes a new Forest Park of some 380 hectares in the southern part of that district as accessible natural greenspace, to meet the objectives of the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy, and a general policy on Green Infrastructure.</p>	<p>TVB Core Strategy HRA (March 2009) identifies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential effects on New Forest N2K sites from recreational disturbance: A previous HRA Screening Background Paper (2008) proposed that the Forest Park would offset all the additional visits to the New Forest generated from housing growth in Test Valley district, and a proportion of existing pressure. The HRA final report (March 2009) acknowledged that the policy of Green Infrastructure did not include any increase in greenspace provision standards required in new developments to offset recreational effects on the New Forest. It stated that it was not possible to conclude with the required level of certainty whether the Core Strategy would lead to adverse effects on the New Forest N2K sites alone or in combination, and identifies a need for mitigation and further research, proposing a 'tiering' of mitigation into lower level DPDs and project-level HRA. - Possible effects on Salisbury Plain SPA from visual and noise disturbance arising from several different policies relating to rural development, but defers mitigation measures to later DPDs. - Potential for loss of bat foraging habitats from developments within 7.5km of Montisfont Bats SAC, including in former Salisbury District.
<p>New Forest District Core Strategy</p> <p>New Forest District Core Strategy, Submission version, was submitted to the Secretary of State in February 2009 for public examination, the public hearings of which ended in June. It provides for the broad planning strategy for New Forest District outside the National Park for the period up to 2026.</p>	<p>HRA Screening Statement for Core Strategy Preferred Options (Oct 2007) identified potential recreational effects on New Forest SPA/SAC/Ramsar, Solent Maritime SAC Solent & Southampton Water SPA/ Ramsar sites from new residents, and potential effects of water abstraction and water pollution on River Avon SAC and the above Solent sites. It concluded that the Core Strategy Preferred Options will not require full appropriate assessment under the Habitats Regulations, because in themselves they are unlikely to have a significant impact on the integrity of European sites. This conclusion relied on consideration and inclusion of strategic avoidance and mitigation such as the delivery of Green Infrastructure as part of the assessment.</p> <p>Background Paper 30 to the Submission Core Strategy: HRA Screening Statement and Appropriate Assessment (September 2008) identified likely significant effects from recreational disturbance on New Forest N2K sites. Appropriate Assessment concludes that the current visitor pressure are causing a low risk of significant effects for the New Forest SPA, and are not causing adverse effects on SAC habitats. NF District Core Strategy policy</p>

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	<p>CS7 seeks to provide alternative greenspace for informal recreational use (to reduce pressure on N2K sites) and establishes a commitment to working in partnership with other local authorities on the PUSH Green Infrastructure Strategy for South Hampshire. NF District Core Strategy policy CS25 establishes a contributions framework that allows for the financial contributions from development to support the provision of green infrastructure and recreational opportunities to relieve pressure on sensitive sites and meet environmental needs. Maintenance of new facilities is also enabled through the policy. The Appropriate Assessment concludes that within the context of wider policies and controls, the submission New Forest District Core Strategy provides adequate policy basis for the delivery of necessary mitigation for recreational effects, the mitigation can effectively control effects so that the conservation objectives are not compromised, and that the plan will not adversely affect the integrity of the New Forest SAC, SPA and Ramsar sites in relation to increased recreational impacts.</p>
<p><u>New Forest National Park Plan Consultation Draft (August 2008)</u> Incorporates the New Forest National Park Authority's draft National Park Management Plan, and its Local Development Framework Core Strategy and Development Policies.</p>	<p>Plan identifies issues of recreational pressures on the New Forest's N2K sites, and includes objectives and policies to guide the level of recreational activity via a zoning approach based on the sensitivity and robustness of different habitats. Policies also promote working with nearby authorities and land managers to identify new sites for countryside recreation outside the National Park to help reduce visitor pressures through alternative greenspace provision. Annex 6: Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Statement (August 2008) concludes that with only one exception (policy UP2.1 - safer and easier access to the National Park), the policies of the draft National Park Plan are not likely to significantly affect the relevant European sites and will not require further appropriate assessment. The Statement concludes that it is possible to mitigate these potential effects through small changes to the policy in future stages of the plan as well as linkages to other policies within the National Park Plan and other Authority strategies such as the Recreation Management Strategy. <i>N.B. However, subsequent correspondence indicates that Natural England has indicated that the likely in-combination effects of the plan policies with economic proposals in surrounding areas warrant that the plan will require Appropriate Assessment.</i></p>
<p><u>West Wiltshire Leisure and Recreation DPD</u></p>	<p>Appropriate Assessment (West Wiltshire District Council, undated) identifies potential effects of Rights of Way improvements on Salisbury Plain SPA, but concludes that options would not have a significant effect. Mitigation measures, including properly managed and</p>

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	maintained routes and improved signage/ information boards has the potential to offset any adverse impacts. Assumes that the designated area of the Plain, because of its military use/ownership and mostly restricted public access, is unlikely to suffer any prolonged significant effects from intensive public use.
Salisbury Plain Training Area – Eastern Infrastructure Project	
The proposed infrastructure improvements on SPTA East comprised approximately 37km of new or upgraded tank track, 13 new hardstanding areas, 3 new Tank Crossings and safety improvements to a number of existing Tank Crossings, and safety improvements to Delta Tank Crossing on the A360 road between SPTA West and Centre.	The Environmental Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment for this project considered the potential for increased disturbance to Stone Curlew both directly, as a result of construction of a new access road, and indirectly from the potential for increased training in areas currently under utilised and as a result of increased recreational access via the new road system. Mitigation measures were proposed as a result.
Wessex Water – Water Resources Management Plan (2008)	
Draft for consultation, May 2008. WRMP sets out how Wessex Water propose to continue to deliver water to customers over the next 25 years in a way that is sustainable. Includes assumption that Environment Agency will reduce abstraction licences by 23.5 Ml/day as a result of low flow investigations and review of consents HRA. Measures are included for in draft Business Plan (2008).	Includes measures to ensure that sufficient water resources should be available to support housing growth proposed in its area. Such measures include water demand management, and the use and development of alternative sources of water.
Environment Agency – Draft River Basin Management Plan: South West River Basin District (December 2008)	
Identifies pressures on water resources and quality, and assesses requirements for good ecological status across the RBMP under Water Framework Directive. Covers all types of water body, including River Avon SAC. Under Water Framework Directive, all EU Member States, including UK, must achieve ‘good’ ecological status for all waters by December 2015 and ensure that status does not deteriorate in any waters. Draft RBMP outlines the current status of waters, the proposed environmental objectives for waters, and the measures which may be necessary in order to achieve these objectives.	Proposes to improve ecological status of River Avon SAC through a range of current and future measures in relation to water quality and water abstraction, to progress towards achieving good ecological status.
North Dorset Local Development Framework (2007)	
LDF sets framework for future DPDs, including Core Strategy, and Development Management Policies DPD, which are yet to be prepared.	Screening for Appropriate Assessment of Forthcoming Local Development Documents (Jan 2007) reviews likely effects, concluded that no significant effects are likely from policies likely to be included within the LDF. Draft Sustainability Appraisal Report for Core Strategy and Development Management

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	Policies DPD (April 2009) identified the need for the DPDs to include suitable policies and objectives to protect the two SACs within the district, including the Fontmell and Melbury Downs SAC, near Shaftesbury.
<p><u>Dorset Heathlands Interim Planning Framework 2006-09 (January 2007, amended December 2008)</u></p>	
<p>Development plan document adopted by Borough of Poole, Bournemouth Borough Council, Christchurch Borough Council, Dorset County Council, East Dorset District Council, and Purbeck District Council. Policies aim to protect Dorset Heathlands SPA/ Ramsar site and Dorset SAC from effects of residential development on increased visitor pressure. The IPF will be replaced by a joint DPD, and replacement policies from each Local Planning Authority through their Core Strategies and other DPDs will be reviewed when relevant.</p>	<p>Assesses and proposes a joint framework for all local planning authorities to mitigate and avoid adverse effects from recreational pressure arising from new housing developments within 5km of the Dorset heathlands N2K sites. Requires developer contributions to greenspace provision and access management projects from developments within 5km of the N2K sites. These sites are more than 5km from the South Wiltshire Core Strategy boundary, and as such no development in South Wiltshire would require mitigation through the IPF.</p>