
Wiltshire Gypsies and Travellers Development Plan Document

Sustainability Appraisal Report

Pre-Submission Draft (Regulation 19)

August 2024

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1. Introduction

1.1 Introduction and structure of this report

- 1.1.1 This report is the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Report of the draft Wiltshire Gypsies and Travellers Plan (the 'Plan'). It is published alongside the Plan for consultation at the Regulation 19¹ stage of plan preparation.
- 1.1.2 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004² requires Local Plans to be informed throughout their preparation by a sustainability appraisal that meets the relevant legal requirements.³ Its role is to promote sustainable development by assessing the extent to which the emerging plan, when judged against reasonable alternatives, will help to achieve relevant environmental, economic and social objectives.
- 1.1.3 Wiltshire Council is reviewing the Wiltshire Core Strategy, adopted in January 2015, and a separate Gypsies and Travellers Development Plan Document has been prepared to review Core Strategy Core Policy 47 (Meeting the Needs of Gypsies and Travellers).
- 1.1.4 A Regulation 18 consultation⁴ on the intention to prepare a Gypsies and Travellers Plan was undertaken between 13th January 2021 and 9th March 2021. This consultation was on the proposed scope of the Plan to allocate land for travellers in sustainable locations meeting identified permanent and temporary accommodation, in line with Government planning policy and legislation. This consultation was accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment) Scoping Report⁵ - this Scoping Report has since been updated and further information on this is contained in Chapter 3 of this SA Report.
- 1.1.5 This SA Report presents the results of the SA process so far, as the Plan has developed. It reports on how the SA has informed the development of the Plan.
- 1.1.6 This chapter sets out:
- The context to the Draft Wiltshire Gypsies and Travellers Plan
 - The requirements for SA and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
 - Compliance with the requirements of the SEA Regulations
 - Consultation in the SA process
 - An overview of the Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Plan
 - Difficulties encountered in compiling the required information and carrying out the sustainability appraisal
- 1.1.7 Following this introduction chapter, the SA Report contains the following chapters:
- Sustainability Appraisal Methodology (Chapter 2)
 - Gypsies and Travellers Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping summary (Chapter 3)
 - Assessment of likely effects of potential development site options (Chapter 4)
 - Assessment of likely effects of Plan objectives and policies (Chapter 5)
 - Assessment of likely Cumulative Effects (Chapter 6)
 - Monitoring (Chapter 7)
 - Conclusions and next steps (Chapter 8)

¹ Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

² Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 19 (5) (a) (b)

³ The reference to relevant legal requirements refers to Strategic Environmental Assessment

⁴ Further information can be found at [Gypsy and Travellers - planning - Wiltshire Council](#)

⁵ Gypsies and Travellers Plan 2019-2036 Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment) Scoping Report (Wiltshire Council, May 2021) [Gypsy and Travellers - planning - Wiltshire Council](#)

1.1.8 The SA Framework, which forms the basis for all assessments in this report, is presented in Appendix A. Detailed assessment matrices are presented in Appendices B and C.

1.2 What is the Draft Wiltshire Gypsies and Travellers Plan?

1.2.1 The draft Wiltshire Gypsies and Travellers Plan (the 'Plan') sets out Wiltshire Council's strategic planning policies for meeting the accommodation needs of gypsies and travellers and travelling showpeople. It will replace 'Core Policy 47: Meeting the needs of gypsies and travellers' of the Wiltshire Core Strategy (adopted January 2015).

1.2.2 The Plan covers the period to 2038, consistent with the plan period of the wider Wiltshire Local Plan review which is being prepared alongside it. Together, both plans will update the Wiltshire Core Strategy in full and guide the determination of planning applications within Wiltshire (except for the small part of Wiltshire that is in the New Forest National Park where the New Forest National Park Authority is the local planning authority).

1.2.3 The Plan has been prepared in accordance with national planning policy including Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). It is based on evidence in the form of a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment⁶ (GTAA) to establish the accommodation needs of Wiltshire's travelling community from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2038.

1.2.4 Consistent with national policy⁷, the Plan seeks to address the accommodation needs of gypsies and travellers and travelling showpeople who meet the planning definitions as follows:

Gypsies and travellers – 'persons of nomadic habit of life whatever their race or origin, including such persons who on grounds only of their own or their family's or dependants' educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, but excluding members of an organised group of travelling showpeople or circus people travelling together as such'

Travelling showpeople – 'members of a group organised for the purposes of holding fairs, circuses or shows (whether or not travelling together as such). This includes such persons who on the grounds of their own or their family's or dependants' more localised pattern of trading, educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, but excludes Gypsies and Travellers as defined above'

1.3 Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment requirements

1.3.1 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is required during the preparation of a Local Plan, under the regulations implementing the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. SA promotes sustainable development by assessing the extent to which the emerging plan, when judged against reasonable alternatives, will help to achieve relevant environmental, economic and social objectives. It applies to any of the documents that can form part of a Local Plan, including core strategies, site allocation documents and area action plans.

⁶ Wiltshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2024 (Opinion Research Services, 2024)

⁷ PPTS Annex 1 (Department for Communities and Local Government, 2023)

1.3.2 This SA incorporates Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in line with the EU Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the 'SEA Directive'). The Directive came into force in the UK in 2004 through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the 'SEA Regulations').

1.3.3 The overarching objective of the SEA Directive is:

“To provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans... with a view to promoting sustainable development, by ensuring that, in accordance with this Directive, an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans... which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.” (Article 1).

1.3.4 The Directive applies to a variety of plans and programmes including those for town and country planning and land use. It applies in this case to the draft Wiltshire Gypsies and Travellers Plan.

1.3.5 SA (incorporating SEA) is an iterative assessment process which plans and programmes are required to undergo from an early stage as they are being developed, to ensure that potential significant effects arising from the plan/programme are identified, assessed, mitigated and communicated to plan-makers. It also requires the monitoring of significant effects once the plan/programme is implemented.

1.3.6 The main stages in the SA process are shown in Figure 1.1. These stages are:

- Stage A – Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope
- Stage B – Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects
- Stage C – Preparing the SA Report
- Stage D – Consultation on the Reg 19 Plan and the SA Report
- Stage E – Publishing post-adoption statement and monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Plan

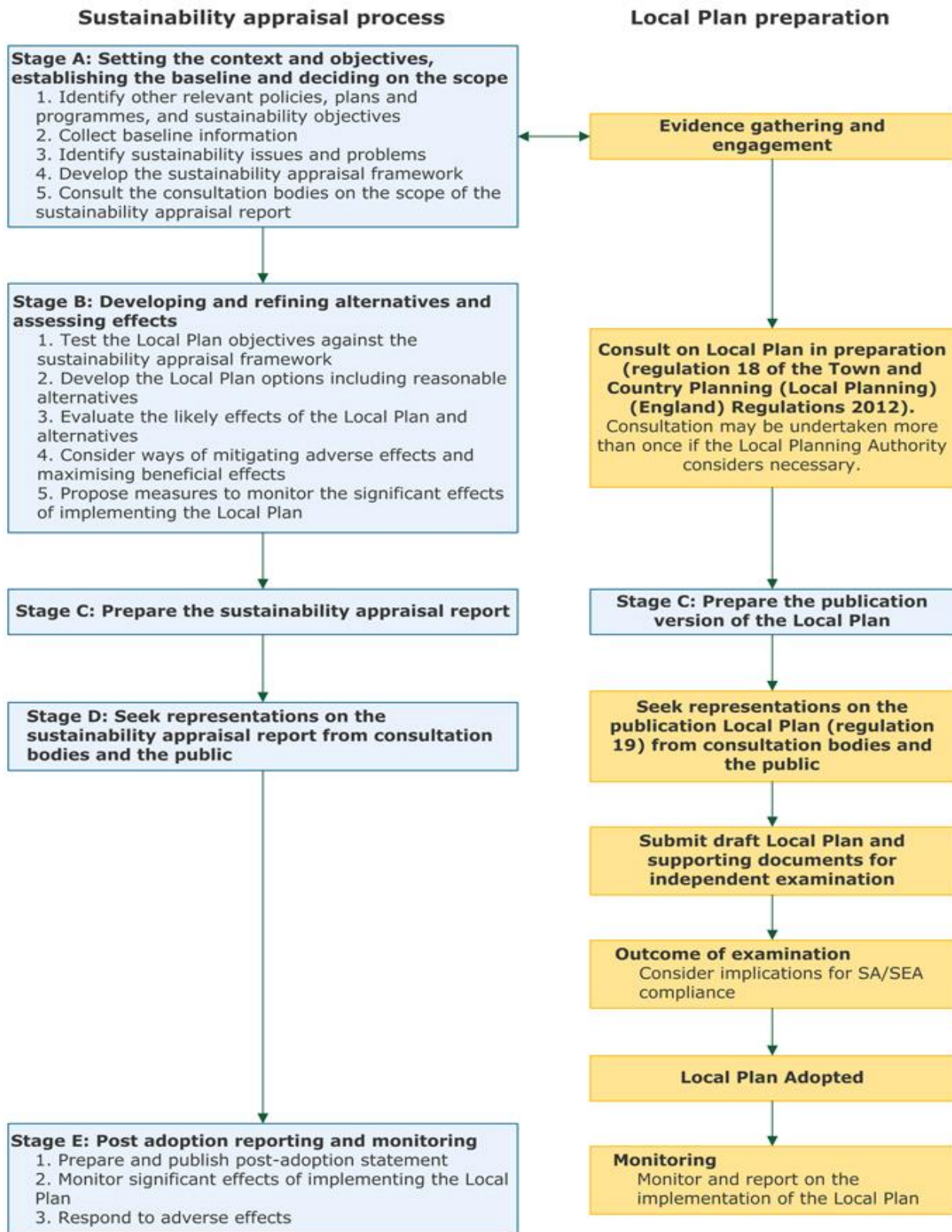


Figure 1.1 The SA process in relation to Plan-Making

Source: Reproduced from Planning Practice Guidance Paragraph 013 Ref ID: 11-013-20140306
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal#sustainability-appraisal-requirements-for-local-plans-and-spatial-development-strategies>

1.4 Compliance with the requirements of the SEA Regulations

1.4.1 This SA Report complies with the requirements of the SEA Regulations as shown in Table 1.1 below:

Table 1.1: Requirements of the SEA Regulations

Requirement	Where covered in SA Report
1) An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes	SA Report Sections 1.2 and 3.3 and SA Scoping Report Chapter 3 and Appendix A
2) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution without implementation of the plan or programme	SA Report Section 3.4 and SA Scoping Report Chapter 4
3) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected	SA Report Section 3.4 and SA Scoping Report Chapter 4
4) Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directive 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC	SA Report Section 3.5 and SA Scoping Report Chapters 4 and 5
5) The environmental protection objectives established at international, community or national level which are relevant to the programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation	SA Report Section 3.3 and SA Scoping Report Chapter 3 and Appendix A
6) The likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium and long term; permanent and temporary; positive and negative; secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects on issues such as: Biodiversity; population; human health; fauna; flora; soil; water; air; climatic factors; material assets; cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage; landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.	SA Report Chapters 4, 5 and 6 and Appendices B and C
7) The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and, as fully as possible, offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.	SA Report Chapters 4, 5 and 6 and Appendices B and C
8) An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information	SA Report Chapters 1, 2, 4 and 5
9) A description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring (in accordance with Regulation 17)	SA Report Chapter 7
10) A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings	Non-Technical Summary (separate document)

1.5 Consultation in the Sustainability Appraisal process

1.5.1 The requirements for consultation on the SA Report are set out in the SEA Regulations⁸. These are:

- Reg 12 (5) – *‘when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the report, the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies⁹’*

⁸ The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

⁹ Regulation 4 of the [Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004](#) defines certain organisations with environmental responsibilities as consultation bodies. In England the consultation bodies are Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency

- Reg 13 (1) – ‘every draft plan...for which an environmental report has been prepared...and its accompanying environmental report...shall be made available for the purposes of consultation’
- Reg 13 (2) (a) and (b) – ‘send a copy of those documents to each consultation body; take such steps as it considers appropriate to bring the preparation of the relevant documents to the attention of the persons who, in the authority’s opinion, are affected or likely to be affected by, or have an interest in the decisions involved in the assessment and adoption of the plan...’

1.5.2 The SA Scoping Report¹⁰ for the Wiltshire Gypsies and Travellers Plan has undergone consultation previously, alongside the Reg 18 Plan, from 13th January 2021 to 9th March 2021. The three ‘consultation bodies’ Natural England, Environment Agency and Historic England were included in this consultation.

1.5.3 The Scoping Report has since been updated and a revised draft¹¹ is being consulted on as part of the consultation on the Reg 19 Plan.

1.5.4. This SA Report of the Plan at the Reg 19 stage is also being consulted on alongside the Plan.

1.6 Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Draft Wiltshire Gypsies and Travellers Plan

1.6.1 Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) states that where a Local Plan requires a Habitats Regulations Assessment, as set out in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended), the sustainability appraisal should take account of the findings of that Habitats Regulations Assessment¹². A Habitats Regulations Assessment¹³ has been undertaken for the Draft Wiltshire Gypsies and Travellers Plan and the main findings are summarised below.

1.6.2 HRA screening was undertaken to i) identify all aspects of the plan which would have no effect on a European site, ii) identify all aspects of the plan which would not be likely to have a significant effect on a European site, and iii) identify those aspects of the plan where it is not possible to rule out the risk of significant effects on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

1.6.3 At the Screening stage, likely significant effects on European sites, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, were identified for the following Gypsies and Traveller’s Plan policies:

- Policy GT1: Meeting the needs of gypsies and travellers and travelling showpeople.
- Policy GT5: Braemar and Braemar 2;
- Policy GT6: Calcutt Park;
- Policy GT7: Dillons Farm;
- Policy GT11: Poplar Tree Residential Park;
- Policy GT12: The Poplars;
- Policy GT13: Land opposite The Laurels;
- Policy CT14: Land adjacent Nursteed Park;
- Policy GT15: Petersfinger Business Park;

¹⁰ Gypsies and Travellers Plan 2019-2036 Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment) Scoping Report (Wiltshire Council, May 2021) [Gypsy and Travellers - planning - Wiltshire Council](#)

¹¹ Wiltshire Gypsies and Travellers Plan 2019-2038 Draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (Wiltshire Council, July 2024)

¹² PPG Paragraph: 011 Reference ID: 11-011-20140306

¹³ Wiltshire Gypsies and Travellers Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment Appropriate Assessment (LUC, July 2024)

- Policy GT17: Greenfield View;
- Policy GT18: Land at Capps Lane;
- Policy GT19: Melbourne View;
- Policy GT22: Land at Housecroft Farm (1);
- Policy GT23: Land at Housecroft farm (2);
- Policy GT24: Land at Cleverton; and
- Policy GT28: Wynns Paddock.

1.6.4 The HRA screening identified the potential for the following likely significant effects:

- Physical damage and loss – River Avon SAC
- Non-physical disturbance – River Avon SAC
- Non-toxic contamination – River Avon SAC
- Recreation impacts – New Forest SAC/SPA/Ramsar; Salisbury Plan SAC/SPA; River Avon SAC; North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC; Mottisfont Bats SAC; Mells Valley SAC; Avon Valley SPA/Ramsar
- Water quantity – Avon Valley SPA/Ramsar; River Avon SAC
- Water quality – River Itchen SAC; River Avon SAC

1.6.5 The Appropriate Assessment stage identified whether the above likely significant effects will, in light of mitigation and avoidance measures, result in adverse effects on the integrity of the European sites, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.

1.6.6 Each of the potential impacts arising from the Gypsies and Travellers Plan relates to established issues which are currently being addressed at the strategic scale through the development and implementation of mitigation strategies. As a result, there is a high degree of confidence in the efficacy of the mitigation measures proposed in ensuring that adverse effects on the integrity of European Sites will be avoided. The overall conclusion of the Appropriate Assessment is that, in light of the mitigation measures and safeguards provided, the Plan will not result in adverse effects on the integrity of any European Sites, either alone or in combination with other plans and policies.

1.6.7 These safeguarding and mitigation measures are highlighted in this SA Report against relevant policies in Chapter 5.

1.7 Difficulties encountered in compiling the required information and carrying out the sustainability appraisal

1.7.1 Sustainability appraisal is a tool for predicting the likely effects of the implementation of a Plan. Predicting effects relies on an evidence-based approach and incorporates professional judgement. It is not possible to state with absolute certainty whether effects will occur or how significant they might be, as many impacts are influenced by a range of factors such as a site's layout and design and the success of any mitigation measures.

1.7.2 The assessments in this report are based on the best available information, including that provided by specialist teams within Wiltshire Council and information that is publicly available. The assessment of reasonable alternatives is somewhat limited in terms of available data resources. For example, ecological surveys and/or landscape and visual impact assessments have not been available and this kind of primary data is not normally commissioned for a sustainability appraisal. However, every attempt has been made to predict likely effects as accurately as possible.

1.7.3 Sustainability appraisal operates at a strategic level which uses available secondary data. Sometimes, in the absence of more detailed information, forecasting the potential

impacts of development can require making reasonable assumptions based on the best available data and trends.

- 1.7.4 Section 4 of the revised SA Scoping Report¹⁴ also discusses data limitations in collecting evidence and information at the scoping stage.

¹⁴ Wiltshire Gypsies and Travellers Plan 2019-2038 Draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (Wiltshire Council, July 2024)

2. Sustainability Appraisal Methodology

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 This chapter sets out the methodology adopted for the SA which is in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and associated Planning Practice Guidance (PPG), SEA Regulations and government guidance on the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive¹⁵.

2.1.2 Figure 1.1 shows the SA process in relation to plan-making. It identifies several SA stages. The Draft SA Scoping Report¹⁶ covers Stage A and is available as a separate document. This SA Report of the Reg 19 Plan covers SA Stages B and C.

2.2 Stage A: Scoping

2.2.1 The Gypsies and Travellers Plan SA Scoping Report was first published in January 2021 and a revised report is published alongside this SA Report. Chapter 3 of this SA Report summarises the key scoping outcomes.

2.2.2 The SA Scoping Report reports on a number of tasks as shown in Stage A of Figure 1.1. For further information, refer to Chapter 3 and to the separate scoping report.

2.3 Stage B: Developing and refining alternatives and assessing likely effects

2.3.1 The SA considers and compares the likely effects of reasonable alternatives - the different realistic options considered by the plan-maker in developing the policies in the Plan - as the Plan evolves, and assesses these against the baseline environmental, economic and social characteristics of the area. The SA outlines the reasons the alternatives were selected, provides conclusions on the reasons the rejected options are not being taken forward and the reasons for selecting the preferred approach in light of the alternatives.

2.3.2 Essentially, this stage involves using information obtained from the scoping stage and further detailed evidence, to predict and evaluate the nature and significance of likely effects arising from the proposals so far, and to identify potential improvements and mitigation solutions.

2.3.3 Likely significant effects on environmental, economic and social factors, using the SA objectives and Decision Aiding Questions outlined in the SA Framework (see section 3.6 and Appendix A), are identified, described and evaluated (employing the same level of detail for each alternative option).

2.3.4 Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment are set out in Schedule 1 to the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004¹⁷; this uses the following parameters to determine significance:

- Nature and magnitude of effect – i.e. positive or negative
- Scale – i.e. local, regional, national
- Permanence – i.e. permanent or temporary
- Certainty

¹⁵ A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (ODPM, September 2005)

¹⁶ Wiltshire Gypsies and Travellers Plan 2019-2038 Draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (Wiltshire Council, July 2024)

¹⁷ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukksi/2004/1633/regulation/16/made>

- Duration – i.e. short, medium and long term
- Sensitivity of receptor
- Secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects

2.3.5 Evaluation involves forming a judgement on whether the predicted effects are likely to be significant. The principal technique used to assess the significance of effects is a qualitative assessment based on expert judgement and supported by specific evidence. Significance is based on a seven-point scale shown in Table 2.1, where effects that are ‘major’ or ‘moderate’ are considered to be significant, whereas minor and neutral effects are not considered significant. Guidance¹⁸ advises that the SA should focus on the effects that are likely to be significant.

Table 2.1: Assessment scale for evaluating significance of likely effects

Assessment Scale	Assessment Category	Significance of Effect	Description of likely effect
+++ (+3 points)	Major positive	Significant	Option likely to have a major positive effect on the objective as it would help maximise opportunities
++ (+2 points)	Moderate positive		Option likely to have a moderate positive effect on the objective as it would help resolve an existing issue
+ (+1 point)	Minor positive	Not Significant	Option likely to have a minor positive effect on the objective as enhancement of existing conditions may result
0 points	Neutral effect		On balance option likely to have a neutral effect on the objective or no effect on the objective
- (-1 point)	Minor adverse		Option likely to have a minor adverse effect on the objective. Mitigation measures are readily achievable
-- (-2 points)	Moderate adverse	Significant	Option likely to have a moderate adverse effect on the objective. Mitigation likely to be difficult or problematic
--- (-3 points)	Major adverse		Option likely to have a major adverse effect on the objective with no satisfactory mitigation possible

2.4 Stage B: Assessment of potential development sites

2.4.1 This section explains how the Council arrived at a set of ‘reasonable alternative’ site options for further assessment in the SA. It explains why some sites were not considered to be reasonable sites whilst others were.

2.4.2 A site selection process has been undertaken by the Council to select the ‘reasonable alternative’ Gypsy and Traveller sites for further assessment through the SA. A summary of the Council’s site selection process is shown in Figure 2.1:

¹⁸ Planning Practice Guidance Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 11-009-20140306

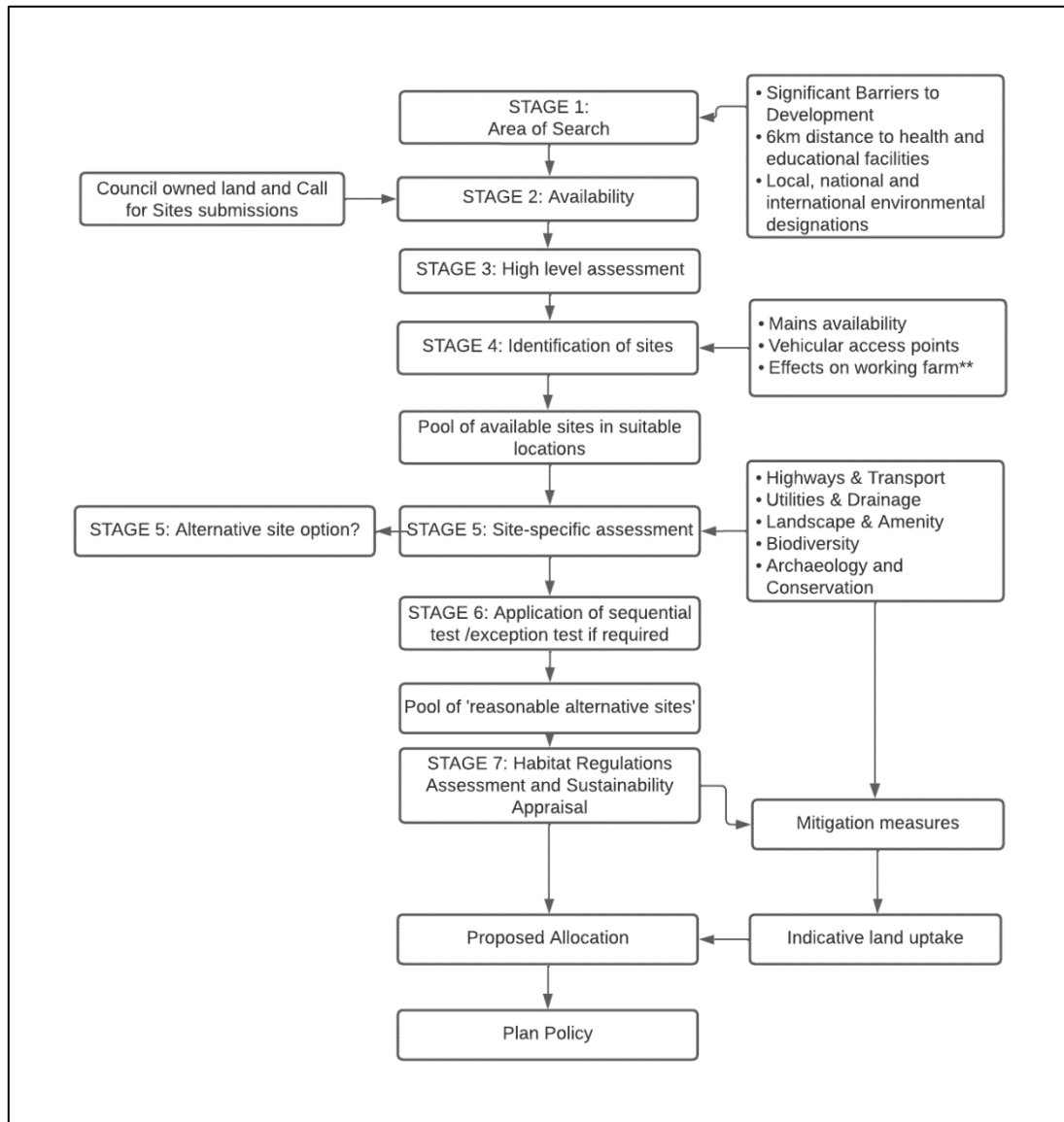


Figure 2.1: Summary of Gypsy and Traveller Plan Site Selection Process

2.4.3 The site selection process summarised in Figure 2.1 shows that potential sites that have either been submitted to the Council or are Council owned sites are subject to a number of different assessments before some sites are identified as 'reasonable alternatives' for the SA. This process is explained more fully in an evidence paper that accompanies the Plan entitled 'Site Selection Output Report'¹⁹.

2.4.4 The Plan's strategy is to firstly meet need through intensification of lawful traveller sites with an imminent need arising within the first five years of the plan, as evidenced in the GTAA²⁰. Sites that passed the site-specific assessments²¹ outlined in the Site Selection Output Report are proposed to be assessed through the SA.

2.4.5 Where established need could not be met through intensification of existing sites, the Council has assessed new sites that fall within a defined 'area of search'. The area of

¹⁹ Site Selection Output Report (Wiltshire Council, June 2024)

²⁰ Wiltshire Council Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (ORS, April 2024)

²¹ These assessments include: Highways & Transport, Utilities & Drainage, Site Design, Landscape & Amenity, Biodiversity & River Quality, Historic Environment and Scale

search is a result of applying defined strategic policy criteria, outlined in the Site Selection Output Report.

- 2.4.6 The following steps were then taken to arrive at an initial pool of 'reasonable alternative' sites for further assessment through the SA:

Stage 1 – Land within the Area of Search

An area of search was created using three strategic criteria as follows:

- Including all land falling within a 6km distance to both health facilities and primary schools
- Within this area, excluding land covered by significant barriers to development (Flood Zones 2 and 3)
- Excluding land covered by environmental designations

Stage 2 – Availability

Public Land: The publicly owned land was assessed regarding availability. Land was excluded if land had recently been subject to surplus procedure or if existing tenancy agreements would not allow to secure vacant possession. All land confirmed to be available was taken forward for further assessment.

Privately-owned Land: Land submitted to the 'Call for Sites' was considered available and taken forward.

Stage 3 – High-level site assessment

For both public and private land, a high-level assessment was undertaken to understand if vehicular access could be gained in principle from the adjacent road network, and if there were any other obvious site constraints. As a result, land was removed from consideration where no access could be gained directly from the adjacent road network, either because there was no suitable highway, or this part of the land was outside the area of search and would require constructing an access into the interior of the estate. Land fully or largely covered by woodland or marshland was also excluded from further assessment as this would preclude development.

Land subject to live planning applications, refusals or consents was removed from the process.

Stage 4 - Identification of Sites

This assessment goes into more detail to identify an actual site that could be assessed in more detail. A high-level assessment of available power, water and sewerage connections was also undertaken for each site option. All sites that passed this stage form a pool of available and potentially suitable sites.

Stage 5 – Site Specific Assessments

All sites that reached this stage were assessed against site-specific policy criteria outlined in paragraph 2.4.4.

Stage 6: Application of Sequential Test and Exception Test

The Framework and Planning Practice Guidance require the planning authority to undertake the sequential test, and the exception test where applicable, as part of plan-making. This means considering alternative available and suitable sites within the wider area that are unaffected by flood risk. In this instance, the wider area is the whole county. While at this point no alternative and suitable new sites were available, additional steps were undertaken to boost the pool of available land, as described further below. This also assisted meeting sequential test/exceptions test requirements.

- 2.4.7 Sites that were not excluded through the various site selection stages listed above were regarded as 'reasonable alternatives' for the purposes of the SA. These were assessed against the 12 SA objectives in the revised SA Framework (see section 3.6 and Appendix A). Summaries of these site assessments are presented in Chapter 4 with detailed assessment matrices in Appendix B.
- 2.4.8 Chapter 4 presents a list of all reasonable alternative sites, including site name, site size and what development is proposed for each site. This is followed by a summary table of the overall assessment scores for each site from Appendix B. In the summary table, sites are presented in order of sustainability performance with the more sustainable sites towards the top and less sustainable sites towards the bottom. A sites' position in the table has been informed by the detailed assessments in Appendix B and by calculating an overall score for the site based on scores against each SA objective.
- 2.4.9 The assessment of each individual site has been informed by detailed evidence of likely effects and their significance, and potential mitigation measures, received from internal and external stakeholders. This SA assessment has informed the selection of sites for allocation in the Plan, shown in Figure 2.1 as 'Proposed Allocations' and 'Plan Policy'.

2.5 Stage B: Assessment of Plan objectives and proposed policies

- 2.5.1 Chapter 5 presents a qualitative assessment of the Plan policies against the SA Framework. This chapter includes an assessment of the Plan's objectives against the objectives in the SA Framework as it is important for the Plan's objectives to be in accordance with sustainability principles.
- 2.5.2 The assessment of policies evaluates the likely effects of the policies, with a focus on effects that are considered likely to be significant and suggests ways of improving policies in sustainability terms. Chapter 5 includes a brief summary of findings and any recommendations for improving the sustainability of a policy. It also includes any mitigation recommended in the Habitats Regulations Assessment²² (where applicable). Recommendations from the SA for improving the sustainability attributes of Plan policies are presented in Table 5.2 together with Wiltshire Council's response to these recommendations.
- 2.5.3 The policies that allocate land for development have been informed by the 'reasonable alternative' site assessments outlined in Chapter 4 and Appendix B of this report.

²² Wiltshire Gypsies and Travellers Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment (LUC, July 2024)

- 2.5.4 Other policies in the Plan that are theme based ie Policies GT1 – GT5, are considered to be in accordance with higher level policy e.g. NPPF, PPTS, legislation and other locally derived evidence. These policies are considered to be reasonable options for dealing with these various themes/issues in planning terms and meeting the objectives of the Plan and it is not considered necessary to assess other alternatives to these policies in the SA.

2.6 Secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects assessments

- 2.6.1 Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations requires that the assessment of effects include secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects. Secondary or indirect effects are effects that are not a direct result of the plan but occur away from the original effect or as a result of a complex pathway. Cumulative effects arise where several proposals individually may or may not have a significant effect, but in-combination have a significant effect due to spatial crowding or temporal overlap. Cumulative effects may arise from individual policies within a plan and also between different plans. Synergistic effects are when two or more effects act together to create an effect greater than the simple sum of the effects acting alone.

- 2.6.2 Some specific secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects are outlined in the assessments of site options in Chapter 4 and Appendix B. However, also refer to Chapter 6 which includes an assessment of the combined effects of plan policies, any secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects of plan policies and any likely cumulative effects between the Plan and other plans.

2.7 Stage C: Preparing the SA Report

- 2.7.1 This SA Report, presenting the findings of SA Stages A and B (see Figure 1.1) will accompany the Reg 19 (publication) version of the Plan.

2.8 Stage D: Consulting on the Plan and the SA Report

- 2.8.1 In accordance with Reg 13 of the SEA Regulations, this SA Report is made available alongside the Reg 19 Plan and copies of the documents sent to the three 'consultation bodies' – Natural England, Environment Agency and Historic England. As well as the 'consultation bodies', those *'persons who, in the authority's opinion, are affected or likely to be affected by, or have an interest in the decisions involved in the assessment and adoption of the plan'* will be consulted.

3. Gypsies and Travellers Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Summary

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The ‘scoping’ stage of the sustainability appraisal (SA) is the first stage in the process and involves identifying the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the SA report. It sets out the context, objectives and approach of the assessment and identifies relevant environmental, economic and social issues and objectives.
- 3.1.2 The scoping stage is a key stage in the process and a Scoping Report has been produced which is a useful way of presenting information at the scoping stage. A key aim of the scoping procedure is to help ensure the SA process is proportionate and relevant to the plan being assessed.

3.2 Consultation requirements

- 3.2.1 When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the report, the plan-maker must consult the consultation bodies²³ – Natural England, Environment Agency and Historic England. These bodies were consulted on an initial Gypsies and Travellers Plan SA Scoping Report between 18th March 2021 and 22nd April 2021 and the report was then revised to take account of the comments received. Further details on that consultation are set out in chapter 7 and Appendix C of that revised Scoping Report²⁴.
- 3.2.2 The May 2021 SA Scoping Report has now been updated²⁵ and is being consulted on alongside this SA Report and the draft Reg 19 Gypsies and Travellers Plan.

3.3 Identifying other relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives

- 3.3.1 The SEA Regulations²⁶ require that information should be provided on:
- *‘The relationship [of the plan or programme] with other relevant plans and programmes’*
 - *‘The environmental protection objectives, established at international, [European] Community or [national] level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation’*
- 3.3.2 The Plan is prepared in the context of other plans and programmes. It must comply with national planning policy and reflect other European, national, regional and local plans and strategies. The Plan should be set in the context of national, regional and local objectives. This assessment ensures that the objectives for assessing the Plan generally adhere to, and are not in conflict with, objectives found in other plans, programmes and policies. It can also be used to ascertain potential conflicts between objectives, which may need to be addressed as part of the process.

²³ Regulation 4 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 defines certain organisations with environmental responsibilities as consultation bodies. In England the consultation bodies are Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency.

²⁴ Wiltshire Gypsies and Travellers Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (Wiltshire Council, May 2021)

²⁵ Wiltshire Gypsies and Travellers Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (Wiltshire Council, July 2024)

²⁶ Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

3.3.3 The methodology for undertaking this exercise is explained in Chapter 3 of the updated SA Scoping Report²⁷. All of the plans, programmes and policies assessed are listed in paragraph 3.4 of that report and further details are contained in Appendix A of that report. The assessment covers relevant plans, programmes and policies at the International, National, Regional and Local levels.

3.4 Baseline characteristics

3.4.1 The SEA Regulations²⁸ require that the Environmental Report should provide information on:

- *'The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme'*
- *'any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds(a) and the Habitats Directive'*

3.4.2 In addition to the requirements of the SEA Regulations, the statutory SA process requires the collection of additional information on social and economic characteristics of the plan area. Baseline information provides the basis for predicting and monitoring effects and helps identify sustainability problems and alternative ways of dealing with them. Sufficient information about the current and likely future state of the plan area is required to allow the Plan's effects to be adequately predicted.

3.4.3 The collection of baseline data and the development of the SA framework should inform each other. The review and analysis of relevant plans and programmes also influences data collection. The collection of baseline data is an iterative process and should not be viewed as a one-off exercise conducted at this stage only. The data collected and list of relevant plans and programmes has been reviewed to ensure the most up-to-date baseline information is reflected within this SA report. In deciding what and how much baseline data to collect, the key determining factor is the level of detail required to appraise the plan proposals against the SA objectives.

3.4.4 An initial set of baseline data has been extracted from a wide range of available publications and datasets. Sources have included, among others, national government and government agency websites, census data and information provided by Wiltshire Council. No primary research has been conducted. Baseline information is presented in detail in the July 2024 SA Scoping Report²⁹, Chapter 4. It should also be noted that more detailed baseline information will be collated from internal and external sources for the various proposed traveller site allocations and this will inform the ongoing SA.

3.5 Identifying key sustainability issues and problems

3.5.1 The requirement to identify sustainability problems and issues arises from the SEA Regulations³⁰, where the Environmental Report should include:

²⁷ Wiltshire Gypsies and Travellers Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (Wiltshire Council, July 2024)

²⁸ Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

²⁹ Wiltshire Gypsies and Travellers Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (Wiltshire Council, July 2024)

³⁰ Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

- *'any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds(a) and the Habitats Directive'*

- 3.5.2 The identification of sustainability issues and problems relating to the gypsy and traveller communities in Wiltshire provides a means of defining key issues for the Plan and to influence the respective Plan objectives and options. The analysis of baseline data informs the key sustainability issues and problems and the development of the SA Framework.
- 3.5.3 This section describes the current situation and highlights the key issues facing the gypsy and traveller communities within Wiltshire. It does not attempt to cover all of the issues but identifies those that are considered to be a priority in terms of sustainability. Key sustainability issues and problems have been derived by analysing the baseline data and contextual information from plans, programmes and policies, and assessing what the likely significant issues will be over the longer term i.e. 10 years +.
- 3.5.4 It should be noted that some of the sustainability issues and problems identified are not necessarily under the Plan's direct field of influence. However, it is considered important to reflect these where there may be indirect causality that can potentially be shaped by policies through the Plan.
- 3.5.5 Chapter 5 of the July 2024 SA Scoping Report³¹ presents the results of the analysis of key sustainability issues and problems for the gypsy and traveller communities within Wiltshire.

3.6 Developing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework

- 3.6.1 The final stage of scoping is the development of the SA Framework. The SA Framework is a key component in undertaking the SA by synthesising the plans, programmes and policies, the baseline information and sustainability issues into a systematic and easily understood tool that allows the prediction and assessment of effects considered likely to arise from the implementation of the Plan. Though the SEA Directive and Regulations do not specifically require the use of objectives in the SEA process, they are a recognised and useful way in which likely environmental, economic and social effects of a Plan can be described, analysed and compared at key stages of the plan development.
- 3.6.2 SA objectives and decision-aiding questions have been drawn up under the three sustainable development dimensions: social, economic and environmental. SA objectives for the Plan have been worded so that they reflect one single desired direction of change for the theme concerned and do not overlap with other objectives. They include both externally imposed social, environmental and economic objectives; as well as others devised specifically in relation to the specific context of this Plan. The SA objectives have also been worded to take account of local circumstances and concerns feeding from the analysis of sustainability issues.
- 3.6.3 A set of decision aiding questions has been derived to capture the change likely to arise from the Plan's implementation. They play a role in the assessment itself.

³¹ Wiltshire Gypsies and Travellers Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (Wiltshire Council, July 2024)

Detailed decision aiding questions can help to ensure that all the key issues to be considered in the SA are incorporated in the SA Framework.

- 3.6.4 The SA Framework is included in Appendix A of this SA Report. It has been applied in the assessment of Plan policies and potential development sites as the Plan has progressed and the results are documented in the following chapters of this SA Report.

4. Assessment of likely effects of Potential Development Site Options

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 This chapter sets out the main sustainability appraisal (SA) findings of the assessment of 'reasonable alternative' potential development sites.
- 4.1.2 A site selection process has been undertaken by the Council to select the 'reasonable alternative' potential development sites for further assessment through the SA. A summary of the site selection process is shown in Figure 2.1 in Chapter 2 of this SA Report.
- 4.1.3 Figure 2.1 shows the stages involved in deciding which sites should be considered 'reasonable alternatives' for the purposes of the SA. The findings of the whole site selection process are documented in the Site Selection Output Report³² which is one of the evidence papers accompanying the Reg 19 consultation on the Plan.
- 4.1.4 The Site Selection Output Report finds that 27 sites, consisting of a mix of existing site intensification and new sites, are considered as 'reasonable alternatives' for assessment of likely effects through the SA. This follows a site selection process that is summarised in Section 2.3 of this SA Report. 'Reasonable alternative' sites for SA are selected if they pass the following selection stages:
- Stage 1 – Land within the Area of Search
 - Stage 2 – Availability
 - Stage 3 – High-level site assessment
 - Stage 4 - Identification of Sites
 - Stage 5 – Site Specific Assessments
 - Stage 6: Application of Sequential Test (if required) and creating Omission Sites
- 4.1.5 Sites that did not pass all of these stages were not considered to be 'reasonable alternatives' and were not assessed through the SA.

4.2 Assessment of potential development site options

- 4.2.1 This section includes a table presenting the various potential development sites (reasonable alternatives) assessed through the SA, a summary table of the overall assessment scores for the sites, a brief summary of the assessment findings and an explanation of which sites were taken forward for allocation in the Plan and which sites were not. The assessment has been undertaken as described in Chapter 2 (Methodology) of this SA Report. The detailed site assessment matrices for each site can be found in Appendix B.
- 4.2.2 Site names, site size (for sites which are not intensification of an existing site) and site proposals are shown in Table 4.1:

³² Site Selection Output Report (Wiltshire Council, July 2024)

Table 4.1: 'Reasonable alternative' gypsy and traveller sites assessed

Site name	Site size (Ha)	Site proposals
South of Bridge Paddocks	N/A - Intensification	2 additional gypsy and traveller pitches
Rose Field Caravan Site	N/A - Intensification	2 additional gypsy and traveller pitches
Braemar	N/A - Intensification	5 additional gypsy and traveller pitches
Easton Lane	N/A - Intensification	3 additional gypsy and traveller pitches
79 Southampton Road	N/A - Intensification	2 additional gypsy and traveller pitches
Land at Capps Lane	N/A - Intensification	1 additional gypsy and traveller pitch
Dillons Farm	N/A - Intensification	1 additional gypsy and traveller pitch
Greenfield View	N/A - Intensification	1 additional gypsy and traveller pitch
Former Glenville Nurseries	N/A - Intensification	1 additional gypsy and traveller pitch
Lansdowne	N/A - Intensification	7 additional gypsy and traveller pitches
Melbourne View	N/A - Intensification	1 additional gypsy and traveller pitch
The Poplars	N/A - Intensification	2 additional gypsy and traveller pitches
The Poplars Residential Park	N/A - Intensification	7 additional gypsy and traveller pitches
Oak Tree Field	N/A - Intensification	14 additional gypsy and traveller pitches
Land opposite the Laurels	N/A - Intensification	3 additional travelling showpeople plots
Land adjacent Nursteed Park	N/A - Intensification	6 travelling showpeople plots
Petersfinger Business Park	N/A - Intensification	1 additional travelling showpeople plot
Calcutt Park	N/A - Intensification	1 additional gypsy and traveller pitch
Wynns Paddock	0.18	1 additional gypsy and traveller pitch
Oxhouse Farm Option 4	0.75	Up to 10 gypsy and traveller pitches
Land at Cleverton	2.7	Up to 10 gypsy and traveller pitches
Whistley Rd	0.15	2 gypsy and traveller pitches
Bushton North	0.66	3 gypsy and traveller pitches
Upper Seagry Farm	0.85	Up to 5 gypsy and traveller pitches
Housecroft Farm 1	0.5	Up to 2 gypsy and traveller pitches
Housecroft Farm 2	0.5	Up to 2 gypsy and traveller pitches
Thickthorn Farm Stopping Site	0.5	Up to 6 stopping pitches

4.2.3 The SA has identified the likely effects of developing these sites against a range of sustainability criteria. Refer to Appendix B for further detail of these assessments. Table 4.2 presents the assessment scores and overall sustainability performance of each site; sites are presented in order of sustainability performance with the sites considered more sustainable towards the top and those considered less sustainable towards the bottom. This assessment has informed the selection of preferred site options by the Council for allocation in the Plan.

Table 4.2: Summary of the assessment of ‘reasonable alternative’ gypsy and traveller sites (in order of sustainability performance)

Key to table assessment scores				
Major (significant) positive effect	+++ (+3)	Neutral effect 0 (0)	Major (significant) negative effect	--- (-3)
Moderate (significant) positive effect	++ (+2)		Moderate (significant) negative effect	-- (-2)
Minor positive effect	+ (+1)		Minor negative effect	- (-1)

SITE	Sustainability performance (MORE → LESS)	Overall site score/ position (rank)	SA obj 1 overall score	SA obj 2 overall score	SA obj 3 (Water)	SA obj 4 (Air/poll'n)	SA obj 5 (Climate)	SA obj 6 (Energy)	SA obj 7 (Heritage)	SA obj 8 (Landscape)	SA obj 9 (Housing)	SA obj 10 (Inc comms)	SA obj 11 (Transport)	SA obj 12 (Economic)	
Land adj Nursteed Park	MORE SUSTAINABLE ↑	+6/=1st	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	++	
Oak Tree Field		+6/=1st	-	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	++	+	+	
Lansdowne		+3/3rd	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	-	+
Land opposite The Laurels		+2/=4th	-	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+
The Poplars Residential Park		+2/=4th	-	+	0	-	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	+
Whistley Rd		+1/=6th	-	-	0	0	0	+	0	-	-	+	+	0	+
Oxhouse Farm		+1/=6th	-	-	0	0	0	+	-	-	-	++	+	0	+
Rose Field		+1/=6th	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	-	0
Wynns Paddock		0/=9th	0	+	0	0	--	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
Calcutt Park		0/=9th	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	-	-	0
Glenville Nurseries		0/=9th	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	-	-
Petersfinger Business Pk		0/=9th	-	+	0	0	--	-	0	0	0	+	+	0	+

SITE	Sustainability performance (MORE → LESS)	Overall site score/ position (rank)	SA obj 1 overall score	SA obj 2 overall score	SA obj 3 (Water)	SA obj 4 (Air/poll'n)	SA obj 5 (Climate)	SA obj 6 (Energy)	SA obj 7 (Heritage)	SA obj 8 (Landscape)	SA obj 9 (Housing)	SA obj 10 (Inc comms)	SA obj 11 (Transport)	SA obj 12 (Economic)
Greenfield View	<p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LESS SUSTAINABLE</p>	-1/=13th	0	+	0	-	0	0	0	0	+	0	-	-
Capps Lane		-1/=13th	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	-	-	-
Melbourne View		-1/=13th	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	-	-	-
Upper Seagry Fm		-2/=16th	-	-	-	0	0	+	0	-	+	0	0	0
Dillons Farm		-2/=16th	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	+	0	-	-
Braemar		-3/=18th	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	+	0	-	-
79 South'ton Rd		-3/=18th	-	0	-	0	0	0	0	-	+	0	-	0
The Poplars		-3/=18th	-	+	0	--	0	0	0	0	+	-	-	0
Thickthorn Farm		-3/=18th	0	-	0	0	0	+	0	-	+	-	-	-
Easton Lane		-4/=22nd	0	+	-	--	-	0	0	0	+	0	-	-
Land at Cleverton		-4/=22nd	-	-	-	0	-	+	-	-	++	0	0	-
Bushton North		-4/=22nd	-	-	0	0	0	+	0	-	+	-	-	-
Housecroft Farm 1		-4/=22nd	0	-	0	0	0	+	0	-	+	--	-	-
Housecroft Farm 2		-4/=22nd	0	-	0	0	0	+	0	-	+	--	-	-
South of Bridge Paddocks		-6/27th	-	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	+	--	-	--

Analysis of the performance of sites assessed against the SA Framework

- 4.2.4 The assessment of 27 potential gypsy and traveller and travelling showpeople sites is summarised in Table 4.2. This shows that site assessment scores ranged from +6 (most sustainable) to -6 (least sustainable). Significant adverse effects were only considered likely against 7 of these sites and it is considered that mitigation measures are likely to be able to reduce these highlighted significant impacts.
- 4.2.5 No sites are considered likely to have 'major adverse effects' whereby mitigation is considered to be unachievable.
- 4.2.6 19 of the 27 sites assessed involve the intensification of existing traveller sites and the number of additional pitches/plots proposed on each site is relatively small. For this reason, likely effects, in general, are not considered to be significant and most effects are likely to be neutral or minor. However, moderate adverse effects are considered likely at five existing sites and these are discussed further from paragraph 4.2.9 onwards.
- 4.2.7 'Land adjacent Nursteed Park' and 'Oak Tree Field' are considered the most sustainable sites when assessed against the 12 objectives in the SA Framework. No adverse effects were considered likely at Land adjacent Nursteed Park from the addition of 6 plots. The location of this existing site within the urban area of Devizes Market Town, close to town centre facilities, schools, shops, public transport connections and employment, and negligible impacts on biodiversity, landscape and the historic environment make this a very suitable site for intensification. Oak Tree Field is also considered to be located in a very sustainable location next to Salisbury District Hospital, with excellent public transport access to nearby Salisbury and with very few likely adverse effects.
- 4.2.8 The site considered least sustainable is 'South of Bridge Paddocks'. This is an existing traveller site; it does not have insurmountable issues but scores poorly in sustainability terms, mostly because of its isolated location with very poor accessibility to public transport services and other local services and facilities, meaning that residents will likely be reliant on private transport to access education, jobs, healthcare, shops and other essential services.
- 4.2.9 Specific circumstances of the seven sites which are considered likely to have moderate (significant) adverse effects, and possible mitigation measures, are discussed below:

Wynns Paddock - 1 additional gypsy and traveller pitch

- 4.2.10 Dwellings would be approx. 40m from the A36. Road traffic noise must be assessed and mitigated against. It would appear challenging to mitigate sound levels using barriers and site design. Without a noise assessment it is difficult to say if suitable noise levels would be achievable.

Petersfinger Business Park - 1 additional travelling showpeople plot

- 4.2.11 Noise levels from the adjacent A36 are likely to be significant. A Noise Impact Assessment may be required. Air quality in this location will also be impacted by road traffic, particularly close to the road, and further assessment may be required.

The Poplars - 2 additional gypsy and traveller pitches

- 4.2.12 This site is adjacent to railway lines and railway noise is likely to be significant. A Noise Impact Assessment would be required should intensification of this site be pursued. It is likely to be difficult to sufficiently mitigate noise levels.

Easton Lane - 3 additional gypsy and traveller pitches

- 4.2.13 This site is in close proximity to two railway lines. A Noise Impact Assessment will be required due to noise from the railway lines. It may be challenging to design this site to achieve suitable noise levels. Further development closer to the railway line is not advisable without evidence to demonstrate suitable internal and external noise levels can be achieved.

Housecroft Farm 1 - up to 2 gypsy and traveller pitches

- 4.2.14 This site is located in the open countryside approx. 2km from Bratton, the nearest village. Bratton has a limited number of services and facilities. Access to most services and facilities is in Westbury approx. 5.8km from the site. There are no public transport services within proximity of this site – the nearest bus stops are in Bratton along the B3098, approx. 2km away, which is not within walking distance. Residents will be dependent on private transport. It is considered that this site offers poor access to essential and non-essential services and facilities. These issues will likely be difficult to mitigate.

Housecroft Farm 2 - up to 2 gypsy and traveller pitches

- 4.2.15 This site is located in the open countryside approx. 2km from Edington, the nearest village. Edington has a limited number of services and facilities. Access to most services and facilities is in Westbury approx. 6.5km from the site. There are no public transport services within proximity of this site – the nearest bus stops are in Edington approx. 2km away, which is not within walking distance. Residents will be dependent on private vehicles. It is considered that this site offers poor access to essential and non-essential services and facilities. These issues will likely be difficult to mitigate.

South of Bridge Paddocks - 2 additional gypsy and traveller pitches

- 4.2.16 This site is located in the open countryside approx. 3.8km from the nearest village, Minety. Minety has a limited number of services and facilities. Access to GP surgeries, secondary schools, supermarkets and other services and facilities is further afield in Purton (approx. 5.3km), Cricklade (approx. 7km), Swindon (approx. 9.5km) and Royal Wootton Bassett (approx. 8.5km). There are no public transport services along the B4696 Braydon Road which the site is situated on. The nearest bus stop is on the B4040 Malmesbury Road approx. 1.3km from the site. This site has very poor sustainable transport accessibility. Residents will be dependent on private vehicles. These issues will likely be difficult to mitigate.

- 4.2.17 It is considered that this site also offers poor access to education facilities and to employment. The nearest primary schools are over 4km from the site in Minety and Ashton Keynes. The nearest significant urban centre (Swindon), offering a range of job opportunities, is approx. 9.5km from this site.

4.3 Conclusions

- 4.3.1 The assessment of the 27 'reasonable alternative' site options found that no sites were considered likely to have 'major adverse effects' whereby mitigation is considered to be unachievable. Moderate adverse effects were considered likely at just 7 of the proposed sites and mitigation measures to reduce those likely effects are considered achievable, although problematic.

- 4.3.2 The Council has decided to allocate 26 of these 27 sites in the Plan. The reasons for taking the 26 sites forward into the Plan, and for rejecting one site, are outlined below:

Table 4.3: Reasons for taking forward or rejecting site options

Site name	Reasons for taking forward or rejecting site options
Wynns Paddock	The available evidence confirms that occupants of the single pitch proposed would be exposed to unacceptable levels of traffic noise and mitigation would unlikely be achievable. Option rejected
South of Bridge Paddocks	The site has planning permission and been found acceptable in principle. Based on the available evidence, the site can be intensified with two additional pitches and mitigation of any adverse effects on the local landscape, highway safety and ecology could be achieved. Option taken forward
Rose Field Caravan Site	The site has planning permission and been found acceptable in principle at appeal. Based on the available evidence, the site can be intensified with two additional pitches and mitigation of any adverse effects in terms of drainage, landscape and ecology could be achieved. Option taken forward
Braemar	Land adjacent to the permitted pitches can be developed for five additional pitches and mitigation of any adverse effects in terms of drainage, ecology and landscape could be achieved. Option taken forward
Easton Lane	The site has planning permission and been found acceptable in principle. Land adjacent to the permitted pitches can be developed for three additional pitches and mitigation of any adverse effects in terms of drainage, ecology and landscape could be achieved. There is no conclusive evidence on the level of noise from the adjacent rail line and that it could not be mitigated, and the site has development consent. A noise assessment should identify mitigation where required, to inform a development proposal. Option taken forward
79 Southampton Road	The site has planning permission and been found acceptable in principle. Land adjacent to the permitted pitches can be developed for two additional pitches and mitigation of any adverse effects in terms of drainage, ecology, and historic environment could be achieved. Option taken forward
Land at Capps Lane	The site has planning permission and been found acceptable in principle. Land adjacent to the permitted pitch can be developed for one additional pitch and mitigation of any adverse effects in terms of highways, drainage, ecology and landscape could be achieved. Option taken forward
Dillons Farm	The site has planning permission and been found acceptable in principle. Land adjacent to the permitted pitch can be developed for one additional pitch and mitigation of any adverse effects in terms of highways, drainage, ecology and landscape could be achieved. Option taken forward
Greenfield View	The site has planning permission and been found acceptable in principle. Land on the permitted pitch can be developed for one additional pitch and mitigation of any adverse effects in terms of drainage, ecology and landscape could be achieved. Option taken forward
Former Glenville Nurseries	The site has planning permission and been found acceptable in principle. Land on Pitch 7 can be developed for one additional pitch and mitigation of any adverse effects in terms of drainage could be achieved. Option taken forward
Lansdowne	The site has planning permission and been found acceptable in principle. The western part of the site can be developed for 7 additional pitches and mitigation of any adverse effects in terms of highways, drainage, ecology and landscape could be achieved. Option taken forward
Melbourne View	The site has planning permission and been found acceptable in principle. Land within the permitted site can be developed for one additional pitch and mitigation of any adverse effects in terms of drainage could be achieved. Contaminated land assessment required. Option taken forward
The Poplars	The site has planning permission and been found acceptable in principle. Land adjacent to the permitted pitches can be developed for two additional pitches and mitigation of any adverse effects in terms of drainage, ecology, highways and landscape could be achieved. There is no conclusive evidence on the level of noise from the adjacent rail line and that it could not be mitigated, and the site has development consent. A noise assessment should identify mitigation where required, to inform a development proposal. Option taken forward

The Poplars Residential Park	The site has planning permission and been found acceptable in principle. It can be intensified with 7 additional pitches and mitigation of any adverse effects in terms of drainage and ecology could be achieved. Option taken forward
Oak Tree Field	The site has planning permission and previously developed land (former Odstock transit site) could be developed for 14 additional pitches. Mitigation of adverse effects in terms of ecology and drainage could be achieved. Option taken forward
Land opposite the Laurels	The site has planning permission for five showpeople plots and intensification with three additional plots is considered achievable. Mitigation of adverse effects in terms of landscape, ecology, and drainage could be achieved. Option taken forward
Land adjacent Nursteed Park	The site has been in existence for a long time and a total of six showpeople plots could be supported at this site. Any adverse impacts in terms of highways, landscape, drainage and ecology could be achieved. Option taken forward
Petersfinger Business Park	The site has planning permission and an additional showpeople plot could be supported at this site. Mitigation of any adverse impacts in terms of highways, landscape, drainage and ecology could be achieved. Option taken forward
Calcutt Park	The site has planning permission and been found acceptable in principle. Land on Pitch 12 can be developed for one additional pitch and mitigation of any adverse effects in terms of drainage, landscape and ecology could be achieved. Option taken forward
Oxhouse Farm Option 4	Mitigation of identified adverse impacts in terms of ecology, landscape, highways, drainage and potentially the historic environment could be achieved as part of a 10-pitch site. Option taken forward
Land at Cleverton	Mitigation of identified adverse impacts in terms of ecology, landscape, highways, drainage and potentially the historic environment could be achieved as part of a 10-pitch site. Option taken forward
Land at Whistley Rd	Mitigation of identified adverse impacts in terms of ecology, landscape, highways and drainage could be achieved as part of a 2-pitch site. Option taken forward .
Bushton North	Mitigation of identified adverse impacts in terms of ecology, landscape, highways and drainage could be achieved as part of a 3-pitch site. Option taken forward
Upper Seagry Farm	Mitigation of identified adverse impacts in terms of ecology, landscape, highways and drainage could be achieved as part of a 5-pitch site. Option taken forward
Housecroft Farm 1	Mitigation of identified adverse impacts in terms of ecology, landscape, highways and drainage could be achieved as part of a 2-pitch site. Option taken forward
Housecroft Farm 2	Mitigation of identified adverse impacts in terms of ecology, landscape, highways and drainage could be achieved as part of a 2-pitch site. Option taken forward
Thickthorn Farm Stopping Site	Mitigation of identified adverse impacts in terms of ecology, landscape, highways and drainage could be achieved as part of a 6-pitch emergency stopping site. Option taken forward

5. Assessment of likely effects of Plan objectives and policies

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 This section presents a qualitative assessment of the Plan policies against the SA Framework. It also includes an assessment of the Plan’s objectives against the objectives in the SA Framework as it is important for the Plan’s objectives to be in accordance with sustainability principles. Refer to Appendix C for this assessment of the Plan’s objectives.
- 5.1.2 The assessment of policies evaluates the likely effects of the policies, with a focus on effects that are considered likely to be significant and suggests ways of improving policies in sustainability terms, if necessary. This section includes a brief summary of findings and any recommendations for improving the sustainability of a policy. It also includes any mitigation recommended in the Habitats Regulations Assessment³³ (where applicable).
- 5.1.3 The policies in the Plan that are theme based ie Policies GT1-GT5, are considered to be in accordance with higher level policy e.g., Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS), legislation and other locally derived evidence such as the Wiltshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA). These policies are considered to be reasonable options for dealing with these various themes/issues in planning terms and it is not considered necessary to assess other alternatives to these policies in the SA.
- 5.1.4 The policies that allocate land for development have been informed by the ‘reasonable alternative’ site assessments outlined in Chapter 4 and Appendix B of this report. All proposed site allocations in the Plan were assessed as reasonable alternative options in the SA.

5.2 Compatibility of Plan objectives with SA objectives

- 5.2.1 The objectives of the Plan set out what it is aiming to achieve in spatial planning terms and set the context for the development of options. It is important for the objectives of the Plan to be in accordance with sustainability principles. Therefore, they have been tested for compatibility with the SA objectives and this is presented in Appendix C.
- 5.2.2 A summary of the assessment findings is presented in Table 5.1:

Table 5.1: Summary of assessment of Plan objectives against SA objectives

Assessment of Plan objectives against SA objectives												
Plan objective	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12
1	-	-	0	-	0	+	-	-	+	+	0	0
2	0	-	0	-	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	0
3	0	0	0	-	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	+
4	0	-	0	-	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	+

- 5.2.3 All four objectives are concerned with delivering gypsy and traveller pitches and travelling showpeople plots, to some extent, and it is possible that development of any sites could have adverse environmental effects. The likelihood of such effects will be down to an assessment of individual sites. However, this assessment has highlighted areas where effects are most likely to occur.
- 5.2.4 Sites proposed for allocation in the Plan are relatively small, mostly allocating a very small number of pitches/plots, and effects are, on the whole, localised in nature and not likely to be

³³ Wiltshire Gypsies and Travellers DPD Habitats Regulations Assessment (LUC, July 2024)

significant. The site allocations are also dispersed across the county and therefore not likely to result in cumulative effects with each other or with site allocations in other development plans.

5.2.5 The provision of new site allocations and intensification of existing sites will likely have benefits in terms of meeting the accommodation needs of the travelling community, reducing poverty and deprivation and promoting more inclusive communities. There will also be opportunities, particularly on new site allocations, for renewable or low carbon energy generation which could meet much of a site's energy demands.

5.2.6 Plan objectives 2, 3 and 4 are considered likely to have fewer adverse effects than objective 1 due to their nature. Objective 3 seeks to deliver well-designed sites in keeping with their surroundings, and in appropriate and sustainable locations. Objective 2 makes provision for just three emergency stopping places to provide temporary accommodation – these will contain limited infrastructure and will only be used for short-term stays. And objective 4 is not considered likely to result in the provision of a significant number of new dwellings.

5.3 Policy GT1: Meeting the needs of gypsies and travellers, and travelling showpeople

5.3.1 This policy has been assessed against the 12 SA objectives and related decision-aiding questions contained in the SA Framework (see Appendix A). A summary of the performance of this policy against the SA objectives is as follows:

Policy GT1 - Assessment of policy against SA objectives											
SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12
-	+	-	-	0	+	0	-	+	-	-	-

5.3.2 The policy is considered likely to have a minor adverse effect overall against the SA objectives.

Summary and any specific recommendations for improving the sustainability of the policy

5.3.3 This policy makes provision for 134 permanent pitches for gypsies and travellers and 8 plots for travelling showpeople during the period 2024 to 2038. The SA assessment of individual site options has shown that there are some likely adverse effects at a very local level regarding biodiversity, water resources, noise pollution, landscapes and access to public transport and essential services and facilities. However, this policy will also have benefits through allowing the intensification of existing sites which benefit from existing infrastructure, from opportunities to support the development of renewable and low carbon sources of energy on new and existing sites and through meeting the accommodation needs of the traveller community on a range of different sites. Potential mitigation measures for adverse effects at individual sites are outlined in Appendix B.

5.3.4 This policy supports the intensification of safeguarded sites where the development would meet a demonstrable on-site need and accord with other policies in the development plan, and this is likely to have a range of sustainability benefits, depending on the location of those sites. The SA assessment of individual sites has shown that sustainability benefits reduce significantly when sites are located in more remote locations that have poor public transport accessibility, making it harder to access essential services and facilities.

5.3.5 There are no specific SA recommendations for this policy.

5.3.6 The Habitats Regulations Assessment³⁴ (HRA) highlights that the River Avon SAC and the Avon Valley SPA and Ramsar site are sources for water abstraction and therefore are susceptible to changes in water quantity as a result of proposed development within the Plan. This is relevant to Policy GT1 because this policy sets out the level of growth to meet needs. However, it notes that the Wessex Water Water Resource Management Plan³⁵ ensures that a sufficient supply of water can be secured, and that this would take into account growth within the supply area, including growth within Wiltshire County as part of the Gypsies and Travellers Plan. In addition, measures have been outlined in the Wiltshire Local Plan Review to provide safeguarding and mitigation.

5.3.7 The HRA concludes that due to the small scale of the proposed allocations within the Plan, the delivery of the strategic scale mitigation measures will provide certainty that adverse effects on the integrity of the Avon Valley SPA and Ramsar and The River Avon SAC as a result of changes to water quantity will be avoided, either alone or in-combination.

5.4 Policy GT2: Safeguarding gypsies and travellers, and travelling showpeople sites

5.4.1 This policy has been assessed against the 12 SA objectives and related decision-aiding questions contained in the SA Framework (see Appendix A). A summary of the performance of this policy against the SA objectives is as follows:

Policy GT2 - Assessment of policy against SA objectives											
SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12
0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+

5.4.2 The policy is considered likely to have a minor positive effect overall against the SA objectives.

Summary and any specific recommendations for improving the sustainability of the policy

5.4.3 The safeguarding of existing sites is likely to have beneficial sustainability impacts overall. It will allow the accommodation needs of the traveller population to continue to be met on sites that have established services and facilities and allow residents to remain in their local community. This policy will also reduce the need to find new, greenfield sites which may have local environmental impacts.

5.4.4 There are no specific SA or HRA recommendations for this policy.

5.5 Policy GT3: New sites and intensification of existing sites

5.5.1 This policy has been assessed against the 12 SA objectives and related decision-aiding questions contained in the SA Framework (see Appendix A). A summary of the performance of this policy against the SA objectives is as follows:

Policy GT3 - Assessment of policy against SA objectives											
SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12
+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+

5.5.2 The policy is considered likely to have a minor positive effect overall against the SA objectives.

Summary and any specific recommendations for improving the sustainability of the policy

³⁴ Wiltshire Gypsies and Travellers DPD Habitats Regulations Assessment (LUC, July 2024)

³⁵ Water Resource Management Plan Non-Technical Summary (Wessex Water, 2022)

5.5.3 Considering the SA objectives, this policy contains criteria relating to biodiversity, landscapes, highway access, water resources, environmental pollution, impacts on public rights of way and waste management.

5.5.4 However, it is **recommended** that the criteria also include reference to the following to enhance the sustainability benefits of this policy:

- protection and enhancement of heritage assets and their settings
- avoiding, where possible, development of Best and Most Versatile agricultural land
- avoiding land that is impacted by contamination or if, during development, any evidence of historic contamination or likely contamination is found, requiring further assessment
- impacts of odour and vibration
- ensuring that a site is accessible to essential services, facilities and sustainable modes of transport, including public transport services, to reduce reliance on use of private vehicles

5.5.5 Regarding mitigation measures included within Policy GT3, the HRA states that *‘providing that project proposals at site allocations ‘79 Southampton Rd’ and ‘Petersfinger Business Park’ demonstrate compliance with Policy GT3, this would provide sufficiently high levels of certainty (i.e. beyond reasonable scientific doubt) that adverse effects on the integrity of the River Avon SAC, as a result of impacts from non-toxic contamination will be avoided either alone or in-combination’.*

5.6 Policy GT4: Meeting needs of gypsies and travellers for culturally appropriate accommodation

5.6.1 This policy has been assessed against the 12 SA objectives and related decision-aiding questions contained in the SA Framework (see Appendix A). A summary of the performance of this policy against the SA objectives is as follows:

Policy GT4 - Assessment of policy against SA objectives											
SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

5.6.2 The policy is considered likely to have a minor positive effect overall against the SA objectives.

Summary and any specific recommendations for improving the sustainability of the policy

5.6.3 This policy is considered likely to be generally positive against the majority of SA objectives because it will help meet the accommodation needs of persons that do not meet the planning definition in PPTS Annex 1 but identify as travellers in line with the stipulations in the Equality Act 2010. The policy supports accommodation provision on existing sites, safeguarded sites, new sites within settlements and sites brought forward through neighbourhood plans and site allocation plans. Sites coming forward within settlements and through the plan-making process will likely be in more sustainable locations that have better access to essential services, facilities and sustainable forms of transport than sites in more isolated locations. Also, the requirement for proposals to be consistent with all other relevant development plan policies will ensure that likely adverse effects on the natural and built environment are minimised.

5.6.4 There are no specific HRA recommendations for this policy.

5.7 Policy GT5: Emergency Stopping Sites

5.7.1 This policy has been assessed against the 12 SA objectives and related decision-aiding questions contained in the SA Framework (see Appendix A). A summary of the performance of this policy against the SA objectives is as follows:

Policy GT5 - Assessment of policy against SA objectives											
SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12
+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+

5.7.2 The policy is considered likely to have a minor positive effect overall against the SA objectives.

Summary and any specific recommendations for improving the sustainability of the policy

5.7.3 It is not known where two of the three anticipated emergency stopping sites will be located. However, the supporting text to this policy states that '*the council is committed to identifying and delivering a further two sites in the south and west of the county in accordance with Policy GT5*'.

5.7.4 Future emergency stopping sites will likely achieve Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) in accordance with national policy and these sites will help meet some of the temporary accommodation needs of the traveller population.

5.7.5 If the locations of these sites are near or adjacent to key travelling routes then this will help reduce the need to travel, allow opportunities to access sustainable modes of transport along those key routes and allow easier access to essential services and facilities.

5.7.6 Effects on environmental objectives are considered likely to be generally neutral as these sites are only intended to be used on a temporary basis and will only contain basic infrastructure. However, the locations of any future sites are not known and the frequency with which they will be used is not known and therefore further assessment and monitoring will be required at a future date. Any adverse effects are likely to be localised and likely to be greater with more frequent use of the sites and if infrastructure such as portable toilets, water and sewage disposal were installed on the sites.

5.7.7 It is **recommended** that greater clarity is provided in this policy to ensure that adverse effects are minimised on the natural, built and historic environment. At present, the policy refers to adverse impacts on 'environmental designations', but effects are possible on local landscape features, local habitats, protected, notable and priority species and the historic environment which are not 'designations'.

5.7.8 There are no specific HRA recommendations for this policy.

5.8 Policy GT6: Braemar and Braemar (2)

5.8.1 This policy has been assessed against the 12 SA objectives and related decision-aiding questions contained in the SA Framework (see Appendix A). A summary of the performance of this policy against the SA objectives is as follows:

Policy GT6 - Assessment of policy against SA objectives											
SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12
-	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	+	0	-	-

5.8.2 The policy is considered likely to have a minor adverse effect overall against the SA objectives. Neutral effects are considered likely against the majority of objectives.

Summary and any specific recommendations for improving the sustainability of the policy

5.8.3 The assessment of this site, presented in Appendix B, found that significant adverse effects were not likely against any of the SA objectives. The assessment of the policy itself, which incorporates various mitigation measures, has found a similar range and significance of likely effects to that of the site assessment.

5.8.4 The SA has suggested specific mitigation measures in relation to bats, phosphorous offsetting and archaeology and it is noted that these mitigation measures have been included within the requirements of this policy. There are no other specific SA recommendations.

5.8.5 The HRA has identified that this site falls within the 16km Zone of Influence (Zol) of the Avon Valley SPA and Ramsar. However, it considers that, taking into account the very small number of additional pitches, in addition to the location of this site at the more distant extent of the ZOI (>14km) the resultant increase in the number of potential additional visitors to this SPA and Ramsar is predicted to be negligible. Therefore, no mitigation is required.

5.8.6 The HRA has also identified that this site falls within the 13.8km Zol of the New Forest SAC, SPA and Ramsar. Mitigation will be required to ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of the New Forest sites, either alone or in-combination. The HRA states that this site allocation *'includes a specific requirement to comply with the New Forest Mitigation Strategy by delivering the appropriate financial contributions as part of any planning application'*.

5.8.7 However, neither the policy nor the supporting text specifically refers to the New Forest SAC, SPA and Ramsar and it is **recommended** that this is added to both policy and supporting text. The HRA concludes that, *'providing the mitigation measures...are successfully implemented, adverse effects on the integrity of the New Forest SPA, SAC and Ramsar as a result of impacts from recreational pressures will be avoided, either alone or in-combination'*.

5.8.8 The HRA has identified that this site falls within the Zol of the River Avon SAC. It concluded that, providing that the mitigation identified is successfully implemented, adverse effects on the integrity of the River Avon SAC as a result of impacts from recreational pressures will be avoided, either alone or in-combination.

5.9 Policy GT7: Calcutt Park

5.9.1 This policy has been assessed against the 12 SA objectives and related decision-aiding questions contained in the SA Framework (see Appendix A). A summary of the performance of this policy against the SA objectives is as follows:

Policy GT7 - Assessment of policy against SA objectives											
SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12
0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	-	-	0

5.9.2 The policy is considered likely to have a neutral effect overall against the SA objectives. Likely effects from one additional pitch resulting from the sub-division of an existing pitch are considered to be negligible.

Summary and any specific recommendations for improving the sustainability of the policy

- 5.9.3 The assessment of this site, presented in Appendix B, found that significant adverse effects were not likely against any of the SA objectives. The assessment of the policy itself, which incorporates various mitigation measures, has found a similar range and significance of likely effects to that of the site assessment.
- 5.9.4 The SA has suggested specific mitigation measures in relation to North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC. It is noted that the policy requires proposals to secure a financial contribution to the North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC Mitigation Strategy. There are no other specific SA recommendations.
- 5.9.5 The HRA has identified that this site falls within the 9.4km Zone of Influence (Zol) of North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC (North Meadow component only). The policy identifies the need for a financial contribution to the North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC Mitigation Strategy. The HRA concludes that *'providing that the...site allocation provides the necessary contribution to the North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC Mitigation Strategy, adverse effects on the integrity of the SAC as a result of in-combination effects associated with recreational pressure, will avoid adverse effects on integrity'*.

5.10 Policy GT8: Dillons Farm

5.10.1 This policy has been assessed against the 12 SA objectives and related decision-aiding questions contained in the SA Framework (see Appendix A). A summary of the performance of this policy against the SA objectives is as follows:

Policy GT8 - Assessment of policy against SA objectives											
SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12
0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	+	0	-	-

5.10.2 The policy is considered likely to have a minor adverse effect overall against the SA objectives. Neutral effects are considered likely against the majority of objectives. Likely effects from one additional pitch on an existing site are considered to be negligible.

Summary and any specific recommendations for improving the sustainability of the policy

- 5.10.3 The assessment of this site, presented in Appendix B, found that significant adverse effects were not likely against any of the SA objectives. The assessment of the policy itself, which incorporates various mitigation measures, has found a similar range and significance of likely effects to that of the site assessment.
- 5.10.4 The SA has suggested specific mitigation measures in relation to the following issues:
- Site lies in the catchment of the River Test
 - Site lies within the Zone of Influence (Zol) for the New Forest protected sites
 - Site lies on the edge of the Zol for Mottisfont Bats SAC
 - Groundwater flooding risk present on site
 - Site is within approx. 140m from a railway line
 - There is also an old canal within approx. 120m of the site

- 5.10.5 The policy requires consideration of most of these issues. However, the issue of the proximity of the old canal is covered in the supporting text but not in the policy itself. It is **recommended** that a requirement for the consideration of this issue to ensure that proposals do not conflict with policy on safeguarding historic canal routes, is added to this policy.
- 5.10.6 The HRA has identified that this site is located at 7.46km from the Mottisfont SAC and taking into account both the location at the very farthest extent of the ZOI for recreation and the proposals for only one additional pitch, the resultant increase in the number of potential additional visitors to this SAC is not considered to contribute to any increase in recreational pressures on the SAC. No mitigation is therefore considered necessary. It concludes that *'adverse effects on the integrity of the Mottisfont Bats SAC as a result of impacts from increased recreational pressure are not predicted to occur, either alone or in-combination'*.
- 5.10.7 The HRA has also identified that this site falls within the 13.8km Zol of the New Forest SAC, SPA and Ramsar. Mitigation will be required to ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of the New Forest sites, either alone or in-combination. The HRA states that this site allocation *'includes a specific requirement to comply with the New Forest Mitigation Strategy by delivering the appropriate financial contributions as part of any planning application'*. It concludes that *'providing the mitigation measures identified above are successfully implemented, adverse effects on the integrity of the New Forest SPA, SAC and Ramsar as a result of impacts from recreational pressures will be avoided, either alone or in-combination'*.
- 5.10.8 The HRA also identifies that this site has the potential to impact on the water quality of the River Itchen SAC and that appropriate mitigation measures will be required to ensure no adverse effects on integrity. This site will be required to achieve nutrient neutrality - this must be demonstrated through the provision of a project-level HRA and where there is an increase in nutrient levels, appropriate mitigation measures will be required to be implemented to ensure the scheme achieves nutrient neutrality. The HRA concludes that *'providing that individual proposals...successfully demonstrate compliance with Wiltshire Council's nutrient neutrality advice, adverse effects on the integrity of the...River Itchen SAC, will be avoided, either alone or in-combination'*.
- 5.10.9 The HRA has identified that this site falls within the Zol of the River Avon SAC. It concluded that, providing that the mitigation identified is successfully implemented, adverse effects on the integrity of the River Avon SAC as a result of impacts from recreational pressures will be avoided, either alone or in-combination.

5.11 Policy GT9: Easton Lane

- 5.11.1 This policy has been assessed against the 12 SA objectives and related decision-aiding questions contained in the SA Framework (see Appendix A). A summary of the performance of this policy against the SA objectives is as follows:

Policy GT9 - Assessment of policy against SA objectives											
SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12
0	+	-	--	-	0	0	0	+	0	-	-

- 5.11.2 The policy is considered likely to have a minor adverse effect overall against the SA objectives.

Summary and any specific recommendations for improving the sustainability of the policy

5.11.3 The assessment of this site, presented in Appendix B, found that significant adverse effects were likely in terms of the proximity of the site to two railway lines. This is discussed further below. The assessment of the policy itself, which incorporates various mitigation measures, has found a similar range and significance of likely effects to that of the site assessment.

5.11.4 The SA has suggested specific mitigation measures in relation to the following issues:

- High quality habitat lies in a 25m wide zone adjacent to the railway lines
- Groundwater flood risk present on site
- This site is in close proximity to two railway lines
- This site is identified as a historic landfill

5.11.5 The policy text includes consideration of all of these mitigation measures. The issue that is considered likely to have significant adverse effects is the proximity of the two railway lines to the site. The SA **recommends** that a Noise Impact Assessment is required in the policy text to assess the potential for noise from these railway lines. It is considered that it may be challenging to design this site to achieve suitable noise levels and that further development closer to the railway lines is not advisable without evidence to demonstrate suitable internal and external noise levels can be achieved.

5.11.6 There are no other specific SA recommendations.

5.11.7 The HRA has concluded that *'provided that the adherence to the TBMS and Wiltshire Bat SAC Planning Guidance document and policy mitigation is implemented successfully, adverse effects on the integrity of the Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC, as a result of impacts from physical habitat damage and loss at functionally linked habitat will be avoided.'*

5.12 Policy GT10: Lansdowne

5.12.1 This policy has been assessed against the 12 SA objectives and related decision-aiding questions contained in the SA Framework (see Appendix A). A summary of the performance of this policy against the SA objectives is as follows:

Policy GT10 - Assessment of policy against SA objectives											
SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12
0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	-	+

5.12.2 The policy is considered likely to have a minor positive effect overall against the SA objectives.

Summary and any specific recommendations for improving the sustainability of the policy

5.12.3 The assessment of this site, presented in Appendix B, found that significant adverse effects were not likely against any of the SA objectives. The assessment of the policy itself, which incorporates various mitigation measures, has found a similar range and significance of likely effects to that of the site assessment.

5.12.4 The SA has suggested specific mitigation measures in relation to the following issues:

- Site lies just within the 2km core area of a large lesser horseshoe bat roost

- The site is adjacent to the A361 road and further assessment of traffic noise may be required
- Footpaths SEMI14, SEMI19 and SEMI21 are all close to the site. The site would benefit from screening and tidying to mitigate the visual impact on users of the rights of way

5.12.5 The policy text includes mitigation requirements to ensure that identified bat habitat is not adversely affected by artificial lighting. It also includes landscape mitigation and the supporting text states that screening would also assist in mitigating the visual impacts of development on the users of footpaths SEMI14, 19 and 21.

5.12.6 There is no mention in supporting text or in the policy of potential noise issues from the site's proximity to the A361. It is **recommended** that potential noise issues are discussed within the supporting text and a requirement for a Noise Impact Assessment included in the policy.

5.12.7 There are no other specific SA recommendations.

5.12.8 The HRA has identified that this site falls within the Zol of the River Avon SAC. It concluded that, providing that the mitigation identified is successfully implemented, adverse effects on the integrity of the River Avon SAC as a result of impacts from recreational pressures will be avoided, either alone or in-combination.

5.12.9 The HRA has concluded that '*provided that the adherence to the TBMS and Wiltshire Bat SAC Planning Guidance document and policy mitigation is implemented successfully, adverse effects on the integrity of the Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC, as a result of impacts from physical habitat damage and loss at functionally linked habitat will be avoided.*'

5.13 Policy GT11: Oak Tree Field

5.13.1 This policy has been assessed against the 12 SA objectives and related decision-aiding questions contained in the SA Framework (see Appendix A). A summary of the performance of this policy against the SA objectives is as follows:

Policy GT11 - Assessment of policy against SA objectives											
SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12
-	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	++	+	+

5.13.2 The policy is considered likely to have a minor positive effect overall against the SA objectives.

Summary and any specific recommendations for improving the sustainability of the policy

5.13.3 The assessment of this site, presented in Appendix B, found that significant adverse effects were not likely against any of the SA objectives. The assessment of the policy itself, which incorporates various mitigation measures, has found a similar range and significance of likely effects to that of the site assessment. Given the site's proximity to Salisbury District Hospital and to essential services and facilities in Salisbury itself and given that this site has very good access to public transport services, significant positive effects are considered likely in terms of providing access to health and community services and facilities.

5.13.4 The SA has suggested specific mitigation measures in relation to the following issues:

- Site lies within 400m of Lime Kiln Down County Wildlife Site (CWS) – there is potential for minimal recreational disturbance effects

- Site lies in the River Avon catchment – phosphorus offsetting will be required
- Site is within Zol of New Forest protected sites
- Restricted byway BRIT17 runs next to the site - the site must be physically separated from the PRow

5.13.5 The policy text includes mitigation requirements in terms of nutrient neutrality and securing contributions to the New Forest Protected Sites Mitigation Strategy. However, it is **recommended** that the policy and supporting text include measures to mitigate any potential recreational impacts on Lime Kiln Down CWS and measures to mitigate potential effects on nearby public rights of way.

5.13.6 The HRA has identified that this site has the potential to contribute to increased levels of nitrogen and phosphorus entering the River Avon SAC and the River Itchen SAC, causing eutrophication of the European sites. It states that this site will be required to achieve nutrient neutrality to ensure no adverse effect on the integrity of the River Avon SAC and the River Itchen SAC. The HRA concludes that, providing that individual proposals successfully demonstrate compliance with Wiltshire Council’s nutrient neutrality advice, adverse effects on the integrity of the River Avon SAC and the River Itchen SAC, will be avoided, either alone or in-combination.

5.13.7 It is noted that the HRA does not include this site as one of the sites located within the New Forest Zol. However, the SA has found that it is and this should be corrected in the HRA. Regarding sites within this Zol, the HRA states that mitigation will be required to ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of the New Forest sites, either alone or in-combination. An interim strategy for mitigating impacts of recreation on the New Forest SPA, SAC and Ramsar has been established by Wiltshire Council and endorsed by Natural England. The HRA concludes that, providing the mitigation measures are successfully implemented, adverse effects on the integrity of the New Forest SPA, SAC and Ramsar as a result of impacts from recreational pressures will be avoided, either alone or in-combination.

5.13.8 The HRA has concluded that *‘adverse effects on the integrity of the Avon Valley SPA and Ramsar as a result of impacts from increased recreational pressure are not predicted to occur, either alone or in-combination.’*

5.14 Policy GT12: Poplar Tree Residential Park

5.14.1 This policy has been assessed against the 12 SA objectives and related decision-aiding questions contained in the SA Framework (see Appendix A). A summary of the performance of this policy against the SA objectives is as follows:

Policy GT12 - Assessment of policy against SA objectives											
SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12
-	+	0	-	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	+

5.14.2 The policy is considered likely to have a minor positive effect overall against the SA objectives.

Summary and any specific recommendations for improving the sustainability of the policy

5.14.3 The assessment of this site, presented in Appendix B, found that significant adverse effects were not likely against any of the SA objectives. The assessment of the policy itself, which

incorporates various mitigation measures, has found a similar range and significance of likely effects to that of the site assessment.

5.14.4 The SA has suggested specific mitigation measures in relation to the following issues:

- The site is just within the Trowbridge Bat Mitigation Strategy (TBMS) habitat mitigation zone
- The hedgerow along the A361 is part of a longer stretch of uninterrupted hedgerow and contributes to biodiversity on and off-site
- The site is adjacent to the A361 road and a noise impact assessment may be required
- The nearest Public Right of Way is screened from the site by tall mature hedgerows which should be retained and managed in perpetuity

5.14.5 The policy text includes mitigation requirements in terms of securing contributions to the TBMS and ensuring that identified bat habitat is not adversely affected by artificial lighting. However, it is **recommended** that the policy and supporting text also include measures to mitigate any potential impacts on nearby public rights of way and measures to mitigate potential effects of road noise from the A361.

5.14.6 The HRA has identified that this site falls within the 16km Zone of Influence (Zol) of the Mells Valley SAC. It states that whilst the relatively small number of pitches proposed in addition to the distance of the site from the SAC are such that the resultant increase in the number of potential additional visitors to this SAC is predicted to be not significant, the allocation has the potential to contribute to in-combination pressures on the SAC. Mitigation for predicted increases in recreational pressure will be provided through the provision of financial contributions to the TBMS. The HRA concludes that mitigation safeguards embedded in the site allocation policy will ensure that the appropriate financial contributions are provided towards the TBMS and this will provide sufficient certainty that adverse effects on the integrity of the Mells Valley SAC, as a result of impacts from increased recreational pressure, will be avoided either alone or in-combination.

5.14.6 The HRA has identified that this site falls within the Zol of the River Avon SAC. It concluded that, providing that the mitigation identified is successfully implemented, adverse effects on the integrity of the River Avon SAC as a result of impacts from recreational pressures will be avoided, either alone or in-combination.

5.15 Policy GT13: The Poplars

5.15.1 This policy has been assessed against the 12 SA objectives and related decision-aiding questions contained in the SA Framework (see Appendix A). A summary of the performance of this policy against the SA objectives is as follows:

Policy GT13 - Assessment of policy against SA objectives											
SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12
-	+	0	--	0	0	0	0	+	-	-	0

5.15.2 The policy is considered likely to have a minor adverse effect overall against the SA objectives.

Summary and any specific recommendations for improving the sustainability of the policy

5.15.3 The assessment of this site, presented in Appendix B, found that significant adverse effects were likely against SA objective 4 - the site is adjacent to railway lines and railway noise is likely to be significant. A Noise Impact Assessment is recommended should intensification of this site be pursued. The assessment of the policy itself, which incorporates various mitigation measures, has found a similar range and significance of likely effects to that of the site assessment.

5.15.4 The SA has suggested specific mitigation measures in relation to the following issues:

- The site is within a risk zone for great crested newts
- The site lies within the Zol for Salisbury Plain SPA
- Site lies within the Core Area of a greater horseshoe bat roost at Westbury Leigh
- The site is adjacent to railway lines and railway noise is likely to be significant
- Groundwater flood risk present on site
- Bridleway DMAR41 leads adjacent to the site

5.15.5 The policy text includes mitigation requirements in terms of avoiding illumination of boundary habitats which will help reduce adverse effects on great crested newts and bats. However, the SA of the site found that effects overall will be minimal on the Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC. Policy text also requires mitigation measures for the Salisbury Plain SPA, groundwater flood risk and potential noise issues from railway lines. However, it is **recommended** that the policy and supporting text also include a requirement for a Noise Impact Assessment and measures to mitigate any potential impacts on nearby public rights of way, specifically the adjacent bridleway which may benefit from additional screening.

5.15.6 The HRA has identified that this site falls within the 16km Zone of Influence (Zol) of the Mells Valley SAC. It states that whilst the relatively small number of pitches proposed in addition to the distance of the site from the SAC are such that the resultant increase in the number of potential additional visitors to this SAC is predicted to be not significant, the allocation has the potential to contribute to in-combination pressures on the SAC. Mitigation for predicted increases in recreational pressure will be provided through the provision of financial contributions to the TBMS. The HRA concludes that mitigation safeguards embedded in the site allocation policy will ensure that the appropriate financial contributions are provided towards the TBMS and this will provide sufficient certainty that adverse effects on the integrity of the Mells Valley SAC, as a result of impacts from increased recreational pressure, will be avoided either alone or in-combination.

5.15.7 The HRA has also identified that this site falls within the 6.4km Zone of Influence (Zol) of the Salisbury Plain SPA and SAC. Mitigation will be required to ensure no adverse effects on integrity in relation to Salisbury Plain either alone or in-combination. A mitigation strategy for Salisbury Plain has been developed by Wiltshire Council and Natural England. The HRA concludes that, providing that the mitigation measures identified are successfully implemented, adverse effects on the integrity of the Salisbury Plain SPA and SAC as a result of impacts from recreational pressures will be avoided, either alone or in-combination.

5.15.8 The HRA has identified that this site falls within the Zol of the River Avon SAC. It concluded that, providing that the mitigation identified is successfully implemented, adverse effects on the integrity of the River Avon SAC as a result of impacts from recreational pressures will be avoided, either alone or in-combination.

5.16 Policy GT14: Rose Field Caravan Site

5.16.1 This policy has been assessed against the 12 SA objectives and related decision-aiding questions contained in the SA Framework (see Appendix A). A summary of the performance of this policy against the SA objectives is as follows:

Policy GT14 - Assessment of policy against SA objectives											
SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12
0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	-	0

5.16.2 The policy is considered likely to have a minor positive effect overall against the SA objectives.

Summary and any specific recommendations for improving the sustainability of the policy

5.16.3 The assessment of this site, presented in Appendix B, found that significant adverse effects were not likely against any of the SA objectives. The assessment of the policy itself, which incorporates various mitigation measures, has found a similar range and significance of likely effects to that of the site assessment.

5.16.4 The SA has not suggested any specific mitigation measures and there are no specific recommendations.

5.16.5 There are no specific mitigation measures recommended in the HRA.

5.17 Policy GT15: Land South of Bridge Paddocks

5.17.1 This policy has been assessed against the 12 SA objectives and related decision-aiding questions contained in the SA Framework (see Appendix A). A summary of the performance of this policy against the SA objectives is as follows:

Policy GT15 - Assessment of policy against SA objectives											
SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12
-	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	+	--	-	--

5.17.2 The policy is considered likely to have a minor adverse effect overall against the SA objectives.

Summary and any specific recommendations for improving the sustainability of the policy

5.17.3 The assessment of this site, presented in Appendix B, found that significant adverse effects were likely against SA objectives 10 and 12. This is due to the rather isolated location of the site which is approximately 3.8km by road from the nearest urban area (Minety). Access to most essential services and facilities is further afield in Purton (approx. 5.3km), Cricklade (approx. 7km), Swindon (approx. 9.5km) and Royal Wootton Bassett (approx. 8.5km). There are no public transport services along the B4696 Braydon Road which the site is situated on. The nearest bus stop is on the B4040 Malmesbury Road approx. 1.3km from the site and residents will be dependent on private vehicles.

5.17.4 The assessment of the policy itself, which incorporates various mitigation measures, has found a similar range and significance of likely effects to that of the site assessment.

5.17.5 The SA has suggested specific mitigation measures in relation to the following issues:

- Ensuring direct and indirect impacts to woodland to the east and south of pitches is avoided
- Possible impacts on great crested newts as proposed pitches lie within amber risk zone adjacent to woodland and within 250m of a pond
- The site lies within the 9.4km mitigation zone for North Meadow SAC
- The site is in close proximity to a railway line and a Noise Impact Assessment may be required
- The site is bordered along its southern boundary by Public Footpath PURT126 - sufficient standoff from the edge of development to the public footpath route will be necessary

5.17.6 The policy text includes mitigation requirements in terms of avoiding direct and indirect impacts on the adjacent woodland, impacts on North Meadow SAC, impacts on great crested newts and impacts on the adjacent footpath. However, it is **recommended** that the policy and supporting text also include measures to mitigate any potential impacts of noise from the nearby railway line and to include a requirement for a Noise Impact Assessment.

5.17.7 The HRA concluded that *'providing that the site allocations provide the necessary contribution to the North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC Mitigation Strategy, adverse effects on the integrity of the SAC as a result of in combination effects associated with recreational pressure will be avoided.'*

5.18 Policy GT16: Land opposite the Laurels

5.18.1 This policy has been assessed against the 12 SA objectives and related decision-aiding questions contained in the SA Framework (see Appendix A). A summary of the performance of this policy against the SA objectives is as follows:

Policy GT16 - Assessment of policy against SA objectives											
SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12
-	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+

5.18.2 The policy is considered likely to have a minor positive effect overall against the SA objectives.

Summary and any specific recommendations for improving the sustainability of the policy

5.18.3 The assessment of this site, presented in Appendix B, found that significant adverse effects were not likely against any of the SA objectives. The assessment of the policy itself, which incorporates various mitigation measures, has found a similar range and significance of likely effects to that of the site assessment.

5.18.4 The SA has suggested specific mitigation measures in relation to the following issues:

- The site lies within the yellow and grey zones of the Trowbridge Bat Mitigation Strategy (TBMS)
- The site is within the zone of influence for Salisbury Plain SPA
- The site is crossed by public footpath HEYW16 which leads through the middle of the site. This is far from desirable as it has potential for obstruction, intrusion of security

and privacy for residents and is unattractive and difficult for members of the public who often find such situations difficult

5.18.5 The policy text includes all of the mitigation requirements suggested by the SA, including to divert footpath HEYW16 around the north-east of the site, to ensure a Public Right of Way is maintained. The policy also includes mitigation requirements with regards Salisbury Plain SPA and the TBMS.

5.18.6 There are no other specific SA recommendations.

5.18.7 The HRA has identified that this site falls within the 16km Zone of Influence (Zol) of the Mells Valley SAC. It states that whilst the relatively small number of plots proposed in addition to the distance of the site from the SAC are such that the resultant increase in the number of potential additional visitors to this SAC is predicted to be not significant, the allocation has the potential to contribute to in-combination pressures on the SAC. Mitigation for predicted increases in recreational pressure will be provided through the provision of financial contributions to the TBMS. The HRA concludes that mitigation safeguards embedded in the site allocation policy will ensure that the appropriate financial contributions are provided towards the TBMS and this will provide sufficient certainty that adverse effects on the integrity of the Mells Valley SAC, as a result of impacts from increased recreational pressure, will be avoided either alone or in-combination.

5.18.8 The HRA has also identified that this site falls within the 6.4km Zone of Influence (Zol) of the Salisbury Plain SPA and SAC. Mitigation will be required to ensure no adverse effects on integrity in relation to Salisbury Plain either alone or in-combination. A mitigation strategy for Salisbury Plain has been developed by Wiltshire Council and Natural England. The HRA concludes that, providing that the mitigation measures identified are successfully implemented, adverse effects on the integrity of the Salisbury Plain SPA and SAC as a result of impacts from recreational pressures will be avoided, either alone or in-combination.

5.18.9 The HRA has identified that this site falls within the Zol of the River Avon SAC. It concluded that, providing that the mitigation identified is successfully implemented, adverse effects on the integrity of the River Avon SAC as a result of impacts from recreational pressures will be avoided, either alone or in-combination.

5.19 Policy GT17: Land adjacent Nursted Park

5.19.1 This policy has been assessed against the 12 SA objectives and related decision-aiding questions contained in the SA Framework (see Appendix A). A summary of the performance of this policy against the SA objectives is as follows:

Policy GT17 - Assessment of policy against SA objectives											
SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12
0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	++

5.19.2 The policy is considered likely to have a minor positive effect overall against the SA objectives.

Summary and any specific recommendations for improving the sustainability of the policy

5.19.3 The assessment of this site, presented in Appendix B, found that adverse effects were not likely against any of the SA objectives. The assessment of the policy itself, which incorporates various mitigation measures, has found a similar range and significance of likely effects to that of the site assessment. Significant positive effects are considered likely against SA objective 12 - this site offers very good access to education and training facilities,

as well as other essential services and facilities, being within the urban area of Devizes. The nearest primary school, Southbroom St James Academy, is approx. 240m from the site. The nearest secondary school is approx. 600m from the site. This site is close to employment sites and the town centre and has very good sustainable transport accessibility.

5.19.4 The SA has suggested specific mitigation measures in relation to the following issues:

- The site is within the zone of influence of the Salisbury Plain SPA
- The proximity of Devizes Town Football Club to the site may present issues of light on amenity if the ground is flood lit and this may need further assessment
- There is a groundwater flood risk present on site

5.19.5 The policy text includes mitigation requirements to deliver sufficient drainage measures to manage surface and foul water drainage. However, the supporting text and the SA note that there is evidence of groundwater flood risk present on site. This is not included within the policy text. It is therefore **recommended** that the policy text also requires drainage measures to manage groundwater, not just surface and foul water.

5.19.6 It is also **recommended** that the policy and supporting text include the need for mitigation measures in relation to the possibility of impacts from light on amenity due to the proximity of Devizes Town Football Club.

5.19.7 The HRA has identified that this site falls within the 6.4km Zone of Influence (Zol) of the Salisbury Plain SPA and SAC. Mitigation will be required to ensure no adverse effects on integrity in relation to Salisbury Plain either alone or in-combination. A mitigation strategy for Salisbury Plain has been developed by Wiltshire Council and Natural England. The HRA concludes that, providing that the mitigation measures identified are successfully implemented, adverse effects on the integrity of the Salisbury Plain SPA and SAC as a result of impacts from recreational pressures will be avoided, either alone or in-combination.

5.19.8 The HRA has identified that this site falls within the Zol of the River Avon SAC. It concluded that, providing that the mitigation identified is successfully implemented, adverse effects on the integrity of the River Avon SAC as a result of impacts from recreational pressures will be avoided, either alone or in-combination.

5.20 Policy GT18: Petersfinger Business Park

5.20.1 This policy has been assessed against the 12 SA objectives and related decision-aiding questions contained in the SA Framework (see Appendix A). A summary of the performance of this policy against the SA objectives is as follows:

Policy GT18 - Assessment of policy against SA objectives											
SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12
-	+	0	--	-	0	0	0	+	+	0	+

5.20.2 The policy is considered likely to have a neutral effect overall against the SA objectives.

Summary and any specific recommendations for improving the sustainability of the policy

5.20.3 The assessment of this site, presented in Appendix B, found that significant adverse effects were likely against SA objective 4. This is due to potential noise levels from the adjacent A36 which are likely to be significant and a Noise Impact Assessment may be required.

5.20.4 The assessment of the policy itself, which incorporates various mitigation measures, has found a similar range and significance of likely effects to that of the site assessment.

5.20.5 The SA has suggested specific mitigation measures in relation to the following issues:

- The site lies in the catchment of the River Avon (Hampshire Avon) SAC
- The site lies within the 13.8km zone of influence around the New Forest SPA/SAC/Ramsar site
- Noise levels from the adjacent A36 are likely to be significant and a Noise Impact Assessment may be required
- There is potential land contamination on site
- Air quality in this location will be impacted by road traffic, particularly close to the road, and further assessment may be required
- The site is located in a high groundwater area

5.20.6 The policy text includes mitigation requirements to deliver sufficient drainage measures to manage groundwater flood risk and mitigation requirements for the River Avon SAC and New Forest SPA/SAC/Ramsar site.

5.20.7 However, it is **recommended** that the policy and supporting text include discussion and mitigation requirements to effectively manage potential impacts from A36 road noise, air quality and potential land contamination.

5.20.8 The HRA has identified that this site is located in proximity to the River Avon SAC where the Desmoulin's whorl snail may make use of offsite habitat. It has found that this allocation will not result in an adverse effect on the integrity of the SAC as a result of habitat loss and mitigation measures are therefore not required. The HRA has concluded that no adverse effects on the integrity of the River Avon SAC are predicted as a result of physical damage and loss of functionally linked habitat, either alone or in-combination.

5.20.9 The HRA has identified that this site has potential to result in a likely significant effect on qualifying fish species as a result of disturbance from noise and vibrations and from increased light spill. It has concluded that no adverse effects on the integrity of the River Avon SAC, as a result of impacts from non-physical disturbance are predicted, either alone or in-combination.

5.20.10 The HRA has also concluded that providing that project proposals at this site demonstrate compliance with Policy GT3, this would provide sufficiently high levels of certainty (i.e. beyond reasonable scientific doubt) that adverse effects on the integrity of the River Avon SAC, as a result of impacts from non-toxic contamination will be avoided either alone or in-combination.

5.20.11 The HRA has identified that this site is within the ZoI of the River Avon SAC. It states that mitigation measures outlined in the Local Plan Review include the provision of SANGs at North Trowbridge Country Park (Local Plan Policy 54) and Westbury Country Park (Local Plan Policy 63) and these would be sufficient to mitigate for the very small scale of development associated with the above policies. It concludes that *'given the small scale of development associated with the...site allocations, it is not considered feasible or appropriate for the Gypsies and Travellers DPD to provide site specific mitigation. The*

strategic scale mitigation being provided through the delivery of the Local Plan would provide sufficiently robust levels of certainty that the negligible contribution of potential recreational activities contributed by site allocation GT15...would not contribute to adverse effects on integrity, either alone or in-combination’.

5.20.12 The HRA has identified that this site is within the New Forest Zol. It states that mitigation will be required to ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of the New Forest sites, either alone or in-combination. An interim strategy for mitigating impacts of recreation on the New Forest SPA SAC and Ramsar has been established by Wiltshire Council and endorsed by Natural England. The HRA concludes that *‘providing the mitigation measures identified...are successfully implemented, adverse effects on the integrity of the New Forest SPA, SAC and Ramsar as a result of impacts from recreational pressures will be avoided, either alone or in-combination’.*

5.20.13 The HRA has identified the potential for impacts on water quality of the River Avon SAC and the River Itchen SAC from this site. Appropriate mitigation measures will be required to ensure no adverse effects on integrity. This site will be required to achieve nutrient neutrality to ensure no adverse effect on the integrity of the River Avon SAC and the River Itchen SAC. This must be demonstrated through the provision of a project-level HRA and where there is an increase in nutrient levels, appropriate mitigation measures will be required to be implemented to ensure the scheme achieves nutrient neutrality. The HRA concludes that *‘providing that individual proposals at the above site allocations successfully demonstrate compliance with Wiltshire Council’s nutrient neutrality advice, adverse effects on the integrity of the River Avon SAC and the River Itchen SAC, will be avoided, either alone or in-combination’.*

5.21 Policy GT19: Former Glenville Nurseries

5.21.1 This policy has been assessed against the 12 SA objectives and related decision-aiding questions contained in the SA Framework (see Appendix A). A summary of the performance of this policy against the SA objectives is as follows:

Policy GT19 - Assessment of policy against SA objectives											
SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12
0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	-	-

5.21.2 The policy is considered likely to have a neutral effect overall against the SA objectives.

Summary and any specific recommendations for improving the sustainability of the policy

5.21.3 The assessment of this site, presented in Appendix B, found that significant adverse effects were not likely against any of the SA objectives. The assessment of the policy itself, which incorporates mitigation measures, has found a similar range and significance of likely effects to that of the site assessment.

5.21.4 The SA has suggested specific mitigation measures in relation to the following issues:

- The site is in a high-risk zone for great crested newts

5.21.5 The SA concluded that impacts on great crested newts will be minimised provided work is restricted to hard standing. The policy allocates an additional pitch at pitch 7 on this site which will be on existing hard standing. However, a working method statement is recommended to search for newts prior to the removal of any existing buildings, vegetation, walls etc. It is not considered necessary for this to be included in the policy as it does not require the removal of any structures.

5.21.6 There are no other specific SA recommendations for this site allocation.

5.21.7 There are no HRA issues concerning this site.

5.22 Policy GT20: Greenfield View, Leigh

5.22.1 This policy has been assessed against the 12 SA objectives and related decision-aiding questions contained in the SA Framework (see Appendix A). A summary of the performance of this policy against the SA objectives is as follows:

Policy GT20 - Assessment of policy against SA objectives											
SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12
0	+	0	-	0	0	0	0	+	0	-	-

5.22.2 The policy is considered likely to have a minor adverse effect overall against the SA objectives.

Summary and any specific recommendations for improving the sustainability of the policy

5.22.3 The assessment of this site, presented in Appendix B, found that significant adverse effects were not likely against any of the SA objectives. The assessment of the policy itself, which incorporates various mitigation measures, has found a similar range and significance of likely effects to that of the site assessment.

5.22.4 The SA has suggested specific mitigation measures in relation to the following issues:

- The site lies 2.5km from North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC and therefore will need to contribute to the Council mitigation scheme
- There appears to be a working farm adjacent to the site and therefore possible issues from noise and odour
- Groundwater flood risk is present on site

5.22.5 The policy text includes mitigation requirements to deliver sufficient drainage measures to manage surface and foul water but the risk of groundwater flood risk is not mentioned. The policy also includes mitigation requirements for North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC. There is no mention in policy or supporting text of potential issues from noise and odour from the adjacent farm.

5.22.6 It is **recommended** that the policy and supporting text include discussion and mitigation requirements to effectively manage potential impacts from noise and odour from the adjacent farm and that mitigation measures for drainage reference the groundwater risk, not just surface and foul water.

5.22.7 The HRA has identified that this site falls within the 9.4km Zone of Influence (ZoI) of North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC (North Meadow component only). The HRA concludes that *‘providing that the...site allocation provides the necessary contribution to the North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC Mitigation Strategy, adverse effects on the integrity of the SAC as a result of in-combination effects associated with recreational pressure, will avoid adverse effects on integrity’*.

5.23 Policy GT21: Land at Capps Lane

5.23.1 This policy has been assessed against the 12 SA objectives and related decision-aiding questions contained in the SA Framework (see Appendix A). A summary of the performance of this policy against the SA objectives is as follows:

Policy GT21 - Assessment of policy against SA objectives											
SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12
0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	-	-	-

5.23.2 The policy is considered likely to have a minor adverse effect overall against the SA objectives.

Summary and any specific recommendations for improving the sustainability of the policy

5.23.3 The assessment of this site, presented in Appendix B, found that significant adverse effects were not likely against any of the SA objectives. The assessment of the policy itself, which incorporates various mitigation measures, has found a similar range and significance of likely effects to that of the site assessment.

5.23.4 The SA has suggested specific mitigation measures in relation to the following issues:

- The site lies within the grey zone of the Trowbridge Bat Mitigation Strategy (TBMS)
- The site lies within the Zone of Influence of Salisbury Plain SPA

5.23.5 The policy text includes mitigation requirements with regards to the TBMS and Salisbury Plain SPA. There are no other specific SA recommendations.

5.23.6 The HRA has identified that this site falls within the 16km Zone of Influence (Zol) of the Mells Valley SAC. It states that whilst the relatively small number of pitches proposed in addition to the distance of the site from the SAC are such that the resultant increase in the number of potential additional visitors to this SAC is predicted to be not significant, the allocation has the potential to contribute to in-combination pressures on the SAC. Mitigation for predicted increases in recreational pressure will be provided through the provision of financial contributions to the TBMS. The HRA concludes that mitigation safeguards embedded in the site allocation policy will ensure that the appropriate financial contributions are provided towards the TBMS and this will provide sufficient certainty that adverse effects on the integrity of the Mells Valley SAC, as a result of impacts from increased recreational pressure, will be avoided either alone or in-combination.

5.23.7 The HRA has also identified that this site falls within the 6.4km Zone of Influence (Zol) of the Salisbury Plain SPA and SAC. Mitigation will be required to ensure no adverse effects on integrity in relation to Salisbury Plain either alone or in-combination. A mitigation strategy for Salisbury Plain has been developed by Wiltshire Council and Natural England. The HRA concludes that, providing that the mitigation measures identified are successfully implemented, adverse effects on the integrity of the Salisbury Plain SPA and SAC as a result of impacts from recreational pressures will be avoided, either alone or in-combination.

5.23.7 The HRA has identified that this site falls within the Zol of the River Avon SAC. It concluded that, providing that the mitigation identified is successfully implemented, adverse effects on the integrity of the River Avon SAC as a result of impacts from recreational pressures will be avoided, either alone or in-combination.

5.24 Policy GT22: Melbourne View

5.24.1 This policy has been assessed against the 12 SA objectives and related decision-aiding questions contained in the SA Framework (see Appendix A). A summary of the performance of this policy against the SA objectives is as follows:

Policy GT22 - Assessment of policy against SA objectives											
SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12
0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	-	-	-

5.24.2 The policy is considered likely to have a minor adverse effect overall against the SA objectives.

Summary and any specific recommendations for improving the sustainability of the policy

5.24.3 The assessment of this site, presented in Appendix B, found that significant adverse effects were not likely against any of the SA objectives. The assessment of the policy itself, which incorporates various mitigation measures, has found a similar range and significance of likely effects to that of the site assessment.

5.24.4 The SA has suggested specific mitigation measures in relation to the following issues:

- The site lies in a risk zone for great crested newts
- The site is a historic landfill site

5.24.5 The policy text includes mitigation requirements to prevent unacceptable risk to future occupiers from pollution by securing the implementation of remediation measures. Supporting text also identifies that the site lies in a risk zone for great crested newts and mirrors the SA findings that impacts will be avoided if development is restricted to hard standing, which the proposal is doing.

5.24.6 There are no HRA issues affecting this site.

5.25 Policy GT23: 79 Southampton Road

5.25.1 This policy has been assessed against the 12 SA objectives and related decision-aiding questions contained in the SA Framework (see Appendix A). A summary of the performance of this policy against the SA objectives is as follows:

Policy GT23 - Assessment of policy against SA objectives											
SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12
-	0	-	0	0	0	-	0	+	0	-	0

5.25.2 The policy is considered likely to have a minor adverse effect overall against the SA objectives.

Summary and any specific recommendations for improving the sustainability of the policy

5.25.3 The assessment of this site, presented in Appendix B, found that significant adverse effects were not likely against any of the SA objectives. The assessment of the policy itself, which incorporates various mitigation measures, has found a similar range and significance of likely effects to that of the site assessment.

5.25.4 The SA has suggested specific mitigation measures in relation to the following issues:

- Buffering of mature trees on the south west boundary
- The site lies within the River Avon SAC catchment
- The site lies within the Zol of the New Forest protected sites
- Groundwater flood risk is present on the site
- The site is located in an area populated by cropmarks of ancient field systems and with recorded evidence for later prehistoric, Roman and Saxon settlement funerary evidence
- The site lies directly opposite grade II listed Belmont House

5.25.5 The policy text includes mitigation requirements to deliver buffering of trees on the south west boundary, nutrient neutrality, a financial contribution to the New Forest Protected Sites Mitigation Strategy, drainage measures to manage groundwater flood risk, archaeological monitoring and conservation of designated heritage assets and their setting, including Belmont House Grade II Listed Building. There are no other specific SA requirements.

5.25.6 The HRA has identified that this site is located in proximity to the River Avon SAC where the Desmoulin's whorl snail may make use of offsite habitat. It has found that this allocation will not result in an adverse effect on the integrity of the SAC as a result of habitat loss and mitigation measures are therefore not required. The HRA has concluded that no adverse effects on the integrity of the River Avon SAC are predicted as a result of physical damage and loss of functionally linked habitat, either alone or in-combination.

5.25.7 The HRA has identified that this site has potential to result in a likely significant effect on qualifying fish species as a result of disturbance from noise and vibrations and from increased light spill. It has concluded that no adverse effects on the integrity of the River Avon SAC, as a result of impacts from non-physical disturbance are predicted, either alone or in-combination.

5.25.8 The HRA has also concluded that providing that project proposals at this site demonstrate compliance with Policy GT3, this would provide sufficiently high levels of certainty (i.e. beyond reasonable scientific doubt) that adverse effects on the integrity of the River Avon SAC, as a result of impacts from non-toxic contamination will be avoided either alone or in-combination.

5.25.9 The HRA has identified that this site is within the Zol of the River Avon SAC. It states that mitigation measures outlined in the Local Plan Review include the provision of SANGs at North Trowbridge Country Park (Local Plan Policy 54) and Westbury Country Park (Local Plan Policy 63) and these would be sufficient to mitigate for the very small scale of development associated with the above policies. It concludes that *'given the small scale of development associated with the...site allocations, it is not considered feasible or appropriate for the Gypsies and Travellers DPD to provide site specific mitigation. The strategic scale mitigation being provided through the delivery of the Local Plan would provide sufficiently robust levels of certainty that the negligible contribution of potential recreational activities contributed by site allocation GT15...would not contribute to adverse effects on integrity, either alone or in-combination'*.

5.25.10 The HRA has identified that this site is within the New Forest Zol. It states that mitigation will be required to ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of the New Forest sites, either

alone or in-combination. An interim strategy for mitigating impacts of recreation on the New Forest SPA SAC and Ramsar has been established by Wiltshire Council and endorsed by Natural England. The HRA concludes that *‘providing the mitigation measures identified...are successfully implemented, adverse effects on the integrity of the New Forest SPA, SAC and Ramsar as a result of impacts from recreational pressures will be avoided, either alone or in-combination’*.

5.25.11 The HRA has identified the potential for impacts on water quality of the River Avon SAC and the River Itchen SAC from this site. Appropriate mitigation measures will be required to ensure no adverse effects on integrity. This site will be required to achieve nutrient neutrality to ensure no adverse effect on the integrity of the River Avon SAC and the River Itchen SAC. This must be demonstrated through the provision of a project-level HRA and where there is an increase in nutrient levels, appropriate mitigation measures will be required to be implemented to ensure the scheme achieves nutrient neutrality. The HRA concludes that *‘providing that individual proposals at the above site allocations successfully demonstrate compliance with Wiltshire Council’s nutrient neutrality advice, adverse effects on the integrity of the River Avon SAC and the River Itchen SAC, will be avoided, either alone or in-combination’*

5.26 Policy GT24: Bushton North Farm

5.26.1 This policy has been assessed against the 12 SA objectives and related decision-aiding questions contained in the SA Framework (see Appendix A). A summary of the performance of this policy against the SA objectives is as follows:

Policy GT24 - Assessment of policy against SA objectives											
SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12
-	-	0	0	0	+	0	-	+	-	-	-

5.26.2 The policy is considered likely to have a minor adverse effect overall against the SA objectives.

Summary and any specific recommendations for improving the sustainability of the policy

5.26.3 The assessment of this site, presented in Appendix B, found that significant adverse effects were not likely against any of the SA objectives. The assessment of the policy itself, which incorporates various mitigation measures, has found a similar range and significance of likely effects to that of the site assessment.

5.26.4 The SA has suggested specific mitigation measures in relation to the following issues:

- Hedgerows link to neutral meadow and ancient woodland County Wildlife Sites 200-400m away
- Area is of high risk for great crested newts
- Hedgerows and trees on north western, western and southern boundaries are potential commuting routes for wildlife
- The North Wessex Downs National Landscape is located circa. 1.6km to the south-east. The sites existing planted southern, northern and western boundaries will need to be protected and enhanced to screen the site from wider elevated views

- The site offers some possibilities for renewable or low carbon energy generation, especially as this is a new site proposal rather than intensification of an existing site, and this source could meet much of the site's energy demands

5.26.5 The policy text includes mitigation requirements to deliver new hedgerows and buffering of existing hedgerows and securing appropriate mitigation for protected species, including great crested newts, as required. The policy also requires electricity supply to the development is provided by on-site renewable energy sources.

5.26.6 Policy text makes no mention of providing buffers to trees on north western, western and southern boundaries. It only refers to '10-metre buffer to existing on-site hedgerows'. It is **recommended** that the policy and supporting text include reference not just to existing hedgerows on site boundaries but also to existing trees.

5.26.7 There are no HRA issues concerning this site.

5.27 Policy GT25: Land at Housecroft Farm (1)

5.27.1 This policy has been assessed against the 12 SA objectives and related decision-aiding questions contained in the SA Framework (see Appendix A). A summary of the performance of this policy against the SA objectives is as follows:

Policy GT25 - Assessment of policy against SA objectives											
SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12
0	-	0	0	0	+	0	-	+	--	-	-

5.27.2 The policy is considered likely to have a minor adverse effect overall against the SA objectives.

Summary and any specific recommendations for improving the sustainability of the policy

5.27.3 The assessment of this site, presented in Appendix B, found that significant adverse effects were likely against SA objective 10. This is due to the relatively isolated location of the site. This site is located in the open countryside approx. 2km from Bratton, the nearest village. Bratton has a limited number of services and facilities. Access to most services and facilities is in Westbury approx. 5.8km from the site. There are no public transport services within proximity of this site – the nearest bus stops are in Bratton approx 2km away. The site therefore has very poor sustainable transport accessibility. Residents will be dependent on private vehicles. The nearest primary school is in Bratton approx. 2.5km from the site. The site is not within walking distance to any local services and facilities. These issues will be difficult to mitigate as it is very unlikely that new public transport services will be provided to serve such a small site.

5.27.4 The assessment of the policy itself, which incorporates various mitigation measures, has found a similar range and significance of likely effects to that of the site assessment.

5.27.5 The SA has suggested specific mitigation measures in relation to the following issues:

- Protecting hedgerows on eastern, western and southern boundaries with a 10m wide habitat buffer
- The site is within the 6.4 km Zone of Influence (Zoi) of Salisbury Plain SPA
- The site lies within the recreational impact zone of the Trowbridge Bat Mitigation Strategy (TBMS)

- The site offers some possibilities for renewable or low carbon energy generation, especially as this is a new site proposal rather than intensification of an existing site, and this source could meet much of the site's energy demands
- The site is visible from the Salisbury Plain escarpment from the south. Existing local hedgerow network is low level without many hedgerow trees. The site is exposed, and development would be highly visible and detached from existing settlements

5.27.6 The policy text includes mitigation requirements to deliver new hedgerows and hedgerow trees to minimise landscape impact and a 10-metre-wide landscape buffer to existing hedgerows. The policy includes a requirement for a financial contribution to the TBMS and appropriate mitigation in accordance with the Salisbury Plain SPA Mitigation Strategy. The policy also requires electricity supply to the development is provided by on-site renewable energy sources.

5.27.7 There are no other specific SA recommendations.

5.27.8 The HRA has identified that this site falls within the 16km Zone of Influence (Zol) of the Mells Valley SAC. It states that whilst the relatively small number of pitches proposed in addition to the distance of the site from the SAC are such that the resultant increase in the number of potential additional visitors to this SAC is predicted to be not significant, the allocation has the potential to contribute to in-combination pressures on the SAC. Mitigation for predicted increases in recreational pressure will be provided through the provision of financial contributions to the TBMS. The HRA concludes that mitigation safeguards embedded in the site allocation policy will ensure that the appropriate financial contributions are provided towards the TBMS and this will provide sufficient certainty that adverse effects on the integrity of the Mells Valley SAC, as a result of impacts from increased recreational pressure, will be avoided either alone or in-combination.

5.27.9 The HRA has also identified that this site falls within the 6.4km Zone of Influence (Zol) of the Salisbury Plain SPA and SAC. Mitigation will be required to ensure no adverse effects on integrity in relation to Salisbury Plain either alone or in-combination. A mitigation strategy for Salisbury Plain has been developed by Wiltshire Council and Natural England. The HRA concludes that, providing that the mitigation measures identified are successfully implemented, adverse effects on the integrity of the Salisbury Plain SPA and SAC as a result of impacts from recreational pressures will be avoided, either alone or in-combination.

5.27.10 The HRA has identified that this site falls within the Zol of the River Avon SAC. It concluded that, providing that the mitigation identified is successfully implemented, adverse effects on the integrity of the River Avon SAC as a result of impacts from recreational pressures will be avoided, either alone or in-combination.

5.28 Policy GT26: Land at Housecroft Farm (2)

5.28.1 This policy has been assessed against the 12 SA objectives and related decision-aiding questions contained in the SA Framework (see Appendix A). A summary of the performance of this policy against the SA objectives is as follows:

Policy GT26 - Assessment of policy against SA objectives											
SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12
0	-	0	0	0	+	0	-	+	--	-	-

5.28.2 The policy is considered likely to have a minor adverse effect overall against the SA objectives.

Summary and any specific recommendations for improving the sustainability of the policy

- 5.28.3 The assessment of this site, presented in Appendix B, found that significant adverse effects were likely against SA objective 10. This is due to the relatively isolated location of the site. This site is located in the open countryside approx. 2km from Edington, the nearest village. Edington has a limited number of services and facilities. Access to most services and facilities is in Westbury approx. 6.5km from the site. There are no public transport services within proximity of this site – the nearest bus stops are in Edington approx 2km away. The site therefore has very poor sustainable transport accessibility. Residents will be dependent on private vehicles. The nearest primary school is in Bratton approx. 3km from the site. The site is not within walking distance to any local services and facilities. These issues will be difficult to mitigate as it is very unlikely that new public transport services will be provided to serve such a small site.
- 5.28.4 The assessment of the policy itself, which incorporates various mitigation measures, has found a similar range and significance of likely effects to that of the site assessment.
- 5.28.5 The SA has suggested specific mitigation measures in relation to the following issues:
- Protecting hedgerows on eastern, western and southern boundaries with a 10m wide habitat buffer
 - The site is within the 6.4 km Zone of Influence (Zol) of Salisbury Plain SPA
 - The site lies within the recreational impact zone of the Trowbridge Bat Mitigation Strategy (TBMS)
 - The site offers some possibilities for renewable or low carbon energy generation, especially as this is a new site proposal rather than intensification of an existing site, and this source could meet much of the site's energy demands
 - The site is visible from the Salisbury Plain escarpment from the south. Existing local hedgerow network is low level without many hedgerow trees. The site is exposed, and development would be highly visible and detached from existing settlements
- 5.28.6 The policy text includes mitigation requirements to deliver new hedgerows and hedgerow trees to minimise landscape impact and a 10-metre-wide landscape buffer to existing hedgerows. The policy includes a requirement for a financial contribution to the TBMS and appropriate mitigation in accordance with the Salisbury Plain SPA Mitigation Strategy. The policy also requires electricity supply to the development is provided by on-site renewable energy sources.
- 5.28.7 There are no other specific SA recommendations.
- 5.28.8 The HRA has identified that this site falls within the 16km Zone of Influence (Zol) of the Mells Valley SAC. It states that whilst the relatively small number of pitches proposed in addition to the distance of the site from the SAC are such that the resultant increase in the number of potential additional visitors to this SAC is predicted to be not significant, the allocation has the potential to contribute to in-combination pressures on the SAC. Mitigation for predicted increases in recreational pressure will be provided through the provision of financial contributions to the TBMS. The HRA concludes that mitigation safeguards embedded in the site allocation policy will ensure that the appropriate financial contributions are provided towards the TBMS and this will provide sufficient certainty that adverse effects on the

integrity of the Mells Valley SAC, as a result of impacts from increased recreational pressure, will be avoided either alone or in-combination.

5.28.9 The HRA has also identified that this site falls within the 6.4km Zone of Influence (Zol) of the Salisbury Plain SPA and SAC. Mitigation will be required to ensure no adverse effects on integrity in relation to Salisbury Plain either alone or in-combination. A mitigation strategy for Salisbury Plain has been developed by Wiltshire Council and Natural England. The HRA concludes that, providing that the mitigation measures identified are successfully implemented, adverse effects on the integrity of the Salisbury Plain SPA and SAC as a result of impacts from recreational pressures will be avoided, either alone or in-combination.

5.28.10 The HRA has identified that this site falls within the Zol of the River Avon SAC. It concluded that, providing that the mitigation identified is successfully implemented, adverse effects on the integrity of the River Avon SAC as a result of impacts from recreational pressures will be avoided, either alone or in-combination.

5.29 Policy GT27: Land at Cleverton

5.29.1 This policy has been assessed against the 12 SA objectives and related decision-aiding questions contained in the SA Framework (see Appendix A). A summary of the performance of this policy against the SA objectives is as follows:

Policy GT27 - Assessment of policy against SA objectives											
SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12
-	-	-	0	-	+	-	-	++	0	0	-

5.29.2 The policy is considered likely to have a minor adverse effect overall against the SA objectives.

Summary and any specific recommendations for improving the sustainability of the policy

5.29.3 The assessment of this site, presented in Appendix B, found that significant adverse effects were not likely against any of the SA objectives. Significant positive effects are considered likely against SA objective 9 as the proposals for a site of 10 gypsy/traveller pitches will significantly help meet the identified local needs of the traveller community. The assessment of the policy itself, which incorporates various mitigation measures, has found a similar range and significance of likely effects to that of the site assessment.

5.29.4 The SA has suggested specific mitigation measures in relation to the following issues:

- The southern and western boundary hedgerows form the parish boundary, conferring potential longevity and high biodiversity. The southern hedgerow is a significant biodiversity asset for Little Somerford
- A site survey is recommended to assess grassland quality
- The site is within a great crested newt amber zone
- The site is located in a high groundwater area and there is surface water flooding on the highway attached to the northern site boundary
- The site offers possibilities for renewable or low carbon energy generation, especially as this is a new site proposal rather than intensification of an existing site, and this source could meet much of the site's energy demands

- The site is located in an area of sporadic later prehistoric and medieval settlement with the potential for any groundworks to expose previously unrecorded sub-surface archaeological features
- The site appears large enough to accommodate on site planting which would be necessary to integrate new development

5.29.5 The policy text includes mitigation requirements to effectively mitigate most of the ecological, historic environment and landscape issues highlighted in the SA. However, some requirements suggested in the SA are not incorporated into policy and the SA makes the following recommendations to improve the sustainability benefits of this policy:

1. It is **recommended** that policy text makes specific reference to requirement for a site survey to assess grassland quality
2. It is **recommended** that policy text that requires provision of sufficient drainage measures also includes groundwater flood risk as this is highlighted in the supporting text and SA as being an issue in this area
3. It is **recommended** that policy text makes specific reference to requirement for a geophysical survey prior to development to check for as-yet unrecorded sub-surface archaeological features
4. It is **recommended** that policy text prioritises renewable or low carbon energy generation as this source could meet much of the site's energy demands

5.29.6 There are no HRA issues affecting this site.

5.30 Policy GT28: Land at Oxhouse Farm

5.30.1 This policy has been assessed against the 12 SA objectives and related decision-aiding questions contained in the SA Framework (see Appendix A). A summary of the performance of this policy against the SA objectives is as follows:

Policy GT28 - Assessment of policy against SA objectives											
SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12
-	-	0	0	0	+	-	-	++	+	0	+

5.30.2 The policy is considered likely to have a minor positive effect overall against the SA objectives.

Summary and any specific recommendations for improving the sustainability of the policy

5.30.3 The assessment of this site, presented in Appendix B, found that significant adverse effects were not likely against any of the SA objectives. Significant positive effects are considered likely against SA objective 9 as the proposals for a site of 10 gypsy/traveller pitches will significantly help meet the identified local needs of the traveller community.

5.30.4 The assessment of the policy itself, which incorporates various mitigation measures, has found a similar range and significance of likely effects to that of the site assessment.

5.30.5 The SA has suggested specific mitigation measures in relation to the following issues:

- Ecological features can be retained provided western boundary is adequately buffered and protected

- Site lies 1.6 km from lesser horseshoe bat maternity roost (Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC) - high likelihood bats commute along western boundary due to presence of combined hedgerow and stream habitat
- The site offers possibilities for renewable or low carbon energy generation, especially as this is a new site proposal rather than intensification of an existing site, and this source could meet much of the site's energy demands
- The site is located in an area of sporadic later prehistoric and medieval settlement

5.30.5 The policy text includes mitigation requirements to deliver new hedgerow and tree planting and a 15-metre-wide buffer with new hedgerow planting to the western boundary and stream, as recommended in the SA. It also requires new woodland and tree planting within the site and its corners to mitigate for landscape impacts from the development.

5.30.6 It is **recommended** that the policy include a specific requirement for a geophysical survey prior to development to check for as-yet unrecorded sub-surface archaeological features. It is also **recommended** that policy text prioritises renewable or low carbon energy generation as this source could meet much of the site's energy demands.

5.30.7 In terms of effects on the Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC, the HRA has concluded that *'provided that the adherence to the TBMS and Wiltshire Bat SAC Planning Guidance document and the above policy mitigation is implemented successfully, adverse effects on the integrity of the Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC, as a result of impacts from physical habitat damage and loss at functionally linked habitat will be avoided.'*

5.31 Policy GT29: Land at Upper Seagry Farm

5.31.1 This policy has been assessed against the 12 SA objectives and related decision-aiding questions contained in the SA Framework (see Appendix A). A summary of the performance of this policy against the SA objectives is as follows:

Policy GT29 - Assessment of policy against SA objectives											
SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12
-	-	-	0	0	+	0	-	+	0	0	0

5.31.2 The policy is considered likely to have a minor adverse effect overall against the SA objectives.

Summary and any specific recommendations for improving the sustainability of the policy

5.31.3 The assessment of this site, presented in Appendix B, found that significant adverse effects were not likely against any of the SA objectives. The assessment of the policy itself, which incorporates various mitigation measures, has found a similar range and significance of likely effects to that of the site assessment. The SA has suggested specific mitigation measures in relation to the following issues:

- Buffers required on northern and western boundaries to protect hedgerows and Root Protection Area of large mature trees
- Pond in field corner may require further buffer if it holds water
- Pond in the north west corner of the site may contain great crested newts

- There is potential groundwater flood risk present in this location
- The site offers possibilities for renewable or low carbon energy generation, especially as this is a new site proposal rather than intensification of an existing site, and this source could meet much of the site's energy demands
- New field boundaries in the form of native hedgerow planting incorporating hedgerow trees would be required to assimilate the site into the adjoining field pattern and to provide a characteristic edge to the site adjoining open countryside

5.31.4 The policy text includes mitigation requirements to deliver new hedgerow and tree planting and provision of 20-metre and 10-metre-wide buffers to the northern and western hedgerow boundaries respectively, to mitigate for landscape impacts from the development. However, some requirements suggested in the SA are not incorporated into policy and the SA makes the following recommendations to improve the sustainability benefits of this policy:

1. It is **recommended** that policy text makes specific reference to the requirement for a survey to assess for the presence of great crested newts
2. It is **recommended** that policy text that requires provision of sufficient drainage measures also includes groundwater flood risk as this is highlighted in the supporting text and SA as being an issue in this area
3. It is **recommended** that policy text prioritises renewable or low carbon energy generation as this source could meet much of the site's energy demands

5.31.5 There are no HRA issues concerning this site.

5.32 Policy GT30: Land at Whistley Road

5.32.1 This policy has been assessed against the 12 SA objectives and related decision-aiding questions contained in the SA Framework (see Appendix A). A summary of the performance of this policy against the SA objectives is as follows:

Policy GT30 - Assessment of policy against SA objectives											
SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12
-	-	0	0	0	+	0	-	+	+	0	+

5.32.2 The policy is considered likely to have a minor positive effect overall against the SA objectives.

Summary and any specific recommendations for improving the sustainability of the policy

5.32.3 The assessment of this site, presented in Appendix B, found that significant adverse effects were not likely against any of the SA objectives. The assessment of the policy itself, which incorporates various mitigation measures, has found a similar range and significance of likely effects to that of the site assessment.

5.32.4 The SA has suggested specific mitigation measures in relation to the following issues:

- The site forms an important connection with habitats off-site - this connectivity must be retained, enhanced and protected
- Public footpath POTT76 is located very close to this location - screening should be considered along the whole length of the site

- The site offers possibilities for renewable or low carbon energy generation, especially as this is a new site proposal rather than intensification of an existing site, and this source could meet much of the site’s energy demands

5.32.5 The policy text includes mitigation requirements to deliver new hedgerow and tree planting around the site and a 5-metre buffer from the centreline of roadside hedgerow and 5-metre buffers from the outer limit of western and eastern hedgerows.

5.32.6 It is **recommended** that policy text prioritises renewable or low carbon energy generation as this source could meet much of the site’s energy demands.

5.32.7 There are no other specific SA recommendations.

5.32.8 The HRA has identified that this site falls within the ZoI of the River Avon SAC. It concluded that, providing that the mitigation identified is successfully implemented, adverse effects on the integrity of the River Avon SAC as a result of impacts from recreational pressures will be avoided, either alone or in-combination.

5.33 Policy GT31: Land at Thickthorn Farm

5.33.1 This policy has been assessed against the 12 SA objectives and related decision-aiding questions contained in the SA Framework (see Appendix A). A summary of the performance of this policy against the SA objectives is as follows:

Policy GT31 - Assessment of policy against SA objectives											
SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12
0	-	0	0	0	+	0	-	+	-	-	-

5.33.2 The policy is considered likely to have a minor adverse effect overall against the SA objectives.

Summary and any specific recommendations for improving the sustainability of the policy

5.33.3 The assessment of this site, presented in Appendix B, found that significant adverse effects were not likely against any of the SA objectives. The assessment of the policy itself, which incorporates various mitigation measures, has found a similar range and significance of likely effects to that of the site assessment.

5.33.4 The SA has suggested specific mitigation measures in relation to the following issues:

- Protecting the hedgerow on the western boundary with a 10m wide habitat buffer
- The site is in a medium/high area of groundwater flood risk
- The site offers possibilities for renewable or low carbon energy generation, especially as this is a new site proposal rather than intensification of an existing site, and this source could meet much of the site’s energy demands
- The site is 1.6km away from the North Wessex Downs National Landscape which lies to the south-east. There is opportunity to plant additional native hedgerow and trees on the site’s southern and eastern boundaries to screen/filter long views from the designated landscape

5.33.5 The policy text includes mitigation requirements to deliver additional hedgerows including hedgerow trees on the open eastern and southern site boundaries, and additional tree/copse planting in the north-western field corner to mitigate landscape impacts from the development. It also requires a 10-metre buffer to ensure the retention and protection of existing hedgerows within the site.

5.33.6 It is **recommended** that the policy text include sufficient drainage measures not only for surface water but also for groundwater as it is highlighted in the supporting text and SA that there is evidence of groundwater flood risk at this site. It is also **recommended** that policy text prioritises renewable or low carbon energy generation as this source could meet much of the site's energy demands.

5.33.7 There are no other specific SA recommendations.

5.33.8 There are no HRA issues concerning this site.

5.34 Conclusions and recommendations

5.34.1 The assessment of Plan policies has assessed each policy against the objectives and decision-aiding questions in the SA Framework and summarised likely effects. Where significant positive or negative effects are considered likely, these have been discussed further.

5.34.2 The SA has suggested various mitigation measures in relation to policies and made a series of recommendations for further improving the sustainability of certain policies – these relate to where suggested mitigation measures have not been incorporated into a policy. Table 5.2 lists these recommendations and Wiltshire Council have provided a response to these recommendations:

Table 5.2: SA Policy recommendations and Wiltshire Council response

Plan policy	SA Recommendation	Wiltshire Council response	Plan amendment?
GT3	It is recommended that the policy criteria also include reference to protecting and enhancing heritage assets and their settings	Protecting and enhancing the historic environment is adequately covered in national planning policy and legislation which does not repeating in the plan.	No
GT3	It is recommended that the policy criteria also include reference to avoiding, where possible, development of Best and Most Versatile agricultural land	Covered in NPPF	No
GT3	It is recommended that the policy criteria also include reference to avoiding land that is impacted by contamination or if, during development, any evidence of historic contamination or likely contamination is found, requiring further assessment.	Environmental Health and the Environment Agency are consultees in the development management process and they hold the technical information on these matters. It is not required, for this reason, to include additional criteria related to environmental health/public protection.	No
GT3	It is recommended that the policy criteria also include reference to impacts of odour and vibration	As above.	No
GT3	It is recommended that the policy criteria also include reference to ensuring that a site is accessible to essential services, facilities and sustainable modes of transport, including public transport services, to reduce reliance on use of private vehicles	While this is desirable, PPTS does not prohibit traveller sites in open countryside. Wiltshire is largely rural and public transport availability varies greatly. It would constrain land availability to require accessibility to essential services and facilities and sustainable modes of transport.	No
GT4	Policy GT4 seems to allow greater flexibility than the Local Plan in allowing sites to come forward adjacent to settlements. It is recommended that this policy and the supporting text are reviewed to ensure consistency with Wiltshire Local Plan policies.	Policy now aligns with Local Plan strategy to support development within settlements.	Yes
GT5	It is recommended that greater clarity is provided in this policy to ensure that adverse effects are minimised on the natural, built and historic environment. At present, the policy refers to adverse impacts on 'environmental designations', but effects are possible on local	Reference to the protection of ecological features has been included. Other matters are considered to be sufficiently	Yes

	landscape features, local habitats, protected and priority species and the historic environment which are not 'designations'	covered in the policy, or by national planning policy (historic environment).	
GT6	Neither the policy nor the supporting text specifically refers to the New Forest SAC, SPA and Ramsar and it is recommended that this is added to both policy and supporting text	The site falls within the New Forest Protected Sites 13.5 and 15km Recreation Zones of Influence. The policy and supporting text now require that a proposal secures a financial contribution to the New Forest Protected Sites Mitigation Strategy	Yes
GT8	The issue of the proximity of the old canal is covered in the supporting text but not in the policy itself. It is recommended that a requirement for the consideration of this issue, to ensure that proposals do not conflict with policy on safeguarding historic canal routes, is added to this policy	This is included as an informative in the supporting text. Mapping evidence suggests that the old canal route runs along the northern boundary of the site, and this was not raised in the context of the allowed appeal for the existing pitch in this location.	No
GT10	There is no mention in supporting text or in the policy of potential noise issues from the site's proximity to the A361. It is recommended that potential noise issues are discussed within the supporting text and a requirement for a Noise Impact Assessment included in the policy	Para 4.34 identifies buffers and fencing as measures to separate development from highway noise and fumes. Based on the evidence, the supporting text now discusses the site's proximity to the A361. Policy GT10 has been amended to require a noise assessment to inform a proposal.	Yes
GT11	It is recommended that the policy and supporting text include measures to mitigate any potential recreational impacts on Lime Kiln Down CWS and measures to mitigate potential effects on nearby public rights of way.	This is covered through the requirement for contribution to the New Forest Protected Sites Mitigation Strategy.	No
GT12	It is recommended that the policy and supporting text include measures to mitigate any potential impacts on nearby public rights of way and measures to mitigate potential effects of road noise from the A361	There is no technical evidence that noise is an issue at this site. It was also not a reason for refusal nor discussed at the last appeal (allowed) for the site.	No
GT13	It is recommended that the policy and supporting text also include a requirement for a Noise Impact Assessment and measures to mitigate any potential impacts on nearby public rights of way, specifically the adjacent bridleway which may benefit from additional screening	Policy GT13 and supporting text already include a requirement to undertake a noise assessment due to proximity to the rail line. The site assessment notes	No

		that there is limited room for additional buffering/planting within the site. It also mentions that the site is well screened from the wider landscape. The presence of the existing site from the bridleway (DMAR41) is already evident / obvious along the adjacent short length of this route. A moderate intensification of the site is unlikely to generate much potential for significant adverse landscape or visual effects.	
GT15	It is recommended that the policy and supporting text also include measures to mitigate any potential impacts of noise from the nearby railway line and to include a requirement for a Noise Impact Assessment	This was not identified as an issue in the reasons for refusal addressed at appeal which resulted in planning permission for the existing four pitches. The rail line lies in a cut.	No
GT17	The supporting text and the SA note that there is evidence of groundwater flood risk present on site. This is not included within the policy text. It is therefore recommended that the policy text also requires drainage measures to manage groundwater, not just surface and foul water	The Policy has been updated to reflect groundwater flood risk.	Yes
GT17	It is recommended that the policy and supporting text include the need for mitigation measures in relation to the possibility of impacts from light on amenity due to the proximity of Devizes Town Football Club	The evidence suggests that the football ground may be floodlit but it is unconfirmed. At this stage there is no evidence of an adverse impact on amenity.	No
GT18	It is recommended that the policy and supporting text include discussion and mitigation requirements to effectively manage potential impacts from A36 road noise, air quality and potential land contamination	In view of the SA evidence, the policy and supporting text now require a noise assessment that establishes noise levels and any mitigation required to ensure acceptable living conditions.	Yes
GT20	It is recommended that the policy and supporting text include discussion and mitigation requirements to effectively manage potential impacts from noise and odour from the adjacent farm and that mitigation measures for drainage reference the groundwater risk, not just surface and foul water	A suitably worded policy requirement has been included to reflect the need to assess the effects from the adjacent agricultural use, and potential for contaminated land. The site assessment does not identify a groundwater flood risk issue.	Yes

GT24	Policy text makes no mention of providing buffers to trees on north western, western and southern boundaries. It only refers to ' <i>10-metre buffer to existing on-site hedgerows</i> '. It is recommended that the policy and supporting text include reference not just to existing hedgerows on site boundaries but also to existing trees	The supporting text now includes reference to trees and the policy includes them in the 10m buffer requirement.	Yes
GT27	It is recommended that policy text makes specific reference to requirement for a site survey to assess grassland quality	Bullet five in the Policy refers to ecological mitigation and compensation measures as required to protect grassland habitat. This would ordinarily be informed by a grassland survey	No
GT27	It is recommended that policy text that requires provision of sufficient drainage measures also includes groundwater flood risk as this is highlighted in the supporting text and SA as being an issue in this area	Groundwater is now referenced in Policy.	Yes
GT27	It is recommended that policy text makes specific reference to requirement for a geophysical survey prior to development to check for as-yet unrecorded sub-surface archaeological features	The final bullet in the policy ensures that any identified heritage assets are conserved with mitigation measures secured as necessary. This would be established through the survey work referenced in the supporting text.	No
GT27	It is recommended that policy text prioritises renewable or low carbon energy generation as this source could meet much of the site's energy demands	The site can be connected to mains power which is the preferred means of supply.	No
GT28	It is recommended that the policy include a specific requirement for a geophysical survey prior to development to check for as-yet unrecorded sub-surface archaeological features	Penultimate bullet in policy deals with heritage assets.	No
GT28	It is recommended that policy text prioritises renewable or low carbon energy generation as this source could meet much of the site's energy demands	The site can be connected to mains power which is the preferred means of supply.	No
GT29	It is recommended that policy text makes specific reference to the requirement for a survey to assess for the presence of great crested newts	See para 4.115 which includes the requirement to complete a survey.	No
GT29	It is recommended that policy text that requires provision of sufficient drainage measures also includes groundwater flood risk as this is highlighted in the supporting text and SA as being an issue in this area	Groundwater is now referenced in Policy.	Yes

GT29	It is recommended that policy text prioritises renewable or low carbon energy generation as this source could meet much of the site's energy demands	The site can be connected to mains power which is the preferred means of supply.	No
GT30	It is recommended that policy text prioritises renewable or low carbon energy generation as this source could meet much of the site's energy demands	The site can be connected to mains power which is the preferred means of supply.	No
GT31	It is recommended that the policy text include sufficient drainage measures not only for surface water but also for groundwater as it is highlighted in the supporting text and SA that there is evidence of groundwater flood risk at this site	The policy now also refers to groundwater management to be covered in the drainage strategy.	Yes
GT31	It is recommended that policy text prioritises renewable or low carbon energy generation as this source could meet much of the site's energy demands	There is no requirement for emergency stopping sites to be serviced with power supply.	No

6. Assessment of likely Cumulative Effects of the Plan

6.1 Combined effects of plan policies

- 6.1.1 Having assessed the effects of policies in the Plan individually, it is important to consider their combined effects in relation to one another.
- 6.1.2 Policy GT1 makes provision for 134 permanent pitches for gypsies and travellers and 8 plots for travelling showpeople, during the period 2024 to 2038. The relatively small-scale of the sites allocated in the Plan and their dispersed nature across the County mean that the combined effects of policies are not likely to be significant. The majority of sites are for intensification of existing sites for a very small number of pitches/plots and this will likely have negligible or no effects in combination with other Plan policies.
- 6.1.3 The SA assessment of individual site options has shown that there are some likely adverse effects at a very local level and that mitigation measures are achievable to reduce these effects.

6.2 Secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects of plan policies

- 6.2.1 Considering the combined effects of policies identified in section 6.1, there may be further effects upon the same resources and receptors as a result of synergistic i.e. multiple effects.
- 6.2.2 No significant secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects are considered likely. The numbers of pitches/plots on individual sites are small and often involve the intensification of existing sites, and the sites allocated in the Plan are dispersed right across the County making the likelihood of secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects negligible.

6.3 Cumulative effects between the Gypsies and Travellers Plan and other plans

- 6.3.1 Likely cumulative effects have been considered between this Plan and other adopted and emerging Wiltshire Council plans, namely:
- Wiltshire Core Strategy – adopted January 2015
 - Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan – adopted February 2020
 - Chippenham Site Allocations Plan – adopted May 2017
 - Wiltshire Local Plan Review – Reg 19 consultation Autumn 2023
- 6.3.2 These Plans contain a number of different housing and employment site allocations. However, given the small size and dispersed locations of the proposed site allocations in the Gypsies and Travellers Plan, and the majority of sites involving limited intensification of existing sites, significant effects are not considered likely with policies or site allocations in the above Plans. New site allocations (GT24 - GT31) are not likely to have any cumulative effects with the Plans listed above.
- 6.3.3 Consideration has also been given to any likely cumulative effects of the proposed new greenfield site allocations (Policies GT24 – GT31) with any allocations in ‘made’ neighbourhood plans. Policies GT24, GT25, GT26 and GT31 sites are remote from the nearest settlements and will not have cumulative effects with any ‘made’ neighbourhood plan allocations.
- 6.3.4 Policy GT27 ‘Land at Cleverton’ site falls just within Lea and Cleverton parish and is adjacent to the Little Somerford parish boundary. Neither Lea and Cleverton nor Little

Somerford parishes have 'made' neighbourhood plans and there are no likely cumulative effects with other neighbourhood plan allocations.

- 6.3.5 Policy GT28 'Land at Oxhouse Farm, Rowde' site is near to Rowde village and within Rowde parish. Rowde parish does not have a 'made' neighbourhood plan and there are no likely cumulative effects with other neighbourhood plan allocations.
- 6.3.6 Policy GT29 'Land at Upper Seagry Farm' site is near to Upper Seagry village and within Seagry parish. Seagry does have a 'made' neighbourhood plan but there are no development site allocations within that Plan and cumulative effects are not considered likely.
- 6.3.7 Policy GT30 'Land at Whistley Road' is located on the edge of Potterne village and within Potterne parish. Potterne does have a 'made' neighbourhood plan which allocates five small housing sites (A3-A7). Neighbourhood plan Policy PNP1 states that these '*are allocated for residential (or residential /mixed use) development within the settlement boundary*'. Given the location of these five site allocations within the village, no cumulative effects with 2 gypsy and traveller pitches on Whistley Road are considered likely.

7. Monitoring of likely significant effects

- 7.1.1 The SEA Directive states that *'member states shall monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans and programmes.....in order, inter alia, to identify at an early stage unforeseen adverse effects, and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action'* (Article 10.1). In addition, the Environmental Report should provide information on a *'description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring'* (Annex I (i)) (Stage E).
- 7.1.2 SA monitoring will include significant social and economic effects as well as significant environmental effects. It involves measuring indicators which will enable the establishment of a causal link between the implementation of the plan and the likely significant sustainability effects (beneficial or adverse) being monitored. This will allow the identification of any unforeseen adverse effects and enable appropriate remedial action to be taken.
- 7.1.3 Existing guidance recommends monitoring to be incorporated into Local Authority's existing monitoring arrangements. Under Section 35 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the Local Authority is required to prepare an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) to assess the implementation of the Local Development Plan and the extent to which policies and proposals are being achieved and to identify any changes if a policy is not working or if the targets are not met.
- 7.1.4 In order to reach a final framework of monitoring indicators for the Gypsies and Travellers Plan, the Council will need to consider the indicators proposed in this SA Report to identify those which can be most effectively used to monitor significant sustainability effects. This will need to be undertaken in dialogue with statutory consultees and other bodies, as in many cases the monitoring information may need to be provided by outside bodies.
- 7.1.5 Table 7.1 proposes a small number of indicators to monitor the likely significant effects highlighted in this SA Report, where appropriate. These indicators relate to likely significant effects relating to Plan policies GT9 (Easton Lane), GT13 (The Poplars) and GT18 (Petersfinger Business Park). Likely significant effects relating to SA objectives 10 and 12 relate to sites that, due to their location, have poor access to services and facilities and poor access to public transport services – no monitoring indicators have been suggested for these sites as access to these services is likely to remain poor as the sites are not of a sufficient scale to be served by their own site-specific services.

Table 7.1 Proposed monitoring programme

Plan Policy	SA Objective	Suggested indicators for monitoring of significant effects
GT9 – Easton Lane	4	Noise Impact Assessment undertaken to ascertain if mitigation required to ensure acceptable living conditions for pitch occupants
GT13 – The Poplars	4	Noise Impact Assessment undertaken to ascertain if mitigation required to ensure acceptable living conditions for pitch occupants
GT18 – Petersfinger Business Park	4	Noise Impact Assessment undertaken to ascertain if mitigation required to ensure acceptable living conditions for pitch occupants

8. Conclusions and next steps

8.1 Conclusions

8.1.1 This SA Report has included assessment and evaluation of likely effects, including consideration of potential mitigation measures, of the following aspects of the Wiltshire Gypsies and Travellers Plan:

- Reasonable alternative Gypsy and Traveller site options
- Gypsies and Travellers Plan objectives and policies
- Combined effects of Plan policies
- Secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects of Plan policies
- Cumulative effects between the Plan and other plans
- A potential monitoring framework for monitoring likely significant effects identified in the SA

8.1.2 The Council has responded to the recommendations stemming from the assessment of policies in Chapter 5 and in some cases made changes to policies. Where no changes to policy have been made, reasons have been given as to why the recommendation was not considered further.

8.2 Next steps

8.2.1 This SA Report (including the revised SA Scoping Report) is being consulted on alongside the Regulation 19 consultation on the Wiltshire Gypsies and Travellers Plan.

8.2.2 Comments received will be considered and the SA Report reviewed as necessary.

Wiltshire Council



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