

South Wilts Core Strategy (Revised) Hearings Programme August 2011

Statement of behalf of Harnham Neighbourhood Association: Ref 1357

ISSUE 6: Netherhampton Road and Longhedge

In our previous representations we demonstrated that the Netherhampton Road Strategic Site is not deliverable, because the A3094 is incapable of handling the volume of traffic which would be generated by the development.

Whilst Wiltshire Council disputed our conclusions, they were unable to refute our figures.

The Transport Strategy on which the Council relies was produced after the SWCS was developed, and does not include any assessment of the traffic impact of individual Strategic Sites. The Atkins computer models have been challenged, and we believe are now largely discredited as a means of assessing traffic impact outside of the A36 corridor.

Accordingly, no matter what the relative merits of other Strategic Sites, there can be **no question of re-instating Netherhampton Road.**

Moreover, the revised plan does represent an important strategic improvement. By grouping the employment sites to the North of the city, it will at some point in the future be possible to build a Northern by-pass giving improved access to these sites, as well as to the key existing sites at Porton Down and Boscombe Down.

This may be outside the plan period under consideration, but who can doubt that at some point the expansion of Southampton Docks will necessitate such a by-pass, irrespective of the growth in South Wiltshire.

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