Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD

Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

Scoping Report

Wiltshire Council

May 2014

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Consultation

This report is the combined Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA) Scoping Report for the Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) and the Chippenham Housing Site Allocations DPD.

It is important that the scope of the sustainability appraisal (SA) is appropriate for the documents being produced. For this reason consultation is a critical step in the scoping process and is a legal requirement of SEA Directive.

The aim of the consultation on the Scoping Report is to involve and engage with statutory consultees and other key stakeholders on the proposed scope of the SA. In particular, it seeks to:

- ensure that the SA is both comprehensive and robust enough to support the DPDs during the later stages of full public consultation and examination

- seek advice on the appropriateness of the draft sustainability objectives

- seek advice on the appropriateness of the key sustainability issues

- seek advice on the comprehensiveness of the baseline data and gain further information where appropriate.

This Scoping Report will be made available at Wiltshire Council Offices, all Council libraries and online at http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningpolicy.htm. Hard copies of the report can be obtained by contacting the Council's planning policy team on: 01225 713223.

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

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Table of contents

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Figures

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

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Glossary of Terms

Term	Meaning / Definition
Agricultural Land Classification	The Agricultural Land Classification provides a method for assessing the quality of farmland to enable informed choices to be made about its future use within the planning system. (Source: http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/natural-environment/brownfield-land-soils-and-agricultural-land/)
Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)	Area designated by local authorities because it is not likely to achieve national air quality objectives by the relevant deadlines
Ancient Woodland	Woodland which has been in existence since 1600.
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	Designated areas of countryside within England, Wales or Northern Ireland considered to have significant landscape value, and to which [particular regard] must be had when undertaking environmental impact and habitats regulation assessments. AONBs are designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, as amended by the Environment Act 1995
Baseline	A description of the present and future state of an area, in the absence of any plan, taking into account changes resulting from natural events and from other human activities.
Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land	Land in grades 1, 2 and 3a of the Agricultural Land Classification
Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)	Published in 1994, it is the UK Government's response to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The BAP describes the biological resources of the UK and provides detailed plans for conservation of these resources, at national and devolved levels. Updated in July 2012 through the publication of UK post-2010 Biodiversity Framework.
Combined Heat and Power (CHP)	Combined heat and power (CHP) integrates the production of usable heat and power (electricity) in one single process.
Consultation Body	An authority that, because of its environmental responsibilities, is likely to be concerned by the effects of implementing plans and programmes and must be consulted under the SEA Directive.
Environmental appraisal	A form of environmental assessment used in the UK (primarily for development plans) since the early 1990s, supported by 'Environmental Appraisal of Development Plans: A Good Practice Guide' (DoE, 1993); more recently superseded by sustainability appraisal. Some aspects of environmental appraisal foreshadow the requirements of the SEA Directive.
Environmental Impact Assessment Environmental Assessment	Generically, a method or procedure for predicting the effects on the environment of a proposal, either for an individual project or a higher-level "strategy" (a policy, plan or programme), with the aim of taking account of these effects in decision-making. The term "Environmental Impact Assessment" (EIA) is used, as in European Directive 337/85/EEC, for assessments of projects. In the SEA

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

Term	Meaning / Definition
	Directive, an environmental assessment means "the preparation of an environmental report, the carrying out of consultations, the taking into account of the environmental report and the results of the consultations in decision-making and the provision of information on the decision", in accordance with the Directive's requirements.
Environmental Report	Document required by the SEA Directive as part of an environmental assessment, which identifies, describes and appraises the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing a plan or programme. See also 'SA Report'.
Green Belt	Green Belts are a buffer between towns, and town and countryside. England's fourteen Green Belts cover nearly 13% of England.
Important Wildlife Habitat	To protect priority habitats, a list has been drawn up at the UK level of 65 habitats requiring special protection. Looking after our habitats is important; habitats in good condition will benefit many species and provide 'nature benefits' to society including storing of carbon, mitigating flood damage and providing space for relaxation and wellbeing.
Important Wildlife Species	To protect our rarer species, a list has been drawn up at the UK level of species requiring special protection totalling 1149 species. This is referred to as the Section 42 list.[1]
Indicator	A measure of variables over time often used to measure achievement of objectives.
Landscape Character Assessment	A process of identifying and describing variation in the character of the landscape, and using this information to assist in managing change in the landscape. The process seeks to identify and explain the unique combination of elements and features that make landscapes distinctive. The process results in the production of a Landscape Character Assessment. (Source: Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition, April 2013)
Listed Building	A statutory designation assigned to a built structure (not limited solely to buildings) of special architectural or historic interest. (Source: http://www.dft.gov.uk/ha/standards/dmrb/vol11/section3/ha20807.pdf)
Local Geological Sites (LGS)	Local Geological Sites are selected by voluntary geo-conservation groups, such as RIGS Groups and Geology Trusts which are generally formed by county or unitary authority area in England.
Local Nature Reserve	All district and county councils have powers to acquire, declare and manage LNRs. To qualify for LNR status, a site must be of importance for wildlife, geology, education or public enjoyment. Some are also nationally important Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

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[1] Section 42 species:
http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/content/uploads/documents/Species%20Habitats/MASTER%20S42%20Species%20List%2020150508%20_Latin-English-Welsh_.pdf

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

Term	Meaning / Definition
Mitigation	Used in this document to refer to measures to avoid, reduce or offset significant adverse effects predicted to arise from the implementation of a planning policy.
National Nature Reserves (NNRs)	NNRs were initially established to protect sensitive features and to provide 'outdoor laboratories' for research. NNRs are declared by Natural England; the Reserves are a selection of the very best parts of England's Sites of Special Scientific Interest. It is this underlying designation which gives NNRs their strong legal protection. The majority also have European nature conservation designations.
National Parks	National Parks are extensive tracts of country that are protected by law for future generations because of their natural beauty and for the opportunities they offer for open air recreation.
Natura 2000	Natura 2000 is an EU wide network of nature protection areas established under the 1992 Habitats Directive. The aim of the network is to assure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats. It is comprised of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated by Member States under the Habitats Directive, and also incorporates Special Protection Areas (SPAs) which they designate under the 1979 Birds Directive. (Source: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/index_en.htm)
Neighbourhood Plans	A plan prepared by a Parish Council or Neighbourhood Forum for a particular neighbourhood area (made under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004).
Responsible Authority	In the SEA Regulations, this refers to an organisation that prepares a plan or programme, subject to the SEA Directive, and is responsible for the SEA.
SA Report	Document which identifies, describes and appraises the likely significant sustainability effects of implementing a plan or programme. It incorporates the Environmental Report required by the SEA Directive.
Scheduled Monument	A schedule has been kept since 1882 of monuments considered to be of national importance by the government. The current legislation, the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, supports a formal system of Scheduled Monument Consent for any work to a designated monument. Scheduling is the only legal protection specifically for archaeological sites.
Scoping	Referred to in this document as the process of deciding the scope and level of detail of an SA, including the sustainability issues that need to be considered, the assessment methods to be used, and the structure and contents of the SA Report.
Significant effect	Effects which are significant in the context of the DPD. (Appendix II of the SEA Directive gives criteria for determining the likely environmental significance of effects).
Site of Nature Conservation	Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) are areas which

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

Term	Meaning / Definition
Interest (SNCI)	are designated locally for their wildlife importance. SNCI designation does not carry any statutory protection.
Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Sites designated by Natural England under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	Area given special protection under the European Union's Habitats Directive, which is transposed into UK law by the Habitats and Conservation of Species Regulations 2010.
Special Landscape Area (SLA)	SLAs are a non-statutory designation applied by the local planning authority to define areas of high landscape importance within their administrative boundary. Areas of high landscape importance may be designated for their intrinsic physical, environmental, visual, cultural and historical value in the contemporary landscape.
Special Protection Area (SPA)	Area which has been identified as being of international importance for the breeding, feeding, wintering or the migration of rare and vulnerable species of birds found within European Union countries. It is a European designated site, classified under the Birds Directive.
Strategic Environmental Assessment	The EU Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the 'SEA Directive') came into force in the UK on 20 July 2004 through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. The Directive applies to a variety of plans and programmes including those for town and country planning and land use. The method for applying the requirements of the Directive is termed Strategic Environmental Assessment.
Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)	SuDS is a technique that manages surface water and groundwater sustainably.
Sustainability Appraisal (SA)	Generic term used in this document to describe the form of assessment that considers social, environmental and economic effects, which fully incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive.
World Heritage Site	World Heritage Sites are places of 'outstanding universal value' selected by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). Sites can be selected because they contain important cultural or natural features.

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment
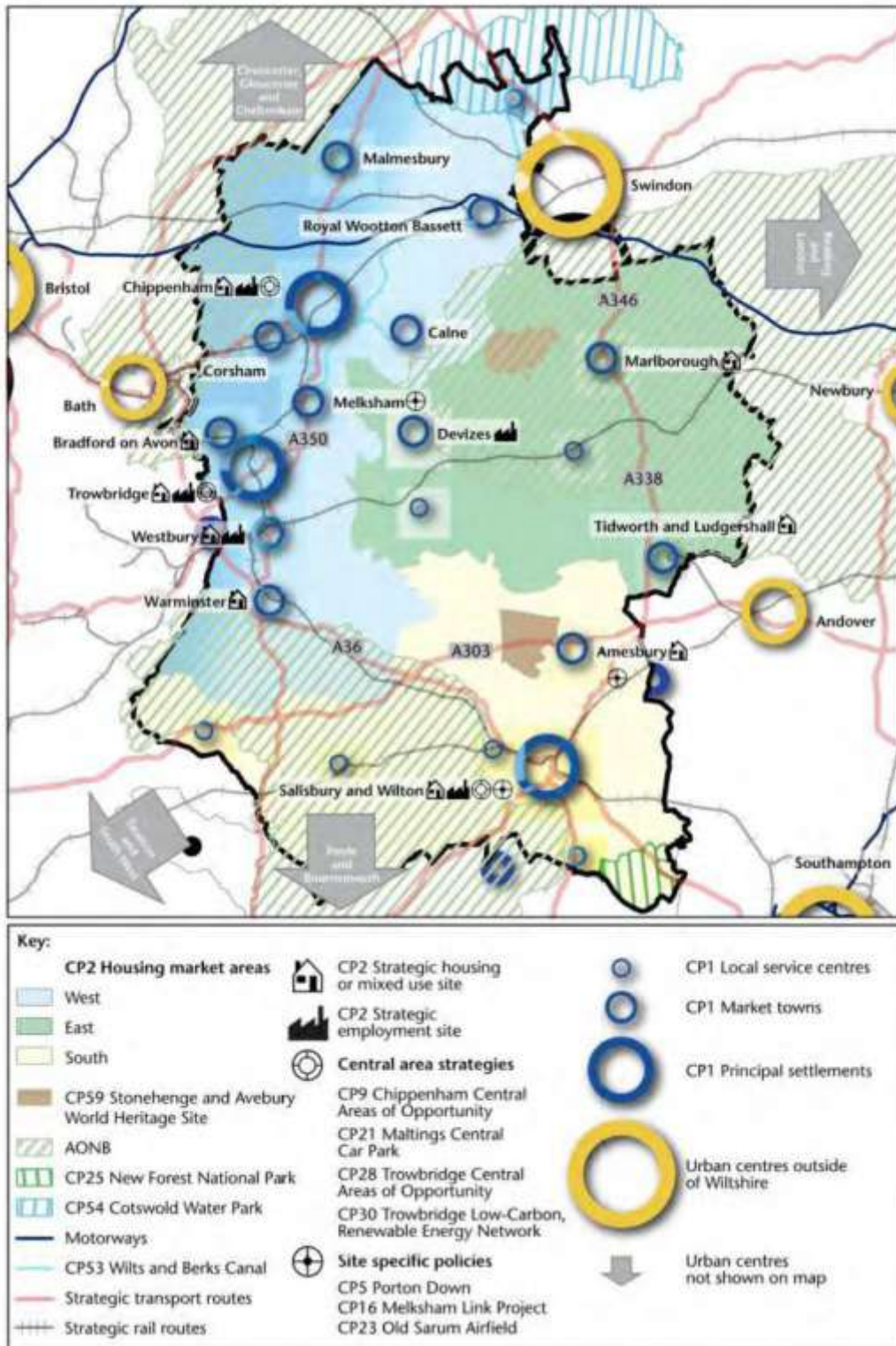
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1. Introduction

1.1. Background to the Local Development Framework

1.1.1. This document is the Scoping Report for the Sustainability Appraisal (SA), incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), of the Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) and the Chippenham Site Allocations DPD (the DPDs).

1.1.2. In accordance with the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, a Local Development Framework (LDF) is being prepared to set out the statutory development plan for Wiltshire. The LDF will consist of a portfolio of Local Development Documents (LDDs), which will include Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs). The aim of the LDF is to provide a clear framework to guide future development and set out a vision for Wiltshire. At its heart will be the delivery of viable and vibrant communities based on the principle of sustainability.

1.1.3. The Wiltshire Core Strategy is a key part of the Local Development Framework (LDF) and will replace the four extant local plans covering the four former districts of Wiltshire, when adopted.

1.1.4. The Wiltshire Core Strategy DPD will cover the whole of Wiltshire (excluding Swindon) and sets out the council's:

- spatial vision

- key objectives

- overall principles for development in the county.

Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations DPD

1.1.5. The purpose of the Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations DPD is primarily to support the delivery of housing growth set out within the emerging Wiltshire Core Strategy DPD. The document will identify sufficient land (in the form of sites) across Wiltshire to provide surety of housing delivery over the plan period to 2026. This will include the assessment and review of settlement boundaries in 88 communities across the county. A key diagram covering Wiltshire, taken from the Wiltshire Core Strategy DPD, is included in Figure 1.1.

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Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

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Figure 1.1 – Wiltshire Core Strategy DPD key diagram

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Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

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Chippenham Site Allocations DPD

1.1.6. The scope of the Chippenham Site Allocations DPD is to ensure that specific strategic mixed use sites are allocated at Chippenham to fulfil the growth planned for the town over the period to 2026. The DPD may also present proposals designed to enable the delivery of priority regeneration schemes as set out in the draft Chippenham Town Centre Masterplan.

1.1.7. The DPD will include proposals and associated policies designed to be in general conformity with the emerging Wiltshire Core Strategy DPD and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). It will cover the geographic area of the Chippenham Core Strategy policies map inset and include parts of the Corsham and Calne Community Areas, which are adjacent to the built area of Chippenham town. This is depicted in Figure 1.2.

1.1.8. The strategy for Chippenham is based on delivering significant job growth, which will help to improve the self containment of the town by providing more jobs for local people. To ensure employment is accessible to the local population a sustainable distribution and choice of employment sites will be provided at the town. They will form part of mixed use urban extensions, incorporating housing, that are well integrated with the town. Currently, the limited opportunities for the redevelopment of brownfield sites in Chippenham mean that it is necessary to identify Greenfield sites on the edge of town.

Figure 1.2 – Chippenham Site Allocations DPD boundary

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Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment
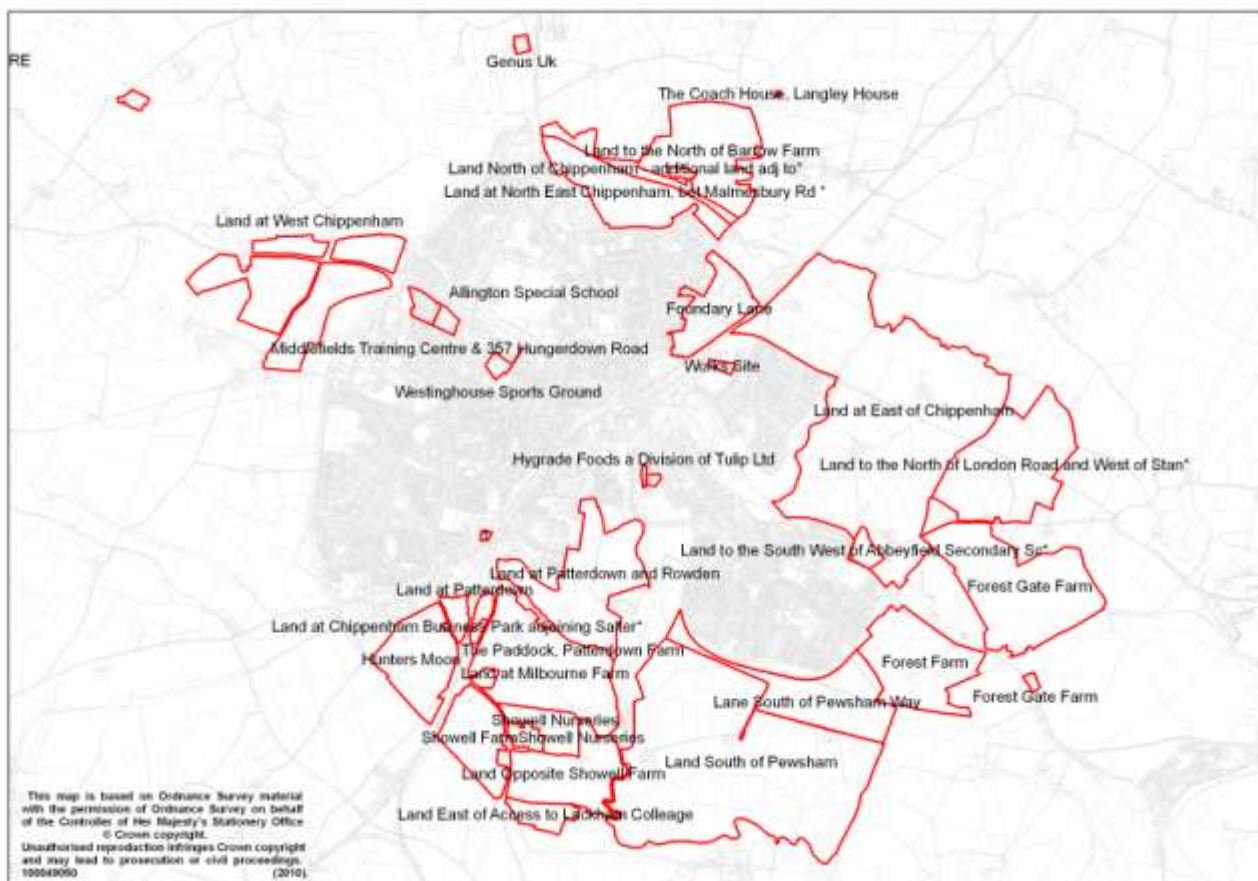
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1.2. Background to Sustainability Appraisal

1.2.1. Atkins was commissioned in March 2014 by Wiltshire Council to undertake SA incorporating SEA of the two DPDs.

1.2.2. Under the regulations implementing the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, a SA is required for all LDDs in England. The purpose of SA is to promote sustainable development through better integration of sustainability considerations in the preparation and adoption of plans. The Regulations stipulate that SAs of LDDs should meet the requirements of the SEA Directive.

1.2.3. A SEA is also required under European Directive 2001/42/EC 'on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment' (the 'SEA Directive'). The SA and SEA processes are combined to inform the preparation of the DPDs.

1.2.4. This Scoping Report is based on the SA of the Wiltshire Core Strategy DPD. However, it has been updated and refined, to be more specifically relevant to the aims of the Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations DPD and the Chippenham Site Allocations DPD.

1.2.5. A Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) is the assessment of the impacts of implementing a plan or policy on a designated Natura 2000 Site – in the context of Wiltshire, this includes including three Special Protection Areas (SPA), 10 Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and one Ramsar site. Its purpose is to consider the impacts of a land use plan against conservation objectives of the designated sites and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of the designated sites. Where significant negative effects are predicted, alternative options should be considered to avoid any potentially damaging effects.

1.2.6. Although an initial desk based study has informed this Report, the screening exercise for the HRA, which can lead to an Appropriate Assessment (AA), will not commence until the development of DPD options, which runs in parallel to Stage B of the SA process (please refer to Figure 2.1 for details of the various stages of the SA/SEA process).

1.3. Sustainable development

1.3.1. There is a widely accepted international commitment to achieving more sustainable development. One of the means by which it can be achieved is through the land use planning process and particularly through the production of the LDFs.

1.3.2. There are many definitions of sustainable development however the most common and widely accepted is that adopted by the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987:

"Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"

1.3.3. Sustainable development seeks to integrate environmental, social and economic considerations. The National Planning Policy Framework (2012[2]) sets out the overarching planning policies on the delivery of sustainable development through the planning system. It sets out that:

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[2] https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf

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Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

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"There are three dimensions to sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. These dimensions give rise to the need for the planning system to perform a number of roles:

- *an economic role – contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure;*

- *a social role – supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being; and*

- *an environmental role – contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and, as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy."*

1.4. Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal

Requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment

1.4.1. The EU Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the 'SEA Directive') came into force in the UK on 20 July 2004 through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. The Directive applies to a variety of plans and programmes including those for town and country planning and land use and applies to the Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations DPD and the Chippenham Site Allocations DPD as it a) sets the framework for future development consent, b) is likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

1.4.2. 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)

1.4.3. SEA is an iterative assessment process which plans and programmes that are considered likely to have a significant effect on the environment are required to undergo as they are being developed to ensure that potential significant environmental effects arising from the plan/programme are identified, assessed, mitigated and communicated to plan-makers. SEA also requires the monitoring of significant effects once the plan/programme is implemented.

1.4.4. The SEA Directive and associated UK Regulations state that the SEA must consider the following topic areas:

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

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- Biodiversity

- Population

- Human Health

- Flora and Fauna

- Soil

- Water

- Air

- Climatic factors

- Material assets

- Cultural heritage, including archaeological and architectural heritage

- Landscape

- The interrelationship between these factors.

Requirement for Sustainability Appraisal

1.4.5. As stated previously, under the regulations implementing the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, a SA is required for all LDDs. The purpose of SA is to promote sustainable development through better integration of sustainability considerations in the preparation and adoption of plans. The Regulations[3] stipulate that SAs of DPDs should meet the requirements of the SEA Directive.

1.4.6. The NPPF online Planning Practice Guidance[4] states that

"Sustainability appraisal is required during the preparation of a Local Plan. The local planning authority must carry out an appraisal of the sustainability of the proposals. This will help the authority to assess how the plan will contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.

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. Neighbourhood plans, supplementary planning documents, the Statement of Community Involvement, the Local Development Scheme or the Authority Monitoring Report are excluded from this requirement."

1.4.7. SA thus helps planning authorities to fulfil the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in preparing their plans.

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[3] Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004
[4] http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

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1.5. The SA process

1.5.1. The requirements to carry out SA and SEA are thus distinct, but Planning Practice Guidance on SEA and SA[5] states that it is possible to satisfy both through a single appraisal process (commonly designated as SA/SEA[6]) and provides methodologies and guidance for doing so. This methodology goes further than the SEA methodology (which is primarily focused on environmental effects) requiring the examination of all the sustainability-related effects, whether they are social, economic or environmental. However, those undertaking the SA should ensure that in doing so they meet the requirements of the SEA Directive. This report therefore integrates both the SA and SEA requirements, and subsequent reference to SA in this document is taken to mean SA incorporating SEA.

1.5.2. The key aims of SA are:

- To promote sustainable development through better integration of sustainability considerations in the preparation of plans

- To ensure that social, environmental and economic concerns are addressed and fully integrated into the production of a planning document and that integration of these issues is achieved as far as possible

- To identify potential issues at an early stage to enable amendments to be made to policies/plans to ensure that they are as sustainable as possible

- Through consultation and the involvement of stakeholders and specialist experts in the process the resulting appraisal is both robust and fully integrated.

1.5.3. The main stages in the SA process are as follows:

- Stage A - Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on scope

- Stage B - Developing and refining options and assessing effects

- Stage C - Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report (SAR)

- Stage D - Consultation on the draft plan and the SAR

- Stage E - Monitoring implementation of the plan.

1.5.4. The current guidance sets out a requirement for consultation to be undertaken on:

- The scope of the SA; the guidance advises that a formal Scoping Report (summarising Stage A work) is not a legal requirement but is a useful way of presenting information at the scoping stage

- SAR (documenting Stages A to C work) which should be used in the public consultation on the Preferred Options.

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[5] http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/sustainability-appraisal-requirements-for-local-plans/
[6] The term SA is used to denote the combined SA/SEA process in this Scoping Report.

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Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

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1.5.5. There is also a requirement for the preparation of an adoption statement to accompany each adopted DPD outlining how the findings of the SA process have been taken into account, and how sustainability considerations more generally have been integrated into the DPD. The adoption statement will also confirm monitoring arrangements during the implementation of each the DPD.

1.5.6. Table 1.1 sets out the various stages, tasks and relationships with the plan preparation contained in the guidance, which are being applied to the SA of the DPDs.

1.6. Purpose of the Scoping Report

1.6.1. The overarching purpose of this Scoping Report is to create the general framework for the assessment of the DPDs. In addition to the Scoping Report for the Wiltshire Core Strategy DPD SA, it provides information on:

- Relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives

- Baseline information

- Sustainability issues

- Framework for appraising likely significant effects arising from the DPDs

- Proposed structure and level of detail of the SAR.

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Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

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Table 1.1 – Incorporating SA/SEA within the DPD Preparation Process – Stages and Tasks[7]

Sustainability appraisal process

Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope
1. Identify other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives
2. Collect baseline information
3. Identify sustainability issues and problems
4. Develop the sustainability appraisal framework
5. Consult the consultation bodies on the scope of the sustainability appraisal report

Stage B: Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects
1. Test the Local Plan objectives against the sustainability appraisal framework
2. Develop the Local Plan options including reasonable alternatives
3. Evaluate the likely effects of the Local Plan and alternatives
4. Consider ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects
5. Propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan

Stage C: Prepare the sustainability appraisal report

Stage D: Seek representations on the sustainability appraisal report from consultation bodies and the public

Stage E: Post adoption reporting and monitoring
1. Prepare and publish post-adoption statement
2. Monitor significant effects of implementing the Local Plan
3. Respond to adverse effects

Local Plan preparation

Evidence gathering and engagement

Consult on Local Plan in preparation (regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012). Consultation may be undertaken more than once if the Local Planning Authority considers necessary.

Stage C: Prepare the publication version of the Local Plan

Seek representations on the publication Local Plan (regulation 19) from consultation bodies and the public

Submit draft Local Plan and supporting documents for independent examination

Outcome of examination Consider implications for SA/SEA compliance

Local Plan Adopted

Monitoring Monitor and report on the implementation of the Local Plan

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[7] http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/sustainability-appraisal-requirements-for-local-plans/
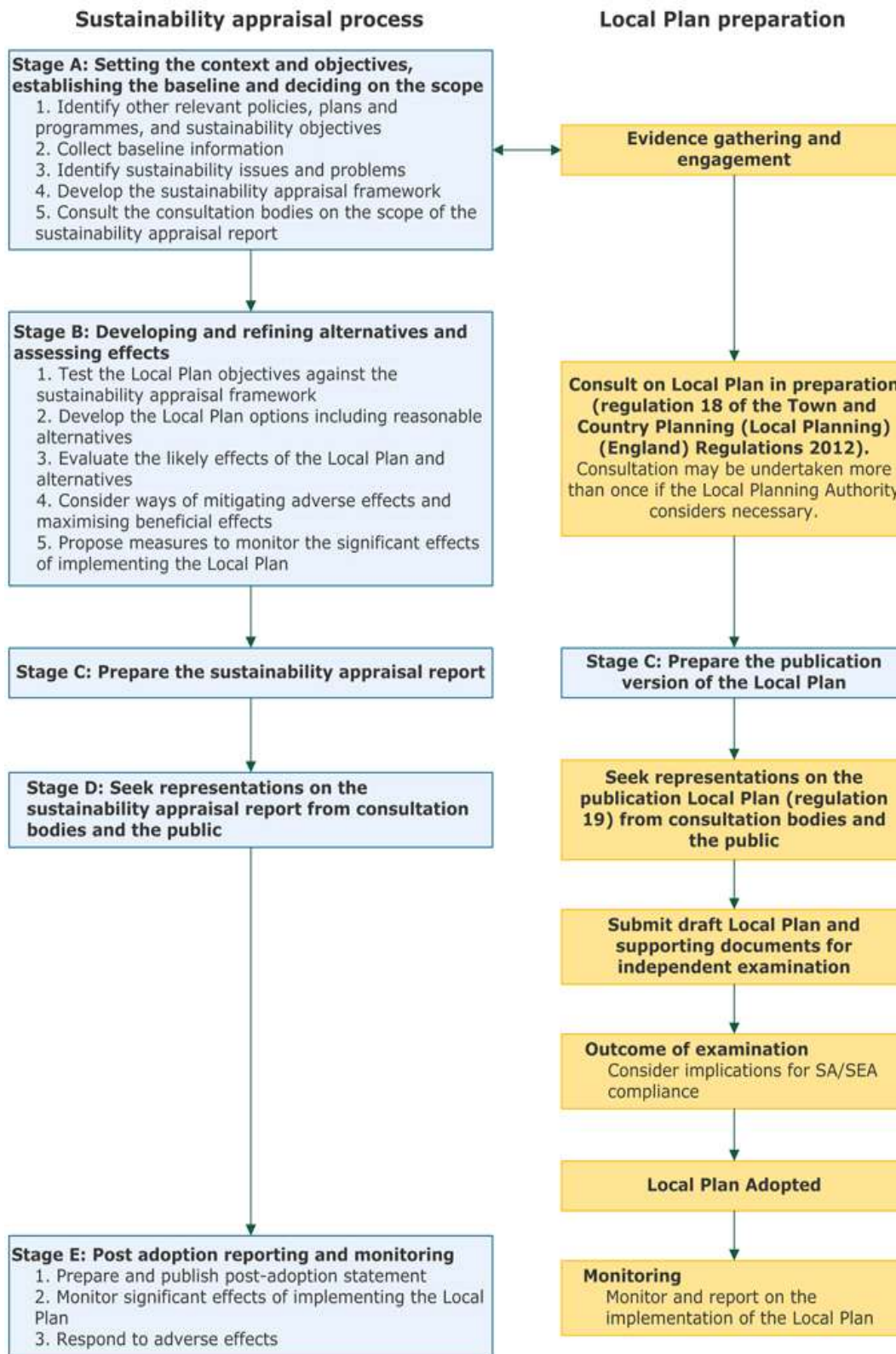
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1.7. Habitats Regulations Assessment

1.7.1. Alongside the SA process it is also necessary to assess whether the sites contained in the DPDs are likely to have a significant effect upon Natura 2000 sites, which comprise Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar sites and are designated as European sites for their ecological value.

1.7.2. An HRA is required by the Conservation of Habitats and Species 2010 (the Habitats Regulations), for all plans and projects which may have adverse effects on international sites (Natura 2000 sites). HRA is also required, as a matter of UK Government policy for potential SPAs (pSPA), candidate SACs (cSAC) and listed Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites) for the purposes of considering plans and projects, which may affect them.

1.7.3. The international sites that will be considered for the HRA in Wiltshire include:
- Salisbury Plain SPA / SAC
- Porton Down SPA
- Bath & Bradford on Avon Bats SAC
- Chilmark Quarries SAC
- Great Yews SAC
- Kennet & Lambourn Floodplain SAC
- New Forest SPA / SAC
- North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC
- Pewsey Downs
- Prescombe Down SAC
- River Avon SAC

1.7.4. As mentioned at paragraph 1.2.6, the screening exercise for the HRA of the DPDs will not commence until the development of DPD options, which runs in parallel to Stage B of the SA process.

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

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1.8. Requirements for consultation during a Sustainability Appraisal

1.8.1. The requirements for consultation during SA are determined from the requirements of the SEA Directive. These are:
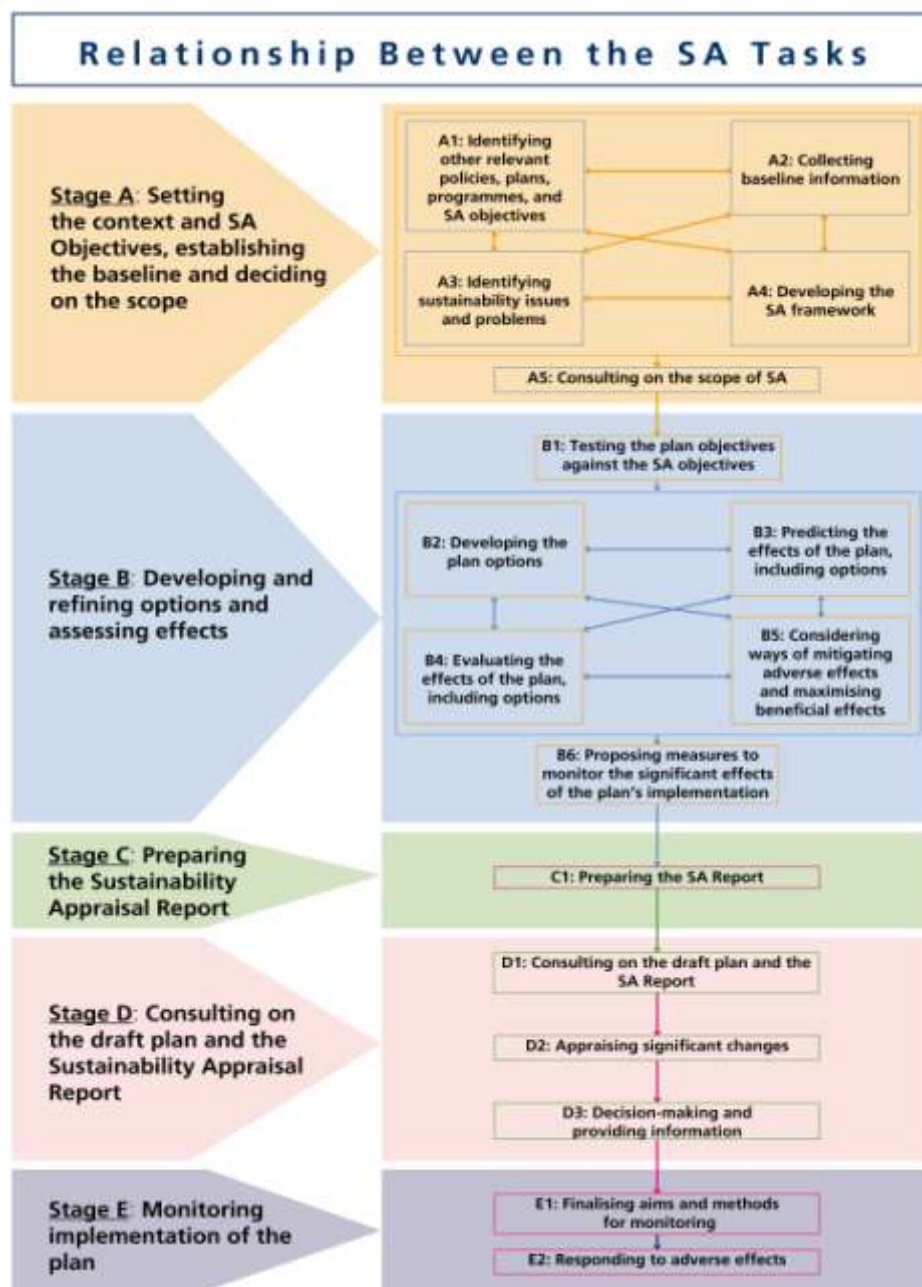
- Authorities which, because of their environmental responsibilities, are likely to be concerned by the effects of implementing the plan or programme, must be consulted on the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the Environmental Report. In England, the Consultation Bodies are English Heritage, Natural England and the Environment Agency. The SA guidance goes further by suggesting consultation, in addition to the three Consultation Bodies, of representatives of other interests including economic interests and local business, social interests and community service providers, transport planners and providers and NGOs

- The public and the Consultation Bodies must be consulted on the draft plan or programme and the Environmental Report (SAR in the case of SA).

1.8.2. The consultation on the SA Scoping Report for the DPDs has been programmed to commence on 12 May 2014, with responses to be received no later than 16 June 2014. Further consultation will be undertaken on the draft DPDs and the accompanying SA reports, currently planned for later in 2014.

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

2. Navigation of the report

2.1.1. SA/SEA is a complex process that follows a number of sequential stages. This report has been structured to reflect the way in which work has been undertaken, presenting a logical progression through the various tasks that local authorities must complete in order to satisfy the formal requirements. This sequence of tasks is presented in Figure 2.1.

2.1.2. The work presented in this report represents the findings of Tasks A1 – A4 in Stage A, with the process of Scoping Report consultation forming Task A5. Figure 2.1 can also be used as a cross-reference to support the description of the subsequent stages (B-E) of the process that are outlined later in the Scoping Report.

Figure 2.1 – Relationship between the SA Tasks

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

2.1.3. In addition to the Scoping Report, the current guidance also sets out a requirement for the preparation of the SAR (documenting work in Stages A, B and C), which should be used in the public consultation on the Preferred Options of the DPDs.

2.2. Navigating between the Tasks

2.2.1. The structure of this report has been designed to enable the reader to distinguish easily between the different tasks and how they relate back to the overall process. In order to achieve this, colour coding has been applied as follows and is used throughout the report to assist in navigation:

SA Tasks

A1 – Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes and SA objectives

A2 – Collecting baseline information

A3 – Identifying sustainability issues and problems

A4 – Developing the SA Framework

A5 – Consulting on the scope of SA

Differentiating between Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD

2.2.2. The scope of this report covers both the Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations DPD as well as the Chippenham Site Allocations DPD. Although these reports will have a number of common themes, there will also be instances where information or analysis only relates to one or the other. Where this is the case, the following colour coding system will be used:

Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations DPD

Chippenham Site Allocations DPD

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

3. Identifying other plans and programmes and sustainability objectives

Task A1

3.1.1. The first task of SA is the identification of other relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives. The Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations DPD and the Chippenham Site Allocations DPD must be prepared in the context of other plans and programmes, which need to be taken into account. The DPDs must comply with national planning policy, conform to and amplify the policies contained within the emerging Wiltshire Core Strategy DPD (including the context of 'saved' local plan policies) and reflect other European, National, regional and local plans and strategies, providing an additional level of detail for the spatial planning framework to help deliver those strategies.

3.1.2. The SEA Directive specifically states 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"

3.2. Methodology

3.2.1. Both the DPDs and the SA Scoping Report should be set in the context of national, regional and local objectives along with strategic planning, transport, social, economic and environmental policies. This being the case, this Scoping Report builds upon the comprehensive review of available relevant plans, policies and programmes (PPPs) that was carried out as part of the SA scoping process for the emerging Wiltshire Core Strategy. This ensures that the objectives for assessing the Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations DPD and the Chippenham Site Allocations DPD, as proposed in this Scoping Report, generally adhere to, and are not in conflict with, objectives found in other PPPs. The review process also assisted in the setting of sustainability objectives that are sufficiently specific for the SA process to genuinely add value to plan-making. It can also be used to ascertain potential conflicts between objectives, which may need to be addressed as part of the process.

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

3.2.2. In order to fully assess relevant PPPs, the starting point was the list drawn up by Wiltshire Council for the SA of the emerging Wiltshire Core Strategy DPD (April 2010), as well as the Addendum (February 2012).   This addresses PPPs of broad relevance first, before considering 13 specific topics of relevance to SA/SEA. For the purposes of clarity, the Core Strategy SA PPP review has not been repeated in this report. The list of PPPs reviewed is duplicated in Appendix A. Although not made explicit in the SA documentation for the Core Strategy, it is assumed that the review of PPPs has influenced the development of the SA Framework, in accordance with SA guidance. It therefore follows, that the integration of the relevant parts of the SA Framework for the Core Strategy into the SA Framework for the DPDs, will encapsulate this review as necessary. That being said, the locally relevant PPPs have been included in the review of key sustainability themes in Table 3.2, to identify local strategic guidance in the areas of relevance for the DPDs.

3.2.3. As stated above, the review of PPPs for the DPDs takes into consideration the PPP review for the Wiltshire Core Strategy DPD SA (2010 and 2012). Other more recent national level policies have not been included here specifically, as the locally specific policies will be based upon this guidance and therefore the repeating of interpretation is not considered to be necessary. The review provides a focussed review of the PPPs of relevance to site allocations in the Wiltshire area. The plans and programmes that have been considered, in addition to those included in Appendix A, are listed in Table 3.1. Although some neighbourhood plans and community campus documents are listed in the table below, these are not carried through to the analysis table, as the documents do not yet include policy or objectives that may influence the development of the DPD. This should be considered for the next iteration of the SA.

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

Table 3.1 – Review of relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes

Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes (2014 update of relevance to the DPDs)
National
National Planning Policy Framework (2013) and Guidance (2014)
Wiltshire
Wiltshire Core Strategy Pre-Submission Document: Hearing session tracked changes version (April 2014)
Wiltshire Infrastructure Delivery Plan (2013)
Swindon and Wiltshire Strategic Economic Plan (2014)
Wiltshire Council Level 1 SFRA Update (2013)
Air Strategy for Wiltshire 2011-2015 (2011)
Wiltshire and Swindon - Minerals Development Control Policies DPD (September 2009)
Wiltshire and Swindon - Waste Development Control Policies DPD (September 2009)
Wiltshire and Swindon - Waste Site Allocations Local Plan (February 2013)
Wiltshire Municipal Waste Management Strategy (February 2013)
Wiltshire and Swindon - Aggregate Minerals Site Allocations Local Plan (May 2013)
Wiltshire Local Transport Plan (LTP3) 2011-2016 (March 2011)
Swindon Local Transport Plan 3: 2011-2016 (April 2011)
Cotswold AONB Management Plan 2013-2018
Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB Management Plan 2014-19
North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan 2009-2014
Wiltshire Community Campus Programme
Draft Malmesbury Neighbourhood Plan, September 2013
A Masterplan for Trowbridge, Draft, October 2013
Malmesbury Conservation Area Management Plan (2010)
Milford Hill Conservation Area Management Plan (2010)
Chippenham
Milford Hill Conservation Area Management Plan (2010)
Chippenham Transport Strategy (2013)
Chippenham Conservation Area Management Plan (2010)
Chippenham Community Campus - Update for Chippenham Area Board

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

3.3. Results

3.3.1. Social, environmental and economic objectives and sustainability issues of relevance to the SA/SEA and the preparation of the DPDs have been used to formulate a general, first set of sustainability 'themes', which the sustainability objectives will encompass. This is presented in Table 3.2 where the relationship between the final SA objectives and the sustainability 'themes' is shown in the far right column. The table also shows the implications arising for the DPDs and the link between these objectives and the SEA topic areas.

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

Table 3.2 – Sustainability Themes linked to final SA Objectives

Themes Relevant to SA DPD	Source	Implications for plan-making	Main SEA topics	Relationship to final SA objectives[8]
Biodiversity - protection and enhancement of biodiversity, including wildlife networks and wider green infrastructure	NPPF (2013) and NPPG (2014) Wiltshire Core Strategy Pre-Submission Document (2014) Draft Chippenham Masterplan 2013	The selection and development of sites should seek to conserve and enhance biodiversity by ensuring that where significant harm from development cannot be avoided or mitigated, planning permission is refused. Similarly, development likely to impact on a SSSI should not be permitted and exceptions should only be made where the benefits clearly outweigh the impacts both on the site and any broader impacts on the national network of SSSIs. LPAs should encourage opportunities to incorporate biodiversity in and around development. Development resulting in the deterioration or loss of irreplaceable habitats should not be permitted. Biodiversity restoration in and around development should seek to include: • habitat restoration, re-creation and expansion; • improved links between existing sites; • buffering of existing important sites; • new biodiversity features within development; and • securing management for long term enhancement. The NPPF places 'great weight' on conserving the landscape, wildlife and heritage in AONBs, where planning permission for development should be refused	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Landscape	**1** **(1)**

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[8] Numbers in brackets refer to the SA Objectives for the Wiltshire Core Strategy DPD, to enable cross-reference

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

Themes Relevant to SA DPD	Source	Implications for plan-making	Main SEA topics	Relationship to final SA objectives[8]
		except in exceptional circumstances where public interest can be demonstrated.		
Land and soil resources – ensure prudent use of land and other resources	NPPF (2013) and NPPG (2014) Wiltshire Core Strategy Pre-Submission Document (2014) Wiltshire and Swindon - Minerals Development Control Policies DPD, Waste Development Control Policies DPD, Waste Site Allocations Local Plan, Aggregate Minerals Site Allocations Local Plan	Policies for the development of sites should promote a sequential approach to encouraging the use of previously developed land in order to improve the efficiency of land use, deliver remediation of contaminated soils and protect previously undeveloped land where possible. It is recognised that the use of Greenfield land is likely to be required within Wiltshire – policies should seek to direct development away from the best and most versatile agricultural land. Site allocations should be identified with reference to known areas of mineral resources and waste management.	Material Assets	**2** **(2)**
Reduce pollution of watercourses and groundwater. Manage flood risk.	Wiltshire Council Level 1 SFRA update Wiltshire Core Strategy Pre-Submission Document (2014) NPPF (2013) and NPPG (2014)	Policies will need to be developed in an understanding of the potential impacts of pollutants from development on the water environment, particularly in relation to Natura 2000 sites. Policies should direct development away from areas at greatest risk of flooding and seek to protect functional flood plains. Reducing the overall risk of flooding can be achieved through the layout and form of development, including green infrastructure and the appropriate application of	Water, Human Health, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	**3, 5** **(4), (7)**

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

Themes Relevant to SA DPD	Source	Implications for plan-making	Main SEA topics	Relationship to final SA objectives[8]
		sustainable drainage systems, through safeguarding land for flood risk management or, where appropriate, through designing off-site works required to protect and support development in ways that benefit the area more generally. Existing and proposed development in the vicinity of a location under consideration for relevant water infrastructure will also need to be taken into account and vice-versa. Considering the phasing of new development so that water and wastewater infrastructure will be in place when needed. Water quality: help protect and enhance local surface water and groundwater in ways that allow new development to proceed and avoids costly assessment at the planning application stage. The type or location of new development where an assessment of the potential impacts on water bodies may be required. Expectations relating to sustainable drainage systems (SuDS). SuDS can improve water quality, speed up replenishment of groundwater, reduce flood risk and improve the environment. Sustainable drainage systems include swales, ponds and permeable hard surfaces. Waste water: the sufficiency and capacity of wastewater infrastructure. The circumstances where wastewater from new development would not be expected to drain to a public sewer.		

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

Themes Relevant to SA DPD	Source	Implications for plan-making	Main SEA topics	Relationship to final SA objectives[8]
Improve air quality, particularly in areas of exceedance for nitrogen dioxide (NO$_2$) and fine particulates (PM$_{10}$).	Air Strategy for Wiltshire 2011

NPPF (2013) and NPPG (2014)

Wiltshire Core Strategy Pre-Submission Document (2014) | Policies should seek to minimise the need to travel by improving the accessibility of key services and facilities at the local level.

Site allocations should consider the link between air pollution and environmental quality, both in relation to human health and biodiversity.

Local Plans should take account of AQMAs and other areas where there could be specific requirements or restrictions on development as a result of air quality pressures. The following should be considered:
  • The potential of the cumulative impact resulting from a number of smaller developments or air quality as well as the effects of larger scale developments
  • The impact of point source pollution
  • Ways in which new development would be appropriate in locations where air quality is or likely to be a concern and not give rise to unacceptable risks from pollution | Human Health, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna; | **4**

(6) |
| **Reduce Noise and Light Pollution** | NPPF (2013) and NPPG (2014)

Wiltshire Core Strategy Pre-Submission Document (2014) | With regards to light pollution, the guidance states that some proposals for new development may have implications for light pollution particularly where, for instance, they materially alter local light levels or where they might have a significant impact on protected species or sites. In which case LPAs will need to consider where and when the light shines, how much light shines and | Human Health, Landscape | **4**

(6) |

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

Themes Relevant to SA DPD	Source	Implications for plan-making	Main SEA topics	Relationship to final SA objectives[8]
		possible ecological impacts. With regards to noise, adverse effects of noise can be mitigated as follows: • Engineering: reducing the noise at source • Layout: optimising the distance between the source and noise-sensitive receptors and / or through good design • Using planning conditions/ obligations • Mitigating including avoiding noisy locations, introducing noise barriers, optimising sound insulation within a building, and designing development to reduce the impact of noise from the local environment.		
Mitigate and adapt to climate change	NPPF (2013) and NPPG (2014) Wiltshire Core Strategy Pre-Submission Document (2014) Wiltshire Local Transport Plan 3 Swindon Local Transport Plan 3	Local planning policies need to be developed with a consideration of their impact on climate change and greenhouse gas emissions, and this is particularly true of air quality. Synergistic policies, beneficial to both air quality and climate change, should be pursued. Development should be planned in locations which reduce greenhouse gas emissions; support energy efficiency improvements to existing buildings; setting sustainability standards that are in line with the Government's zero carbon buildings policy. Climate change adaptation measures could include:	Human Health, Climatic Factors, Population, Material Assets	**2, 3, 4, 5, 10** **(2), (4), (6), (7), (15)**

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

Themes Relevant to SA DPD	Source	Implications for plan-making	Main SEA topics	Relationship to final SA objectives[8]
		• Considering future climate risks when allocating development sites to ensure risks are understood over the development's lifetime • Considering the impact of and promoting design responses to flood risk and coastal change for the lifetime of the development • Considering availability of water and water infrastructure for the lifetime of the development and design responses to promote water efficiency and protect water quality • Promoting adaptation approaches in design policies for developments and the public realm		
Historic environment – protect and enhance cultural heritage assets	Draft Chippenham Masterplan 2013 NPPF (2013) and NPPG (2014) Wiltshire Core Strategy Pre-Submission Document (2014) Chippenham Conservation Area Management Plan (2010) A Masterplan for Trowbridge, Draft, October 2013 Malmesbury Conservation Area	Policies should ensure good design, which respects the local vernacular and complements the area in which development is to be located. Policies should protect and enhance local designated and non designated heritage assets and their settings.	Cultural Heritage, Material Assets, Landscape	**6** **(8)**

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

Themes Relevant to SA DPD	Source	Implications for plan-making	Main SEA topics	Relationship to final SA objectives[8]
	Management Plan (2010) Milford Hill Conservation Area Management Plan (2010)			
Promote the self containment and identity of Chippenham	Draft Chippenham Masterplan 2013 Wiltshire Core Strategy Pre-Submission Document (2014)	All development and public realm improvements must respect the historic character of the town centre in accordance with the Chippenham Conservation Area Management Plan (2010).	Cultural Heritage, Material Assets	**6, 7** (8), (9)
Landscapes – protection of AONBs and Green Belt and reinforcement of landscape character	NPPF (2013) and NPPG (2014) Wiltshire Core Strategy Pre-Submission Document (2014) Cotswold AONB Management Plan Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB Management Plan North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan	Policies should ensure that new development respects, maintains and where possible enhances the local landscape character. This should be linked to wider objectives for enhancing biodiversity. Where relevant policies should reflect the aims and objectives of the management plans for the Wiltshire AONBs. Policies will need to consider potential pressures on AONBs arising from development proposals and will need to ensure that these pressures are avoided, or that appropriate mitigation measures are put in place. Inappropriate development in a Green Belt should not be approved except in very exceptional circumstances and new buildings in the Green Belt will generally not be	Landscape, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	**1, 6, 7** (1), (8), (9)

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

Themes Relevant to SA DPD	Source	Implications for plan-making	Main SEA topics	Relationship to final SA objectives[8]
		approved.		
Population and housing – securing flexibility and choice in the provision of high quality housing	NPPF (2013) and NPPG (2014) Wiltshire Core Strategy Pre-Submission Document (2014) A Masterplan for Trowbridge, Draft, October 2013	In order to deliver a wide choice of high quality homes, widen opportunities for home ownership and create sustainable and inclusive communities, LPAs should: • Plan for a mix of housing based on current and future demographic trends; • Identify the size, type, tenure and range of housing required to meet local demand; • Seek to meet affordable housing need on site. Policies should ensure that new houses built are designed to be flexible to meet various needs, in particular those of an ageing population. Site allocations should consider the ability of prospective residents to access key services, facilities and recreational space important in securing well-being and maintaining human health. The NPPF encourages LPAs to bring empty housing and buildings back into residential use and to, where appropriate, approve planning applications for change to residential use and any associated development from commercial buildings where there is an identified need for housing in the area. Housing development in rural areas should respond to	Population; Human Health	**8, 9** **(10), (12)**

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

Themes Relevant to SA DPD	Source	Implications for plan-making	Main SEA topics	Relationship to final SA objectives[8]
		local circumstances and reflect local need. New isolated homes in the countryside should generally be avoided.		
Healthy and inclusive communities - appreciating the interaction between housing, key services and facilities, employment opportunities and green space	NPPF (2013) and NPPG (2014) Wiltshire Core Strategy Pre-Submission Document (2014) Wiltshire Local Transport Plan 3 Swindon Local Transport Plan 3 A Masterplan for Trowbridge, Draft, October 2013	Policies should promote safe, sustainable communities with access to a range of essential services. Accessibility to the following should be considered when considering sites for the location of development, particularly housing: • recreation opportunities • health facilities • good quality green infrastructure • key local services and facilities • employment opportunities. Policies should promote safe and inclusive development, taking into consideration people with disabilities and an increasingly ageing population.	Human Health, Population, Climatic Factors, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	**1, 7, 8, 9, 11** **(1), (9), (10), (12), (16)**
Transport – increasing sustainable transport choices and improving the operation of transport networks	Wiltshire Core Strategy Pre-Submission Document (2014) Draft Chippenham Masterplan 2013 Chippenham Transport Strategy 2013 Wiltshire Local Transport Plan 3	Policies should ensure developments and key services are served by a range of transport options to improve accessibility and offer transport choices. Policies should aim to locate new developments so they have access to existing services and facilities by a range of travel modes. Policies should seek to minimise the need to travel by car by providing access to services locally.	Air, Climatic Factors, Human Health	**2, 4, 5, 9, 10** **(2), (6), (7), (12), (15)**

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

Themes Relevant to SA DPD	Source	Implications for plan-making	Main SEA topics	Relationship to final SA objectives[8]
	Swindon Local Transport Plan 3 A Masterplan for Trowbridge, Draft, October 2013	Policies should enable the provision of effective walking and cycling connections.		
Promote the vitality and viability of the town centres across Wiltshire	Draft Chippenham Masterplan 2013 Wiltshire Core Strategy Pre-Submission Document (2014) NPPF (2013) and NPPG (2014) A Masterplan for Trowbridge, Draft, October 2013	Policies should ensure adequate opportunities for employment growth. Policies should identify sites and opportunities for development that support the vitality and viability of town centres. Policies providing for the expansion of towns and villages should propose a scale and mix of uses that supports or at least does not harm the role of town centres in Wiltshire. Policies should ensure a range of suitable employment sites and premises to meet business needs. Policies should promote the use and enhancement of landscape, cultural and historic resources for tourism development. Planning policies should recognise and address potential barriers to investment such as poor environment or lack of infrastructure, services or housing. LPAs should identify strategic sites for local or inward investment in line with a	Material assets, Population, Climatic factors	**7, 9, 10, 11, 12** **(9), (12), (15), (16), (17)**

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

Themes Relevant to SA DPD	Source	Implications for plan-making	Main SEA topics	Relationship to final SA objectives[8]
		clear economic vision and strategy for the area, as well as priority areas for economic regeneration. Policies should seek to support existing business sectors and identify and plan for emerging sectors likely to locate in the local area. LPAs should plan positively to secure networks of knowledge driven, creative or high technology industries.		
Ensure that development is supported by the necessary infrastructure	Wiltshire Infrastructure Delivery Plan Wiltshire Core Strategy Pre-Submission Document (2014)	See implications under water, climatic factors, transport and viability of town centres.	Material Assets, Population, Water, Human Health	**3, 4, 5, 10** **(4), (6), (7), (15)**

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD: Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

4. Baseline Characteristics

Task A2

4.1.1. The next task in SA covers the collation of baseline information. The review of other plans and programmes undertaken previously has also provided a considerable amount of baseline information. This complements the information included within the emerging Wiltshire Core Strategy DPD SA and has been supplemented by collation of additional data for the intervening period since publication of the Core Strategy SA documents (2012 – 2014). Data has also been collated at the local level in respect of key indicators relating to the SEA topic areas, as well as additional social and economic indicators of particular relevance to the DPD areas.

4.2. General Characteristics of Wiltshire

4.2.1. With a total population of approximately 471,000 persons (census 2011), Wiltshire Council is the fifth largest authority in the South West. The county of Wiltshire is overall rural in nature. The population density is relatively low compared to regional and national averages and ensuring the efficient use of land is a particular issue due to the low amount of previously developed land available for development.

4.2.2. Wiltshire is characterised by a series of market towns, which serve neighbouring villages and settlements. Chippenham is the largest town in north Wiltshire and contains a busy but compact town centre and, in recent decades, an expanding urban area. Several other market towns act as service centres in the northern part of the county including Calne, Wootton Bassett, Corsham, Malmesbury and Cricklade, although the nature and role of these settlements is quite diverse.

4.2.3. To the west, Trowbridge is the largest town; it is the County Town and provides a sub-regional administrative hub as well as acting as a service and employment centre in its own right. Westbury, Melksham and, to a certain extent, Warminster have a similar industrial history to Trowbridge and are large service and employment centres in the context of Wiltshire. This area is heavily influenced by Bristol and Bath with a high level of out commuting to these cities. The eastern and southern areas of Wiltshire are essentially rural in character. To the south, the city of Salisbury is the dominant retail, cultural and employment centre. The employment base in the south is similar in size to that of the north and west. However, there is significantly less out-commuting from the southern part of Wiltshire.

4.2.4. With regards to the distribution of the population, approximately two thirds of Wiltshire households live in rural areas. The housing market in Wiltshire is unbalanced and rural areas are the locations where affordable supply is lowest in relation to need. These areas also show the strongest polarity of incomes being home to both relatively low income households and high income ones, the latter typically involving long distance commuters. In addition, rural areas are characterised by a larger proportion of older residents. Rural households register much greater difficulty in accessing services; a common pattern throughout the country.

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

4.2.5. Wiltshire, like the rest of the country is faced with an ageing population. The fastest population increase has been, and will continue to be, in the number of people aged 85 years and over. This poses a significant challenge for the county in terms of future provision of housing, services, infrastructure as well as affecting local economic growth.

4.3. General Characteristics of Chippenham

4.3.1. The market town of Chippenham is identified in the Core Strategy as a Principal Settlement. It is located within a rural setting and acts as an important service centre for a number of villages within the community area and the surrounding towns and villages within north Wiltshire. The area is an attractive place to live and has several excellent schools. Although there is a relatively strong retail offer within the town, people from the catchment area often choose to shop in other larger settlements, including Bath and Swindon. The railway in Chippenham cuts through the town centre, severing employment land and development opportunities from the main retail and services offer.

4.3.2. Chippenham is situated along the A350 Corridor, a key economic artery in Wiltshire also connecting the towns of Corsham, Melksham, Trowbridge, Westbury and Warminster.

4.3.3. Chippenham is one of the largest towns in Wiltshire and has excellent transport links, being in proximity to the M4 and located on the main Bristol to London railway line. This has supported significant levels of out-commuting. However the town is an attractive location for employers. As there is currently a shortfall of suitable land for employment growth in the town, a priority is to ensure appropriate economic development takes place to encourage inward investment, allow for the expansion of existing business and prevent employers moving elsewhere. A failure to respond to this issue could lead to a loss of local employment at a time when some job losses are anticipated due to the current economic climate.

4.3.4. The Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) prioritises the investment in improvements to the A350 Corridor to support growth in and around Chippenham. Investment in highways infrastructure will contribute to: accelerating the regeneration of the town, accelerating the delivery of new homes and jobs in urban expansions at Chippenham and addressing capacity constraints, congestion and journey time reliability. In addition to transport investment, the LEP's Growth Deal for Chippenham is focused on: accelerating the development of a new Station Hub and unlocking the growth of Langley Park for the delivery of a mixed use site solution to support the retention of significant business uses on part of the site.

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

4.4. Methodology

4.4.1. Information describing the baseline provides the basis for the prediction and monitoring of the predicted significant effects of the implementation of the DPDs. It can be used as a way of identifying problems as they occur and policy changes may be made.

4.4.2. Due to the fact that SA is an iterative process, subsequent stages in its preparation and assessment might identify other issues and priorities that require the sourcing of additional data and/or information and identification of monitoring strategies. This makes the SA process flexible, adaptable and responsive to changes in the baseline conditions and enables trends to be analysed over time.

4.4.3. The most efficient way to collate relevant baseline data is through the use of indicators (see below). This ensures that the data collation carried out is both focused and effective. The identification of relevant indicators has taken place alongside the assessment of other relevant PPPs (Task A1), the identification of sustainability issues (Task A3), and developing the sustainability appraisal framework (Task A4).

4.4.4. It should be noted that the SA process does not require the collection of primary data, but relies on the analysis of existing information. As such, where data gaps exist, this is highlighted in the report.

4.4.5. Sustainability indicators have been selected for their ability to provide objective data that will, over time, offer an insight into general trends taking place. Throughout the assessment process, the following matters will need to be addressed:

- What is the current situation, including trends over time?

- How far is the current situation from known thresholds, objectives or targets?

- Are particularly sensitive or important elements of the environment, economy or society affected?

- Are the problems of a large or small scale, reversible or irreversible, permanent or temporary, direct or indirect?

- How difficult would it be to prevent, reduce or compensate for any negative effect?

- Have there been, or will there be, any significant cumulative or synergistic effects over time?

4.5. Data Analysis

4.5.1. The baseline data provides an overview of the environmental, social and economic characteristics of the DPD areas and how these compare to comparative data at different scales. This overview is presented in Appendix B. Data have been collated and analysed for the following indicators:

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD: Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

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Environmental Data

- Internationally designated sites including SPAs, SACs and Ramsar sites

- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

- National Nature Reserves

- Ancient Woodland

- Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCIs), incorporating Regionally Important Geological and geomorphological Sites (RIGS) and County Wildlife Sites

- UK BAP habitats

- Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)

- Protected Road Verges

- Local Geological Sites (LGSs)

- Non Statutory Nature Reserves (locally designated)

- Disturbance

- AQMAs

- Pollution: air, noise, lighting

- Land contamination

- Per capita carbon emissions

- Renewable energy installation

- Fuel poverty

- Ecological footprint

- Landscape character areas

- Designated landscapes: AONBs, Green Belts, Special Landscape Areas (SLAs), New Forest National Park

- Tranquillity

- Soil pollutants

- Agricultural land classification

- Waste/ Municipal Waste

- River quality

- Water supply

- Water management

- Flood risk

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
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- Groundwater protection

- Archaeological sites

- Scheduled monuments

- Heritage at Risk Register

- World Heritage Sites

- Listed buildings and conservation areas

Social Data

- Population: total and age structure

- Population projections

- Population: ethnicity and religion

- Household size and composition

- Household type and tenure

- Housing completions

- Homelessness

- Affordable housing

- Early years education and childcare

- Education: Future Capacity of Schools

- Employment

- Qualifications

- Workplace skills

- Obesity and health

- Mortality

- Road safety

- Crime

- Sport and recreation

- Access to green space

- Health inequalities

Economic Data

- Employment sectors

- Occupations by type

- Availability of the car

- Travel to work by mode

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD: Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

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- Economic activity

- Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) Claimants

- Commercial property availability

- Weekly earnings

- Commuting patterns

- Resident-based economy

- Business dynamism

4.6. Data Limitations

4.6.1. The purpose and use of indicators is to provide quantified, objective information in order to show how things change over time. However, they do not explain why particular trends are occurring and the secondary, or knock-on, effects of any changes.

4.6.2. There are several gaps in the data collected as a result of not all the relevant information being available at the local level for recent time periods but it is believed that the data sets available provide a comprehensive overview of the sustainability situation in Wiltshire. Data gaps include:

- Up-to-date data relating to rural Wiltshire

- An up-to-date transport strategy for Chippenham

- Data relating to walking and cycling trends and up-to-date data on the use of public transport

- Limited up-to-date landscape related information at national and local levels

- Limited data relating to the use of land in Wiltshire

- Limited data relating to local air quality

- Need for Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) Level 2 work to provide more detailed information on flood risk

- It is difficult to compare Census 2011 with Census 2001 data as the latter provided information on Wiltshire's former counties and this is no longer being recorded or updated.

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
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5. Identifying Key Sustainability Issues

Task A3

5.1.1. The next task in the SA is the identification of sustainability issues. The identification of sustainability issues of particular significance to the site allocations for development in Wiltshire provides a means of defining key issues for the two DPDs and to influence the respective DPD objectives and options. The analysis of baseline data informs the key sustainability issues and the development of the SA framework, in particular in identifying and selecting indicators and targets.

5.1.2. This section describes the current situation and highlights the key issues faced 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 the sustainability of the housing site allocations across Wiltshire, with specific additional focus on Chippenham in terms of the spatial extent of projected change; and the fact that the Chippenham plan will deal with more than simply housing development.

SEA Directive
The requirement to identify sustainability problems and issues arises from the SEA Directive, where the Environmental Report required under the Directive should include: *"Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC"* (Annex I(d))

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5.2. Methodology

5.2.1. The key sustainability issues have been derived by analysing the baseline data and contextual information from PPPs; and assessing what the likely significant issues will be over the longer term i.e. 10 years +.

5.2.2. The analysis of sustainability issues has been iterative and is ongoing. As the SA develops with further stakeholder involvement, the analysis of key issues is likely to evolve.

5.2.3. It should be noted that some of the sustainability issues identified are not necessarily under the DPDs' direct field of influence, for example population growth. However, it is considered important to reflect these where there may be indirect causality that can potentially be shaped by planning policies through the DPDs.

5.3. Results

5.3.1. Table 5.1 presents the results of the analysis of key sustainability issues. A column has been included to show which objectives of the draft SA Framework (Table 6.1) most closely align to the issues identified. The numbers in brackets refer to the objectives within the Wiltshire Core Strategy DPD SA, in the interest of completeness.

5.3.2. Baseline data is provided in Appendix B.

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
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Table 5.1 – Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

Key Issues/ Opportunities	Implications for plan-making	Relevant SEA Topic	Relationship to SA Objectives[9]
BIODIVERSITY			
Wiltshire			
- There is the potential for development pressures resulting in increased recreational disturbance at Salisbury Plain and New Forest SPAs. Recreational disturbance can be avoided through the adoption of management measures, with Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space only to be provided in exceptional circumstances, as well as through the adoption of a Green Infrastructure Strategy. (Source: *Wiltshire Core Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment 2013*) - Cotswold Beechwoods SAC - Potential impacts associated with air quality as a result of transport related emissions are an issue at the SAC. (Source: *Wiltshire Core Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment 2013*) - Bath and Bradford-on-Avon Bats Special Area of Conservation (SAC) - There is the potential for new development to impact on the integrity of the SAC. (Source: *Wiltshire Core Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment 2013*)	Designated sites of international and national nature conservation importance to be protected and enhanced Improved connectivity between sites of biodiversity value Particular consideration given to the interaction of water usage and biodiversity value Need for HRA findings to be taken into consideration in site selection Development in the Corsham and Bradford-on-Avon Community Areas to be planned and delivered in accordance with Wiltshire Council guidance to maintain the integrity of the SAC Consideration given to the presence of Bechstein bats within close proximity to the Ashton Park Urban Extension site at	Biodiversity; Flora and Fauna	1 (1)

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[9] Numbers in brackets refer to the SA Objectives for the Wiltshire Core Strategy DPD, to enable cross-reference

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Key Issues/ Opportunities	Implications for plan-making	Relevant SEA Topic	Relationship to SA Objectives[9]
- The Ashton Park Urban Extension at Trowbridge lies in close proximity to habitat known to support Bechstein's bats at Biss / Green Lane Woods and could potentially result in significant effects on the protected species. (Source: *Wiltshire Core Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment 2013*) - Water abstraction and pollution - Increased abstraction required to supply the additional proposed housing in the Core Strategy may impact upon the River Avon SAC and Kennet and Lambourne Floodplain SAC. This will also result in an increased requirement for wastewater discharge, which could have a significant effect upon the River Avon SAC through increased phosphate levels. (Source: *Wiltshire Core Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment - Update to the Wiltshire Core Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment, February 2014*) - Habitat Loss and modification as a result of new development - Increased housing at Bradford on Avon, Corsham and Westbury could result in habitat loss or modification which would impact upon the Bath and Bradford Bats SAC. However this would be addressed through the Wiltshire Council's guidance document and it is considered that new development in the area would not affect the integrity of the SAC, provided this guidance is adhered to. Increased housing at Trowbridge could have LSE upon the Bechstein's populations at Biss / Green Lane Woods. *Wiltshire Core Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment - Update to the Wiltshire Core Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment,*	Trowbridge County Wildlife Sites (CWS) to be protected from the adverse effects, direct and indirect, of development Requirement that disturbance impacts of development proposals form part of the environmental assessments prepared to inform development proposals Local Geological Sites (LGSs) to be secured and protected from future development Regard to be had to BAP habitats/ species so that these can be protected from inappropriate development and measures to reverse decline can be introduced Requirement to demonstrate appropriate consideration of disturbance impacts within cumulative assessment work, including at the SA/SEA level		

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
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Key Issues/ Opportunities	Implications for plan-making	Relevant SEA Topic	Relationship to SA Objectives[9]
February 2014) - Slight decline has been witnessed in the condition of the SSSI network between 2011 and 2014. Decline in BAP species numbers has also been noted for the same time period. (Source: *Natural England SSSI Condition Summary*) - Across Wiltshire there are opportunities to restore major areas of broadleaved woodland, neutral grassland, limestone grassland, chalk downland, river networks and wetland habitats linking to features shown on the South West Nature Map. - Some strategic development which is planned during the plan period will fall within Strategic Nature Areas (SNA) including the east of Trowbridge extension and the proposed area of growth at Warminster, while extension of other towns including Malmesbury, Tidworth, Ludgershall, Marlborough and Cricklade could potentially fall within SNAs. Development in SNAs has the potential to cause further fragmentation and sterilise areas of land from restoration back to the target habitat type, equally however, major development offers the potential to create, restore and enhance target habitat types through informed and sensitive masterplanning and developer contributions. - There are approximately 1,550 County Wildlife Sites (CWSs) in Wiltshire covering approximately 21,000ha of semi-natural habitats. The CWS network does not receive any statutory protection and is vulnerable as a result.			

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
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Key Issues/ Opportunities	Implications for plan-making	Relevant SEA Topic	Relationship to SA Objectives[9]
- Local Geological Sites (LGSs) are currently the most important places for geology and geomorphology outside of geological SSSIs, and there are currently 58 LGSs in Wiltshire. Whilst policy to date has afforded a level of protection to LGSs, there is an opportunity for future policies to enhance or secure Wiltshire's known geodiversity for the future. - Development has the potential to result in long and short term disturbance of the natural environment resulting in a range of effects on species and habitats (both direct and indirect), which, particularly when taken in combination can be significant but have historically been overlooked in environmental assessments.			
Chippenham			
Development will, where possible, enhance the ecological value of the Birds Marsh Wood County Wildlife Site and Birds Marsh Meadow County Wildlife Site	*Development should seek to, where appropriate, enhance the ecological value of the Birds Marsh Wood County Wildlife Site and Birds Marsh Meadow County Wildlife Site*		1 (1)

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

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Key Issues/ Opportunities	Implications for plan-making	Relevant SEA Topic	Relationship to SA Objectives[9]
LAND AND SOIL RESOURCES			
Wiltshire			
- Due to the county's predominantly rural nature, there is low availability of brownfield land in Wiltshire meaning that many allocations are likely to fall on greenfield sites. Nevertheless, the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land should be recognised and priority for development should be given to poorer quality land. - Future development needs provide the opportunity to remediate and redevelop Wiltshire's remaining brownfield sites, particularly in town centres. - A key objective of Wiltshire Council is to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill and maximising recycling rates by increasing recycling services and establishing alternatives to disposing of waste in landfills. - The amount of waste increases with an increasing population. New waste infrastructure is required to meet the demands resulting from future population growth. - The following key issues have been identified in the Waste Core Strategy 2006-2026: Key Issue 1: Substantial population growth in Wiltshire and Swindon and the need for additional waste management capacity Key Issue 2: Identifying future site locations, rationalising the framework of waste management sites and the environmental	*Preference for the use of brownfield land over greenfield land to deliver effective use of land, remediation of contaminated soils and protect greenfield land* *Development should be directed away from the best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land* *Site allocations need to reflect the Waste Core Strategy with regards to the potential for waste to be processed locally* *Site allocations will need to have regard to the Waste Site Allocations DPD* *Site Allocations will need to have regard to Mineral Safeguarding Areas*	Material Assets	2, 4 (2), (6)

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

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Key Issues/ Opportunities	Implications for plan-making	Relevant SEA Topic	Relationship to SA Objectives[9]
importance of Wiltshire and Swindon Key Issue 3: The approach to waste management in Wiltshire and Swindon - Proposals for mineral and waste development may have a negative impact on local landscape character, biodiversity, geological interests and heritage assets. - Proposals for waste development may have a detrimental impact on tourism and recreational facilities, as well as on canals and railway routes.			
WATER RESOURCES AND FLOOD RISK			
Wiltshire			
- The impact of climate change on the water cycle will inevitably reinforce existing patterns of water scarcity and abundance. The South West is set for wetter winters and drier summers, which will have significant implications for local water infrastructure. - Several key locations within the administrative area of Wiltshire Council have been identified as the focus of a Strategic Water Management Plan – Chippenham, Trowbridge and Salisbury. - Trowbridge - Historically, the majority of reported flooding issues within Trowbridge have been linked with fluvial flooding from the River Biss. Surface water flooding incidents have been limited, with no significant issues identified. - Salisbury - Historically, the majority of reported flooding issues within Salisbury and the surrounding area have been linked with	*Development to be directed away from areas at risk of flooding or where it would increase the risk of flooding* *Developer contributions for new development to be sought towards upgrading the waste water infrastructure* *Direct development where it will not increase pressure on the local sewerage network* *Groundwater resources should be protected from potential pollution resulting from new development* *Consideration to be given to the opportunity for*	Water, Human Health	3, 5 (4), (7)

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

Key Issues/ Opportunities	Implications for plan-making	Relevant SEA Topic	Relationship to SA Objectives[9]
fluvial flooding from the River Avon (Hampshire), River Nadder and River Bourne. However, due to the nature of the underlying bedrock, base flows within these rivers are inherently linked with groundwater levels. During wet periods, surface water infiltration into the underlying aquifer causes groundwater levels to rise causing increases in base flow within river channels. These cause longer duration flood events that are a combination of groundwater and fluvial flows. - Potential developments in the Pewsham Way and Hardens Farm area are located in greenfield areas. These are not served by the public sewer system and flow paths associated with ordinary watercourses (ditches, mainly) are likely to convey water to the River Avon. - The impacts of climate change are likely to significantly affect waste water treatment infrastructure. More intense rainfall is likely to put further pressure on the sewerage network, which could lead to sewer flooding and spills from combined sewer overflows. More prolonged periods of dry weather could mean that treated effluent from sewage treatment works returned to rivers constitutes a higher proportion of the flow in these rivers and streams, whilst hotter weather could lead to an increase in complaints from residents concerning odour from sewage works. - The River Avon SAC and ground water sources are particularly vulnerable to the effects of diffuse and point source pollution, in particular to elevated phosphate levels from additional sewage	*site allocations to incorporate SuDS and promote water conservation/grey-water recycling*		

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

Key Issues/ Opportunities	Implications for plan-making	Relevant SEA Topic	Relationship to SA Objectives[9]
discharges in the catchment. This can be addressed through the introduction of a Nutrient Management Plan to reduce phosphate levels. - Nitrogen enrichment of surface waters and groundwater is already regarded as problem in a number of areas. Wiltshire's chalk streams are internationally important for biodiversity, but currently suffer from a number of interacting factors that are having negative impacts. - Groundwater resources need to be protected and managed to ensure sustainable future supplies. There are two key risks to groundwater: pollution / contamination; and over use of groundwater.			
Chippenham			
- A more detailed Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (level 2) is needed to provide a robust understanding of flood risk and inform decisions about the town's growth and appropriate selection of sites for development. Such work should consider all aspects of flood risk and, where practicable, the scope of the assessment should be agreed with the Council and the Environment Agency - Chippenham: Historically, the majority of reported flooding issues within Chippenham have been linked with fluvial flooding from the River Avon. Surface water flooding combined with sewer exceedance has occurred within the High Street causing localised	*Site allocations should be within zone 1 flood risk areas. Flood Risk Assessments, where development is proposed nearby, may be needed to define precise boundaries to zone 1 and establish the scale and extent of development that can be accommodated.*	Water, Human Health	3, 5 (4), (7)

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

Key Issues/ Opportunities	Implications for plan-making	Relevant SEA Topic	Relationship to SA Objectives[9]
flooding of surrounding commercial properties.			
AIR QUALITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION			
Wiltshire			
- Wiltshire Council has declared a number of AQMAs due to exceedances in nitrogen dioxide. - Future development has the potential to result in air quality impacts on biodiversity, and in particular on Natura 2000 sites. Potential impacts associated with air quality are an issue at the Cotswold Beechwoods SAC site which falls under the management plan for the Cotswolds AONB.	*Proposals for new development must ensure that appropriate measures are put into place to avoid air quality impacts on local biodiversity and in particular on Natura 2000 sites* *New development should contribute to improved air quality through reducing the need to travel by private car and increasing on site vegetation in order to provide carbon sinks.*	Human Health, Biodiversity	1, 4, 5 (6), (7)
CLIMATIC FACTORS			
Wiltshire			
- Increases in human greenhouse gas emissions are predicted to lead to rises in global temperature. Global warming is shown to have already affected world weather patterns with further predicted rises in global sea levels, a loss of sea ice and snow cover, a greater intensity of hot extremes, and heavy precipitation and a	*New development should meet high energy efficiency standards and be designed so as to be resilient to the impacts of climate change* *Regard must be had to location of the development including aspect/ orientation, use*	Human Health, Climatic Factors, Population,	1, 3, 4, 5 (1), (4),(6)

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

Key Issues/ Opportunities	Implications for plan-making	Relevant SEA Topic	Relationship to SA Objectives[9]
greater intensity of other events such as typhoons and hurricanes. There are four areas of opportunity where planning policy can contribute to resilience to climate change: - Managing high temperatures - Managing flood risk - Managing water resource and water quality - Managing ground conditions. - Wiltshire's ecological footprint is significantly greater than the average global ecological footprint. Efforts directed at climate change adaptation and mitigation at the local level such as reducing the use of non-renewable energy and reducing vehicle journeys, will contribute to reducing the county's ecological footprint. - In Wiltshire, there is a local need to reduce carbon emissions and deliver an increased level of renewable energy. Wiltshire's per capita carbon emissions are greater than for either the South West or for the UK though the period 2005 to 2011 has seen a steady reduction of carbon emissions (approx 23%). - An opportunity has been identified in Trowbridge for the delivery of a district energy/ heat network. - Generally the housing stock in Wiltshire is better than the national average. The number of 'non decent' homes is greatest in rural areas and pockets of fuel poverty have been identified throughout	*of materials, accessibility to local services etc* *Site allocations should give consideration to the opportunities for larger developments to be served be strategic energy solutions (e.g. CHP and on-site renewables)* *Improved housing stock to reduce the number of 'non decent homes'*	Material Assets	(7)

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

Key Issues/ Opportunities	Implications for plan-making	Relevant SEA Topic	Relationship to SA Objectives[9]
Wiltshire. The percentage of households in fuel poverty is greatest in South West Wiltshire followed by the Pewsey Community Area.			
CULTURAL HERITAGE			
Wiltshire			
- Wiltshire has a rich and historic landscape which forms an important part of its rich natural heritage. Wiltshire has nearly 20,000 archaeological sites ranging from the prehistoric through to Roman and medieval times and the civil war battlefield at Roundway Down. There are also approximately 12,000 listed buildings, 37 historic parks and gardens, three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and more than 200 conservation areas (refer to Appendix B for further information). There is a need to retain/ preserve and where possible enhance designated and non designated heritage assets. - Wiltshire's rural settlements and villages include many historic farm buildings. However there have been an alarming number of losses of these buildings in recent years and surviving examples of threshing barns, granaries, malt houses, dovecotes and stables are becoming increasingly rare. - The presence of busy main roads in the vicinity of the Stonehenge World Heritage Site impacts adversely on its integrity. However in June 2013 the section of road traversing the World Heritage Site was closed to public vehicular access in order to	*New development should seek to protect and enhance the setting of local designated and non designated heritage assets* *New development should seek to retain the historic fabric and heritage of Wiltshire, including through the footprint of sites and the creation of boundaries to built development* *Policies should seek to ensure that development densities are appropriate to the local context, to avoid erosion of the character of settlements* *Where appropriate, new development should contribute to 'saving' the heritage sites in Wiltshire most at risk* *New development should have regard to the relevant Conservation Area Management Plan*	Cultural Heritage, Landscape	5, 6, 7 (7),(8), (9)

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Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

Key Issues/ Opportunities	Implications for plan-making	Relevant SEA Topic	Relationship to SA Objectives[9]
reduce the impacts of roads and traffic on visitor facilities. - A significant proportion of Wiltshire's scheduled monuments are 'at high risk'. In 2013, there were 257 entries for Wiltshire in English Heritage's 'At Risk Register', which is an improvement on 2011 figures (266 entries in the Heritage at Risk Register 2011) but there is the opportunity to do more to address heritage at risk. - Opportunities exist to promote the wider contribution of the historic environment to sustainable development. - The effects of climate change are likely to present some particular threats to the historic environment of Wiltshire, including: - an increased incidence of wetting and drying that heighten the risk of ground subsidence and accelerated decay of stonework - more frequent intensive rainfall events that can cause increased erosion of archaeological sites - the possible increase in the frequency of extreme weather that could pose an increased risk of damage to historic buildings and cultural sites.			
Chippenham			
Opportunity through the Chippenham Masterplan to promote the regeneration and revitalisation of Chippenham's built and natural heritage	*All development and public realm improvements must respect the historic character of the town centre in accordance with the Chippenham Conservation Area Management Plan (2010).*	Cultural Heritage, Landscape	6, 7 (8), (9)

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

Key Issues/ Opportunities	Implications for plan-making	Relevant SEA Topic	Relationship to SA Objectives[9]
LANDSCAPES			
Wiltshire			
- A key challenge for Wiltshire will involve reconciling the need for sustainable development whilst meeting the social and economic needs of the countryside and preserving the intrinsic qualities of the landscape. - The need to meet house-building targets may result in pressures on the landscape surrounding the urban areas of Salisbury, Trowbridge and Chippenham, but also in other areas. - There are 3 AONBs in Wiltshire: Management plans have been prepared for the three AONBs and will need to be considered in proposals for future development. - Key potential pressures on AONBs could include: pollution (noise/air/light); expansion of urban areas; development pressures; equine related activities; erosion of the character and sense of place through unsympathetic design; habitat decline; impact of re-using brownfield land (MoD sites) in the countryside - With regards to Wiltshire Council's Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) and Special Landscape Areas (SLA) there may be an opportunity to identify those truly unique areas of Wiltshire and protect them for the future, while also avoiding unnecessarily rigid local designations which restrict opportunities for sustainable development.	*Areas protected for their landscape value should be preserved and wherever possible enhanced* *Site allocations should take topography and key view corridors into consideration, in order to respond appropriately to established landscape character* *Preserving and enhancing local landscape character will need to be a key consideration in development proposals, particularly through encouraging high quality design solutions to ensure that the proposals respect and complement the local landscape* *Management plans have been prepared for the three AONBs and will need to be considered in proposals for future development* *Enhancement of the local Green Infrastructure network should be promoted through new development, ensuring that site allocations include sufficient space for wildlife networks and planting to connect within and beyond*	Landscape, Biodiversity	1, 7 (1), (9)

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

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Key Issues/ Opportunities	Implications for plan-making	Relevant SEA Topic	Relationship to SA Objectives[9]
- Through new development there are opportunities as well as a need to promote sustainable design in Wiltshire that respects and complements the character of the local landscape. - There are opportunities through emerging policies to promote the delivery of Green Infrastructure projects in line with the emerging Wiltshire Council GI Strategy. - 'Tranquillity' should be recognised as a key positive aspect of the countryside that should be protected - Part of the Western Wiltshire Green Belt falls in Wiltshire including land surrounding Bradford on Avon, Trowbridge and west of Corsham. The particular objectives of the Western Wiltshire Green Belt are to maintain the open character of undeveloped land adjacent to Bath, Trowbridge and Bradford on Avon, to limit the spread of development along the A4 between Batheaston and Corsham and to protect the historic character and setting of Bradford upon Avon.	*development sites* *Opportunities to introduce water into development sites should be considered in the context of local landscape character, for example, through the use of SuDS* *Policies should respect established Green Belt boundaries and seek to preserve openness where it is important in defining landscape character*		
Chippenham			
The River Avon is an important asset for the town and the local environment, and could be better integrated with the town centre and urban extension as part of a green infrastructure strategy, as a green corridor for wildlife, as a recreational space and as a sustainable transport route for pedestrians and cyclists	*Proposals for the town should set out how to better integrate the River Avon with the town centre and urban extension, so that it also acts as a green corridor for wildlife, a recreational space and a sustainable transport route.*	Biodiversity, Landscape	1, 7 (1), (9)

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
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ATKINS

Key Issues/ Opportunities	Implications for plan-making	Relevant SEA Topic	Relationship to SA Objectives[9]
Opportunity through the Chippenham Masterplan to promote the role of green infrastructure and encourage legibility and connectivity across the town	*Maximising the opportunity to promote the role of green infrastructure and to encourage legibility and connectivity across the town*		
POPULATION AND HOUSING			
Wiltshire			
- Ageing population: By 2026 the composition of Wiltshire's older age groups will have changed dramatically. There will be a higher proportion of the older age groups, including the over 85s, and double the number of older disabled people. It is therefore important that new homes are suitable to meet the needs of households in the future including an ageing population. - Gypsy and Traveller accommodation: there are current, unresolved issues in Wiltshire surrounding unauthorised encampments and the lack of alternative sites which need to be addressed - Affordability: In Wiltshire there is a key issue of affordability, particularly in rural areas meaning that many people cannot afford to live where they grew up or where they work. This results in households settling for inadequate conditions, living in houses that are too small or in poor conditions. Rural areas also show the strongest polarity of incomes being home to both relatively low income households and high income ones typically involving long distance commuters. This is combined with a larger older population. Rural households register much greater difficulty in	*Priority should be given to improving the quality, type and tenure of housing and ensuring that high quality housing is affordable to all sections of the community.* *The emerging Core Strategy seeks 40% affordable housing contribution in Category 1 and 2 settlements (including Chippenham), and 30% for development in Category 3 and 4 settlements (on sites of five or more units). The DPD will need to reflect this approach through site allocations* *Sufficient land should be allocated for housing in accessible locations, taking into account the need to reduce car based travel* *Priority should be given to the redevelopment of previously developed land for new development, including opportunities presented by MoD land that may become available for change of use*	Population	8, 9 (10), (12)

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

Key Issues/ Opportunities	Implications for plan-making	Relevant SEA Topic	Relationship to SA Objectives[9]
accessing services, a common pattern throughout the country. - The lack of good housing stock has a knock-on impact on the economy. Wiltshire needs to right kind of homes to retain young people as well as to accommodating an ageing population. - In Wiltshire there are extensive areas of land in Ministry of Defence (MoD) ownership, some of which is likely to become redundant in the plan period and which presents opportunities for redevelopment. - Efficient use of land in Wiltshire is very important, particularly given the rural nature of the county with low levels of previously developed land. It is essential that design solutions are encouraged which will achieve higher density levels wherever possible. - The identified housing requirement in Wiltshire over the plan period 2006-2026 is 42,000 dwellings distributed as follows: East Wiltshire Housing Market Area (HMA): 5,940 dwellings North and West Wiltshire HMA: 24,740 dwellings South Wiltshire HMA: 10,420 dwellings West of Swindon: 900 dwellings - There is the opportunity through new development to significantly increase the affordable housing stock. - Neighbourhood Plans: A number of Neighbourhood Plans are currently under preparation, providing a local interpretation of key issues that should be taken into consideration.	*Development proposals for housing will have to have regard to the settlement hierarchy in the emerging Wiltshire Core Strategy DPD, which indicates where development should be directed in the county* *The design of new housing will need to allow for a certain level of flexibility to meet the changing needs of the local population* *Emerging Neighbourhood Plans should be considered when planning new development in Wiltshire towns and villages*		

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Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

Key Issues/ Opportunities	Implications for plan-making	Relevant SEA Topic	Relationship to SA Objectives[9]
Chippenham			
Housing development in Chippenham should be phased for delivery throughout the plan period. This will enable employment development to come forward in advance of further residential development, and will help to ensure a steady supply of new homes across the whole plan period Opportunity to identify mixed use land opportunities necessary to deliver substantial growth in Chippenham. In this context there are a number of strategic areas where large mixed use sites could be located, particularly to the north, east and south.	Strategically important mixed-use sites for the town's expansion to be identified through policy Priority should be given to the redevelopment of previously developed sites.	Population	8, 9 (10), (12)
HEALTHY COMMUNITIES			
Wiltshire			
- The proportion of people reporting limiting long-term illness in Wiltshire is amongst the lowest in England. - Sport and recreation: Wiltshire contains some of the most deprived wards in the south west, which has a consequential impact upon the number of people taking part in physical activity. - Obesity: The number of overweight and obese people has tripled over the last two decades and this number is still rising. Obesity amongst children in Wiltshire is relatively low and compares well with both the national figures and comparator authorities. However,	*Location of development where it encourages walking and cycling over the use of the car or even of public transport* *Location of services within walking distances to residential development* *Provision of easily accessible and safe public open space, suitable to meet a range of needs* *Promote development to mitigate against the effects of urban heat islands*	Human Health, Population, Climatic Factors	2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 (2), (7), (9), (10), (12), (15)

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Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

Key Issues/ Opportunities	Implications for plan-making	Relevant SEA Topic	Relationship to SA Objectives[9]
there are hotspots where obesity levels are high. - Health inequalities: Although Wiltshire is generally not a deprived area; the county has pockets of deprivation including three local areas that lie amongst the 20% most deprived in England. - Ageing population: The changing age structure of the Wiltshire population will have a significant impact on the health and social care needs of the population. - Encouraging access to good quality green infrastructure is key to support healthy communities. However there are isolated pockets of greenspace in Wiltshire which are of varying standards. - Crime and safety: Salisbury, Chippenham and Trowbridge absorb an intensive amount of resources from police and other agencies but still produce higher levels of crime and disorder than any other area. The level of crime in Wiltshire overall is not particularly high but the fear of crime is more substantial. - Fuel poverty: There are pockets of fuel poverty throughout Wiltshire. The percentage of households in fuel poverty is greatest in South West Wiltshire, followed by the Pewsey Community Area. - Unavoidable climate change will occur over the next few decades regardless of any mitigation measures that may be pursued. For example, temperatures are expected to rise between 1.1 and 6.4 0C. This will result in an increase in hot weather extremes and deaths associated with high temperatures. Climate change will also result in warmer winters which may on the other hand reduce the	*Easy access to health facilities and provision of health facilities as part of larger developments where existing facilities would not be able to cope with additional demand generated by the new development*		

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

Key Issues/ Opportunities	Implications for plan-making	Relevant SEA Topic	Relationship to SA Objectives[9]
amount of illnesses over the winter months.			
Chippenham			
- A number of improvements are needed to infrastructure provision in Chippenham and these include the need for new GP, Fire, Police and Ambulance facilities. A shared site and/or contributions for such provision could offer an effective route to improved service delivery providing they are centrally located as practicable and in a sustainable and accessible location. Contributions toward enhanced health and emergency services provision will be sought where appropriate from any proposed development at Chippenham, subject to viability and timing. - The Chippenham Central Opportunity Area has the potential for new hotel and community uses	*Use developer contributions or mixed-use development proposals to meet the need for new infrastructure provision, including a new GP, Fire, Police and Ambulance Facilities.* *Incorporate the proposals of the Chippenham Masterplan to identify new locations for a new hotel and other community uses.*	Human Health, Population, Climatic Factors	2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 (2), (7), (9), (10), (12), (15)
INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES			
Wiltshire			
- Poverty and deprivation: Wiltshire is not a deprived county however there are three small areas - two in Trowbridge and one in Salisbury - which are in the top 20% of deprived areas nationally; they are home to slightly more than 5,000 people. There are also scattered areas of poverty in rural Wiltshire. The most prevalent form of deprivation in Wiltshire relates to barriers to housing and services.	*New development should be designed so as to enhance a sense of community through the provision of public/ community spaces and facilities. The design of developments should also increase opportunities for passive surveillance to increase a sense of security and well-being*	Population; Human Health; Climatic Factors	7, 8, 9, 10 (9), (10), (12), (15)

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

Key Issues/ Opportunities	Implications for plan-making	Relevant SEA Topic	Relationship to SA Objectives[9]
- There are a number of challenges faced by rural areas in Wiltshire. These include lack of affordable housing, an ageing population, rural isolation, and lesser accessibility as well as a decline in basic facilities. - Wiltshire, along with Dorset and Bath and North East Somerset, has the biggest gap in the South West between the affordability of houses for resident and workplace employees. The high local house prices do not reflect the local employment offer which is characterised by lower skilled, manufacturing jobs. - Accessibility: As a sparsely populated, rural county, access to services is a major issue especially for those living in the rural areas that do not have access to a car. - Community Campuses: Wiltshire Council is working with local communities to develop proposals for innovative community campuses across the county. What a campus will look like, what services will be provided, or where it will go, will be community led and subject to extensive consultation with local people and partners.	*Provision of appropriate levels of good quality affordable housing to meet local need* *Locate development within easy access of local services so that these can be accessed on foot, by bike or using public transport* *Development proposals that include community facilities should have regard to the Community Campuses proposals being developed across Wiltshire.*		
EDUCATION AND SKILLS			
Wiltshire			
- Wiltshire has a higher than average proportion of young people not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET). Data suggests that many jobs taken by 16-18 year olds are often temporary; either	*Ensuring that suitable land is set aside to attract a broader base of employers to the area*	Population; Human	8, 9,10, 11, 12

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

Key Issues/ Opportunities	Implications for plan-making	Relevant SEA Topic	Relationship to SA Objectives[9]
genuinely short contract or seasonal jobs or the young people move between jobs until they settle. - With regards to workplace skills, Wiltshire has been dominated by low value, low skilled manufacturing and service sectors, resulting in the county becoming an attractive place for the higher skilled and higher paid in which to live, but not to work. - The skills base of Wiltshire is relatively polarised with a high proportion of residents with high skills levels, but equally a significant proportion with poor basic skills and, as a result of the recession, increasing unemployment levels	*Ensuring an appropriate level of high quality educational facilities in accessible locations to meet the needs of the community* *Policies should seek to match housing allocations to employment opportunities within the county, to assist in reducing trends of out-migration for work*	Health	(10), (12), (15), (16), (17)
Chippenham			
The existing Hardenhuish and Sheldon secondary schools are oversubscribed and further work is needed to assess either the need for a new secondary school in the town or the opportunity for expansion of Abbeyfield secondary school. Abbeyfield School is a business and enterprise school with close links with the local Chambers of Commerce. A small business enterprise zone, linked to the school, should be developed as a centre of excellence to facilitate dynamic and reciprocal links with local businesses to ensure direct pathways from education through to training through to employment. This will help to encourage young people to stay within Wiltshire.	*Opportunities for additional secondary school provision in the town should be explored. Secondary school provision should be integral to any proposed mixed use development in Chippenham* *The possible expansion of Abbeyfield secondary school should be considered as an option to meet the local and future need for secondary school places. This may include the development of a small enterprise zone linked to the School*	Population, Human Health	9,10, 11, 12 (12), (15), (16), (17)

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

Key Issues/ Opportunities	Implications for plan-making	Relevant SEA Topic	Relationship to SA Objectives[9]
TRANSPORT			
Wiltshire			
- There is a need to ensure that employment, education, health, shops, and other essential facilities are accessible to all, and not just those with access to a private car. - Some sections of Wiltshire's transport network are below national standards for structural condition and skid resistance. Some of the main highway routes in the county are unsuited to the volume and weight of traffic carried and this has given rise to some local congestion, relatively low inter-urban journey speeds and journey time reliability issues. - High car ownership is reflective of the rural nature of the county although there are clear geographic differences in the distribution of households without access to cars. The future growth of Wiltshire's largest towns should focus on creating more favourable conditions for people to be less reliant on the car. - With regards to public transport, there is scope to increase the number of trips made on public transport. Increasing car ownership levels have given rise to greater flexibility for many social, leisure and employment activities as well as many facilities now being located on the edge of urban areas. Public transport is mostly unable to meet these changes, both in terms of service frequency and geographic coverage, thus leaving those without access to a car disadvantaged. Consideration of alternative approaches is	*Have regard to the Wiltshire Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2 (September 2013)* *Using developer contributions to improve walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure* *Locate new development where it is accessible to all on foot, by bicycle or through using public transport* *Design development so as to minimise car usage* *Ensure new development incorporates appropriate facilities and infrastructure for cyclists*	Air, Climatic Factors, Human Health	2, 6, 9, 10 (2), (4), (12), (15)

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

Key Issues/ Opportunities	Implications for plan-making	Relevant SEA Topic	Relationship to SA Objectives[9]
needed, building upon success of the development of the Park & Ride services in Salisbury, and partnership schemes with the main operators to improve ridership on their commercial services, such as Kickstart improvements to the Chippenham-Swindon route, the Salisbury Area and Active8 Quality Partnerships. - There has been a sustained increase in the number of rail passenger journeys in Wiltshire - There are opportunities to increase the proportion of journeys made on foot as well as increasing the percentage of people cycling to work. Wiltshire's relative affluence and high levels of cycle ownership offer a good opportunity to increase levels of cycling. There is scope for improving walking and cycling facilities in town centres. - The western Wiltshire towns, which rely heavily on the A350 and A36/A46 routes, are particularly affected by increasing traffic volumes along those routes resulting in unreliability of journey times which is of particular concern to local businesses. - The economic expansion of the main employment areas surrounding the county has not been matched by a similar increase in housing provision, which has increased demand for housing in the county, particularly in the western Wiltshire towns. This has resulted in increased out-commuting, leading to higher traffic volumes and increased pressure on the condition of the highway network.			

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

Key Issues/ Opportunities	Implications for plan-making	Relevant SEA Topic	Relationship to SA Objectives[9]
Chippenham			
- The Chippenham Transport Strategy proposes the following key improvements to address transport related issues in the town and there is an opportunity for these to be reflected though planning policy: - A350 improvements (the A350 has experienced significant traffic growth in recent years) - Targeted town centre and key corridor improvements to ease congestion - Gyratory or alternative capacity neutral reconfiguration of the Bridge Centre junction with associated traffic management measures - Public transport improvements - Comprehensive walking strategy/ improvements for Chippenham and beyond - Targeted cycling improvements focused on new developments, key corridors and links to town centre/public transport interchanges - Reallocating long-stay parking to short-stay parking in town centre - Area wide travel plans or Local Sustainable Transport Fund initiatives focusing on employers, schools and residents in Chippenham. - Personalised Journey Planning across Chippenham	*Integration of the relevant proposals from the Chippenham Transport Strategy* *Public transport connectivity and pedestrian and cycling links to the town, town centre, railway station and Wiltshire College campuses to be improved* *Sustainable connectivity of Chippenham to be encouraged*	Air, Climatic Factors, Human Health	2, 6, 9, 10 (2), (4), (12), (15)

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

Key Issues/ Opportunities	Implications for plan-making	Relevant SEA Topic	Relationship to SA Objectives[9]
- public transport connectivity and pedestrian and cycling links to the town, town centre, railway station and Wiltshire College campuses needs to be improved including better integration of different modes			
- Opportunity through the Chippenham Masterplan to encourage sustainable connectivity.			
ECONOMY AND ENTERPRISE			
Wiltshire			
- Chippenham, Salisbury and Trowbridge should be the focus of both housing and employment development in the future. - There are discrepancies between average earnings by workplace and average earnings by residence in Wiltshire suggesting that Wiltshire's higher skilled resident workers are unable to secure the higher than average earnings within Wiltshire and therefore commute outside of the county for work. - Wiltshire house prices are too high for younger people and people in lower skilled/ paid jobs who tend to work locally. This means that some local industries will struggle to secure labour at a price which will enable them to compete with lower cost foreign production. These conditions place further pressures on manufacturing in the Wiltshire economy. - Approximately 6% of all jobs in Wiltshire are tourism related (directly and indirectly) however compared to other counties Wiltshire generates the lowest amount of spend from staying	*Housing development to be located in proximity to employment sites in order to reduce out-commuting and promote travel to work using sustainable modes of transport* *Safeguarding employment sites suitable to attract high quality employers to the county* *Enhance the viability of the area as an employment centre, in order to improve employment rates. This could be done through the provision and retention of suitable sites for employment in locations that are accessible by sustainable means as well as being located close to residential centres* *Build on positive tourism assets for a greater increase in tourism activity across a range of sectors*	Material assets, Population, Climatic Factors	7, 8, 9, 11, 12 (9), (10), (12), (16), (17)

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

Key Issues/ Opportunities	Implications for plan-making	Relevant SEA Topic	Relationship to SA Objectives[9]
visitors and also is a long way behind other counties in the south west in terms of income generated from day trips. Opportunities: - Retaining principal employment areas - Delivering employment on strategic sites - Maintaining the vitality and viability of town centres - Supporting the LEP objectives and SEP projects - Delivering other employment sites - Matching business requirements for land and premises - Reducing out-commuting and supporting the economic resilience of local communities - Supporting business and services in rural areas			
Chippenham			
Chippenham is identified as a strategic employment location and has been successful in retaining international employers in the manufacturing and service sector, including ICT services, rail systems and logistics. Chippenham is well connected in terms of transport meaning that it is an attractive location for local employers but also leads to high levels of out commuting. However, there is currently a shortfall in suitable land for employment growth and a failure to respond to this issue would result in existing and prospective employers moving elsewhere.	*Policies should support urgent release of land for employment development.* *Provision should be made in Chippenham for an improved retail and commercial offer through the identification of sites to accommodate additional retail floorspace, with a focus on the central regeneration area. This should seek to support the specific targets in*	Material assets, Population, Climatic Factors	7, 8, 9, 11, 12 (9), (10), (12), (16), (17)

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

Key Issues/ Opportunities	Implications for plan-making	Relevant SEA Topic	Relationship to SA Objectives[9]
Opportunity through the Chippenham Masterplan to intensify the town centre and improve its retail and commercial offer in the context of its phased growth The Chippenham Central Opportunity Area has the potential to accommodate approximately 12,500sqm of office and industrial development and approximately 10,000sqm of retail and leisure floorspace New employment provision in Chippenham is a priority and will help to redress the existing levels of net out-commuting. New employment provision will be supported on the allocated strategic sites and on identified town centre regeneration / brownfield opportunity sites Chippenham's offer as a service centre will be enhanced, particularly the town centre for retail, leisure and the evening economy in order to reduce the outflow of shopping and leisure trips The emerging Wiltshire Core Strategy DPD identifies the need to secure expansion to Chippenham's town centre by providing additional convenience floorspace of 703sq m net by 2015 rising to 1338 sq m by 2020 and an additional 3181sq m net comparison floorspace rising to 7975sq m net by 2020 to include an improved retail offer. Further out of centre retail development in Chippenham would weaken the town centre and future provision should be focused in the central regeneration opportunity area. Any proposals for edge of	*the emerging Wiltshire Core Strategy DPD.* *Land should be identified to accommodate new office and industrial development on allocated strategic sites as well as on town centre regeneration/ brownfield opportunity sites.* *Proposals for edge of town retail development should be avoided unless it can be demonstrated that they would not result in detrimental impact on the town centre*		

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

Key Issues/ Opportunities	Implications for plan-making	Relevant SEA Topic	Relationship to SA Objectives[9]
town centre retail development should clearly demonstrate that the development would not have a detrimental impact on the town centre			

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ATKINS

6. Developing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework

<div style="background:purple">**Task A4**</div>

6.1.1. The next task in the sustainability appraisal is the development of the Sustainability Appraisal Framework (SA Framework). The SA Framework is a key component in completing the SA by synthesising the PPPs, 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 DPDs. Though the SEA Directive does not specifically require the use of objectives in the SEA process, they are a recognised and useful way in which environmental effects can be described, analysed and compared at key stages of the plan development.

6.2. Methodology

6.2.1. A set of draft objectives, indicators and targets have been drawn up under the three sustainable development dimensions: social, economic and environmental. Taken together, the indicators and targets provide a clarification of the intended interpretation of each objective, supported by a defined direction of change sought through the implementation of the DPDs.

6.2.2. The draft SA objectives have been derived from the various PPPs that were reviewed as part of Task A1, collection of baseline data (Task A2) and the identification of key sustainability issues (Task A3). The SA Framework derived for the SA of the Wiltshire Core Strategy DPD (see Appendix C) provided the starting point in developing a refined framework for the assessment of the sites proposed within the DPDs.

6.2.3. The SA Framework objectives from the Wiltshire Core Strategy DPD were reviewed for applicability and a small number were excluded from the Wiltshire Housing Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD SA Framework. In some instances, decisions aiding questions were retained, but linked to a different objective, as follows:

- Objective 3 - Promote sustainable waste management solutions that encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste (relevant decision aiding question added to Objective 2)

- Objective 5 - Protect people and property from the risk of flooding (to be merged with the climate change objective as the key issues in relation to housing are likely to be similar)

- Objective 11 - Provide a safe and healthy environment in which to live (merged with objective 12 as relevant aspects cover similar theme)

- Objective 13 - Improve equality of access to, and engagement in local, high quality community services and facilities (relevant aspects included under objective 10)

- Objective 14 - Raise educational attainment levels across the authority and provide opportunities for people to improve their workplace skills (not directly relevant to the allocation of land for housing and employment use)

6.2.4. A number of decision aiding questions have also been removed as they are either beyond the sphere of influence of the site allocation process, or their function is encompassed within another objective.

6.2.5. The SA objectives for the site allocations DPDs 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 context of the DPDs. The SA objectives have also been worded to take account of local circumstances and concerns feeding from the analysis of sustainability issues (Task A3).

6.2.6. A preliminary set of decision aiding questions has been derived to capture the change likely to arise from the DPD implementation and will play a role in the assessment itself. As the SA progresses it is likely that this will lead to the development of a set of indicators, to be refined for the purposes of establishing a monitoring programme.

6.3.   Results

6.3.1. The SA framework of objectives, indicators and targets against which it is proposed to assess the DPDs is set out in Table 6.1 below.

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

6.4. Sustainability Appraisal Framework

Table 6.1 – Sustainability Appraisal Framework

Sustainability Topic	Sustainability Appraisal objective	Decision aiding questions. Will the development site policy…
Biodiversity	1. Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geological features and avoid irreversible losses.	1. Avoid habitat fragmentation? 2. Ensure all new developments protect and enhance local biodiversity through the adoption of appropriate mitigation measures including buffering existing important sites and species (including ancient woodland, CWSs, SNAs, AONBs, SSSIs, SACs, SPAs and locally designated sites) and creating biodiversity features within new development resulting in a net gain? 3. Result in greater community engagement with biodiversity? 4. Require protection and provision of green corridors and river corridors, with use of buffer strips, where necessary? 5. Aid in the delivery of a network of multifunctional Green Infrastructure? 6. Ensure all new developments have regard to and protect BAP habitats/ species? 7. Consider the findings of the HRA in site selection and design? **Wiltshire** 8. Maintain the existing extent of ancient woodland sites? 9. Require that disturbance impacts of proposed development are assessed as part of development proposals, particularly in relation to Salisbury Plain and New Forest SPAs? 10. Consider Wiltshire Council guidance to maintain SAC integrity in the Corsham and Bradford-on-Avon Community Areas? 11. Ensure that all new developments protect Local Geological Sites (LGSs) from development? **Chippenham** 12. Ensure that, where appropriate, development in Chippenham enhances the ecological value of the Birds Marsh Wood County Wildlife Site and Birds Marsh Meadow County Wildlife Site?

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

Sustainability Topic	Sustainability Appraisal objective	Decision aiding questions. Will the development site policy…
Land and Soil Resources	2. Ensure efficient and effective use of land and the use of suitably located previously developed land and buildings.	1. Maximise densities in sustainable locations that have good access to local facilities, public transport links and key infrastructure? 2. Maximise reuse of Previously Developed Land where possible/appropriate? 3. Encourage remediation of contaminated land? 4. Maximise efficient use of land within town/city centres? 5. Ensure the design and layout of new development supports sustainable waste management? **Wiltshire** 6. Protect and enhance soil quality? 7. Protect the best and most versatile agricultural land? 8. Ensure that the allocation of sites considers the areas designated for sustainable waste management and of existing or future mineral working potential?
Water Resources	3. Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner	1. Take into account predicted future impacts of climate change, including water scarcity issues and increased pressure on the sewerage network? 2. Ensure that essential water infrastructure is co-ordinated with all new development? 3. Ensure the installation of water saving measures such as rainwater harvesting and water metering? 4. Consider the need for adequate provision of surface water and foul drainage? 5. Promote provision of pollution prevention measures including SuDS? 6. Protect, and where possible, improve surface, ground and drinking water quality? 7. Minimise the risk of flooding to people and property (new and existing development)? 8. Protect and enhance the natural function of floodplains? **Wiltshire** 9. Encourage sustainable and efficient management of water resources, including consideration of the potential impact of water usage and discharge on biodiversity, particularly in relation to the River Avon SAC and Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain SAC?

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

Sustainability Topic	Sustainability Appraisal objective	Decision aiding questions. Will the development site policy…
		Chippenham
		10. Take into account the latest up- to-date SFRA and flood event information?
Air Quality and Environmental Pollution	4. Improve air quality throughout Wiltshire and minimise all sources of environmental pollution	1. Maintain and improve local air quality?
		2. Minimise and, where possible, improve on unacceptable levels of noise, light pollution, odour and vibration through the layout, design and/or location of development?
		3. Mitigate the impacts from uses that generate NO_2 or other particulates
		4. Seek to reduce development in or near to AQMAs10?
		5. Ensure that air quality impacts on local biodiversity sites are avoided?
		6. Seek to contribute to air quality improvements by locating new development so as to reduce the need to travel by private car?
		Wiltshire
		7. Ensure that potential impacts from air quality on the Cotswold Beechwoods SAC are avoided?
Climatic Factors	5. Minimise our impacts on climate change and reduce our vulnerability to future climate change effects.	1. Take into account the predicted future impacts of climate change in the location and design of development, ensuring that development can adapt to any future flood risk scenarios?
		2. Minimise emissions of greenhouse gases and ozone depleting substances?
		3. Minimise the likely impacts of future development on climate change through appropriate adaptation?
		4. Promote the development of renewable and low carbon sources of energy?
		5. Promote energy efficiency in buildings and new development?
		6. Minimise contributions to climate change through sustainable building practices?
		7. Contribute to reducing Wiltshire's ecological footprint?
		8. Contribute to the reduction of 'non decent homes'?
Historic	6. Protect, maintain	1. Conserve and enhance features and areas of historical and cultural value, including Listed

[10] Westbury, Bradford-on-Avon, Salisbury, Devizes, Marlborough and Calne

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

Sustainability Topic	Sustainability Appraisal objective	Decision aiding questions. Will the development site policy…
environment	and enhance the historic environment.	Buildings, Conservation Areas and Historic Parks & Gardens?
		2. Ensure appropriate archaeological assessment prior to development?
		3. Promote sensitive re-use of historical buildings and buildings of significant local interest, where appropriate?
		4. Improve and broaden access to, and understanding of, local heritage and historic sites?
		5. Maintain and enhance the character and distinctiveness of settlements through high quality and appropriate design, taking into account the management objectives of Conservation Areas[11]?
		6. Where appropriate, contribute to 'saving' heritage sites identified as being 'at risk'?
		Wiltshire
		7. Protect, manage and present the Stonehenge and Avebury WHS in accordance with international obligations?
		Chippenham
		8. Ensure that all new development respects the historic character and setting of the town centre in line with the Chippenham Conservation Area Management Plan?
Landscapes	7. Conserve and enhance the character and quality of Wiltshire's rural and urban landscapes, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place.	1. Protect and enhance the landscape character and scenic quality of the countryside?
		2. Aid in the delivery of a network of multifunctional Green Infrastructure, in line with the Wiltshire Green Infrastructure Strategy?
		3. Improve the quality and quantity of access to urban greenspace and the wider countryside for recreation?
		Wiltshire
		4. Conserve and enhance areas with landscape designations and take account of their management objectives, in particular for the three local AONBs[12]?
		5. Protect rights of way, open space and common land?

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[11] Chippenham, Malmesbury, and Milford Hill
[12] Cotswold AONB, Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire AONB, North Wessex Downs AONB

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Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

Sustainability Topic	Sustainability Appraisal objective	Decision aiding questions. Will the development site policy…
		6. Protect the Western Wiltshire Green Belt from inappropriate development?
		Chippenham
		7. Ensure that in Chippenham, development has regard to and enhances the Cotswold AONB?
		8. Maximises opportunities for green infrastructure enhancements across the town?
		9. Better integrate the River Avon with the town centre so that it acts as a green corridor?
Population and housing	8. Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures.	1. Provide an adequate supply of affordable housing?
		2. Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities?
		3. Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes to meet the needs of all sectors of the community?
		4. Ensure adequate provision of land to meet housing needs?
		Wiltshire
		5. Have regard to the settlement hierarchy?
		6. Ensure an adequate provision of housing in the West Wiltshire towns to accommodate employment expansion?
		7. Consider the emerging Neighbourhood Plans13?
		8. Provide for an adequate range of housing in rural areas, whilst avoiding isolated dwellings?

[13] Neighbourhood Plan front-runners: Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Community Area (NDP); Malmesbury NDP; Sherston NDP; Boreham Road, Warminster (NDO); Freshford and Limpley Stoke (NDP); Calne (NDO)

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

Sustainability Topic	Sustainability Appraisal objective	Decision aiding questions. Will the development site policy…
Healthy and Inclusive Communities	9. Reduce poverty and deprivation and promote more inclusive and self- contained communities.	1. Promote design of buildings and spaces to reduce crime and the fear of crime? 2. Promote design of buildings and spaces to reduce obesity? 3. Promote the design of buildings and spaces to meet the changing needs of the population? 4. Ensure that new development will be accessible to health facilities, and that they are able to cope with the additional demand? 5. Maximise opportunities within the most deprived areas? **Wiltshire** 6. Reduce rural isolation, including access to services for those without a car in rural areas? 7. Support the development of community campuses?
Transport	10. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable transport choices.	1. Increase walking and cycling accessibility through the use of developer contributions and site design? 2. Increase walking and cycling accessibility through the use of developer contributions and site design? 3. Ensure new development incorporates facilities and infrastructure for cyclists? 4. Improve the jobs/homes balance, to reduce out-commuting? **Wiltshire** 5. Promote mixed-use developments, in accessible locations, that reduce the need to travel and reliance on the private car? **Chippenham** 6. Support improvements to public transport connectivity and pedestrian and cycle links to the town, town centre, railway station and Wiltshire College campuses in Chippenham?
Economy and enterprise	11. Encourage a vibrant and diversified economy and provide for long-term	**Wiltshire** 1. Direct appropriate retail, leisure and/or employment opportunities to town centre locations to aid urban regeneration? 2. Support the rural economy?

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

Sustainability Topic	Sustainability Appraisal objective	Decision aiding questions. Will the development site policy…
	sustainable economic growth.	**Chippenham** 3. Provide a variety of employment land to meet all needs, including those for higher skilled employment uses? 4. Ensure that adequate infrastructure is provided to meet employment needs for designated sites? 5. Support LEP objectives and SEP projects? 6. Improve the retail, leisure, evening and commercial offer in Chippenham? 7. Help to meet the urgent need for employment land and business premises? 8. Provide infrastructure that will help to promote economic growth? 9. Support the potential for developing business links to Abbeyfield School?
	12. Ensure adequate provision of high-quality employment land and diverse employment opportunities to meet the needs of local businesses and a changing workforce.	**Wiltshire** 1. Protect and enhance the vitality and viability of existing employment areas? 2. Provide a focus for development in Chippenham, Salisbury and Trowbridge? **Chippenham** 3. Provide employment land in areas that are easily accessible by sustainable transport? 4. Avoid out of centre development, particularly around Chippenham, protecting and enhancing the vitality and viability of town centres? 5. Allocate site for new office and industrial development in Chippenham, on strategic sites in synergy with opportunities for town centre regeneration?

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD: Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

6.5. Baseline data and trends

6.5.1. The SA Framework is the key tool used in the assessment of effects. The prediction of effects, in terms of their magnitude, frequency, duration and spatial extent, is conducted via detailed analysis of the baseline data. It is thus important to ensure that critical aspects of the baseline can be directly related to the objectives and indicators of the SA framework. Determining the significance of predicted effects is perhaps the most critical task in the SA. The picture that the baseline presents in terms of the SA framework is the starting point for this.

6.5.2. The SEA Directive requires the consideration of the likely evolution of the state of the environment without the implementation of the plan being assessed. Within the next 20 years it is predicted that there will be a number of external influences that will affect the state of Wiltshire's social, natural, built and economic environment, without the implementation of the DPDs.

6.5.3. Table 6.2 presents a summary of the current conditions, likely future trends and sensitivity to change against the draft SA objectives using a simple three-point normative scale as follows:

- Current Conditions - good/moderate/poor;
- Current Trends – improving/stable/declining; and
- Sensitivity to Change – high/medium/low.

6.5.4. Sensitivity to change in the context of SA represents the extent to which, for instance, ecological thresholds may be close to being breached or carrying capacity exceeded, such that relatively small changes might be likely to induce disproportionately large effects, which in some instances might have wide-ranging and/or unexpected consequences. An example might be the decline of a particular wildlife population below the level at which it is viable in a particular habitat.

6.5.5. The quality of the information base gives an indication of the certainty with which the other three parameters are known, and this is presented in Table 6.2 using a similar colour-coded three-point scale (high/medium/low).

6.5.6. Table 6.2 has been prepared by cross checking the indicators in the baseline against the draft SA objectives, analysing the data for each indicator, and drawing together this analysis in summary form using the scoring method described above together with a concise commentary on key baseline features. The likely future trends without the implementation of the DPDs will be used to inform the assessment of the DPDs in the next stage of the SA/SEA.

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

Table 6.2 – SA Baseline Data and Trends Summary

SA Objective		Current Baseline				Commentary
		Condition	Sensitivity	Trend	Information Quality	
1	Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geological features and avoid irreversible losses.	Mod	High	Decl	Med	Wiltshire hosts a high quantity of sites protected at international, national and local levels for their biodiversity value. The overall condition of these has been found to be good although there has been a recent increase in Country Wildlife Sites being denotified as a result of damaged, destroyed or degraded. Similarly almost all of the Local Geological Sites have been recently found to be in declining condition and five sites were lost and denotified during the period 2009-10.
						A number of areas in Wiltshire have been identified for the retention and restoration of local wildlife habitats and this will have to be taken into consideration when deciding the location of new development.
						Development proposals can have a significant adverse impact on wildlife interests.
						Local biodiversity and geological features are threatened by many activities, including habitat loss and fragmentation, agriculture, housing development, road building, water pollution, air pollution and climate change. Without a sound policy framework to ensure these features are protected and where possible enhanced, it is likely that further decline would be seen in Wiltshire's biodiversity habitats.

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

SA Objective		Current Baseline				Commentary
		Condition	Sensitivity	Trend	Information Quality	
2	Ensure efficient and effective use of land and the use of suitably located previously developed land and buildings.	Mod	High	Decl	Low	In Wiltshire, there is a limited amount of brownfield land to develop and in the future, an increasing amount of greenfield land is likely to be needed for housing and employment growth. Without specific site allocations to direct development away from the areas of Best and Most Versatile Land and onto brownfield sites, where practicable, future development will not ensure efficient and effective use of land.
3	Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner.	Mod	High	Decl	Low	The main challenge relating to water quality in Wiltshire is high levels of phosphate, which comes from sources including agricultural fertilisers and household detergents. In addition, The majority of Wiltshire's rivers are over abstracted, with over 70% under threat if abstraction licenses already granted were used to their full extent. The rivers within the Bristol Avon catchment are the exception to this, but even within this catchment there is no more water available for further licensing.
						Historic groundwater flooding incidents have been minimal in Wiltshire, although groundwater within the underlying geology plays an important role in the watercourses flow regimes. Flooding from overland flow, generated from rainfall running off from surrounding land, together with flooding from sewers, due to limited capacity issues, has also been experienced. The risks of flooding from these sources are forecast to increase with the predicted effects of climate change.
						Increasing population growth, climate change and current lifestyle trends will place further pressures on the availability of potable water.
						Specific site allocations have the potential to direct development away from

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

SA Objective		Current Baseline				Commentary
		Condition	Sensitivity	Trend	Information Quality	
						areas at risk of flooding.
4	Improve air quality throughout Wiltshire and minimise all sources of environmental pollution	Mod	Med	Stable	Low	Air pollution has been improving year on year across the country and in Wiltshire. Nevertheless, new locations have been identified in the county with concentrations of nitrogen dioxide above the annual mean objective. The common factor in managing air quality in Wiltshire is the motor vehicle. The areas of poor air quality in Wiltshire are all traffic related. Air quality is likely to continue to decline in some areas without policies that promote development of sustainable transport links and that promote housing development in sustainable locations that reduce the need to travel. With regards to noise and light pollution, these are generally the result of urban development. Although the amount of urban development may not be higher without the introduction of the DPD, specific locational policies can ensure that development is directed to the most appropriate locations where air quality, noise and lighting pollution will be avoided or kept to a minimum.
5	Minimise our impacts on climate change and reduce our vulnerability to future climate change effects.	Poor	Med	Decl	Med	Some effects of climate change are unavoidable and over the coming years are likely to be significant and to be manifested particularly through changes in weather patterns and the increased frequency and intensity of storms. Climate change adaptation and mitigation are therefore key consideration at both national and local levels. Carbon emissions per capita have been falling steadily across the country and this was reflected in the figures for Wiltshire, although carbon emissions in the county remain higher than at both regional and national levels. This is likely to be because Wiltshire's population is highly dispersed, with about half

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

SA Objective		Current Baseline				Commentary
		Condition	Sensitivity	Trend	Information Quality	
						living in rural areas. Many areas are not connected to the mains gas supply and private vehicles are the primary form of transport. Wiltshire's ecological footprint is also significantly greater than the average global ecological footprint and the 'sustainable' ecological footprint. There has been a recent increase in renewable energy production in Wiltshire though the county still falls significantly between other south west authorities, in particular Devon and Cornwall. The full potential for renewable energy production in Wiltshire is far from being achieved. Policies that direct development where the need to travel by car is reduced and that promote sustainable design and good quality buildings as well as a strong green infrastructure network are likely to reduce the impacts of climate change at the local level. Climate change impacts are likely to be higher without these policies.
6	Protect, maintain and enhance the historic environment.	Good	High	Impr	Med	Wiltshire has a significant number of assets that are protected for their heritage value and these need to be preserved. The number of heritage assets 'at risk' has fallen slightly in the period 2011 to 2013. National policy plays a key role in driving the continued protection and improvement of the historic environment contributing to the preservation of heritage assets irrespective of the implementation of the DPDs. Nevertheless, the consideration of heritage assets and their setting in the allocation of new development will further contribute to ensuring that these are preserved and where possible enhanced.
7	Conserve and	Good	High	Decl	Low	Approximately 73% of Wiltshire falls within a national and local landscape

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

SA Objective		Current Baseline				Commentary
		Condition	Sensitivity	Trend	Information Quality	
	enhance the character and quality of Wiltshire's rural and urban landscapes, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place.					designation. Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) cover 45% of the land area of Wiltshire, as compared to 29% of land covered regionally and 15% nationally. Pressures to meet housing need may create pressures on landscapes surrounding the urban areas of Salisbury, Trowbridge and Chippenham, but also in other areas. Without the implementation of site allocation policies, it is highly likely that development proposals coming forward would have a detrimental impact of Wiltshire's valued landscapes.
8	Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures.	Poor	High	Decl	High	Generally the housing stock in Wiltshire is better than the national average however there is an imbalance in terms of housing provision. There is a particular issue relating to affordability which is keenly felt in smaller rural communities, meaning that people cannot afford to live where they work or where they grew up. Access to the owner occupied market is heavily restricted by rising house prices with increases exceeding local income inflation. Wiltshire is also experiencing an increasingly older population and the housing stock will need to be adapted to meet the needs of older people. Without policies to influence the type and tenure of housing development and its location, new housing development coming forward is unlikely to meet the specific housing needs of the county.

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

SA Objective		Current Baseline				Commentary
		Condition	Sensitivity	Trend	Information Quality	
9	Reduce poverty and deprivation and promote more inclusive and self-contained communities.	Good	Med	Stable	Med	On the whole, Wiltshire performs well in terms of the income and employment indices of deprivation. However there are pockets of deprivation around the county, particularly within the more rural communities where exclusion is experienced as a result of their isolation from key services and facilities and lack of alternative to the private car. Furthermore, unemployment levels are low compared to the national average. Nevertheless, the recent recession has greatly reduced the job opportunities available to the young and the availability of even seasonal and temporary jobs is expected to be limited and subject to increased competition.
						Educational achievement in Wiltshire is generally in line or better than similar areas though the gap between the attainment of children in vulnerable groups and their peers is too large and should be narrowed.
						Wiltshire faces a number of pressures in the future, including an ageing population, increasing levels of obesity and rising fuel prices that will increase levels of fuel poverty and deprivation. Planning policies can address this through consideration of appropriate infrastructure that can improve health and wellbeing, allowing more people to lead healthy lifestyles. Without specific site allocations, it is likely that future development is directed where it will exacerbate accessibility issues.
						Site allocations help to direct development to areas where it is most needed, together with the infrastructure to meet the needs of existing and future communities.

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

SA Objective		Current Baseline				Commentary
		Condition	Sensitivity	Trend	Information Quality	
10	Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable transport choices.	Mod	High	Decl	Low	Car ownership in Wiltshire is high compared to the regional and national averages, and is reflective of the county's rural nature. Two thirds of Wiltshire's population currently lives in rural areas, where access to services and facilities by modes of transport other than the private car is difficult. Site allocation policies will ensure that development is located where it can be easily accessed by sustainable modes of transport and within close proximity to existing services and facilities. It is likely that current trends of increasing car use, particularly to and from work, and levels of out-commuting will continue and increase without the implementation of the DPDs.
11	Encourage a vibrant and diversified economy and provide for long-term sustainable economic growth.	Mod	High	Decl	Med	The South West is the UK's premier holiday destination, with UK residents alone making 18.9 million trips in 2008. However after Gloucestershire, Wiltshire is the County in the south west with the least number of visits and that with the lowest visitor spend. Traditionally, Wiltshire has been dominated by low value, low skilled manufacturing and service sectors, though the proportion of manufacturing related employment has dropped slightly over the past few years and it is now slightly under the South West figures but still above the national average. Specific site allocations will ensure that opportunities for regeneration and economic growth across Wiltshire's settlements are maximised. Without policies to direct development in particular locations and to protect valuable

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

ATKINS

	SA Objective	Current Baseline				Commentary
		Condition	Sensitivity	Trend	Information Quality	
						employment land, it is unlikely that an adequate amount of employment land to meet future need and to ensure the sustainable growth of existing and future businesses, will be provided. Site allocations can also contribute to maximising opportunities to capitalise on the county's tourism potential.
12	Ensure adequate provision of high-quality employment land and diverse employment opportunities to meet the needs of local businesses and a changing workforce.	Mod	High	Decl	Med	Traditionally, Wiltshire has been dominated by low value, low skilled manufacturing and service sectors. The county has become an attractive county for the higher skilled and higher paid in which to live, but not to work as it does not offer sufficient employment opportunities for the highly skilled workforce. This contributes to the differences between resident and workplace earnings as well as to high levels of out-commuting. Without policies which seek to address the lack of suitable employment land to attract new employers to the area, future demand is unlikely to be met. This will have a detrimental impact on employment and subsequent skills levels and training/apprenticeship opportunities.

Wiltshire Council: Wiltshire Site Allocations DPD and Chippenham Site Allocations DPD:
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

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7. Proposed Structure and content of the Sustainability Appraisal Report

7.1.1. The results of the SA will be presented in a Sustainability Appraisal Report. The SA report will build on the findings of this Scoping Report and will comprise of stages B and C (as illustrated in Figure 2.1). It is proposed that this will broadly follow the structure proposed in the SA guidance (see Table 7.1). However, there may be some modification to these contents as the SA progresses.

Table 7.1 – Proposed SA Report Structure

SA Report Component	Contents
Components making up the Environmental Report	Table sign-posting the components of the SA Report, which make up the Environmental Report for the purposes of the SEA Directive
1. Non-technical summary	Summary of the SEA process Summary of the likely significant effects of the plan or programme Statement on the difference the process has made to-date How to comment on the report
2. Methodology used	Approach adopted to the SA Who was consulted, and when Difficulties encountered in compiling information or carrying out the assessment
3. Background	Purpose of the SEA Objectives of the plan or programme
4. SEA objectives and baseline and context	Links to other international, national, regional and local plans and programmes, and relevant environmental objectives including how these have been taken into account Description of baseline characteristics and predicted future baseline Environmental issues and problems Limitations of the data, assumptions made, etc. SEA objectives, targets and indicators
5. Plan/Programme issues and options	Main strategic options considered and how they were identified Comparison of the significant environmental effects of the alternatives How environmental issues were considered in choosing the preferred strategic alternatives Other alternatives considered and why they were rejected. Any proposed mitigation measures
6. Plan or programme policies	Significant environmental effects of the policies and proposals How environmental problems were considered in developing the policies and proposals Proposed mitigation measures Uncertainties and risks

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SA Report Component	Contents
7. Implementation	Links to other tiers of plans and programmes and the project level (environmental impact assessment, design guidance etc.) Proposals for monitoring

From Figure 7: Possible structure and contents of the Environmental. A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, ODPM September 2005.

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Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

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Appendices

Appendix A. Wiltshire Core Strategy DPD SA/SEA – Plans, Policies and Programmes

[*refer to separate document*]

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Appendix B. Additional Plans, Policies and Programmes and Baseline Data

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[refer to separate document]

[refer to separate document]

Appendix C. Wiltshire Core Strategy DPD SA Framework

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[refer to separate document]

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