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# **Wiltshire & Swindon Minerals and Waste Development Framework**

## **Waste Core Strategy DPD**

### **Examination**

#### **Position Statement MM6**

WCC/SBC/PS6

August 2008

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## **Specific Issues**

### **Issues and Matters to be Considered**

#### ***MM6: The influence of the New Forest National Park***

21. *How and where does the CS show that it has taken sufficient account of the New Forest National Park?*

# The Councils' Position Statement

## ***MM6: The influence of the New Forest National Park***

22. *How and where does the CS show that it has taken sufficient account of the New Forest National Park?*

The submitted Waste Core Strategy seeks to provide a strategic planning framework for the entire Wiltshire and Swindon area. The fact that the New Forest National Park is situated to the immediate south of this Plan area has been fully considered by the Councils in accordance with the requirements of section 62(2) of the Environment Act 1995. However, notwithstanding the juxtaposition of the National Park to the border of Wiltshire, the fact remains that the Councils have a duty to plan for the management of waste in line with national and regional planning policy.

The draft Waste Core Strategy seeks to achieve this through the delivery of a collective framework of policies set out within a series of documents designed to deal with the management of waste over the next twenty years whilst ensuring that areas designated for their intrinsic importance are protected and enhanced. This approach is embedded within the draft Waste Core Strategy and has been fully assessed and appraised throughout the Plan making process.

### **The Approach taken in the draft Waste Core Strategy**

Chapters 1 and 4 of the submitted Waste Core Strategy make explicit and implicit statements regarding the importance of protecting designated features within and adjacent to the Plan area. The Councils recognise the importance of reducing the impacts of waste management activities, including issues associated with transportation and cross-border movements. However, the Councils recognise that the movement of waste is governed as much by economics as it is by policy and regulation.

In terms of addressing such matters, the Core Strategy sets out a strategic policy approach that is further complimented by the more detailed submitted draft Waste Development Control Policies DPD. In this sense, the emerging planning framework for waste management must be viewed as a collection of policy documents. Proposals for new waste management facilities or capacity in the south-Wiltshire area will clearly have to be carefully and sensitively planned in order to ensure that the impacts associated with such development do not lead to adverse impacts on the National Park – particularly issues associated with the movement of waste.

In addition, the Councils recognise that planning for waste must consider matters that extend beyond geo-political boundaries. For this reason, the Councils advocate a collaborative working arrangement, where appropriate, with regulators, local communities and adjoining local authorities to ensure that the impacts of waste management development are fully identified and addressed (paragraphs 1.2, 1.3).

### **Supporting the Plan's Approach - Habitats Regulations Assessment**

In preparing the Waste Core Strategy, the Councils undertook a screening exercise to assess the need for detailed Appropriate Assessment. The Councils have fully appraised the likely impact of implementing the policies of the draft Waste Core Strategy on the various designations associated with the New Forest National Park. Paragraphs 5.12 – 5.16 summarise the findings as follows:

### ***New Forest SAC***

The Appropriate Assessment identified that the greatest risks to the SAC will arise from water based impacts (hydrological changes and / or water borne pollution) and emissions (particularly dust) that can arise from waste activities. The assessment concluded that the potential for adverse impact reduces significantly beyond a 500-metre radius. The northern fringes of the SAC fall within the 16-kilometre radius around Salisbury – i.e. the area within which strategic waste management facilities would be located. This commitment to allocate sites includes an expectation that existing facilities may form the focus for new development. However, as any new proposal will need to be determined and operated within strict controls (including full Environmental Impact Assessment) this will ensure that such sites do not negatively impact the SAC.

### ***New Forest SPA / Ramsar***

The New Forest SPA is beyond the Waste Core Strategy boundary and therefore outside the scope of where waste sites will be located. In the light of the Appropriate Assessment findings, additional avoidance or mitigation measures above those contained in the draft Waste Core Strategy are not required.

### **Addressing Concerns Raised by Respondents**

Respondents to the submitted Waste Core Strategy have sought to argue that the Plan's approach to managing waste arisings in the Salisbury area will lead to significant, detrimental impacts on the Forest and the designations it supports. The Councils do not agree with these views. The interests of the National Park have been, and will continue to be given sufficient consideration in policy terms.

As set out above, the emerging waste policy framework is expressed over a range of documents covering matters pertinent to the consideration and determination of proposals for new or expanded waste management facilities. The recently submitted draft Waste Development Control Policies DPD presents a good example of how the holistic view of minimising impacts is being addressed (see draft Policy WDC7).

If deemed necessary, the Councils would be prepared to offer a minor change to draft Policy WCS2 and the supporting text to make it clear that the identification of future sites will need to address issues relating to potential impacts on the New Forest National Park. Such changes would only be suggested to address the specific points raised by the New Forest National Park Authority in the representations.