
Wiltshire & Swindon Minerals and Waste Development Framework

Wiltshire & Swindon Waste Core Strategy DPD

Examination

Position Statement 13 The Implications of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)

WCC / SBC / PS13

August 2008

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Specific Issues

Issues and Matters to be Considered

MM13: The implications of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

37. Please clarify the progress made on agreeing the SFRA with the Environment Agency.

The Councils Position Statement

In a letter to Wiltshire County Council dated 8 August 2008, the Environment Agency confirmed that they have 'signed-off' the Level 1 - Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) dated April 2008 (as submitted with the Waste Core Strategy Development Plan Document).

The approved SFRA will be consistently reviewed to ensure that the data on flood risk remains relevant to the consideration of waste (and minerals) development in the Plan area. Where significant new information is made available it will be incorporated into the Level 1 Assessment and used to inform the application of the sequential test. In addition, the Level 1 Assessment report will continue to be used to inform the preparation of the detailed Waste Site Allocations document.

The Environment Agency have requested that a further document be produced by all the authorities involved in the Wiltshire SFRA project. This additional document (referred to by the Agency as an Executive Summary) will effectively bridge the gap between all SFRAs completed in the Wiltshire / Swindon area and hence provide an evidence base on flood risk to support on-going work on Local Development Documents.

The letter from the Agency has been attached to this position statement at **Appendix 1**.

Appendix 1

Letter received 8 August 2008 confirming the Environment Agency's position on the Wiltshire SFRA

Mr Geoff Winslow
Team Leader, Minerals & Waste Policy
Wiltshire County Council
County Hall Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JD

Our ref: WX/2006/000379/BD-
01/IC3-L01

Your ref:

Date: 08 August 2008

Dear Mr Winslow

WILTSHIRE COUNTY MINERALS AND WASTE STRATEGIC FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT – LEVEL 1

Further to your letter dated 24 July 2008, we would like to make the following comments on the Wiltshire County Minerals & Waste Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) dated April 2008. I have also attached two letters with our comments on the Kennet and North Wiltshire District Councils' SFRAs.

Thank you for sending the April 2008 versions of the above three SFRAs, and for the comments in your letter. We note the West Wiltshire District SFRA is likely to be submitted to the Environment Agency in the coming weeks, subject to a few points being addressed between West Wiltshire District Council and Scott Wilson.

We confirm that the Wiltshire County Minerals & Waste SFRA Level 1 is acceptable in-principle to us, and we are satisfied for it to be "signed-off". As mentioned in our attached letters, we also would be satisfied for the Kennet and North Wiltshire District Level 1 SFRAs to be 'signed off'.

The main points raised in our letter dated 14 February 2008 appear to have been addressed by Scott Wilson in the April 2008 revised documents.

We are satisfied with the mapping provided within the SFRA Level 1, and the earlier discrepancies seem to have been resolved.

It is important to point out that although the current SFRA contains up-to-date data, it is always worth checking the Environment Agency Flood Zones and modelled data when making decisions on site allocations and planning applications to ensure use of the best available information.

Future work

We would now encourage a joined-up approach between the Wiltshire councils and the Environment Agency to produce a good quality Executive Summary for the whole of Wiltshire. Within this document we would like to see (informed by the outputs of the individual SFRAs) a summary of the specific flooding issues faced by Wiltshire, some district specific FRA/drainage guidance, how-to-use guidance for development control teams, recommendations for Level 2 SFRA work and suggested policy wording for LDF documents.

It would be beneficial for the councils to produce this Executive Summary, as discussed at our meeting. This would help develop your council's understanding of flood risk within the study area to aid with the preparation of your Local Development Framework documents. It would also ensure that the documents would be usable for your own staff and members.

We are willing to work closely with you on the preparation of the Executive Summary.

I hope this information is useful, but please contact me if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

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