

GODSHILL PARISH COUNCIL

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Representor Reference: 2905

Wiltshire Core Strategy Hearing Statement
Submitted by Godshill PC

Matter 2. Core Policy 1.
Questions 2.2 and 2.4

Godshill Parish Council is concerned about the proposed considerable numbers of new dwellings in the Downton area, in the villages of Woodfalls and Morgan's Vale as well as in and around Downton itself. These villages actually abut the boundary of the New Forest National Park and such new development would produce large numbers of extra vehicle trips across the Forest, as new residents would have no obligation to work in Downton Retail Park and would be perfectly free to choose to work in Southampton and commute to work using the very pleasant route across the fragile open heathlands of the Forest.

This effect has already been produced by large new estates in north-east Dorset. It would be wrong to repeat this spatial planning mistake in Wiltshire.

Core Strategy para 9.2 acknowledges that the influence of larger centres including Bournemouth and Southampton are also strong in the Area, especially with regard to job markets and shopping and para 9.17 that some development in the remainder of south Wiltshire might impact on the National Park.

Godshill Parish Council welcomes Core Policy 15 - New Forest National Park, which says:

Development will only be permitted where it does not have a negative impact on the:

Conservation and enhancement of the unique character and environment of the New Forest National Park, and in particular the special qualities of its landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage;

Encouragement of understanding and enjoyment of the New Forest National Park's special qualities;

Social and economic well being of local communities in ways that sustain the National Park's special character.

Targets: *No approvals as exception to policy*

These villages lie within the 7.5t weight-restriction area, and HGVs wishing to access them from Southampton would therefore be entitled to exemption from this weight restriction. This could not fail to generate large numbers of extra lorry trips across the fragile ecology of the National Park, in addition to lighter traffic. Obviously this traffic must have a negative impact.

Godshill Parish Council therefore submits that Policy 15 target of “*No approvals as exception to policy*” should be strictly adhered to, with development in Downton itself being kept to the absolute minimum and no new building allowed in villages
Representor Reference: 2905

bordering the New Forest National Park. If development in these villages forms part of the Core Strategy, this would make it extremely difficult to argue against it when the “daughter” Local DPDs come to be discussed.

Therefore the council believes Core Policy 1 should be altered accordingly.