



Wiltshire Local Plan

Wiltshire Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

February 2019

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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 ¹ .
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1990s, supported by 'Environmental Appraisal of Development Plans: A Good Practice Guide' (DoE, 1993); more recently superseded by sustainability appraisal.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

¹ Source: <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/natura-1-environment/brownfield-land-soils-and-agricultural-land/>

	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 totaling 1149 species. This is referred to as the Section 42 list ² .
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 ³ .
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.
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.

² Section 42 species:

http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/content/uploads/documents/Species%20Habitats/MASTER%20S42%20Species%20List%20150508%20_Latin-English-Welsh_.pdf

³ Source: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/ha/standards/dmrb/vol11/section3/ha20807.pdf>

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 ⁴ .
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 Development Plan Document. (Appendix II of the SEA Directive gives criteria for determining the likely environmental significance of effects).
Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI)	Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) are areas which 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.

⁴ Source: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/index_en.htm

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.

1 Introduction

1.1. Background to Sustainability Appraisal

- 1.1.1. This document is the draft Scoping Report for the Sustainability Appraisal (SA), incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), of the Wiltshire Local Plan. This Scoping Report was consulted on between 9am on Tuesday 7 November and 5pm on Tuesday 19 December 2017.
- 1.1.2. Under the regulations implementing the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, a SA is required for all Development Plan Documents (DPDs) 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 DPDs should meet the requirements of the SEA Directive.
- 1.1.3. 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 DPDs.

1.2. Sustainable development

- 1.2.1. 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 Local Plans.
- 1.2.2. 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”

- 1.2.3. Sustainable development seeks to integrate environmental, social and economic considerations. The National Planning Policy Framework 2018⁵(NPPF) sets out the overarching planning policies on the delivery of sustainable development through the planning system. It sets out that:

Achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has 3 overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways (so that opportunities can be taken to secure net gains across each of the different objectives):

- **an economic objective** – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure
- **a social objective** – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework>

accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being; and

- **an environmental objective** – *to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.*

1.3. Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal

Requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment

1.3.1. 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 Local Plan as it a) sets the framework for future development consent, b) is likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

1.3.2. 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)

1.3.3. 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.

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

- 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

1.3.5. As stated previously, under the regulations implementing the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, an SA is required for all DPDs. The purpose of SA is to promote sustainable development through better integration of sustainability considerations in the preparation and adoption of plans. The Regulations⁶ stipulate that SAs of DPDs should meet the requirements of the SEA Directive.

1.3.6. The NPPF online Planning Practice Guidance⁷ 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.”

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

1.4. The SA process

1.4.1. The requirements to carry out SA and SEA are thus distinct, but Planning Practice Guidance on SEA and SA⁸ states that it is possible to satisfy both through a single appraisal process (commonly designated as SA/SEA⁹) 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.

1.4.2. 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

⁶ Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

⁷ <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/>

⁸ <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/sustainability-appraisal-requirements-for-local-plans/>

⁹ The term SA is used to denote the combined SA/SEA process in this Scoping Report.

the process the resulting appraisal is both robust and fully integrated.

1.4.3. 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.

1.4.4. 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) to be published alongside the draft Local Plan.

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

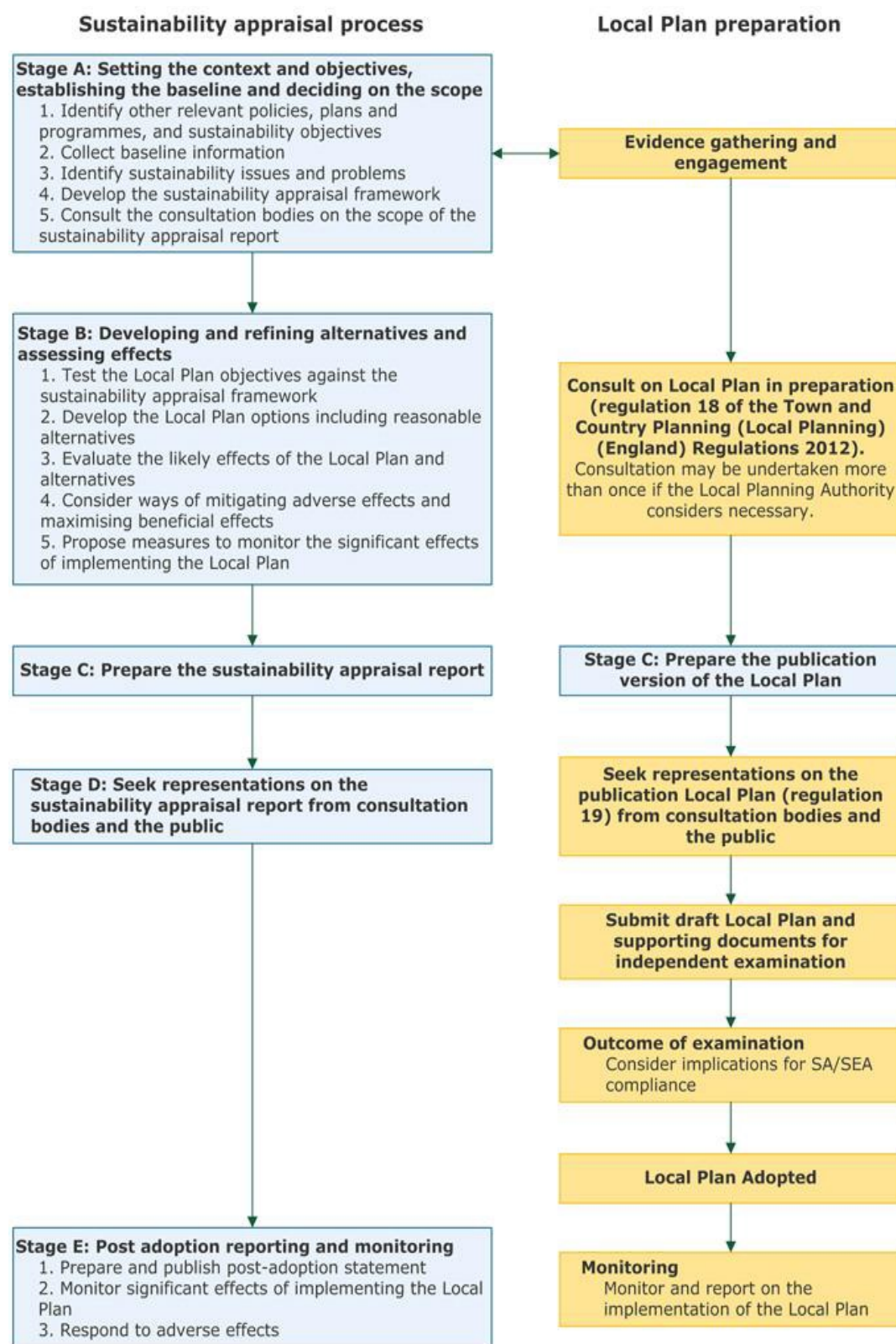
1.4.6. Table 1.1 sets out the various stages, tasks and relationships with the plan preparation contained in the guidance, which are being applied to the SA of the Wiltshire Local Plan Review.

1.5. Purpose of the Scoping Report

1.5.1. The overarching purpose of this Scoping Report is to create the general framework for the sustainability assessment of the Wiltshire Local Plan. 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.

Figure 1.1 – Incorporating SA/SEA within the DPD Preparation Process – Stages and Tasks¹⁰



¹⁰<http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/sustainability-appraisal-requirements-for-local-plans/>

1.6. Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 1.6.1. Alongside the SA process it is also necessary to assess whether the Plan is 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. In the context of Wiltshire, this includes three Special Protection Areas (SPA), 10 Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and one Ramsar site. The purpose of the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) 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.
- 1.6.2. An HRA is required by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 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.
- 1.6.3. The screening exercise for the HRA, which can lead to an Appropriate Assessment (AA), will not commence until the development of 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).
- 1.6.4. 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 SAC
 - Prescombe Down SAC
 - River Avon SAC

1.7. Requirements for consultation during a Sustainability Appraisal

- 1.7.1. The requirements for consultation during SA are determined from the requirements of the SEA Directive. These are:
- A five week consultation with the consultation bodies (in England the consultation bodies are Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency) when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the report.

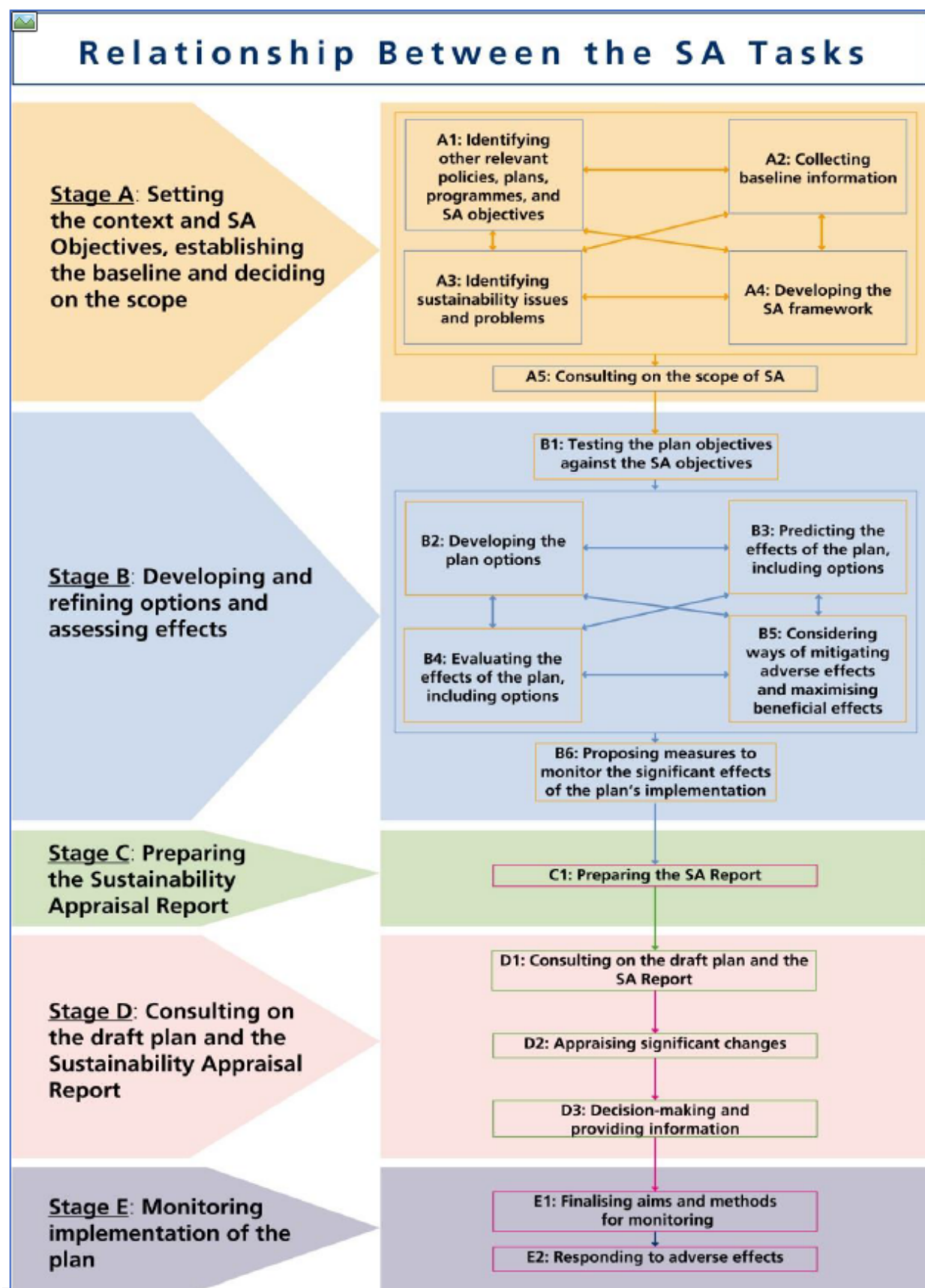
- A six week consultation with the consultation bodies on the SAR which must identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the Local Plan policies and of the reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the Local Plan.
- 1.7.2. At both stages of consultation, the local planning authority must consult the consultation bodies and other parties who, in its opinion, are affected or likely to be affected by, or have an interest in, the decisions involved in the assessment and adoption or making of the plan. In addition, during the consultation on the SAR, the local planning authority can choose to consult those they are inviting representations from, as part of the development of the Local Plan itself.
- 1.7.3. 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.
- 1.7.4. The aim of the consultation on the Scoping Report is to involve and engage other key stakeholders on the proposed scope of the SA. In particular, consultation seeks to:
- ensure that the SA is both comprehensive and robust enough to support the development plans 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.

2 Navigation of the report

2.1. Introduction

- 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



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 draft Wiltshire Local Plan.

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:

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

3 Identifying other plans and programmes and sustainability objectives

3.1. Introduction

Task A1

3.1.1. The first task of SA is the identification of other relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives. The Wiltshire Local Plan Review must be prepared in the context of other plans and programmes, which need to be taken into account. It must comply with national planning policy, 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. The Wiltshire Local Plan Review 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 ensures that the objectives for assessing the Wiltshire Local Plan, as proposed in this Scoping Report, generally adhere to, and are not in conflict with, objectives found in other plans, policies and programmes (PPPs). The review process also assists 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.

3.2.2. Table 3.1 sets out a list of the PPPs reviewed, it addresses PPPs of broad relevance first, before considering the PPPs of a further 11 themes of relevance to the SA/SEA. Further information on each of these PPPs can be found in Appendix A, which summarises the PPP, and identifies their relationship to plan making. The review of PPPs has influenced the development of the SA Framework, in accordance with SA guidance.

Table 3.1 – Review of relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes

Generic documents of relevance to the Wiltshire Local Plan Review	
International	
The Johannesburg Declaration of Sustainable Development (2002)	
EU 7 th Environmental Action Plan: 'Living well, within the limits of our planet' (2013)	
European Directive 2001/42/EC (The SEA Directive) (2001)	
European Sustainable Development Strategy Review (2009)	
Europe 2020: A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth (2010)	
National	
National Planning Policy Framework (2018)	
Planning Practice Guidance	
Localism Act (2011)	
Housing White Paper: Fixing our broken housing market (2017)	
Securing the Future: delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)	
Regional	
Just Connect! An Integrated Regional Strategy for the South West 2004-2026 (2004)	
State of the Environment in the South West (2011)	
Local	
Wiltshire Infrastructure Delivery Plan 3 (2016)	
Chippenham Site Allocations Plan (2017)	
Bath & North East Somerset Council Local Plan (2014)	
Bath & North East Somerset Council Core Strategy Review 2016-2036 Commencement	
Christchurch and East Dorset Local Plan (2014)	
Mendip District Local Plan 2006-2029 (2014)	
New Forest National Park Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD (2010)	
New Forest District Council Core Strategy (2009)	
Partnership Plan for the New Forest National Park (2015)	
North Dorset Local Plan (2016)	
South Gloucestershire Core Strategy 2006-2027 (2013)	
South Somerset Local Plan 2006-2028 (2015)	
Swindon Borough Local Plan 2026 (2015)	
Swindon Central Area Action Plan (2009)	
Test Valley Local Plan 2011-2029 (2016)	
Vale of White Horse District Council Local Plan 2031 Part 1 and 2 (2016)	
West Berkshire Core Strategy 2006-2026 (2012)	
Made neighbourhood plans and neighbourhood plans in preparation	
Trowbridge Masterplan (2014)	
Chippenham Masterplan (2014)	
Swindon and Wiltshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2017)	

Topic 1: Biodiversity	
International	
The Convention on Biological Diversity, Rio de Janeiro 1992	
EC Council Directive 79/409/EEC Conservation of Wild Birds (1979)	
EC Council Directive 92/43/EEC Conservation of Natural Habitats, Flora & Fauna (1992)	
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (1971)	

The European Commission Guidance on Integrating Climate Change and Biodiversity into Strategic Environmental Assessment (2013)
National
A Strategy for England's Trees, Woods & Forests (2007)
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended
Biodiversity By Design (2004)
UK Biodiversity Action Plan (1994)
The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature (2011)
Circular 06/05: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – statutory obligations and their impact within the planning system (2005)
The UK Post 2010 Biodiversity Framework
Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (2011)
Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)
A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (2018)
Regional
South West Biodiversity Implementation Plan (2004)
South West Regional Nature Map (2007)
Local
Wiltshire Biodiversity Action Plan (2008)
Wiltshire's Landscape Biodiversity Areas (2012)
Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan Pre-submission draft plan Habitat Regulations assessment (HRA) (2017)
Wiltshire Core Strategy Submission Draft – Assessment under the Habitats Regulations Wiltshire Council (2012)
Wiltshire Core Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessments (2014)
Corsham Neighbourhood Plan: Corsham Batscape Strategy (2018)

Topic 2: Land and soil resources
International
EC Council Directive 2008/98/EC Framework Directive on Waste (2008)
EC Council Directive 99/31/EC Landfill Directive (1999)
European Nitrates Directive 91/676/EC (1991)
EC Council Directive 2003/108/EC Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (2003)
National
The State of Soils in England and Wales (2004)
Waste Strategy for England 2007 (DEFRA, 2007)
Waste Management Plan for England, DEFRA (2013)
Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 (2011)
Environmental Protection Act (1990)
Environmental Permitting Regulations (England and Wales) 2010 (2010)
Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England, DEFRA (2009)
Prevention is Better Than Cure: The Role of Waste Prevention in Moving to a More Resource Efficient Economy (2013)
National Planning Policy for Waste (2014)
The Definition of Waste: Development Industry Code of Practice. Version 2. CL:AIRE (2011)
Regional
From Rubbish To Resource – Regional Waste Strategy for the South West 2004 – 2020 (2004)

Local
Wiltshire Council Inspection Strategy for Contaminated Land
Wiltshire Council Contaminated Land Supplementary Planning Document (2017) draft
Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Core Strategy 2006-2026 (2009)
Wiltshire and Swindon Minerals Core Strategy 2006-2026 (2009)
Wiltshire and Swindon - Minerals Development Control Policies DPD (2009)
Wiltshire and Swindon - Waste Development Control Policies DPD (2009)
Wiltshire and Swindon - Waste Site Allocations Local Plan (2013)
Wiltshire and Swindon - Aggregate Minerals Site Allocations Local Plan (2013)

Topic 3: Water resources and flood risk
International
EC Council Directive 2000/60/EC Water Framework Directive (2000)
European Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive 91/271/EEC (1991)
EC Council Directive 91/676/EC Nitrates (1991)
National
A 50-Year Vision for Wetlands (2008)
Future water: the Government's water strategy for England (2008)
The Urban Waste Water Treatment (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations (2003)
Underground, under threat: Groundwater protection policy and practice (2006)
Underground, under threat – The state of groundwater in England and Wales
Flood and Water Management Act 2010
Sustainable Drainage Systems: Written Statement (HCWS161) (2014)
The Environment Agency's approach to groundwater protection (2018)
Regional
Bristol Avon and North Somerset Streams WFD Management Area Abstraction Licensing Strategy (2012)
Dorset Water Framework Directive Management Area Abstraction Licensing Strategy (2012)
Hampshire Avon Water Framework Directive Management Area Abstraction Licensing Strategy (2012)
Hampshire Avon Catchment Flood Management Plan (2008)
Kennet and Vale of White Horse Catchment Abstraction Licensing Strategy (2012)
Test and Itchen Abstraction Licensing Strategy (2013)
South and West Somerset Abstraction Licensing Strategy (2012)
Housing growth and water supply in the South West of England (2005)
Water Resources for the Future – a summary of the strategy for Thames region (2001)
South West River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) Updated (2015)
South West River Basin District Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) 2015 – 2021 (2016)
Thames River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) Updated (2015)
Thames Water Water Resource Management Plan 2015-2040 (2014)
South East River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) Updated (2015)
River Avon Special Area of Conservation Nutrient Management Plan for Phosphorus (2015)
Local
Wiltshire Council Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) Update (2013)
Salisbury District Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 2 SFRA (2009)
Wiltshire Council Surface Water Management Plan focussed on Chippenham, Trowbridge and Salisbury. Phase I & II Final Report (2011)
Wiltshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (2015)

Wiltshire Council Ground Water Management Strategy 2016 (2015)

Topic 4: Air quality and environmental pollution

International

EC Council Directive 2002/49/EC Environmental Noise (2002)

EU Council Directive 2008/50/EC Ambient Air Quality (2008)

National

Clean Growth Strategy (2017)

Improving air quality: national plan for tackling nitrogen dioxide in our towns and cities (2017)

The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, DEFRA (2007)

Air pollution: outdoor air quality and health, NICE guideline [NG70] (2017)

The Air Quality Standards Regulations (2010)

Local Air Quality Management, DEFRA (2009)

Noise Policy Statement for England, DEFRA (2010)

Air Pollution: Action in a Changing Climate, DEFRA and DOE (2010)

Local

Salisbury Community Air Quality Action Plan (2015) -

Air Quality Annual Status Report (2017)

Air Quality Action Plan for Wiltshire (2015)

Air Quality Supplementary Planning Document (2012)

Community Air Quality Action Plans (2015)

Topic 5: Climatic factors

International

Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol (2012)

Paris Agreement, International agreement (2015) (in force in the UK 2016)

European Directive on Energy Performance of Buildings 2010/31/EU (2010)

EU Council Directive 2009/28/EC Renewable Energy

Guidance on integrating climate change and biodiversity into Environmental Impact Assessments (2013)

National

Climate Change Act 2008

The National Adaptation Programme (2013)

Building on Progress: Energy and Environment Policy Review (2007)

Meeting the energy challenge: A White Paper on Energy (2007)

The Planning Response to Climate Change – Advice on Better Practice (2004)

The UK Climate Change Programme (2006)

Planning for Climate Change – guidance for local authorities: Planning and Climate Change Coalition (April 2012)

Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) Climate Change Adaptation by Design (2007)

The UK Renewable Energy Strategy (2009)

Community Energy Strategy (2014)

Local

Energy, Change and Opportunity Strategy (2011-2020) (2011)

Wiltshire Sustainable Energy Planning Study (2011)

Topic 6: Historic environment
International
UNESCO World Heritage Convention (1972)
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Revised) (1992)
European Spatial Development Perspective (1999)
European Landscape Convention (2000)
Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (1985)
European Cultural Convention (1954)
The Valletta Convention (1992)
National
Heritage White Paper: Heritage Protection for the 21 st Century (2007)
Mineral Extraction and the Historic Environment (2012)
Preserving Archaeological Remains (2016)
Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 1: The Historic Environment in Local Plans (2015)
Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2: Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment (2015)
Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets (2015)
Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 4: Enabling Development and the Conservation of Significant Places (2008) update forthcoming
Historic England Advice Note 1: Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management (2016)
Historic England Advice Note 2: Making Changes to Heritage Assets (2016)
Historic England Advice Note 3: The Historic Environment and Site Allocations in Local Plans (2015)
Historic England Advice Note 4: Tall Buildings (2015)
Historic England Advice Note 5: Setting up a Listed Building Heritage Partnership Agreement (2015)
Historic England Advice Note 6: Drawing up a Local Listed Building Consent Order (2015)
Historic England Advice Note 7: Local Heritage Listing (2016)
Historic England Advice Note 8: Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment (2016)
The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England (2010)
Culture White Paper 2016
Regional
Strategy for the Historic Environment in the South West (2004)
Streets for All South West (2005)
The Historic Environment: A Prospectus for Growth in the South West (2013)
Local
Corsham Area Framework (2016)
Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Landscape Characterisation (2016)
Wiltshire Farmsteads Guidance
Chippenham Conservation Area Management Plan (2010)
Malmesbury Conservation Area Management Plan (2010)
Milford Hill Conservation Area Management Plan (2014)
Amesbury Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (2008)
Aldbourn Conservation Area Statement
All Cannings Conservation Area Statement
Allington Conservation Area Statement

Alton Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan
Ashton Keynes Conservation Area Statement
Avebury Conservation Area Statement
Avoncliff Conservation Area Statement
Axford Conservation Area Statement
Baydon Conservation Area Statement
Bishops Cannings Conservation Area Statement
Bishopstrow Conservation Area Statement
Bradford on Avon Conservation Area Statement
Bratton Conservation Area Statement
Britford Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (2014)
Broad Chalke Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (2009)
Broad Hinton Conservation Appraisal and Management Plan
Bromham Conservation Area Statement
Broughton Gifford Conservation Area Statement
Brunton Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan
Burbage Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan
Calne Conservation Area Statement
Charlton Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan
Chilton Foliat Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan
Chirton Conservation Area Statement
Chisbury Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan
Chute Cadley and Lower Chute Conservation Area Statement
Collingbourne Ducis Conservation Area Statement
Collingbourne Kingstone Conservation Area Statement
Corsham Conservation Area Statement
Cricklade Conservation Area Statement
Devizes Conservation Area Statement
Devizes Victoria Road Area Conservation Appraisal and Management Plan
Dinton Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (2009)
Downton Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (2008)
Durrington Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (2009)
East Chisenbury Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan
East Grafton Conservation Area Statement
East Kennett Conservation Area Statement
Eastcourt Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan
Easterton Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan
Easton Royal Conservation Area Statement
Edington Conservation Area Statement
Enford Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan
Erlestone Conservation Area Statement
Etchilhampton Conservation Area Statement
Fittleton and Haxton Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan
Froxfield Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan
Fyfield Conservation Area Statement
Great Bedwyn Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan
Great Cheverell Conservation Area Statement

Ham Conservation Area Statement
Heytesbury Conservation Area Statement
Hilcott Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan
Hilpertown Conservation Area Statement
Hindon Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (2009)
Holt Conservation Area Statement
Horingsham Conservation Area Statement
Keevil Conservation Area Statement
Little Bedwyn Conservation Area Statement
Little Cheverell Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan
Little Somerford Village Design Statement and Conservation Area Statement
Lockeridge Conservation Area Statement
Ludgershall Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan
Manton Conservation Area Statement
Malmesbury Conservation Area Management Plan (2010)
Milford Hill Conservation Area Management Plan (2014)
Marden Conservation Area Statement
Market Lavington Conservation Area Statement
Marlborough Conservation Area Statement
Marston Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan
Mildenhall Conservation Area Statement
Milton Lilbourne Conservation Area Statement
Monkton Farleigh Conservation Area Statement
Netheravon Conservation Area Statement
Newtown Trowbridge Conservation Area Statement
Oare Conservation Area Statement
Ogbourne St Andrew Conservation Area Statement
Ogbourne St George Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan
Old Manor Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (2013)
Old Sarum Airfield Conservation Area Appraisal and Sustainability Appraisal (2007)
Oxenwood Conservation Area Statement
Pewsey Wilcot Road Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan
Pewsey Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan
Potterne Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan
Poulshot Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan
Ramsbury Conservation Area Statement
Rowden Conservation Area Statement
Salisbury Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (2014)
Sandy Lane Conservation Area Statement
Seend Conservation Area Statement
Shalbourne Conservation Area Statement
Sherston Conservation Area Statement
South Wraxall Conservation Area Statement
Steeple Langford Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (2009)
Stert Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan
Stockton Conservation Area Statement

Sutton Veny Conservation Area Statement
Tidcombe Conservation Area Statement
Tisbury Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (2009)
Trowbridge Conservation Area Statement
Turleigh Conservation Area Statement
Tytherington Conservation Area Statement
Upavon Conservation Area Statement
Upper Chute Conservation Area Statement
Urchfont Conservation Area Statement
Warminster Conservation Area Statement
Wedhampton Conservation Area Statement
Westbury Conservation Area Statement
West Kennett Conservation Area Statement
Westwood Conservation Area Statement
Wilcot Conservation Area Statement
Wilsford Conservation Area Statement
Wilton Conservation Area Statement
Winsley Conservation Area Statement
West Lavington and Littleton Panell Conservation Area Statement
Woodborough Conservation Area Statement
Wootton Rivers Conservation Area Statement
Worton Conservation Area Statement
Wylde Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (2009)
Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site Management Plan (2015)
Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Property Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (2011)

Topic 7: Landscapes
International
European Landscape Convention (2000)
National
Updating the Evidence Base on English Cities (2011)
The State of the Countryside (2010)
European Landscape Convention (2000)
An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment (2014)
Local
Cotswold AONB Management Plan 2008-2018 (2013)
Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation Project (2008)
Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB Management Plan 2014-19
Kennet Landscape Conservation Strategy (2005)
North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan 2014-2019 (2014)
West Wiltshire District Landscape Character Assessment (2007)
Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment (2005)
Chippenham Landscape Setting Assessment (2014)

Topic 8: Population and housing
National
Code for Sustainable Homes. A step change in sustainable home building practice (2006)
Homes for the Future: more affordable, more sustainable (2007)
Living Working Countryside: The Taylor Review of Rural Economy and Affordable Housing (2008)
Locally-Led Garden Villages, Towns and Cities, DCLG (2016)
Lifetime Neighbourhoods, DCLG (2011)
Housing White Paper: Fixing our broken housing market (2017)
Planning for the right homes in the right places: consultation proposals (2017)
Planning and affordable housing for Build to Rent (2017)
Land Development and Disposal Plan (2017)
Housing: Optional Technical Standards (2015)
Technical Housing Standards – Nationally Described Space Standard (2015)
Local
Wiltshire SHLAA
Wiltshire's Older People Accommodation Strategy (2010)
Wiltshire Housing Strategy (2017)

Topic 9: Healthy and Inclusive communities
International
The Aarhus Convention (1998)
National
White Paper: Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our Strategy for Public Health in England (2011)
Physical activity and the environment: Public health guideline [PH8] (2008)
Our health, our care, our say: a new direction for community services (2006)
Strong and prosperous communities: The Local Government White Paper (2006)
Planning Policy for Traveller Sites, DCLG (2015)
Fair Society, Healthy Lives ('The Marmot Review') (2010)
Improving health through the home (2017)
Regional
The Way Ahead – Delivering Sustainable Communities in the South West (2004)
Local
The Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment 2010 (2010)
Code of Practice on Equality and Diversity – The Wiltshire Compact (2005)
Devizes Town Centre Design Code (2007)
Pewsey Community Area Plan: The Future 2008-2018
People, Places and Promises: Wiltshire Community Plan 2011 - 2026 (2010)
Ashton Keynes Neighbourhood Plan (2017)
Compton Bassett Neighbourhood Plan (2016)
Devizes Neighbourhood Plan (2015)
Downton Neighbourhood Plan (2017)
Freshford and Limpley Stoke Neighbourhood Plan (2015)
Holt Neighbourhood Plan (2017)
Idmiston Neighbourhood Plan (2017)
Limpley Stoke Neighbourhood Plan (2015)
Malmesbury Neighbourhood Plan (2015)

Pewsey Neighbourhood Plan (2015)
Potterne Neighbourhood Plan (2017)
Urchfont, Wedhampton and Lydeway Neighbourhood Plan (2017)
Warminster Neighbourhood Plan (2016)
Wiltshire's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2015)
Wiltshire School Places Strategy 2015-2020 (2015)
Wiltshire Community Campus Programme
Planning Policy for Traveller Sites, DCLG (2015)

Topic 10: Transport
National
Delivering a Sustainable Transport System (DaSTS) (2008)
Planning and the Strategic Road Network (2007)
The Future of Transport – a network for 2030 (2004)
Department for Transport's Single Departmental Plan 2015 to 2020
National Infrastructure Plan (2016-21)
Strategic Statement for Road Safety (2015)
Creating growth, cutting carbon: making sustainable local transport happen (2011)
DfT (2013) Door to Door: A strategy for improving sustainable transport integration
Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy (2017)
Accessibility Action Plan (draft 2017)
Driving the future today: a strategy for ultra low emission vehicles in the UK (2013)
Local
Wiltshire Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2011 – 2026 (2011)
Swindon Local Transport Plan 3: 2011 – 2026 (2011)
Chippenham Transport Strategy (2015)
Transport Vision 2026 for Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (2014)
Trowbridge Transport Strategy (2012)
Salisbury Transport Strategy Options Assessment Report (2010)
Devizes Transport Strategy (2012)

Topic 11: Economy and enterprise
National
Industrial Strategy: Building a Britain fit for the future (2017)
Regional
Just Connect! An Integrated Regional Strategy for the South West 2004-2026
Local
Cotswold Water Park Strategic Review and Implementation Plan (2007)
Wiltshire Workspace and Employment Land Strategy (2009/10) (2009)
Future employment needs in Wiltshire – Employment floorspace and land forecasts (April 2011)
Wiltshire Workspace & Employment Land Review Final Report (2011)
Chippenham Vision (2008)
Swindon and Wiltshire Strategic Economic Plan (2016)
Wiltshire and Swindon Visitor Accommodation Futures (2014)
Corsham Masterplan (2016)

A Tourism Strategy for South Wiltshire, Salisbury District Council (2006)
Wiltshire Council Town Centre and Retail Study (2011)
Future Employment Needs in Wiltshire - Employment Floorspace and Land forecasts, Internal (2011)
Wiltshire Business Perception Survey: Headline Results, Enterprise Wiltshire (2012)
Swindon and Wiltshire Local Economic Assessment (2016)
Swindon and Wiltshire Local Economic Assessment (2013)
Wiltshire Core Strategy Retail Review (2015)
Salisbury District Employment Land Review (2007)

3.3. Results

- 3.3.1. The social, environmental and economic objectives and sustainability issues from the plans, programmes and policies above, that are of relevance to the SA/SEA and the preparation of the Wiltshire Local Plan, have informed a general, first set of sustainability 'themes'. In turn, the sustainability objectives have been derived from such themes. 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.

Table 3.2 – Sustainability Themes linked to final SA Objectives

Themes Relevant to SA DPD	Main SEA topics	Relationship to final SA Framework objectives
Biodiversity - protection and enhancement of biodiversity, including wildlife networks and wider green infrastructure	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Landscape	1
Land and soil resources – ensure prudent use of land and other resources	Material Assets	2
Reduce pollution of watercourses and groundwater. Manage flood risk.	Water, Human Health, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	3, 5
Improve air quality, particularly in areas of exceedance for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and fine particulates (PM₁₀).	Human Health, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna;	4
Reduce Noise and Light Pollution	Human Health, Landscape	4
Mitigate and adapt to climate change	Human Health, Climatic Factors, Population, Material Assets	2, 3, 4, 5, 10
Historic environment – protect and enhance cultural heritage assets	Cultural Heritage, Material Assets, Landscape	6
Landscapes – protection of AONBs and Green Belt and reinforcement of landscape character	Landscape, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	1, 6, 7
Population and housing – securing flexibility and choice in the provision of high quality housing	Population; Human Health	8, 9
Healthy and inclusive communities - appreciating the	Human Health, Population, Climatic	

interaction between housing, key services and facilities, employment opportunities and green space	Factors, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	1, 7, 8, 9, 11
Transport – increasing sustainable transport choices and improving the operation of transport networks	Air, Climatic Factors, Human Health	2, 4, 5, 9, 10
Promote the vitality and viability of town centres across Wiltshire	Material assets, Population, Climatic factors	7, 9, 10, 11, 12
Ensure that development is supported by the necessary infrastructure	Material Assets, Population, Water, Human Health	3, 4, 5, 10

4 Baseline Characteristics

4.1. Introduction

Task A2

- 4.1.1. The next task in SA covers the collation of baseline information. The review plans and programmes undertaken has also provided a considerable amount of baseline information. Local data has also been gathered on key indicators relating to the SEA topic areas, as well as additional social and economic indicators of particular relevance to the Wiltshire Local Plan review.

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.

- 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. Methodology

- 4.3.1. Information describing the baseline provides the basis for the prediction and monitoring of the predicted significant effects of the implementation of the Wiltshire Local Plan. It can be used as a way of identifying problems as they occur and policy changes may be made.
- 4.3.2. 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.
- 4.3.3. 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).
- 4.3.4. 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.
- 4.3.5. 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?

4.4. Data Analysis

4.4.1. The baseline data provides an overview of the environmental, social and economic characteristics of the Wiltshire area 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:

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)
- Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs)
- Pollution: air, noise, light
- 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
- Tranquility
- Soil pollutants
- Agricultural land classification
- Waste/ Municipal Waste

- River quality
- Water supply
- Water management
- Flood risk
- 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
- Economic activity
- Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) Claimants
- Commercial property availability
- Weekly earnings
- Commuting patterns
- Resident-based economy
- Business dynamism

4.5. Data Limitations

4.5.1. 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.

4.5.2. 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 Salisbury and Trowbridge
- Data relating to walking and cycling trends and up-to-date data on the use of public transport
- Limited data relating to the use of land, including agricultural land quality, in Wiltshire
- Limited data relating to local air quality
- It is difficult to compare Census 2011 with Census 2001 data as the latter provided information on Wiltshire's former districts and this is no longer being recorded or updated.

5 Identifying Key Sustainability Issues

5.1. Introduction

Task A3

- 5.1.1. 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 sustainability.

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))

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-plus.
- 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 these issues is likely to evolve.
- 5.2.3. It should be noted that some of the sustainability issues identified are not necessarily under the Plan’s 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 Wiltshire Local Plan Review.

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.
- 5.3.2. Baseline data is provided in Appendix B.

Table 5.1 – Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

Key Issues/ Opportunities	Implications for plan-making
BIODIVERSITY	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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: <i>Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment 2017</i>) Cotswold Beechwoods SAC - Potential impacts associated with air quality as a result of transport related emissions are an issue at the SAC. (Source: <i>Wiltshire Core Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment 2013</i>) Water abstraction and pollution - Increased abstraction required to supply the additional proposed housing in the Local Plan 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: <i>Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment 2017</i>) Habitat Loss and modification as a result of new development Increased housing at Bradford on Avon, Trowbridge, Corsham and Westbury could result in habitat loss or modification which would impact upon the Bath and Bradford Bats SAC. (Source: <i>Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment 2017</i>) Wiltshire's proportion of the SSSI network has suffered significant declines in the past, with 77% currently in unfavourable condition, however recent investment in the network and the efforts of Natural England have ensured that almost all of those sites are now recovering (Source: <i>Natural England SSSI Condition Summary</i>) 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 <i>South West Nature Map</i>. 	<p>Designated sites of international and national nature conservation importance to be protected and enhanced</p> <p>Improved connectivity between sites of biodiversity value</p> <p>Particular consideration given to the interaction of water usage and biodiversity value</p> <p>Need for HRA findings to be taken into consideration in site selection</p> <p>Development in the Corsham, Trowbridge and Bradford-on-Avon Community Areas should take into consideration the presence of Bechstein bats, as well as to be planned and delivered in accordance with Wiltshire Council guidance to maintain the integrity of the SAC</p> <p>County Wildlife Sites (CWS) to be protected from the adverse effects, direct and indirect, of development</p> <p>Requirement that disturbance impacts of development proposals form part of the environmental assessments prepared to inform development proposals</p> <p>Local Geological Sites (LGSs) to be secured and protected from future development</p> <p>Regard to be had to BAP habitats/ species so that these can be protected from inappropriate development and measures to reverse decline</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are approximately 1,560 County Wildlife Sites (CWSs) in Wiltshire covering approximately 22,000ha of semi-natural habitats. The CWS network does not receive any statutory protection and is vulnerable as a result. • 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. 	<p>can be introduced</p> <p>Requirement to demonstrate appropriate consideration of disturbance impacts within cumulative assessment work, including at the SA/SEA level</p>
LAND AND SOIL RESOURCES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the county's predominantly rural nature, there is low availability of previously developed ('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 to provide the opportunity to remediate and redevelop brownfield sites • 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 landfill. • 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 Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Core Strategy 2006-2026: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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 	<p>Preference for the use of brownfield land over greenfield land to deliver effective use of land, remediation of contaminated soils and protect greenfield land</p> <p>Development should be directed away from the best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land</p> <p>Site allocations need to reflect the Waste Core Strategy with regards to the potential for waste to be processed locally</p> <p>Site allocations will need to have regard to the Waste Site Allocations DPD</p> <p>Site Allocations will need to have regard to Mineral Safeguarding Areas</p>

<p>importance of Wiltshire and Swindon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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. 	
WATER RESOURCES AND FLOOD RISK	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Wiltshire have been identified as the focus of a Strategic Surface Water Management Plan – Chippenham, Trowbridge, Salisbury, Warminster, Bradford on Avon and Britford. • Chippenham – Historically, the majority of reported flooding issues have been linked with fluvial flooding from the River Avon. Notable surface water events (pluvial flooding) have also occurred at Chippenham. • 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 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. • Warminster - Historically, flooding from surface water drainage has been an issue within Warminster where there are a number of culverted watercourses. Sewer flooding has occurred due to the age of the culverts and their limited capacity due to the towns development and expansion. The eastern areas of Warminster, including the Warminster Training Centre may potentially be affected from flooding sourced 	<p>Development to be directed away from areas at risk of flooding or where it would increase the risk of flooding</p> <p>Developer contributions for new development to be sought towards upgrading the waste water infrastructure</p> <p>Direct development where it will not increase pressure on the local sewerage network</p> <p>Water and sewerage infrastructure development may be necessary in flood risk areas. Flooding can occur away from the flood plain as a result of development where off site sewerage infrastructure is not in place ahead of development</p> <p>Groundwater resources should be protected from potential pollution resulting from new development</p> <p>Consideration to be given to the opportunity for site allocations to incorporate SuDS and promote water conservation/grey-water recycling</p> <p>In Warminster, opportunities should be sought to open culverted watercourses, where possible, to return them to a natural system. When opening up culverted watercourses consideration should be given to ensure flood risk is not exacerbate downstream.</p>

<p>from overland flow.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bradford on Avon - Fluvial flooding within Bradford on Avon and downstream is brought about by the narrowing of the River Avon (Bristol) as it flows through the confined river valley, exacerbated by increased surface water runoff from the town. Historic flood events within Bradford on Avon have been known to inundate the Town Bridge, effectively cutting the town into two sections. Furthermore, the topography downstream of Bradford on Avon has the potential to generate flooding from overland flow. • Britford – Issues with surface water have been identified in Britford. • 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 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. 	
AIR QUALITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<p>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</p> <p>New development should contribute to improved</p>

management plan for the Cotswolds AONB.	air quality through reducing the need to travel by private car and increasing on site vegetation in order to provide carbon sinks.
CLIMATIC FACTORS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. There is increasing demand for electric vehicles which will lead to increased demand for electricity. 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%). Wiltshire's per capita carbon emissions fell from 8 tonnes of carbon dioxide in 2005 to 6.7 in 2012. 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 Wiltshire. The percentage of households in fuel poverty is greatest in South West Wiltshire followed by the Pewsey Community Area. 	<p>New development should meet high energy efficiency standards and be designed so as to be resilient to the impacts of climate change</p> <p>Development should support local low carbon energy, including district heating. Community owned energy has the potential to generate income for the local community as well as increase awareness of energy use and sustainable generation</p> <p>Regard must be had to location of the development including aspect/ orientation, use of materials, accessibility to local services etc</p> <p>Site allocations should give consideration to the opportunities for larger developments to be served by strategic energy solutions (e.g. CHP and on-site renewables)</p> <p>Improved housing stock to reduce the number of 'non decent homes'</p>
CULTURAL HERITAGE	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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 reduce the impacts of roads and traffic on visitor facilities. A significant proportion of Wiltshire's scheduled monuments are 'at high risk'. In 2016, there were 199 entries for Wiltshire in Historic England's 'At Risk Register', which is an improvement on 2013 figures (257 entries in the Heritage at Risk Register 2013) 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. 	<p>New development should seek to protect and enhance the setting of local designated and non designated heritage assets</p> <p>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</p> <p>Policies should seek to ensure that development densities are appropriate to the local context, to avoid erosion of the character of settlements</p> <p>Where appropriate, new development should contribute to 'saving' the heritage sites in Wiltshire most at risk</p> <p>New development should have regard to the relevant Conservation Area Management Plan</p>
LANDSCAPES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>Areas protected for their landscape value should be preserved and wherever possible enhanced</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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. 	<p>Site allocations should take topography and key view corridors into consideration, in order to respond appropriately to established landscape character</p> <p>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</p> <p>Management plans have been prepared for the three AONBs and will need to be considered in proposals for future development</p> <p>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 development sites</p> <p>Opportunities to introduce water into development sites should be considered in the context of local landscape character, for example, through the use of SuDS</p> <p>Policies should respect established Green Belt boundaries and seek to preserve openness where it is important in defining landscape character</p>
POPULATION AND HOUSING	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ageing population: By 2036 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. 	<p>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.</p> <p>Sufficient land should be allocated for housing in</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 accessing services, a common pattern throughout the country. • The lack of good housing stock has a knock-on impact on the economy. Wiltshire needs the 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 could 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. • There is the opportunity through new development to significantly increase the affordable housing stock. • Neighbourhood Plans: A number of Neighbourhood Plans have been made, with others currently under preparation, providing a local interpretation of key issues that should be taken into consideration. 	<p>accessible locations, taking into account the need to reduce car based travel</p> <p>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</p> <p>The design of new housing will need to allow for a certain level of flexibility to meet the changing needs of the local population</p> <p>Made and emerging Neighbourhood Plans should be considered when planning new development in Wiltshire towns and villages</p>
HEALTHY COMMUNITIES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<p>Locate development where it encourages walking and cycling over the use of the car or even of public transport</p> <p>Locate services within walking distances to residential development</p> <p>Provide easily accessible and safe public open space, suitable to meet a range of needs</p>

<p>relatively low and compares well with both the national figures and comparator authorities. However, there are hotspots where obesity levels are high.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health inequalities: Although Wiltshire is generally not a deprived area; the county has pockets of deprivation including two local areas in Trowbridge that lie amongst the 20% most deprived in England, with one area in Salisbury amongst the 10% most deprived. • 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. • There are implication linked to the fuel poverty issue as well as an ageing more vulnerable 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°C. 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 amount of illnesses over the winter months. 	<p>Promote development to mitigate against the effects of urban heat islands</p> <p>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</p>
INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty and deprivation: Wiltshire is not a deprived county however there are three small areas; two in Trowbridge (which are in the top 20%) and one in Salisbury (which is in the top 10%) most 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. 	<p>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</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>well-being</p> <p>Provision of appropriate levels of good quality affordable housing to meet local need</p> <p>Locate development within easy access of local services so that these can be accessed on foot, by bike or using public transport</p>
EDUCATION AND SKILLS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 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 	<p>Ensuring that suitable land is set aside to attract a broader base of employers to the area</p> <p>Ensuring an appropriate level of high quality educational facilities in accessible locations to meet the needs of the community</p> <p>Policies should seek to match housing allocations to employment opportunities within the county, to assist in reducing trends of out-migration for work</p>
TRANSPORT	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>Have regard to the Wiltshire Infrastructure Delivery Plan 3 (December 2016)</p> <p>Using developer contributions to improve walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure</p> <p>Locate new development where it is accessible to all on foot, by bicycle or through using public transport</p> <p>Design development so as to minimise car usage</p> <p>Ensure new development incorporates</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 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. 	<p>appropriate facilities and infrastructure for cyclists</p> <p>Developments should consider the implications of increasing demand for electric vehicles, incorporating charging points and related infrastructure.</p>
ECONOMY AND ENTERPRISE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<p>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</p> <p>Safeguarding employment sites suitable to attract high quality employers to the county</p> <p>Enhance the viability of the area as an</p>

<p>in the Wiltshire economy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 visitors and also is a long way behind other counties in the south west in terms of income generated from day trips. <p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 	<p>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</p> <p>Build on positive tourism assets for a greater increase in tourism activity across a range of sectors</p>
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6 Developing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework

6.1. Introduction

Task A4

- 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 Plan. 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 decision aiding questions 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 Wiltshire Local Plan.
- 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).
- 6.2.3. The SA objectives for the Wiltshire Local Plan have been worded so that they reflect one single desired direction of change for the theme concerned and do not overlap with other objectives. They include both externally imposed social, environmental and economic objectives; as well as others devised specifically in relation to the context of the Wiltshire Local Plan. The SA objectives have also been worded to take account of local circumstances and concerns feeding from the analysis of sustainability issues (Task A3).
- 6.2.4. A preliminary set of decision aiding questions has been derived to capture the change likely to arise from implementation of the Wiltshire Local Plan 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 decision aiding questions against which it is proposed to assess the Wiltshire Local Plan is set out in Table 6.1 below.

6.4. Sustainability Appraisal Framework

Table 6.1 – Sustainability Appraisal Framework

Sustainability Appraisal topic	Sustainability Appraisal Objective	DAQs Will the option...
Biodiversity	1. Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geological features and avoid irreversible losses.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Avoid potential adverse impacts of development on designated wildlife sites, protected species and priority species and habitats (international, national, local) and enhance these where possible? 2. Ensure that all new developments protect Local Geological Sites (LGSs) from development? 3. Aid in the delivery of a network of multifunctional Green Infrastructure?
Land and Soil Resources	2. Ensure efficient and effective use of land and the use of suitably located previously developed land and buildings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure efficient use of land? 2. Lead to the reuse of Previously Developed Land where possible/appropriate? 3. Encourage remediation of contaminated land? If so, would this lead to issues of viability and deliverability? 4. Result in the permanent loss of the Best and Most Versatile Agricultural land (Grades 1, 2, 3a)? 5. Lead to the sterilisation of viable mineral resources? If so, is there potential to extract the mineral resource as part of the development?
Water Resources	3. Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protect surface, ground and drinking water quality? 2. Direct development to sites where adequate water supply, foul drainage, sewage treatment facilities and surface water drainage is available?
Air Quality and Environmental Pollution	4. Improve air quality and minimise all sources of environmental pollution	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minimise and, where possible, improve on unacceptable levels of noise, light pollution, odour, and vibration? 2. Minimise impacts on and where possible improve air quality and locate sensitive development away from areas of poor air quality (such as AQMAs)? 3. Lie within a consultation risk zone for a major hazard site or hazardous installation?
Climatic Factors	5a. Minimise our impacts on climate change (mitigation) and reduce our vulnerability to future climate change effects (adaptation).	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote the development of renewable and low carbon sources of energy? 2. Be located within flood zone 2? If so, are there alternative sites in the area that can be allocated in preference to developing land in flood zone 2? (To be determined through the application of the Sequential Test). 3. Minimise vulnerability to surface water flooding and other sources of flooding, without increasing flood risk elsewhere?
Historic Environment	6. Protect, maintain and enhance the historic environment.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conserve or enhance World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Historic Parks & Gardens, sites of archaeological interest, undesignated heritage assets and their settings? 2. Maintain and enhance the character and distinctiveness of settlements through high quality and appropriate design, taking into account the management objectives of Conservation Areas?
Landscapes	7. Conserve and enhance the character and quality of rural and urban landscapes, maintaining and	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minimise impact on and where appropriate enhance nationally designated landscapes and their settings and locally valued landscapes?

	strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place.	2. Protect rights of way, public open space and common land?
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.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide an adequate supply of affordable housing? 2. Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes to meet the needs of all sectors of the community? 3. Deliver high quality residential development?
Healthy and Inclusive communities	9. Reduce poverty and deprivation and promote more inclusive and communities with better services and facilities.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maximise opportunities within the most deprived areas? 2. Be accessible to educational, health, amenity greenspace, community and town centre facilities which are able to cope with the additional demand? 3. Promote/create public spaces and community facilities that might support public health, civic, cultural, recreational and community functions? 4. Reduce rural isolation, including access to affordable services for those without a car in rural areas?
Transport	10. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable transport choices.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote mixed-use developments, in accessible locations, that reduce the need to travel and reliance on the private car? 2. Provide suitable access and not significantly exacerbate issues of local transport capacity (unless there is evidence that such impacts can be mitigated)? 3. Make efficient use of existing transport infrastructure? 4. Provide the opportunity to create additional sustainable transport infrastructure including safe active travel
Economy and Enterprise	11. Encourage a vibrant and diversified economy and provide for long-term sustainable economic growth.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support the vitality and viability of town centres (proximity to town centres, built up areas, station hub)? 2. Provide a variety of employment land to meet all needs, including those for higher skilled employment uses that are (or can be made) easily accessible by sustainable transport? 3. Contribute to the provision of infrastructure that will help to promote economic growth? 4. Promote a balance between residential and employment development to help reduce travel distances to work

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 Plan.
- 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 Wiltshire Local Plan will be used to inform the assessment of the Plan in the next stage of the SA/SEA.

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	<p>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 County 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Development proposals can have a significant adverse impact on wildlife interests.</p> <p>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.</p>
2	Ensure efficient and effective use of land and the use of suitably located previously developed	Mod	High	Decl	Low	<p>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</p>

	land and buildings.					efficient and effective use of land.
3	Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner.	Mod	High	Decl	Low	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Increasing population growth, climate change and current lifestyle trends will place further pressures on the availability of potable water.</p> <p>Specific site allocations have the potential to direct development away from areas at risk of flooding.</p>
4	Improve air quality throughout Wiltshire and minimise all sources of environmental pollution	Mod	Med	Stable	Low	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 Plan, 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.</p>

5	Minimise our impacts on climate change and reduce our vulnerability to future climate change effects.	Poor	Med	Decl	Med	<p>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.</p> <p>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 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.</p> <p>There has been a recent increase in renewable energy production in Wiltshire though the county still falls behind other south west authorities, in particular Devon and Cornwall. The full potential for renewable energy production in Wiltshire is far from being achieved.</p> <p>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.</p>
6	Protect, maintain and enhance the historic environment.	Good	High	Impr	Med	<p>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 2013 to 2016.</p> <p>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 Plan. 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.</p>
7	Conserve and	Good	High	Decl	Low	Approximately 73% of Wiltshire falls within a national and local landscape

	enhance the character and quality of Wiltshire's rural and urban landscapes, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place.					<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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	<p>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.</p> <p>Wiltshire is also experiencing an increasingly older population and the housing stock will need to be adapted to meet the needs of older people.</p> <p>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.</p>
9	Reduce poverty and deprivation and promote more inclusive and self-contained communities	Good	Med	Decl	Med	<p>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. For the first time Wiltshire now has one area in the 10% most deprived LSOA in England with regards to health deprivation and disability, which constitutes a worsening trend.</p> <p>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.</p>

						<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
10	Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable transport choices.	Mod	High	Decl	Low	<p>Car ownership in Wiltshire is high compared to the regional and national averages, and is reflective of the county's rural nature.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 Plan.</p>
11	Encourage a vibrant and diversified economy and provide for long-term sustainable economic growth.	Mod	High	Decl	Med	<p>The South West is the UK's premier holiday destination; total annual tourism business turnover and GVA have increased by 35% since 2011 to £1,530m and £860m respectively in 2015. However after Gloucestershire, Wiltshire is the County in the south west with the least number of visits and that with the lowest visitor spend.</p> <p>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</p>

						<p>now slightly under the South West figures but still above the national average.</p> <p>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 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.</p> <p>Site allocations can also contribute to maximising opportunities to capitalise on the county's tourism potential.</p>
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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

7 Consultation

Task A5

- 7.1.1. This report is the combined Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA) Scoping Report for the Wiltshire Local Plan review. It is important that the scope of the 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.
- 7.1.2. 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 Plan 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; and
 - seek advice on the comprehensiveness of the baseline data and gain further information where appropriate.
- 7.1.3. Copies of the consultation documents were available during normal opening hours at the Council's main offices at Monkton Park (Chippenham), Bourne Hill (Salisbury), County Hall (Trowbridge) and at all Wiltshire Council Libraries.
- 7.1.4. Comments were invited during a 6 week consultation period, which ran from **9:00am on Tuesday 7 November 2017 until 5:00pm on Tuesday 19 December 2017**. All comments have been made available to the public to view and therefore cannot be treated as confidential.
- 7.1.5. In total 23 comments were received on the Joint Spatial Framework and Local Plan Consultation Paper, which mentioned SA/scoping report (although one is a duplicate).
- 7.1.6. The most common theme of the comments (mentioned by nine of the comments) requested/required that the alternative development strategies should be subject to SA. The development plan document (DPD) is due to be released for consultation in several months' time, and it will be published alongside an interim SA Report that assesses the reasonable alternative development strategies.
- 7.1.7. Three comments asked for specific changes to be made to the framework. Of these, the comment by Natural England (comment 54 on the CP) led to changes in the SA Framework, including wording changes to SA Objective 2 and amendments to the decision aiding questions of SA Objectives 1 and 7.
- 7.1.8. Although the representations by Thames Water (comment 25 on the CP) and Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon (comment 40 on the CP) thought additional DAQs should be added to the framework, it was felt they would not help differentiate options/development strategies and therefore have not led to changes to the SA Framework. However to address their representations, these discussions have been added to the key issues summary. Some comments raised issues or documents which they want to be included in the SA Scoping Report, mostly as documents within the PPP review.
- 7.1.9. For completeness comments 25 on the CP (Thames Water), 40 on the CP (Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon), 94 on the CP (Environment Agency), 165 on the CP (Laverstock and Ford

Parish Council), 181/183 on the JSF (Cricklade Town Council), 229 on the JSF (Corsham Town Council) led to amendments to the SA Scoping Report either as additions to the PPP or key issues summary.

- 7.1.10. There were also some representations which mentioned the SA/Scoping Report as an aside or listed it as part of the evidence base, these have been reviewed, but no changes have been made to the SA Scoping Report as a result.

8 Proposed Structure and Content of the Sustainability Appraisal Report

- 8.1.1. 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

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.

9 References

- A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, ODPM (September 2005). Available at: www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_planning/documents/page/odpm_plan_029817.pdf
- Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/5/contents>
- Environmental Assessments of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Statutory Instrument 2004 no. 1633). Available at: www.legislation.hmso.gov.uk/si/si2004/20041633.htm
- Environmental Quality in Spatial Planning – Environment Agency and others (2005)
- Directive 2001/42/EC "on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment", European Commission (2001). Available at: http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/en/oj/dat/2001/l_197/l_19720010721en00300037.pdf
- Planning Practice Guidance, DCLG (March 2014). Available at: <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/>