



**Habitats Regulations Assessment Update Note  
For proposed revision of Submitted Development Plan  
Document as a result of the Review**

**February 2011**

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 Wiltshire Council undertook a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) (SWCS/02) of its emerging South Wiltshire Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD) with the assessment being finalised for the proposed submission draft in July 2009. This was undertaken in accordance with the Conservation (Natural habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended, 2007). The assessment focussed on the possible effects of the plan on designated sites of international nature conservation importance within and close to south Wiltshire.
- 1.2 In order to attempt to tackle the decline in European biodiversity, important sites for nature conservation in England are afforded international protection. The sites combine to create a Europe-wide 'Natural 2000' (N2K) network of European sites and provide a refuge for wildlife. These sites include Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Ramsar Sites. The HRA is required in order to assess whether the implementation of the plan or project would either, individually, or in combination with other plans or projects have a significant effect on one or more N2K sites.
- 1.3 Initial work on the HRA and the then Salisbury District Core Strategy was commenced by Salisbury District Council (now superseded) officers in consultation with Natural England and the district Ecologist in July 2008. The council then appointed Nicholas Pearson Associates to progress the HRA for the Proposed Submission document.
- 1.4 The HRA (SWCS/02) draws on the previous screening and Interim HRA report (CON/16) accompany the Core Strategy Preferred Options 2 (entitled 'Our Place in the Future') (CON/15) and takes account of consultation comments on it, together with further meetings, consultations and assessment work undertaken and detailed within SWCS/02. This included meetings and discussions with key stakeholders such as Natural England, Environment Agency, Wessex Water and the New Forest National Park Authority. The Council in addition also prepared an Interim Appropriate Assessment statement (CON/06). SWCS/02 also includes an updated screening stage and an appropriate assessment of relevant Core Policies. This update note should be read in conjunction with SWCS/02, CON/16 and CON/06. All of these were consulted upon alongside the relevant plan.

## **2.0 Methodology**

- 2.1 The qualifying features of the N2K sites, including conservation objectives, that could be affected by a plan or project in south Wiltshire are identified within CON/16. The first stage of any HRA is 'screening' in which the implications of the plan or its policies are tested in respect to the N2K sites 'qualifying features', using the precautionary principle, in order to identify whether the plan and its policies are likely to have a significant effect on a Natural 2000 sites either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.
- 2.2 Where the screening stage identifies that the plan or any of its policies are likely to have a significant effect, it must be subject to an 'appropriate assessment'. Under Article 6 (3) of the Habitats Directive, and the 2010 Regulations this assessment must determine whether those likely significant effects will or could result in an adverse effect on the integrity of the N2K site/s concerned. Where adverse effects are identified, alternatives to the plan policies and mitigation measures should be considered to avoid such effects. The methodology is provided in more detail within section 2 of SWCS/02.
- 2.3 Two of the policies screened into the Appropriate Assessment stage within SWCS/02 section 3 were Core Policy 1 and Core Policy 2 of the SWCS proposed submission Draft (SWCS/01). The focused changes proposed to the SWCS/01 as a result of the Review detailed within Topic Paper 20 (TOP/02) include proposed amendments to both Core Policy 1 and 2 and consequently the revised policies need to be subject to appropriate assessment.
- 2.4 In addition the screening and appropriate assessment stages need to assess whether the plan or project would, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects have a significant effect on one or more N2K sites. Paragraphs 2.10 to 2.13 of SWCS/02 provides a summary of the plans and projects reviewed with more detail provided in Appendix 8 and

Appendix 9, with Appendix 9 detailing the key plans and projects reviewed. All plans and projects identified have been re-reviewed to ensure plans and projects were still relevant and or any finalised documents had not been amended to a degree that they would now in combination result in a significant effect on the N2K site. An exercise to identify any additional plans or projects which have been adopted or planned since the previous HRA was also carried out, including plans or project within Wiltshire and the surrounding administrative areas.

### **3.0 Review of Other Plans and Projects**

- 3.1 Consideration has again been given to the potential effect of the reviewed Core Strategy policies in combination with other plans and projects to inform this Habitats Regulations Assessment. This involves an initial review of the likely effects of other plans and projects on N2K sites and of the likely effect of these in combination with the reviewed Core Strategy policies (TOP/20).
- 3.2 The documents reviewed in SWCS/02 followed a list of items prepared by the Council in consultation with Natural England (included in Appendix 8 of SWCS/02) and a detailed write up of the key plans and projects reviewed was provided in Appendix 9 of SWCS/02.
- 3.3 Any draft plan or project has been looked at again to ensure that the plan or project has not been amended to a great degree that may have an in combination effect. In addition if new plans have been published these have also been considered. A summary of those key plans looked at again and may have been subject to amendment are provided within Appendix 2 of this document.
- 3.4 Overall it was found that the plans / projects looked at through SWCS/02 were still relevant but most now in themselves had been subject to HRA and included within their in-combination assessment the requirements of the South Wiltshire Core Strategy to deliver homes and jobs inline with the draft SWRSS proposed changes (12,400 homes and 13,900 jobs). In addition SWCS/02, within its in-combination assessment, although could not have included final or more progressed plans as they had not then been prepared / published, did assess the in-combination effects of both the South East Plan and the draft SWRSS proposed changes.
- 3.5 There are however two adjacent authorities where progression to plans have had either different conclusions to HRA than originally published or progressed plans to a far enough stage to have now undertaken more HRA work that brings up some uncertainties. These are in respect to North Dorset and East Dorset and Christchurch. However, the SWCS in-combination assessment assessed these development levels whether through RSS or draft plans.
- 3.6 North Dorset** - The initial HRA had screened out all N2K sites and policies suggesting that the district council did not need to undertaken an appropriate assessment. However re-drafting appears to have resulted in the HRA concluding that appropriate assessment is now required. Detail is provided in Appendix 2.
- 3.7 East Dorset and Christchurch** - East Dorset and Christchurch have now published a joint draft preferred options core strategy whose HRA took several N2K sites forward to appropriate assessment stage. The area of concern raised is that of Air quality where it concludes that the effect on Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA/Ramsar, River Avon SAC and Avon Valley SPA/Ramsar and the New Forest SAC/SPA/Ramsar was uncertain until the South East Dorset Transport Study was published in October 2010.
- 4.0 Appropriate Assessment**
- 4.1 The focussed changes to Core Policy 1 and 2 are detailed within Appendix 1, in summary the proposed focussed changes resulting from the Review are:

<b>Summary of Key Changes proposed to the SWCS as result of the review</b>
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- The target for housing growth to be revised down to 9,900 (from 12,400)
- The target for jobs growth to be revised down to 10,400 (from 13,900)
- A growth figure of 6060 (from 9050) dwellings will be delivered in Salisbury/Wilton area
- Some 2395 (from 2650) dwellings in Amesbury area
- 555 (from 740) in the Southern Wiltshire Community Area
- 250 (from 290) in the Mere Community Area
- 440 (from 440) in the Tisbury Community Area
- Strategic site allocations will deliver 3950 (from 4,700) dwellings in Salisbury/Wilton
- The Strategic Site Allocation at Netherhampton Road is not required at this time and will be deleted
- The Strategic Site Allocation at Longhedge will be retained but reduced to deliver 450 homes (employment to remain unchanged)
- The Strategic Site Allocation at Hampton Park will be retained, but in recognition of strong local representations the development template will be revised to require larger strategic gap with Ford, flexibility over the future function of the green open space and establishment of a community forum to guide development
- Land at Netherhampton Road and Longhedge will be added to the long term reserve for the Strategy as future areas of search.

4.2 All other changes proposed throughout the SWCS are consequential to the amendments to Core Policy 1 and Core Policy 2.

4.3 The screening stage of the HRA identified some key issues that should be the focus of the appropriate assessment (SWCS/02):

- River Avon SAC and water abstraction
- River Avon and treated waste water discharges
- Developments close to the River Avon SAC
- Developments close to Porton Down SPA (part of Salisbury Plain SAC)
- Recreational disturbance at Salisbury Plain SAC/SAC
- Recreational disturbance at New Forest SPA/SAC/Ramsar
- Air Pollution

4.4 The changes within the Review (TOP/20) propose a reduction in housing and employment numbers and should reduce the magnitude of any likely significant effects for example in respect to the River Avon and recreational disturbance on Salisbury Plain and the New Forest, nonetheless policy responses will remain unaltered in order to secure a proportionate delivery of mitigation measures to ensure no effect upon site integrity. There is no proposed change to the Porton Down proposals. The in-combination assessment within SWCS/02 included development in the neighbouring authorities either through the in-combination assessment of South West and South East RSS development levels or through the published development plan documents; a review of plans and projects for those authorities confirmed that no additional development above or beyond that assessed in SWCS/02 is currently planned, although some plans have progressed further and have been subject to more detailed HRA at District rather than Regional level. Mitigation measures proposed in SWCS/02 have all been retained in the review and will continue to deliver proportionate mitigation for any likely significant effects upon Natura 2000 site, apart from CP25 (Air Pollution), where it will be down to the Inspector to decide whether to retain in line with consultation responses on MAJ/10 or delete based on new evidence put forward at EIP.

## 5.0 Conclusion

5.1 It is therefore concluded that especially due to the reduction in employment and housing numbers that the SWCS review in combination should not have a significant effect on the N2K sites subject to mitigation already identified within SWCS.

## Appendix 1

Focussed changes to SWCS as a result of the Review. New proposed text is show underlined and removed text is shown as a ~~strikethrough~~.

### **Core Policy 1 - The Settlement Strategy and distribution of growth in south Wiltshire**

This strategy plans for the delivery of ~~42,400~~ 9,900 dwellings and ~~43,900~~ 10,400 jobs over the period to 2026. The growth required to meet local needs will be accommodated in the following manner:

#### Salisbury and Wilton Community Areas

##### Salisbury and Wilton.

Planned growth:

~~7,480~~ 6060 homes and ~~36~~ 29 ha (~~30~~ 23 ha new allocation and 6 ha saved) of employment land. A retail-led mixed-use development is also planned.

~~The city of Salisbury is identified as a Strategically Significant City or Town ("SSCT") under Development Policy A of the RSS. Salisbury is the primary service, economic and cultural centre for south Wiltshire and, in line with RSS, will remain the focal point for the majority of new development in south Wiltshire.~~

##### ~~Wilton Community Area~~

~~Planned growth:~~

~~Wilton Local Service Centre: 620 homes, 3 ha of employment land~~

~~Rest of Wilton Community Area: 950~~ 220 homes.

~~Wilton is the Local Service Centre for its Community Area and relates to Development Policy B in the RSS. The proximity of Salisbury to the east means that Wilton has a functional relationship with its larger neighbour but retains an identity of its own. The UK Land Forces HQ in Wilton is a strategically important regeneration site, which will deliver employment and housing. The Community Area has three secondary villages (equivalent to RSS Development Policy C), which are Broad Chalke, Dinton and Great Wishford, where limited growth will be appropriate.~~

##### Amesbury Community Area

Planned growth:

Amesbury Service Centre: ~~4960~~ 2100 homes.

Rest of Amesbury Community Area: ~~690~~ 295 homes, 17 ha of employment land

Amesbury, with support from Durrington and Bulford, is the Service Centre for the area. Although these settlements are distinct from one another, their close geographical and functional relationships between Amesbury, Durrington and Bulford mean that they constitute a unique group of settlements within south Wiltshire that ~~neither conforms to the SSCT category nor is~~ not directly comparable with any other category of settlement. ~~the Local Service Centres or any of the Village categories.~~

Amesbury Community Area contains the majority of allocated employment land in south Wiltshire (outside Salisbury of the ~~SSCT~~), including land at Solstice Park, Boscombe Down and Porton Down. Porton, Shrewton, and Tilshead are secondary villages in this community area, as well as "The Winterbournes" collectively. These settlements ~~conform to Development Policy C of the RSS and~~ perform a complementary role to Amesbury, Durrington and Bulford, each having a range ~~a more~~ local of services, which serve the surrounding areas.

##### Southern Wiltshire Community Area

Planned Growth:

Downton Local Service Centre: 190 homes

Rest of Southern Wiltshire Community Area: ~~550~~ 365 homes

Downton is a large settlement providing a good level of services and performs the role of Local Service Centre for this Community Area. It provides a good source of employment with one of eight strategically important employment sites in south Wiltshire located in Downton. The secondary villages (~~equivalent to RSS Development Policy C~~) in the Southern Wiltshire Community Area are Alderbury, Coombe Bissett, Morgan's Vale/Woodfalls, Pitton, Whiteparish and The Winterslows. These villages provide a reasonable level of local services and facilities where modest growth will be appropriate. The proximity of Salisbury to the north means that a number of settlements located in the northern part of this community area have a much stronger functional relationship with the City

~~performing which performs~~ the role of the service centre, rather than with Downton.

#### Mere Community Area

Planned Growth:

Mere Local Service Centre: ~~270~~ 200 homes 3 ha of employment land

Rest of Mere Community Area: ~~20~~ 50 homes

Mere is the Local Service Centre for this Community Area as it offers a range of services and facilities and is an important centre for the outlying villages in the west of south Wiltshire. This Community Area is unique in south Wiltshire in that there are no settlements that perform a secondary village role and hence it is anticipated that the majority of growth will take place in Mere over the plan period. A subsequent Site Specific Allocations DPD will identify where ~~Where~~ exactly this growth will take place ~~will be identified through a subsequent Site Specific Allocations DPD~~. The existing Local Plan employment allocation at Mere of approximately 3 hectares will be implemented during the period of this Strategy.

#### Tisbury Community Area

Planned Growth:

Tisbury Local Service Centre: ~~460~~ 200 homes. 1.4 ha of employment land

Rest of Tisbury Community Area: ~~270~~ 220 homes

Tisbury is the Local Service Centre for this Community Area and serves a wide and sparsely populated hinterland. The existing Local Plan employment and housing allocations on Hindon Lane will be implemented during the period of this Strategy. Fovant, Hindon and Ludwell are the secondary villages in this Community Area. These villages provide a reasonable level of local services and facilities and can accommodate reasonable levels of growth. Specific sites that can accommodate this growth will be identified through a subsequent Site Specific Allocations DPD.

The Council's target for housing development on previously developed land is 34% from the date of adoption of this Core Strategy to 2026. This includes the conversion of existing buildings.

Apart from the housing numbers attached to Local Service Centres, development will be focussed on the Secondary Villages in each Community Area. In addition, infill development will be permitted in the Small Villages of Barford St Martin, Bodenham, Britford, Chilmark, Figheldean/Ablington, Fonthill Bishop, Fovant, Gomeldon, Great Wishford, Middle Woodford, Newton Toney, Odstock, Orcheston, Stapleford, Steeple Langford, Wylde and Zeals. Exception development, based on identified local need, will also be permitted in these villages.

~~New housing will not be permitted outside the settlements named in Core Policy 1 [nb. numbers rounded]~~

~~Note: All numbers have been rounded up and include a contingency allowance.~~

Targets: Qualitative: The delivery of levels of growth in conformity with the Settlement Strategy; average of ~~620~~ 495 housing completions per year; 34% of housing completions per year to be on previously-developed land.

Monitoring and Review: AMR & housing trajectory, number of dwellings built in sustainable locations aligned with the Sustainable Settlement Strategy.

Delivery Responsibility: Wiltshire Council, Development Industry, Strategic Partnerships.

Policies replaced: Policy H1

### Core Policy 2: Strategic Allocations

Planning permission will be granted for proposals that meet the requirements set out in the Development Templates at Appendix A of this document, for the following sites:

	Housing	Employment and other uses
Fugglestone Red	1250 dwellings	8 ha
Hampton Park	500 dwellings	0 ha
Longhedge (Old Sarum)	<del>800</del> <u>450</u> dwellings	8 ha
Churchfields & Engine Sheds	1100 dwellings	5 ha to be retained
UKLF	450 dwellings	3 ha
<del>South of Netherhampton Road</del>	<del>400</del> dwellings	<del>10</del> ha

Central Car Park external area	200 dwellings	Up to 40,000 sq m gross retail and leisure floorspace
Kings Gate, Amesbury	1300 dwellings	0 ha
Former Imerys Quarry	0 dwellings	4 ha

The specific, detailed infrastructure requirements to allow this Strategy to be delivered are included in the Area Visions (Chapters 6-11), the Development Templates at Appendix A and Integrated Delivery Plan at Appendix E. Key strategic elements of infrastructure central to the delivery of this plan are:

- New secondary school capacity for Salisbury.
- New primary schools at strategic sites at Fugglestone Red, Hampton Park, Longhedge, ~~Hamham~~ and Kings Gate.
- Additional doctor and dentist surgery capacity.
- Adequate fire service response to areas of new growth.
- Green Infrastructure linkages.
- Retention of important green infrastructure to the northern slopes and the green lung running south from land east of Old Sarum and west of Hampton Park.
- Demand Management measures to alleviate additional traffic pressures on Salisbury ring road.
- A strategy for mitigating phosphate levels in the watercourses.
- An integrated 'water grid' to ensure water supply.

Targets: See Core Policy 1; Reduction in local unemployment figures.

Monitoring and Review: AMR housing completions; NOMIS official labour market statistics.

Delivery Responsibility: Wiltshire Council; Developers.

Policies replaced: None

## Appendix 2

Plan / Project	Potential for Core Strategy to have significant / adverse effects
<p>Draft – Wiltshire Local Transport Plan 3</p> <p><a href="http://consult.wiltshire.gov.uk/portal/ltp/ltp3?pointId=1239450#document-1239450">http://consult.wiltshire.gov.uk/portal/ltp/ltp3?pointId=1239450#document-1239450</a></p> <p>Draft Plan is an overarching strategy for how transport will be implemented in the future. Site and area specific initiatives are passed down to lower policy documents yet to be drafted.</p>	<p>The draft provides an overarching strategy and passes area specific initiatives to a lower policy document, yet to be produced. The document has been subject to a HRA, identifying a number of potential in-combination effects of water quality and sedimentation upon the Kennet and Lambourne SAC and River Avon SAC, however this concluded that these effects could be fully mitigated to ensure no likely significant effects.</p>
<p><b>Wessex Water’s Water Resources Management Plan</b></p> <p>Wessex Water’s water resources management plan has now been finalised.</p> <p><a href="http://www.wessexwater.co.uk/water-and-sewerage/threecol.aspx?id=578">http://www.wessexwater.co.uk/water-and-sewerage/threecol.aspx?id=578</a></p> <p>SWCS/02 looked at the May 2008 draft for consultation.</p> <p>Includes Wessex Water’s proposal to continue to deliver water to customers over the next 25 years in a way that is sustainable. Includes assumption that EA will reduce abstraction licences by 23.5Ml/ day.</p> <p>In summary it provides for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reducing abstractions to improve river flow</li> <li>• developing our water supply grid</li> <li>• encouraging and enabling our customers to use water wisely</li> <li>• protecting our groundwater resources from pollution such as nitrates</li> <li>• start metering properties upon change of ownership from 2015</li> </ul> <p>This plan in itself as well as Wessex Water’s business plan have been informed by the Low flows 2008 project</p> <p><a href="http://www.wessexwater.co.uk/environment/twocol.aspx?id=488&amp;linkide">http://www.wessexwater.co.uk/environment/twocol.aspx?id=488&amp;linkide</a></p>	<p>During examination minor amendments (MIN/43) were proposed to the examination as there were concerns expressed that Wessex Water had not modelled the full 12,400 homes as proposed in the draft RSS. The following wording was agreed with Wessex Water to provide more assurance over water supply:</p> <p><i>‘Wessex Water is the incumbent water supply company for the area. The company set out its water resources strategy for the period 2010 to 2035 in its draft Water Resources Management Plan available from <a href="http://www.wessexwater.co.uk">http://www.wessexwater.co.uk</a>. This has since been updated for the purposes of the company’s strategic business plan, which was submitted to its regulator, Ofwat, for the setting of water prices for the period 2010-2015. The company plans to undertake major improvements to its trunk water network over the period 2010 to 2018. This will involve the construction of an extended ‘water grid’ to improve security of supply, reduce the impact of some of its groundwater abstractions on river flows, address the problem of deteriorating raw water supplies, and meet planned growth in demand. These works comprise a major element of its 2010-2015 funded capital programme. Ofwat recognises the need for further funding in the period 2015 to 2020 for the company to complete these improvements. These will form part of the company’s submission to Ofwat when it seeks new price limits in 2014 for the period 2015 to 2020. The company is confident it will be able to meet all its water resources commitments including the needs of growth over the full</i></p>

Plan / Project	Potential for Core Strategy to have significant / adverse effects
<p><a href="#">ntifier=id&amp;itemid=488</a> which was undertaken in conjunction with the Environment Agency and Natural England</p>	<p><i>lifetime of the Core Strategy.</i>  <i>Wessex Water is confident in its ability to meet the expected growth over the Plan period and the Council will work in close partnership with Wessex Water to monitor progress with its planned water resources improvements and in a timely manner ensure that development does not outstrip the company's ability to meet demand'.</i></p> <p>The WRMP and proposed amendments to the South Wiltshire Core Strategy Proposed submission draft includes measures to ensure that sufficient water resources should be available to support housing growth proposed in its areas. The proposed reduction in housing numbers in south Wiltshire should assist in reducing any impact compared to the draft RSS numbers.</p>
<p>Draft South West RSS proposed changes.</p>	<p>This still remains draft and is proposed to be abolished and therefore the proposed lower housing numbers proposed within the reviewed SWCS are the most relevant.</p>
<p><b>North Dorset Core Strategy</b>  <a href="http://www.dorsetforyou.com/nddcnewplan">http://www.dorsetforyou.com/nddcnewplan</a></p> <p>Newly published draft Core Strategy and HRA (March 2010). Core Strategy provides framework for future DPDs, and strategically distributes 7,000 dwellings across North Dorset but at this stage only puts forward preferred options for further development. The HRA draws different conclusions on N2K sites to the previously published HRA from North Dorset DC which draws different conclusions to that looked at in combination with the SWCS proposed submission draft.</p> <p>As this was published in March 2010 the in-combination analysis of the HRA should have taken account of SWCS proposed submission draft and the higher housing figures than are now proposed.</p>	<p><u>With respect to Fontmell and Melbury Downs</u> – North Dorset HRA now observes that no visitor surveys have been conducted at the downland SACs but casual observation (eg by DWT Site managers) confirms that the main access at Fontmell is from the small car parks off the C13; and that walkers, many with dogs, are the main users. This location is only 2km from east Shaftesbury where there is likely to be a focus of new housing provision. Though actual numbers of additional walkers/dog walkers visiting Fontmell and Melbury Downs, from new housing, especially from Shaftesbury because it is so near, may be quite small, this could represent a relatively high proportional increase. The North Dorset HRA recommends that full visitor surveys would be needed to enable prediction (and confirmation) of this, but in the absence of such information it must remain a distinct possibility and thus the likelihood of adverse impact cannot be ruled out. Trampling and especially increased enrichment from dog fouling on essentially low-nutrient habitat are the main impacts. Riding, cycling and other recreational pursuits are unlikely to be a significant impact, based on current practices.</p> <p><u>Consideration for south Wiltshire</u> – Overall, the SWCS review proposes a reduction in development and therefore should have a lower impact on N2K sites. However, Shaftesbury is close to the western border with</p>

Plan / Project	Potential for Core Strategy to have significant / adverse effects
	<p>south Wiltshire and near to the Tisbury Community Area. Within this community area 440 dwellings are proposed and this is the same as the proposed submission draft. This level of development was assessed through SWCS/02 at publication as having no significant effect on Fontmell and Melbury Downs SAC either alone or in combination with proposed development in North Dorset (proposed at the time in the SWRSS proposed changes ); given that no additional development is proposed in either the Tisbury Community Area or in North Dorset, the conclusions of this assessment is still considered to be valid.</p> <p><u>New Forest</u> – North Dorset HRA concludes that considering the distance to the New Forest and the availability of high quality greenspace within and close to North Dorset, it is unlikely that the proposed housing developments and tourism policies within the North Dorset District's Core Strategy alone will result in significant increases to the number of visitors to the New Forest National Park. However, the in-combination effects of the housing development and tourism policies within the core strategies of all other districts surrounding and close to the New Forest National Park may result in significant increases in the number of visits made to the Park, especially where new development is within 20km of the National Park (Sharp et al., 2008). Such an increase is likely to have an adverse effect on the integrity of the New Forest SPA and SAC. Proposed development at Blandford does fall within the 20km radius and it is therefore not possible to conclude no adverse effect on integrity. It is therefore suggested that the progress of this work is revisited closer to submission stage, in order to determine what commitment, if any, North Dorset needs to make to this work.</p> <p><u>Consideration for south Wiltshire</u> – SWCS/02 has analysed the impact of the SWCS on the New Forest alone and in-combination. Core Policy 23 has been incorporated within the SWCS in order to progress further work to ensure that proportionate mitigation is achieved to avoid such impacts. The reduction in numbers around both the Southern Wiltshire and Salisbury Community Areas will also assist with reducing any potential impact.</p> <p><u>Water Quality</u> – North Dorset HRA concludes the District Council should also seek assurances from the Environment Agency and water authority</p>

Plan / Project	Potential for Core Strategy to have significant / adverse effects
	<p>that additional development in the district will not lead to any further abstraction of groundwater that might affect the Hampshire Avon SAC. Such assurances from the Environment Agency and water authority in the short term and the implementation of an extended water supply network in the medium term by WW should allow development of the allocated housing to proceed with regard to water abstraction. Further checks are necessary to ascertain that no sewage treatment works discharge into the Avon catchment. A set of questions urgently need to be written by the Council, to obtain the necessary assurances from the Environment Agency and water authority, to enable the final HRA to conclude that potential effects have been ruled out, or appropriate and robust measures have been applied.</p> <p><u>Consideration for south Wiltshire</u> – SWCS/02 has analysed the impact of the SWCS on water quality alone and in-combination; Core Policies 19 and 20 have been incorporated within the SWCS in order to ensure further work is undertaken and / or water quality is maintained.</p>
<p><b>East Dorset and Christchurch Core Strategy</b>  <a href="http://www.dorsetforyou.com/399693">http://www.dorsetforyou.com/399693</a>  HRA available from: <a href="http://www.dorsetforyou.com/399694">http://www.dorsetforyou.com/399694</a></p> <p>Consultation draft published in October 2010 for a 14 week consultation. This forms a 'preferred options' document. Sets out proposed settlement strategy and puts forward a range of options for housing and employment numbers.</p> <p>Due to the date that this draft plan was published this should have taken into account within its in-combination assessment the level of growth proposed within south Wiltshire.</p>	<p><b>East Dorset / Christchurch preferred options HRA</b></p> <p>From initial screening it was concludes uncertain whether significant effects would be likely from the preferred options on the Dorset Heathlands SPA/Ramsar sites, Dorset Heaths SAC, Avon Valley SPA/Ramsar, the River Avon SAC, and New Forest SAC/SPA/Ramsar.</p> <p>Therefore the assessment was taken forward to the Appropriate Assessment stage:</p> <p><b>Water Quantity and Quality</b> - The two water resources management plans covering Christchurch and East Dorset were reviewed as part of the appropriate assessment stage. The Bournemouth and West Hampshire Water Resources Management Plan (November 2009) concludes that their existing licensed water abstraction sources are adequate to accommodate the planned level of residential growth in the area the plan covers, and that no new water sources would be required during the plan period. The Wessex Water Resources Management Plan concludes that there are currently sufficient water resources to meet</p>

Plan / Project	Potential for Core Strategy to have significant / adverse effects
	<p>demand, provided that Wessex Water is able to improve the interconnections between their existing resources and customers. As such, the uncertain screening conclusions regarding water supply were superseded, and it was assumed that development in the Plan area and neighbouring areas would not have an adverse impact on any European sites in terms of increased demand for water abstraction.</p> <p>With regards to water quality, the Councils and Environment Agency provided information confirming the location of sewage treatment works (STWs) servicing East Dorset District and Christchurch Borough, and their discharge locations. Most of the STWs servicing the two authorities discharge into rivers other than the River Avon, except for Fordingbridge STW, which only serves Alderholt, which is not identified for growth in the Core Strategy. Therefore, the uncertain screening conclusions regarding water quality were also superseded, as it is assumed that development in the Christchurch and East Dorset would not have an adverse impact on the River Avon SAC/Avon Valley SPA due to potential increased pressure on sewage treatment works and changes in water quality.</p> <p>It was therefore concluded that Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA/Ramsar, the River Avon SAC, Avon Valley SPA/Ramsar and the New Forest SAC/SPA/Ramsar are unlikely to be adversely affected by all the other housing and employment development proposals in the Christchurch and East Dorset Core Strategy with respect to water quality and quantity.</p> <p><b>Air quality</b> - The area of concern raised is that of Air quality where it concludes that the effect on Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA/Ramsar, River Avon SAC and Avon Valley SPA/Ramsar and the New Forest SAC/SPA/Ramsar was uncertain until the South East Dorset Transport Study was published in October 2010.</p> <p>The SWCS proposed submission draft did include a policy with respect to Air Quality – Core Policy 25. This recognised the problems with air pollution that currently exists, particularly with transport generated emissions in Salisbury as well as the fact that the HRA (SWCS/02) had identified that the critical loads nitrogen deposition are likely to be</p>

Plan / Project	Potential for Core Strategy to have significant / adverse effects
	<p>exceed at the N2K sites of New Forest SAC, Dorset Heaths SAC and Fontmell and Melbury Downs SAC, with concern also raised about the potential effect of air pollution on the River Avon SAC and Porton Down and Salisbury Plain SAC and SPA's.</p> <p>However new transport evidence put forward at the South Wiltshire Core Strategy proposed submission draft Examination in Public (EIP) through the Salisbury Transport Model showed that due to technological advances emissions were predicted to decrease rather than increase and therefore it was proposed, during EIP, that Core Policy 25 and its supporting paragraphs could be deleted if the Inspector felt this was appropriate. This was consulted upon as MAJ/10 and several objections were raised to its deletion including from the New forest National Park Authority on the grounds of the short term impacts air quality may contribute as the NPA felt that the technological advances would occur in the longer term. The Officer response to all representations on MAJ/10 was that 'Spatial Planning Officers have no objection to either the deletion or retention of Core Policy 25'.</p> <p>Mitigation measures proposed in SWCS/02 have all been retained in the review and will continue to deliver proportionate mitigation for any likely significant effects upon Natura 2000 site, <u>apart from CP25 (Air Pollution), where it will be down to the Inspector to decide whether to retain in line with consultation responses on MAJ/10 or delete based on new evidence put forward at EIP.</u></p>
<p><b>New Forest NPA Core Strategy</b>  <a href="http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/planning/pl-planpolicy/corestrategy.htm">http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/planning/pl-planpolicy/corestrategy.htm</a></p> <p>An overarching Core Strategy. Under the revoked Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East (2009) the New Forest National Park had an annual housing requirement of 11 dwellings per annum, totalling 220 dwellings over the period 2006 to 2026.</p>	<p>HRA takes into account 12,400 proposed houses in south Wiltshire (as in draft RSS). HRA concluded that spatial focus of development within the New Forest will mean effects on the River Avon sites are unlikely as they do not derive water supplies from Avon sources.</p> <p>Overall HRA concludes that It is considered that an adequate framework is in place in the Core Strategy that will enable delivery of the measures necessary to mitigate for an adverse effect on European sites.</p>

Plan / Project	Potential for Core Strategy to have significant / adverse effects
<p data-bbox="188 228 927 256"><b>New Forest District Core strategy – Adopted October 2009</b></p> <p data-bbox="188 288 826 317"><a href="http://www.newforest.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=9696">http://www.newforest.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=9696</a></p> <p data-bbox="188 352 1039 564">Provides for 3,920 additional dwellings 2006-2026 which is equivalent to 196 additional dwellings a year as well as providing for employment land. Submission draft published in 2008, prior to the production of the SWCS submission document. SWCS Submission HRA therefore considered the submission version of New Forest District Core Strategy and its respective HRA. This appears to remain the valid HRA for the adopted version of the Core Strategy.</p>	<p data-bbox="1068 228 1906 592">HRA Screening Statement for Core Strategy Preferred Options (Oct 2007) identified potential recreational effects on <b>New Forest SPA/SAC/Ramsar, Solent Maritime SAC, Solent &amp; Southampton Water SPA/ Ramsar</b> sites from new residents, and potential effects of water abstraction and water pollution on <b>River Avon SAC</b> 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 data-bbox="1068 632 1928 1118">Background Paper 30 to the Submission Core Strategy: HRA Screening Statement and Appropriate Assessment (September 2008) identified likely significant effects from recreational disturbance on <b>New Forest N2K sites</b>. 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 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.</p> <p data-bbox="1068 1158 1917 1366">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>

Plan / Project	Potential for Core Strategy to have significant / adverse effects
	Potential impacts of the reviewed SWCS upon the New Forest SAC / SPA / Ramsar are likely to be lower due to the reduction of proposed housing, nonetheless Core Policy 23 has been retained to deliver proportionate mitigation for increased recreational pressures this site.
<p><b>Test Valley Local Development Framework</b>  <a href="http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=6516">http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=6516</a></p> <p>Proposed submission Core Strategy document as identified within SWCS/02 was withdrawn by the local authority. No further DPD / Core Strategy has been published by Test Valley, however SWCS/02 took account of the 2009 proposed submission draft and its HRA.</p>	Proposed submission document as identified within SWCS/02 was withdrawn by the local authority. No further DPD / Core Strategy has been published by Test Valley, however SWCS/02 took account of the 2009 proposed submission draft and its HRA, as well as the South East Plan.
<p><b>Wiltshire 2026</b>  <a href="http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningpolicy/wiltshirecorestrategy/wiltshire2026.htm">http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningpolicy/wiltshirecorestrategy/wiltshire2026.htm</a></p> <p>Identifies housing target for community areas in Wiltshire (Excluding south Wiltshire) and proposed preferred development sites in line with draft RSS.</p>	<p>SWCS/02 in combination effect takes account of draft SWRSS proposed changes and its HRA. SWCS/02 also takes account of all draft former district council DPD's.</p> <p>The HRA for Wiltshire 2026 takes account of the development proposed in the SWCS and has identified potential effects upon the River Avon SAC, Salisbury Plain SAC / SPA, and Kennet and Lambourne SAC which are all relevant to the SWSC HRA. Policy responses and mitigation have been proposed within the emerging Wiltshire Core Strategy to ensure that there would be no likely significant effects upon Natura 2000 either alone or in combination with the SWCS.</p>
<p><b>Mendip Core Strategy</b>  <a href="http://www.mendip.gov.uk/CouncilService.asp?id= SX9452-A78254B7">http://www.mendip.gov.uk/CouncilService.asp?id= SX9452-A78254B7</a></p> <p>HRA <a href="http://www.mendip.gov.uk/Publication.asp?id= SX9452-A7816814">http://www.mendip.gov.uk/Publication.asp?id= SX9452-A7816814</a></p>	<p>Mendip Core Strategy Proposed submission draft identifies preferred options for housing development.</p> <p>HRA just includes screening element, in-combination includes South West RSS at this stage only goes as far as screening.</p> <p>SWCS/02 will have taken account the Mendip housing provision through the in-combination assessment of draft SWRSS proposed changes. The HRA identified potential impacts upon two sites: Somerset Levels and Moors, and the Severn Estuary SAC / SPA / Ramsar, however these sites are beyond the zone of influence of the SWCS.</p>