PLANNING AND COMPULSORY PURCHASE ACT 2004

SECTION 20

REPORT ON THE EXAMINATION INTO THE WILTSHIRE AND SWINDON WASTE DEVELOPMENT CONTROL POLICIES

DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT

Document submitted for examination on 29 July 2008
Examination hearings held on 31 March and 1 April 2009

File Ref: LDF 547
ABBREVIATIONS

AA  Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Directive/Regulations
AMR  Annual Monitoring Report
AONB  Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Appx  Appendix
CD&E  Construction, Demolition & Excavation
CS  Core Strategy (unless otherwise specifically stated, this should be taken to refer to the Wiltshire & Swindon Waste Core Strategy)
DC  District Council
DCDPD  Development Control Policies DPD (unless otherwise specifically stated, this should be taken to refer to the Wiltshire and Swindon Development Control Policies DPD)
DPD  Development Plan Document
EA  Environment Agency
GOSW  Government Office for the South West
I&C  Industrial and Commercial
LDS  Local Development Scheme
MWDS  Minerals and Waste Development Scheme
RSS  Regional Spatial Strategy (unless otherwise specifically stated, this should be taken to mean the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West)
SAC  Special Area of Conservation
SBC  Swindon Borough Council
SCI  Statement of Community Involvement
SPA  Special Protection Area
SPD  Supplementary Planning Document
SSCTs  Strategically Significant Cities and Towns (in Wiltshire, these are Swindon, Chippenham, Trowbridge and Salisbury)
SWRA  South West Regional Assembly
WCC  Wiltshire County Council
WCS  The Wiltshire & Swindon Waste Core Strategy DPD (also referred to as the Core Strategy)
1 Introduction and Overall Conclusion

1.1 Under the terms of Section 20(5) of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the purpose of the independent examination of a development plan document (DPD) is to determine:
(a) whether it satisfies the requirements of s19 and s24(1) of the 2004 Act, the regulations under s17(7), and any regulations under s36 relating to the preparation of the document
(b) whether it is sound.

1.2 This report contains my assessment of the Wiltshire & Swindon Waste Development Control Policies DPD in terms of the above matters, along with my recommendations and the reasons for them, as required by s20(7) of the 2004 Act.

1.3 In relation to 1.1(a) above, I am satisfied that the DCDPD meets the requirements of the Act and Regulations. In relation to 1.1(b) I have considered whether the DCDPD is justified and effective and consistent with national policy, and accordingly whether it is sound in the terms of PPS12 ¶5.2(3). In line with national policy, the starting point for the examination is the assumption that the local authorities have submitted what they consider to be a sound plan.

1.4 The changes which I specify in this binding report are made only where there is a clear need to amend the document in the light of the legal requirements and/or the tests of soundness in PPS12. None of these changes should materially alter the substance of the overall plan and its policies, or undermine the sustainability appraisal and participatory processes already undertaken.

1.5 My report firstly considers the legal requirements, and then deals with the relevant matters and issues considered during the examination in testing the DPD’s justification, effectiveness and consistency with national policy. My overall conclusion is that the DPD is sound, provided it is changed in the ways specified. The principal changes which are required are, in summary:

a) To bring the DCDPD more closely into line with the Core Strategy by incorporating and/or amending references to (i) the Waste Hierarchy, (ii) sustainable transport, (iii) waste audit; (iv) hydrogeology and groundwater protection;
b) To introduce additional design requirements for new buildings in the countryside;
c) To clarify provisions relating to impacts upon leisure and recreation;
d) To correct the approach to designated nature conservation sites according to their status;
e) To clarify monitoring indicators/targets.

For convenience, the Schedule of Proposed Changes is attached to my report as Annex 1. In specifying those changes which I consider to be necessary to soundness I refer to the reference number of each change.
as it appears in the schedule. The Schedule of Proposed Changes also includes minor textual corrections the need for which has been identified by the Councils. I make no individual reference to these, but shall refer to them collectively at the end of the report. Annex 1 brings together all the detailed changes required, including those suggested by the Councils, to ensure that the plan meets the legal requirements and the three tests of soundness.

2 Legal Requirements

2.1 The Wiltshire & Swindon Waste DC Policies DPD (the DCDPD) was included in Minerals and Waste Development Scheme for Wiltshire (March 2006). More recently it has been included in the Wiltshire Local Development Scheme (January 2009), which schedules the document for adoption by June 2009. The DCDPD is also included in the approved Swindon Borough Local Development Scheme (2nd Review) (December 2007), which schedules the document for adoption in July 2009. The content of the DPD is in line with the terms of the LDS.

2.2 The Statements of Community Involvement (SCI) for the two Councils have been found to be sound by the Secretary of State. The SCI for Wiltshire was formally adopted in July 2006 and the SCI for Swindon was adopted in January 2007. It is evident from the documents submitted by the Councils, including the Regulation 28 and 31 Statements and their DPD Soundness Self Assessment, that the Councils have met the related requirements as set out in the Regulations.

2.3 Alongside the preparation of the DCDPD it is evident that the Councils have carried out a parallel process of sustainability appraisal. I am also satisfied that a ‘Habitats Regulations Assessment’ has been undertaken and that there would be no significant harm to the conservation of any ‘European sites’ as a result of the policies in the DPD.

2.4 I am satisfied that the DPD has regard to national policy. The South West Regional Assembly has indicated that the DPD is in general conformity with the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). At the time of writing the emerging RSS is subject to the Secretary of State’s Proposed Changes. Nevertheless, I am satisfied that the DCDPD remains in general conformity.

2.5 It is clear from the plan, from its supporting documents and from the representations made to the Examination that the DCDPD has in effect had due regard to the Sustainable Community Strategy for Wiltshire and to the Swindon Borough Council Sustainable Community Strategy ‘A Shared Vision for Swindon’, and in that respect is sound.

2.6 I am satisfied that the DPD complies with the specific requirements of the 2004 Regulations including the requirements in relation to publication of the prescribed documents; availability of them for inspection and local advertisement, and notification of DPD bodies.
And in accordance with Regulation 13(5), the DPD contains, as Appendix 3\(^1\), a list of ‘saved’ development plan policies to be replaced by the policies in the DPD.

2.7 Accordingly, I am satisfied that the legal requirements have all been met.

3 ‘Justified’, ‘Effective’ and ‘Consistent with National Policy’ Tests

3.1 **Issue 1 – Is the DCDPD consistent with the policies of the Core Strategy, and does it develop those policies?**

**The Waste Hierarchy**

3.2 The DCDPD contains no mention of the Waste Hierarchy, which represents a fundamental principle of waste development planning. The role of the DCDPD is essentially about the management of development, and it is the Core Strategy which contains the strategic policy (WCS5) to ‘drive waste up the hierarchy’. Nevertheless, the DCDPD would be more effective for a reminder, in that part of the Introduction (at ¶1.4) which explains the relationship of the DPD with the Core Strategy, that the Waste Hierarchy is an essential principle to be applied in the determination of planning applications for waste development. In order for the DPD to be sound, therefore, Proposed Change PC007, which adds the necessary text, should be made.

**Sustainable Transport**

3.3 The Core Strategy emphasises, as a fundamental locational principle, the difference between **strategic** and **local** sites: the latter being of a scale to serve the demonstrable needs of the local area only. In itself this distinction between sites in terms of scale will make a contribution to sustainable transport, by limiting the distance over which waste is transported. The DCDPD contains, at Policy WDC11, criteria which make clear what is meant by **sustainable transportation**. However, neither the policy nor its supporting text makes reference to the importance of site size or scale in influencing transportation distances and movements. Whilst it would not be appropriate for the policy to repeat locational elements of the Core Strategy, the DPD would be significantly more effective if the supporting text contained a reference to the scale of waste developments, as an important link tying the DCDPD to the principles of the Core Strategy. Proposed Change PC039 adds to ¶5.3 of the DCDPD text the statement that **issues such as the scale of development and the number of HGV movements per day will be important considerations**, and so makes the necessary link.

3.4 **The Policy Drivers** for Policy WDC11 do not currently include Local Transport Plans; an omission which weakens the effectiveness of the DPD and which should be remedied. Proposed Change PC042 makes

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\(^1\) Appendix 3 was attached to the submitted DCDPD as an addendum, to be incorporated into the adopted document.
the necessary addition. Proposed Change PC041 adds to ¶5.5 the necessary text to clarify the consequences of those impacts upon travel and upon the highway network which may be identified in Transport Assessments, and so significantly improves the effectiveness of the DPD.

3.5 In order for the DPD to be sound, therefore, Proposed Changes PC039, PC041 and PC042 should be made. I shall, however, make a small grammatical correction to the wording of PC041 (from *is* to *are*) in the Schedule.

**Waste Audit**

3.6 It is not the DCDPD but the Core Strategy which contains (as WCS6) the policy on Waste Reduction and Auditing, to be applied to each proposed development above a specified threshold of size. Though this is a very detailed and criteria-based policy, WCS6 is of strategic importance and so it is entirely appropriate that it should be included in the Core Strategy. Accordingly, it should not be repeated in the DCDPD, which correctly does not do so. It is an essential feature of the LDF system that all relevant Development Plan Documents should be read together. Even so, the DCDPD would be significantly more effective for a cross-reference to the Core Strategy, to ensure that the requirement for this essential element of sustainability in waste development is noted by users of the document at the earliest opportunity. In order for the DPD to be sound, therefore, Proposed Change PC013, which contains the necessary text, should be made.

**Hydrogeology and Groundwater Protection**

3.7 The submission DCDPD includes policy (WDC3) and text on the Water Environment. The supporting text at ¶4.15 implies that a hydrogeological assessment will be required of waste development proposals in all cases. Such a requirement is not justified. Proposed Change PC024 amends ¶4.15, making it clear that such an assessment is only required *where appropriate*.

3.8 The Core Strategy, as recommended to be changed, includes groundwater quality as a locational constraint upon new waste management development. The DCDPD itself makes some reference to groundwater protection in the supporting text to Policy WDC3: The Water Environment. However, no reference is made to the Environment Agency guidance on groundwater protection, now to be included in the text of the Core Strategy via the changes. Since the DCDPD provides detailed policy and guidance for the management of development proposals, it would be significantly more effective for the inclusion of a corresponding reference. The most relevant part of the document for its inclusion is the supporting text to Policy WDC13: Landfill Developments, since these are the most likely to require detailed consideration of potential impacts upon groundwater, and to generate the most direct need for its protection. Proposed Change
PC044 adds to ¶7.7 the statement that the EA guidance on groundwater protection within RGN3 and GP3 will need to be followed.

3.9 Proposed Changes PC024 and PC044 are therefore needed to make the DPD sound, and should be made.

3.10 **Issue 2 –Does the DPD make adequate provision for design?**

3.11 The DCDPD does not include a dedicated policy on design. It is to be expected that design principles and criteria universally applicable to all new built development in the areas administered by the local authorities (now the 2 Councils) in Wiltshire will be contained elsewhere in the development plans for those areas, and will need to be satisfied by all proposals for waste-related built development.

3.12 Nevertheless, in the context of the range of locally-distinctive landscape character within the Wiltshire countryside, the DCDPD makes appropriate reference to visual impact, and the means available to minimise it, at ¶4.19 of the supporting text. As drafted, however, the essential contributory factors identified are limited to *scale and form*. These factors do not explicitly include matters relating to colour and finish, both of which are capable of strong influence upon visual impact, and it could not reliably be assumed that they are implicitly included.

3.13 The effectiveness of the DPD would be significantly increased by the inclusion of these influential design factors. In order for the DPD to be sound Proposed Change PC030, which introduces *colour and finish* into ¶4.19 alongside *scale and form*, and which also includes (in the same paragraph) a reference to PPS7, should be made.

3.14 **Issue 3 –Does the DPD exhibit sufficient clarity with respect to the protection of recreational assets?**

3.15 In Wiltshire and Swindon, canals, public rights of way, and heritage railway routes together represent significant recreational assets. Policy WDC4: *Recreational Assets* is an inclusive policy the effect of which is the protection of all recreational assets from *significant adverse impact* caused by waste-related development. However, the policy title itself omits any reference to ‘protection’.

3.16 Policy WDC5, entitled *Canals and Railways*, is positioned in the DPD between Policy WDC4: *Recreational Assets* and Policy WDC6: *Airfields Safeguarded Areas*. It is not clear whether the protection offered by WDC5 is confined to the physical structure of the canal and railway routes, or whether it is intended to encompass impact upon their use for recreation. Neither the policy itself nor the supporting text at ¶4.17 makes this obvious, and the juxtaposition is of no assistance.

3.17 The effectiveness of the DCDPD would be significantly increased if the title of Policy WDC4 were amended to ‘Protection of Recreational Assets’; and if additional text were introduced to accompany WDC5 to
encompass impacts upon the recreational value of the relevant canal and railway routes. As drafted, PC027 does not go far enough in extending to recreational use the consideration of impact upon routes, and so a further amendment is necessary to make the DPD sound: PC027 should read waste management developments will need to ensure that they do not adversely impact upon historic and operational railway and canal routes used for recreation, and I shall amend the Schedule of Proposed Changes accordingly. Proposed Change PC028 appropriately amends the title of Policy WDC4. PC029 adds further necessary clarification to Policy WDC5 by introducing the phrase ‘where appropriate’. These changes are therefore needed to make the DPD sound, and should be made.

3.18 The safeguarding of public rights of way, to which WDC4 refers, can clearly be taken to include diversion: this is evident from the supporting text at ¶4.17 which explains the circumstances in which temporary and permanent diversion would be used. There is no need to amend the policy in this respect.

3.19 **Issue 4 – Is it necessary to amend the approach of DCDPD policy to designated nature conservation sites according to their status?**

3.20 As drafted, Policy WDC8: Biodiversity and Geological Interest does not conform to national policy in that it does not make adequate distinction between sites of local or regional biodiversity or geological interest and sites of national importance. The Minerals DC Policies DPD was found to have a similar defect, and is to be amended accordingly. In order to achieve conformity with national policy, and consistency with the parallel Minerals DC Policies DPD, new supporting text should be introduced at ¶4.24, setting out the hierarchy of sites and species, and Policy WDC8 should be amended accordingly. Proposed Changes PC034 and PC035 would make these amendments, are needed in order for the DPD to be sound, and should be made.

3.21 **Issue 5 – Is there a need for any additional indicators/targets to be introduced, and/or for some monitoring indicators and targets to be clarified?**

3.22 Policy WDC11: Sustainable Transportation of Waste lacks any indicator in respect of alternative modes of transport. Both the Core Strategy and the DCDPD encourage such development. The evidence is that there is no immediate prospect of waste management development proposals based or reliant upon rail or water transport: but that in certain locations, rail transport in particular could well be feasible even though at present it would not be appropriate, on grounds of practicability, to make a specific plan allocation or proposal for such a scheme. Circumstances may well change during the currency of the plan documents, and proposals for waste-related development based upon alternative means of transport could come forward. Without a corresponding indicator, the DPD would send out ‘mixed messages’, and would lack effectiveness in this respect.
3.23 Proposed Change PC052 adds to the WDC11 Indicators. ‘the number of applications that utilise alternative modes of transport such as rail or water’. It would, however, be inappropriate to designate either a threshold or a target for this indicator, since the potential number of such developments that might be feasible is uncertain, and in any event likely to be very low. Proposed Change PC058 therefore inserts into the relevant Table 1 the necessary information that thresholds and targets are ‘not applicable’ to this particular monitoring indicator.

3.24 As drafted, the monitoring indicator for Policy WDC11 which refers to number of applications for waste management developments within 2km of the Wiltshire HGV route network omits (both at ¶8.13 and at Table 1) the parallel reference to the Primary Route Network which occurs in the policy itself. The omission not only renders the DPD significantly less effective by reducing emphasis upon the Primary Route Network, but also sets up a degree of conflict with the RSS, the Proposed Changes to which emphasise the Primary Route Network in preference to other roads and so rank it above the Wiltshire HGV Route Network. Though the Wiltshire County Council (now the unitary Wiltshire Council) has made formal representations to the Secretary of State against the Proposed Change to the RSS, the matter is not yet resolved. DCDPD Proposed Changes PC053 and PC057 include the Primary Route Network in the indicator for Policy WDC11, and so restore conformity. (PC057 also corrects a numerical error within the indicator, from 1km to ‘2km’).

3.25 As drafted, the monitoring indicator for Policy WDC5: Canals and Railways does not correspond to the wording of the policy, in that the policy is that there should be no significant adverse impact upon … canal and railway routes, whereas the indicator as it appears both at ¶8.7 and in Table 1 refers only to loss. Without Proposed Changes PC051 and PC056, which introduce into the indicator the necessary words ‘significant adverse impact’, the DPD would be significantly less effective.

3.26 In line with the corresponding Change made to the Core Strategy following examination, the column of Table 1 which is headed Threshold for Policy Review should be headed ‘Threshold for Investigation’. The failure to meet a target should not automatically trigger review of the policy, but suggests that the reason for failure should be investigated, to establish what action might be appropriate in terms of procedure, implementation practice or – and only if shown to be justified – a review of the policy itself. Without Proposed Change PC055, the DPD would be significantly less effective.

3.27 Proposed Changes PC052, PC058,PC053,PC057,PC051,PC056, and PC055 are needed to make the DPD sound, and should be made.
4 Other Matters

Landfill Developments

4.1 The term *new landfill developments* in Policy WDC13 might be taken to include extensions to existing landfill developments: but equally well might not. The DPD would be significantly more effective if this lack of clarity were rectified. Proposed Change PC048 explicitly brings *extended* landfill developments into the scope of the policy, and is needed to make the DPD sound.

Use of Detailed Criteria

4.2 As intended under the LDF system of development plans, and in comparison with previous-style development plans, the DCDPD is sparing in its use of detailed criteria for new development. It is clear from the discussion at the Hearings that local people feel uneasy at what they see as the potential for ‘wriggle room’ offered by broadly-phrased policies. However, the policies of the DCDPD, though their requirements are not set out in the form of highly-specified criteria, are no less demanding for that. What in detail amounts to the ‘significant adverse impact’ which Policy WDC2, for example, seeks to avoid will be likely to vary from case to case and cannot be definitively and universally set in advance. The allocation of waste management sites, as well as planning applications for waste development, must be shown to comply with the policies of the DPD, and it is at this later stage that the detail of the proposal will be examined and scrutinised against the policies. I am satisfied that the DCDPD is sound in this respect.

Ecological Assessment

4.3 Policy WDC8: Biodiversity and Geological Interest contains the provision that *proposals ...must be accompanied by an objective assessment of the potential effects of the development on areas of biodiversity...* The supporting text at ¶4.28, however, makes it clear that *not all proposals for waste management development are likely to impact upon biodiversity...* In addition, at ¶4.29 of the text, the statement is made that Wiltshire’s County Ecologist will be able to provide advice on whether a particular proposal will need to be accompanied by an assessment of the impacts on biodiversity and the level of detail an assessment will need to cover. Clearly, therefore, the policy is not intended to require that all applications for waste development are accompanied by a full assessment, where this is not considered by the County Ecologist to be necessary. However, the wording of the policy implies compulsion. Clarification is provided by Proposed Change PC035, which introduces the qualification ‘where appropriate’, and is needed to make the DPD sound.

Evidence Base
4.4 Criticism directed at the ‘evidence base’ of the DCDPD appears to be based largely upon past Council decisions related firstly, to a contract to supply waste to an incinerator outside the local authority area; secondly, to the way in which household waste collections are organised within the local authority area; and thirdly to the lack of specific promotion, in the Waste DPDs, of anaerobic digestion as a waste management method in preference to other methods (in particular, incineration). However, in the first 2 instances the decisions concerned, though made in the context of the (then prevailing) development plan, are separate from the current development plan process, and criticism of the former (whether or not such criticism may be justified) does not represent a fault of the latter.

4.5 Concerning the 3rd element of the criticism, the DCDPD is essentially ‘technology-neutral’. This is consistent with national policy in PPS10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management (at ¶18) that in identifying the types of waste management facility that would be appropriately located in the allocated area, waste planning authorities should [take] care to avoid stifling innovation in line with the waste hierarchy. Advances in technology are to be expected within the development plan period, and an over-specific plan risks early obsolescence. A development plan which sought to ‘outlaw’ any particular technology or to promote any particular technology to the automatic exclusion of others, would not conform to national policy and would for that reason be unsound.

4.6 The DCDPD policies are applicable to any proposal for waste management development, whether by allocation or by application. They are aimed at securing development which, in the words of Policy WDC1, ensures that the social, economic and environmental benefits of waste management development are maximised and adverse impacts – including cross-boundary and cumulative impacts – are kept to an acceptable minimum. The policies, including WDC2 and WDC12, are consistent with national policy. It is in the future examination of site allocations, and in the future consideration of planning applications for waste-related development, that it will be decided whether or not the detail of each proposal satisfies the policy requirement for an acceptable minimum impact.

4.7 In effect, the criticism is not relevant to the evidence base of the DCDPD as such, and does not threaten the soundness of the DPD.

5 Minor Changes

5.1 The Councils wish to make several other minor changes to the submitted DPD in order to clarify, correct and update various parts of the text. These are included in the Schedule of Proposed Changes at Annex 1, as: PC001-006, PC008-012, PC014-023, PC025-026, PC031-033, PC036-38, PC040, PC043, PC045-047, PC049-50, PC054, PC059-066. Although these changes do not address key aspects of soundness, I endorse them on a general basis in the interests of clarity and accuracy.
6 Overall Conclusions

6.1 I conclude that, with the amendments I recommend, the Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Development Control Policies DPD satisfies the requirements of s20(5) of the 2004 Act and meets the tests of soundness in PPS12.

S Holland
INSPECTOR
### Schedule of Proposed Changes (including minor changes put forward by the Councils)

Wiltshire & Swindon Waste Development Control Policies - Submission Draft: Consolidated Schedule of Proposed Changes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref. No.</th>
<th>Document Ref.</th>
<th>Proposed Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PC001</td>
<td>Executive Summary 3rd paragraph</td>
<td>The document examines the impacts that can be generated from waste management developments. Issues such as amenity, visual aspects, noise and light emissions, vibration, transport, air emissions and climate change, the water environment, contaminated land and agricultural land. Policy WDC2 addresses the need to reduce impacts of associated with these issues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PC002</td>
<td>Executive Summary 4th paragraph</td>
<td>The Development Control Policies DPD then considers the key criteria in more detail with specific policies covering the areas outlined above. These offer more guidance to applicants and development control planners. A list of these additional policies is shown below.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PC003</td>
<td>Section 1 Introduction Paragraph 1.1</td>
<td>This document sets out the Councils’ detailed land use policy framework policies for determining planning applications for waste management development within the Plan area of Wiltshire and Swindon (see Figure 1).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PC004</td>
<td>Section 1 Introduction Paragraph 1.2</td>
<td>This document has been prepared by Wiltshire County Council and Swindon Borough Council (the Councils) as part of the preparation of the ‘Wiltshire and Waste Development Framework’ (MWDF). As such, it should be read in conjunction with the Wiltshire &amp; Swindon Waste Core Strategy DPD.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PC005</td>
<td>Section 1 Paragraph 1.3</td>
<td>In the interests of brevity, the Councils have prepared a separate Evidence Base (available on the Wiltshire County Council website: <a href="http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/planning-home/minerals-waste-evidence.htm">www.wiltshire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/planning-home/minerals-waste-evidence.htm</a>). This has been produced to underpin the Minerals and Waste Development Framework, and allows a substantial amount of information previously contained within the Minerals and Waste DPDs to be removed, making them more user friendly. A glossary of terms is included in Appendix 1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PC006</td>
<td>Section 1 Introduction 1st Subtitle</td>
<td>Amend subtitle to read: Relationship with the Waste Core Strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PC007</td>
<td>Section 1 Paragraph 1.4</td>
<td>The purpose of the Waste Core Strategy is to establish a strategic policy framework that determines the nature and spatial extent of waste management development in</td>
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</table>
Wiltshire and Swindon to 2026. The Waste Core Strategy sets out the locational criteria that will be used to direct where waste management facilities should be located and provides clear guidance on the distinction between 'strategic' and 'local' scale developments. In addition, it is important to stress that the Waste Core Strategy also sets out a number of principles for the management of waste in Wiltshire and Swindon. One such principle that will be used in the process of determining planning applications is the ‘Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Hierarchy’ (Policy WCS5). The Waste Core Strategy also guides the content of subsequent Waste DPDs and requires this Development Control Policies DPD to contribute to the delivery of the Vision and Strategic Objectives through the provision of more detailed, criteria based policies that will be used to manage the associated impacts of future waste management development.

PC008 Section 1 Paragraph 1.5

Elements of the Waste Core Strategy’s strategic objectives, relating to each chapter of the DPD, are set out emboldened and within quote marks at the beginning of each chapter.

PC009 Figure 1

Amend Figure 1 and its title in line to reference the new geopolitical make-up of Wiltshire Council.

Figure 1. Map Illustrating the Administrative Areas of Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council
| PC010 | Section 2 Paragraph 2.1 | 2.1 In areas where there are two tiers of local authorities, currently the case in Wiltshire, all decisions on waste, minerals and the council's own planning applications are taken by the County Council. All other planning applications are currently dealt with by the District Councils. Swindon Borough Council, as a unitary authority, deals with all planning applications made for land within the boundaries of the Borough. **Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council as unitary Authorities deal with all planning applications made for land within their respective boundaries, including those for Waste Management purposes.** |
| PC011 | Section 2 Paragraph 2.2 | Delete paragraph 2.2 and re-number the following paragraphs in this section accordingly. 2.2 Recent local government reorganisation has led to the decision to consolidate the County and District Authorities of Wiltshire to form one Unitary Authority. The formal adoption of the new unitary Wiltshire Council is timetabled to take place in April 2009. The existing arrangements are subject to change as a result of the local government reorganisation but it is not possible to speculate what these changes may or may not involve at this stage. |
| PC012 | Section 2 Paragraph 2.4 Final sentence | Amend to read: The process of consultation on planning applications is set out by the Councils **within their respective** Statements of Community Involvements (SCIs). |
| PC013 | Additional Text on Site Waste Management Plans and cross-referencing to Waste Core Strategy Policy WCS6 - Waste Audits (consequential amendments to paragraph numbering also required) | **Site Waste Management Plans and Waste Audits** 2.20 The requirement for all developments costing over £300,000 to produce Site Waste Management Plans (SWMP) was introduced by the Site Waste Management Regulations in April 2008. There will be two types of SWMP depending on the cost of the project.  
  - A project costing between £300 - £500k will follow a basic template  
  - Anything over £500k will require a much greater level of detail  
  
2.21 The purpose of a SWMP is to ensure that building materials are managed efficiently; waste is disposed of legally; and that material recycling, reuse and recovery is maximised. |
2.22 The developer is expected to ensure that a SWMP is written and updated throughout the project on a daily basis. The SWMP regulations are self regulated and both local authorities and the Environment Agency can request to view any SWMP and have the power to enforce the relevant regulations via fixed penalty notices or prosecution.

Policy WCS6 - Waste Reduction and Auditing in the Waste Core Strategy compliments the requirements of the SWMP regulations, but is markedly different. Policy WCS6 requires developers to submit a waste audit / management plan as part of a planning application if the development is within the policy thresholds. This requires materials to be re-used wherever possible and that appropriate facilities are incorporated into the design of new development to sustainably manage waste arisings during the construction phase and once the development is operational.

PC014 Footnote 2 Amend Footnote 2 to read:

2. Wiltshire County Council has produced is in the process of producing specific Planning Enforcement Policy Guidance and Swindon Borough Council adopted an amended version of the Cabinet Office’s Enforcement Concordat at the end of 2001.

PC015 Section 3 Paragraph 3.3 3rd, 4th and 5th sentences Amend to read:

…If required, mitigation measures should be fully scoped and incorporated into development proposals in order to reduce any adverse impacts to the point it they no longer has have significant effect. Finally, if significant adverse impacts are still likely after the application of avoidance and mitigation measures, compensation will be sought. Compensatory measures could include on-site or off-site off-setting of the adverse environmental impacts, such as: habitat creation, rights of way enhancement and improvements to the local road network…

PC016 Section 3 Paragraph 3.5 2nd sentence …Impacts on the water environment includes both surface and groundwater and hence, where appropriate, enhancements to the water environment will be sought, where appropriate

PC017 Policy WDC1 WDC1: KEY CRITERIA FOR ENSURING SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT

Proposals for waste management development must contribute to the delivery of sustainable development in Wiltshire and Swindon by ensuring that the social, economic and environmental benefits of waste management development are maximised and adverse impacts - including cross-boundary and cumulative impacts - are kept to an acceptable minimum. All proposals for waste management development will be assessed using...
the following key criteria where appropriate:

- The extent to which adverse environmental impacts and cumulative impacts associated with other local development, are avoided, and the adequacy of mitigation and/or compensation for the proposals;
- The impact of transporting waste to and from the site is minimised;
- The extent to which adverse impacts on the water environment and flood risk can be avoided;
- The extent to which the development ensures protection and enhancement of local biodiversity, geodiversity and cultural heritage;
- The extent to which the impact of any structures and buildings is minimised in terms of the appropriate use of scale and form, informed by the Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment; and
- The quality and appropriateness of the restoration, aftercare and after-use proposals (where applicable), considering the contribution that could be made to the UK, South West and/or Wiltshire, Swindon and Cotswold Water Park Biodiversity Action Plan targets.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PC018</th>
<th>Policy Drivers Box for WDC1</th>
<th>Amend references to the Regional Spatial Strategy to read as follows:</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Draft South West Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West</td>
</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PC019</th>
<th>Section 4 Paragraph 4.1</th>
<th>4.1 National policy in the form of Planning Policy Statement 23: Planning and Pollution Control outlines that the Precautionary Principle should be applied where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage. Lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation. The Precautionary principle should be invoked when:</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
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<td>- there is good reason to believe that harmful effects may occur to human, animal or plant health, or to the environment; and</td>
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<td>- the level of scientific uncertainty about the consequences or likelihood of the risk is such that best available scientific advice cannot assess the risk with sufficient confidence to inform decision-making.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PC020</th>
<th>Section 4 Paragraph 4.4 3rd Sentence</th>
<th>Amend to read:</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Unless satisfactorily controlled, these factors have the potential to impact upon the amenity of surrounding land uses, landscape designations, biodiversity features and the water environment.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| PC021 | Section 4 Paragraph 4.9 2nd sentence | Amend to read:  
…Consequently, the Councils will aim to mitigate the impact of vibration through the use of policy to reduce such impacts at the point of source by influencing the layout of the site and by the imposition of suitable controls. |
| PC022 | Section 4 Paragraph 4.10 | 4.10 It is possible for waste management activities to contaminate land, for example, through leachate from landfill facilities. *This therefore* is an important issue that must be addressed. Proposals for waste management activities that would lead to the creation of contaminated land as part of the operation of that development or the restoration or other removal of that development upon completion of operations will not be permitted. |
| PC023 | Policy Drivers Box for Policy WDC2 | Amend the reference to the Regional Spatial Strategy:  
- The draft South West Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West |
| PC024 | Section 4 Paragraph 4.15 | 4.15 In determining proposals for waste management development, the Councils will need evidence that water will be used efficiently during the operation of the proposal, to avoid shortages and environmental degradation due to pressure on resources. National planning guidance also requires the protection and enhancement of various habitats, including watercourses and other surface water. Use of sustainable drainage system soakaways such as ponds, reedbeds and landscape features to reduce flood risk and pollution, and increase biodiversity, will be supported. The Environment Agency also advise that a Hydrogeological Risk Assessment *(where appropriate)* should form part of the assessment of site suitability and this is supported by the Councils. |
| PC025 | Section 4 Paragraph 4.16 | The Plan area has many important recreational and cultural assets, some of which are also important as tourist attractions. These include features such as the Kennet and Avon Canal, the Center Parcs Holiday Village in Longleat, the Cotswold Water Park and the Great Western Community Forest. Their amenity and use will need to be safeguarded when planning new development for waste, to ensure that the broader cultural environment is protected. Established public rights of way, plus canal and heritage railway routes are also important recreational assets and need to be safeguarded from the potential adverse impacts associated with waste developments. |
| PC026 | Section 4 Paragraph 4.17 | 4.17 Some public rights of way, may require temporary diversion for the duration of the development or a permanent diversion where this would be preferable for the reinstatement of the original line. Where waste management development will impact upon a |
disused canal route, provisions should be made to reinstate the original line of the canal or to secure an alternative route that will be acceptable to the relevant Canal Trust. A waste management development requiring a major diversion or re-alignment to a canal is unlikely to gain planning permission due to the high level of engineering work required.

PC027   | Section 4  
        | Insert a new Paragraph 4.18 (consequential amendments required to paragraph numbering)  
        | **4.18 Waste management developments will need to ensure that they do not adversely impact upon historic and operational railway and canal routes used for recreation.**

PC028   | Policy WDC4  
        | Amend the title of the policy to read:  
        | **WDC4: PROTECTION OF RECREATIONAL ASSETS**

PC029   | Policy WDC5  
        | **WDC5: CANALS AND RAILWAYS**
        | Proposals for waste management development *(where appropriate)* will be permitted where it can be demonstrated that there would be no significant adverse impact upon the following canal and railway routes:
        | • The Kennet & Avon Canal  
        | • The Wiltshire & Berkshire Canal  
        | • The Thames & Severn Canal  
        | • The North Wiltshire Canal  
        | • All railway routes in Wiltshire and Swindon  
        | The historic alignments or any approved alternative alignments of the Wiltshire & Berkshire Canal, the North Wiltshire and Thames & Severn Canal will be safeguarded with the view to their long term re-establishment as navigable waterways.

PC030   | Section 4  
        | Paragraph 4.19  
        | 1st and 4th sentences  
        | Amend first sentence to read:  
        | **4.19. Government policy (PPS10 / PPS7) advocates the need to protect landscapes of national importance such as National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) – apart from in exceptional circumstances...Any built structures and ancillary buildings associated with the waste management development should be designed to keep their visual impact to a minimum, through the appropriate use of scale, form, **colour and finish**.**

PC031   | Section 4  
        | **4.20 Landscape Character Assessments (LCAs) are**
Paragraph 4.20 used to describe and map the character and form of landscape, and provide information to inform judgements about what aspects of the landscape are important and why. LCAs can help to inform the way in which new waste development can fit within the landscape and assist with the design of restoration proposals. The Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment has been published covering the whole of Wiltshire and Swindon. Assessments have also been produced for the three AONBs; the former District areas of Kennet, Salisbury, North and West Wiltshire; Swindon Borough; the Army Training Estate on Salisbury Plain and the Cotswold Water Park.

| PC032 | Policy WDC7 | Amend the 3rd paragraph to read: The assessment should be informed by the Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment, as a minimum, and where the proposed development falls within or in proximity to an AONB or in proximity to the New Forest National Park, the relevant Management Plan. |
| PC033 | Policy Drivers Box for Policy WDC7 | Add a reference to Planning Policy Statement 7 and amend the reference to the Regional Spatial Strategy. |
| PC034 | DPD | Add a new paragraph 4.24 as follows: |

4.24 Unless effectively managed, waste management development in Wiltshire and Swindon could potentially result in adverse impacts on features of biodiversity and geological interest both within and adjacent to the Plan area. The Councils consider features of biodiversity and geological interest to comprise: 

**Sites and Species of International Importance**
- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)
- Special Protection Areas (SPAs)
- Ramsar sites
- European Protected Species

**Sites and Species of National Importance**
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- Species of Principal Importance

**Sites and Species of Regional and Local Importance**
- Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites
- Local Biodiversity Action Plan habitats and species (including those of the Wiltshire, Swindon and Cotswold Water Park BAPs)\(^3\)
- County Wildlife Sites (including Semi Natural Ancient Woodlands).
- Local Nature Reserves.
- The Great Western Community Forest and any area / habitat that could be considered to be essential to connect / support habitats or species such as those listed above.

**Footnote 1:** European protected species – Circular 06/2005, Annex A, Tables 2 and 3 of lists the species; (Schedule 2 and Schedule 4 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 identifies those species of the habitats directive applicable to the UK).

**Footnote 2:** Species of principal importance - Circular 06/2005, paragraphs 84 – 86 and Annex C lists the species and habitats of principal importance.

**Footnote 3:** Local BAP Species can be found in the relevant Local Biodiversity Action Plan [note: habitats of principal importance are incorporated into the Wiltshire BAP habitats]

### PC035 Policy WDC8

Amend the text to Policy WDC8 to read as follows:

**WDC8: BIODIVERSITY AND GEOLOGICAL INTEREST**

Proposals for waste management development in Wiltshire and Swindon must be accompanied (where appropriate) by an objective assessment of the potential effects of the development on areas of biodiversity and/or geological interest, taking into account cumulative impacts with other development and the potential impacts of climate change.

Proposals **The assessment must have particular regard to the need to maintain and** / or enhance internationally and nationally designated features of biodiversity and/or geological interest, sites and species of international and national importance **in accordance with the relevant statutory requirements.**

**The assessment must also consider carefully the need to maintain and / or enhance** and the following features of local and regional and international importance:

- European Protected Species;
- Wiltshire's **Local** Biodiversity Action Plan habitats and species;
| PC036 | Section 4 Paragraph 4.35 3rd Bullet Point 2nd sentence | …Depending on the importance of the findings of the initial archaeological assessment, the Councils may seek **non-financial** contributions from the developer in the form of a legal agreement, to ensure that archaeological evidence is further investigated, recorded, preserved and managed to an appropriate standard and to an appropriate timescale. |
| PC037 | Section 4 Paragraph 4.40 | The Councils will encourage after-uses that benefit the local community; the local economy; improve amenity; enhance biodiversity and wildlife habitats, landscape features, the local environment or other sites of geological or scientific interest; or provide woodland areas or other habitats of conservation value that will contribute to national, regional and local Biodiversity Action Plan targets and use that help to reduce and buffer the impacts of climate change. All such uses would need to be planned in accordance with the provisions of the Waste Development Framework and the District Council’s Local Development Frameworks. It may also be necessary to secure long term after care management where deemed necessary, such as with landfill developments. |
| PC038 | Policy WDC10 | **WDC10: RESTORATION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT SITES**
Proposals for waste management development in Wiltshire and Swindon will be permitted where provision has been made for the appropriate restoration and reinstatement of that site as part of the cessation of waste management activities, where this is appropriate to the development.

The submitted scheme for restoration must ensure that land is returned to a quality suitable for supporting a range of beneficial after uses. Proposals for temporary waste management development will be permitted where they achieve an after use that:
Will provide benefit to the local community including agriculture, and/or;
Will provide benefit to the local economy where appropriate, and/or;
Will enhance biodiversity interest, landscape quality, cultural heritage and other environmental or community assets; and/or
The restoration helps to achieve the objectives of the South West Nature Map and contributes to national, regional and local BAP targets; and/or
Represents a sustainable and appropriate use for the site; and
Will not cause adverse impacts upon the water environment.

Where appropriate, the long term security and management of the proposed after use will be controlled through the use of a planning agreement. Long term after-care management may also be required where this is deemed appropriate.

**PC039 Section 5 Paragraph 5.3**
The Wiltshire HGV Route Network sets out the most appropriate routes for HGVs to use, making the distinction between ‘strategic’ and ‘local’ lorry routes. The adverse impacts of waste management transportation, including those upon residential amenity, will be minimised if waste development is located in close proximity to this network. Close proximity is not defined within planning policy but sites will be supported where they offer direct access to, or have good links with the HGV route network or the Primary Route Network (PRN). Sites will not be encouraged where access is required through residential areas, sensitive land uses or via roads which are not considered suitable by the Highway Authority for HGV use. **Issues such as the scale of development and the number of HGV movements per day will be important considerations.**

**PC040 Section 5 Paragraph 5.4**
A comprehensive Transport Assessment (TA) will need to be submitted with a planning application where a development is likely to have significant transport and related environmental impacts. The TA should identify the measures that will be taken to adequately mitigate or compensate for the anticipated transport impacts of the proposal, and improve accessibility and safety for all travel modes. Where a development will have relatively limited transport implications, a full TA may not be required and a simplified Transport Statement can be produced instead. This will be the case where a proposed development is expected to generate relatively low numbers of trips or traffic flows, with minor transport impacts. **Finally, where the issue of transport is considered to be of limited significance, no formal assessment is necessary. Pre-application discussions with the Councils will be critical to establish the scope of assessment required when**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PC041</th>
<th>Section 5 Paragraph 5.5</th>
<th>5.5 Transport Assessments where required should also consider the impacts of the waste management development upon all modes of travel likely to be affected by the development. <strong>Where there are likely to be significant adverse impacts that cannot be avoided or mitigated, legal agreements may be required to protect and where necessary make improvements to the relevant network.</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| PC042 | Policy WDC11 Policy Drivers Box | Add a reference to the Local Transport Plans:  
• Wiltshire & Swindon Local Transport Plans |
| PC043 | Section 6 Paragraph 6.2 | Where appropriate, new waste management developments will be expected to maximise the opportunity to incorporate renewable energy into the design of the facility for electricity and heat generation. Waste management developments can make contributions to renewable energy targets in a number of ways. New landfill developments **other than for inert waste** will be required to make provisions for any landfill gas generated by the facility, including where appropriate, the recovery of energy from such gas. |
| PC044 | Section 7 Paragraph 7.7 | 7.7 Planning applications for extended or new landfill sites will need to provide full details of the methods to be used to contain and control landfill gas and leachate, including, where appropriate, details of provisional measures to be taken to facilitate the recovery of energy from any landfill gas generated in line with Policy WDC12. Impacts on the surrounding environment will need to be addressed through the policies in this document. **The EA guidance on groundwater protection within RGN3 and GP3 will need to be followed.** |
| PC045 | Section 7 Paragraph 7.8 | 7.8 Consideration will be given to the relationship between the adjoining landscape and the restoration and final intended afteruse of the restored landform, taking account of pre and post settlement contours, including any requirement for doming to achieve settlement and drainage contours in line with current best waste management practices. Planning applications that fail to demonstrate that the restoration and final afteruse of a proposed landfill site will not have an unacceptable impact upon the adjoining landscape are unlikely **will not** to be permitted. |
| PC046 | Section 7 Paragraph 7.10 | 7.10 Landfill is predominantly carried out on sites requiring some form of restoration work prior to that land being put back into a beneficial use, such as **for example** worked out mineral sites or on degraded, contaminated or derelict land. However, this |
restoration need not always be through the use of landfill. An applicant should be able to demonstrate that landfill is an appropriate and necessary means of providing beneficial restoration and afteruse of the site in question and conforms to Policy WDC10.

| PC047 | Policy WDC12 Drivers Box | Amend the reference to the relevant PPS and the Regional Spatial Strategy to read as follows:

- Planning Policy Statement 42.22 – Renewable Energy
- The draft South West Regional Spatial Strategy *for the South West*

| PC048 | Policy WDC13 | WDC13: LANDFILL DEVELOPMENTS

Proposals for new or extended landfill developments will be permitted where the applicant can demonstrate where appropriate:

- There is no suitable waste management option at a higher level in the waste hierarchy;
- the development would lead to a demonstrable improvement in the quality of the land;
- the proposal is essential for the restoration of the site;
- an extension to landfill operations is essential for operational reasons and is the only demonstrable option.

| PC049 | Section 8 Paragraph 8.1 | 8.1 The Councils have proposed a set of indicators and targets, which have been derived from national policy advice (the Core Output Indicators), the Wiltshire and Swindon’s Annual Monitoring Reports (the local/contextual/significant effects indicators) and the SA/SEA undertaken on the Waste Development Control Policies DPD. Where there are no such indicators appropriate the Councils have formulated an indicator that is suitable for monitoring the relevant policy. These will be monitored in line with policy WCS7: Waste DPD Implementation, Monitoring and Review contained in the Waste Core Strategy DPD.

| PC050 | Section 8 Paragraph 8.3 | 8.3 Policy WDC1 provides the Key Criteria for which planning applications will be decided upon for determining planning applications. The specific areas covered in the policy are covered in more detail in subsequent policies in more detail. Therefore all of the indicators for each policy in the document (Table 1) are relevant to this policy.

| PC051 | WDC5: Canals and Railways Monitoring Indicator | Indicator:

Percentage of applications for waste management development that would lead to a significant adverse impact or a loss of historic canal or railway routes.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PC052</th>
<th>WDC11: Sustainable Transportation of Waste – Additional Indicator</th>
<th><strong>The number of applications that utilise alternative modes of transport such as rail or water.</strong></th>
</tr>
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</table>
| PC053 | WDC11: Sustainable Transport of Waste 1st and 3rd Indicators | Amend 1st and 3rd Indicators to read:  
Number of applications for waste management developments within 2km of the Wiltshire HGV route network *or Primary Route Network*.  
Number of applications for waste management developments leading to highway improvements *(where they are deemed necessary)*. |
| PC054 | WDC12: Renewable Energy 1st Indicator | Amend 1st Indicator to read:  
Percentage of applicants *applications* for the landfilling of waste proposing to recover energy from landfill gas. |
| PC055 | Table 1 | Amend 5th column of table to read:  
**Threshold for Policy-Review Investigation** |
| PC056 | Table 1 WDC5 | Amend Indicator to read:  
Percentage of applications for waste management development that would lead to a *significant adverse impact or* a loss of historic canal or railway routes. |
| PC057 | Table 1 WDC11 1st and 3rd | Amend 1st and 3rd Indicators to read:  
Number of applications for waste management developments within 2km of the Wiltshire HGV route network *or Primary Route Network*.  
Number of applications for waste management developments leading to highway improvements *(where they are deemed necessary)*. |
| PC058 | Table 1 WDC11 Additional Indicator / Threshold and Target | **The number of applications that utilise alternative modes of transport such as rail or water.**  
*(Threshold – N/A and Target – N/A)* |
| PC059 | Table 1 WDC12 | Amend Indicator to read:  
Percentage of applicants *applications* for the landfilling of waste proposing to recover energy from landfill gas. |
PC060 | Table 1 Abbreviations | Amend Abbreviations to read: 
| | WCC WC – Wiltshire County Council |

PC061 | Appendix 1 Glossary of Terms | **CORE STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT** – This will be one of the most important Development Plan Documents to be produced. **Wiltshire County Council and Swindon Borough Council** intends to **have** produced both minerals and waste Core Strategies to define the long term strategic vision and policies for minerals and waste development in the Plan area (Wiltshire and the Borough of Swindon). |

PC062 | Appendix 1 Glossary of Terms | **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT DOCUMENT** – A LDD will form part of the Local Development Framework and can either be a Development Plan Document (DPD) or a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). Wiltshire County Council is responsible for producing a Minerals and Waste Development Framework containing Minerals and Waste Local Development Documents. |

PC063 | Appendix 1 Glossary of Terms | **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME** – The LDS sets out a three year programme for the preparation of LDDs. As **County unitary** Planning Authorities, Wiltshire County Council and Swindon Borough Council have prepared separate but complimentary Minerals and Waste Development Schemes, setting out a timetable for preparation of **all planning policy documents including** Minerals Development Documents and Waste Development Documents. Schemes must be submitted to the Secretary of State for approval and monitored annually through the AMR system. |

PC064 | Appendix 1 Glossary of Terms | Delete reference to the ‘MWDS’ |

PC065 | Appendix 1 Glossary of Terms | Amend reference to the New Forest National Park |

PC066 | Appendix 1 Glossary of Terms | **NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK HERITAGE AREA** |

PC067 | Appendix 1 Glossary of Terms | **SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL** – Local Planning Authorities are bound by legislation to appraise the degree to which their plans and policies contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. The process of Sustainability Appraisal is similar to Strategic Environmental Assessment but is broader in context, examining the effects of plans and policies on a range of social, economic and environmental factors. To comply with Government policy, Wiltshire County Council and Swindon Borough Council are producing a Sustainability Appraisal that incorporates a Strategic Environmental Assessment of its Minerals and Waste Local Development Documents. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PC067</th>
<th>Appendix 1 Glossary of Terms</th>
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<td></td>
<td>AREA ACTION PLAN – If the County <strong>Wiltshire</strong> Council <strong>and Swindon Borough Council</strong> determines the need to produce an AAP it <strong>they</strong> will ensure reference is made within revisions to the Minerals and Waste Development Scheme <strong>authorities’ Development Schemes</strong>.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>