

Matter 11: Core Policy 9 – Old Sarum Airfield

- 11.1 The existing and proposed allocation at Old Sarum Airfield (Longhendge) identified in the Core Strategy are considered unsound because they are not fully supported by more detailed considerations of the site's merits and problems, especially from the perspective of significant adverse consequences caused by harmful impacts to landscape and historic assets and the harm caused to the wider setting of the area. Specifically:
- English Heritage's concerns about the pressure on the important historic landscape within this area (see The *Salisbury Historic Environment Assessment*).
 - Exacerbating an adverse impact on the setting of Old Sarum Scheduled Ancient Monument and the wider airfield Conservation Area and its setting.
 - Remoteness from Salisbury town centre and other strategic facilities.
 - The detailed policy requirements associated with mitigating the landscape and visual impact of the development demonstrated the site's unsuitability for development.
 - High potential for archaeology which would inevitably constrain development on at least parts of the proposed allocation.
- 11.2 These allocations are not consistent with national planning policies and undermine the effectiveness of the Core Strategy. As a consequence, the Core Strategy is unsound. The allocations at Old Sarum and Longhendge should be either deleted or materially reduced to reflect the significant constraints which exist to their development. Any shortfall should be addressed via the Site Specific Allocations Development Plan Document (i.e. a larger number of medium and small allocations on the periphery of Salisbury which would provide a greater choice of housing and reduce reliance on a small number of unpredictable large sites).