

# Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Site Allocations Development Plan Document

Ecological site briefings and tests of likely  
significant effects on European sites

January 2012



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## Introduction

1. This document aims to set out the relevant ecological issues for each allocated waste site in order to fully inform the planning process of the necessary processes that should be followed to ensure protection of the ecological integrity within each site. It also addresses possible opportunities for enhancement in line with the requirements of Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (PPS9).
2. This document was originally published in February 2011 to support the Wiltshire and Swindon Proposed Submission Draft Waste Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) which was consulted on in June 2011 for an eight week period. Changes to the DPD have been made since the publication of the Proposed Submission Draft (principally the removal of eight sites from the site allocations list following a landowner consent exercise) and therefore this document has been amended to reflect those changes. Changes to this document since the Proposed Submission Draft are marked in red (additions) and red strikethrough (deletions).

## Planning obligations

3. For most of the allocated sites, the ecology can be sufficiently and robustly addressed at the planning application stage in line with the advice contained in PPS9, which ensures no adverse impacts on protected species or sites and will require some habitat enhancement appropriate to existing site ecology. There is no guarantee that all the allocated sites will come forward for planning approval as the process is landowner and developer led, therefore no habitat survey work by consultants is necessary until the planning application for each site is being prepared. It will be the responsibility of developers to engage qualified consultant ecologists to survey their site in order to produce a report that will inform the planning application.
4. Notwithstanding this, the County Ecologist has reviewed the existing data for each site allocation including the type(s) of waste and size of each facility, against the existing ecology within and immediately surrounding each site. Table 1 below sets out the ecological constraints for each site and the requirement for habitat and species survey to inform the planning process.

## Statutory European designated sites

5. The Waste Core Strategy Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) document produced to support the Wiltshire & Swindon Minerals and Waste Development Framework, carried out by Enfusion/C4S in July 2008 determined the predicted impacts of each type of waste site on the features of each European designated site, based on the sensitivities of those features as documented in the site information given by the Joint Nature Conservancy Council (this information is given in Appendix 4 of the Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Minerals and Waste Core Strategies & Development Control Policies: Submission Reports July 2008).
6. For each European site the HRA concludes a distance below which it cannot be certain that a likely significant effect will not result from the siting and operation of a waste site.
7. ~~Seven~~ **Two** of the proposed waste sites are located close enough to a European designated site to require a “test of likely significance” to determine whether or not the proposal could be likely to have a significant adverse effect on the designated

features of the site. The pro forma for each of these ~~seven~~ sites is shown in Appendix 1 – Habitats Regulations Test of Likely Significance.

#### **River Avon SAC**

CB Skip Hire, Salisbury  
The Former Imerys Quarry, Salisbury  
~~Salisbury Road Business Park, Pewsey~~  
~~Salisbury Road Industrial Estate, Downton~~  
~~Sarum Business Centre, Salisbury~~

#### **Porton Down SPA**

~~Thorney Down Waste Treatment Site,~~  
~~Winterslow~~

#### **Salisbury Plain SAC/SPA**

~~Solstice Business Park, Amesbury~~

### **Water quality in relation to the River Avon SAC**

8. Since the completion of the HRA of the Minerals & Waste Core Strategies in 2008, Natural England have raised concerns regarding the levels of Phosphate in the River Avon, attributable to discharge from sewage treatment works, in addition to existing high levels of phosphate already in the catchment that result from farming practices. Wiltshire Council is working with the Environment Agency and Natural England towards a solution to the problem. Prospective developers of waste sites are advised to consult the Environment Agency (the competent authority with the relevant expertise relating to abstraction and discharge from and to water courses) at an early stage in their site design programme.

### **Other statutory designated sites**

9. In many cases the boundaries of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are contiguous with the boundaries of European Sites for which they act as a management tool, although the designated features may vary between the SSSIs and European Sites. Some statutory designations are SSSI only and not associated with any European Site. Of these, some are designated for their biological features, e.g. Savernake Forest, while others are designated for their geological features, e.g. Stanton St Quintin Geological SSSI. In general, the geological SSSIs are unlikely to be impacted by the type of waste sites proposed, unless there is to be any excavation or disruption of ground water flows as a result.
10. There is no standard distance from a SSSI at which it can be determined that impact is likely as this is very subjective, depending on the designated features of the SSSI, the possible impacts from operating the waste facility and whether there is any mechanism for impact such as hydrological connectivity or direction of prevailing wind in relation to both sites. Each site will require assessment of its individual issues at the planning application stage. The specific details of the requirements for survey and possible mitigation in respect of SSSIs are given in Table 1 below, in respect of each waste allocation that may have the potential to impact on the designated features.

### **Local sites – County Wildlife Sites**

11. County Wildlife Sites (CWSs) are the network of local sites of non-statutory designation, selected for their habitat type and their function for biodiversity. They usually contain areas of Priority Habitat (defined under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan list of Priority Habitats) and are protected through planning policy and process by the implementation of PPS9. It is **unlikely** that the nature of any of the proposed waste sites is such that it will result in an adverse impact on any CWS that cannot be mitigated. CWSs adjacent to, or relatively near to proposed waste sites may offer

opportunities to achieve gain for biodiversity through the planning process, as required under PPS9.

### **Sites within the Wiltshire Core Strategy preferred Strategic Site Options**

12. Four of the proposed waste sites are within preferred strategic site options in the emerging Wiltshire Core Strategy. It is the recommendation of Wiltshire Council's Ecologists that there should be an ecological strategy for each of these areas which may consist of a development brief that will ensure that sensitive areas are protected and gain for biodiversity is achieved as a direct result of development through S106 agreements designed to directly benefit habitats and species, within an overall ecological strategy for the allocated site.

### **Life of this advice**



13. The advice given in this document is valid for the life of the Wiltshire & Swindon Waste Core Strategy. However, the specific ecology of individual sites will change over time and prospective developers are therefore advised to engage a suitably qualified consultant ecologist at an early stage in the planning process, to properly determine the ecology of their site so that sufficient and appropriate mitigation and enhancement can be designed that will ensure no adverse effects on biodiversity as a result of development of the site.

### **Site briefings**

14. The following tables give a brief overview of the existing ecology of each potential site allocation, together with any constraints that may affect future proposed waste facility developments. It is intended to inform potential developers and planning officers of the likely ecological issues at individual sites that will need to be addressed in order to develop sites with due regard to biodiversity and to indicate appropriate enhancement that will benefit biodiversity in line with PPS9.

### **Key to abbreviations in the site briefings tables**

*LR – Local recycling; HRC – Household Recycling Centre; WTS – Waste transfer station; LOC – Local outdoor composting; IV – In-vessel composting; MRF – Materials recovery facility; AD – Anaerobic digestion; MBT – Mechanical biological treatment; EfW – Energy from Waste; IWR Inert Waste Recycling*

-  These sites have been subject to a test of likely significant effect on a nearby European site, undertaken by County Ecologist, as detailed in Appendix A of this report.
-  These sites are within the prospective employment areas in the emerging Wiltshire Core Strategy. It is possible/likely that there will be an ecological strategy for the preferred strategic sites in the final version of the Core Strategy. This may mean habitat enhancement is achieved through S106 agreements at a strategic sites scale or may mean that individual sites have to contribute to an overall ecological strategy. This is as yet undecided but an update will be given in due course.

**Table 1: North Wiltshire sites**

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Grid Reference</b>	<b>Strategic / Local scale</b>	<b>Potential uses</b>
<b>Parkgate Farm, Purton</b>	SU 076 888	Strategic	Waste Treatment / MRF/WTS / LR / IWR/T
<p>The site is not within or close to any statutory designated sites but is 730m south east of Red Lodge Wood CWS, although this is not likely to be directly affected. The ecology of the area will need extensive Phase I extended habitat survey work prior to planning application especially in respect of European protected species. Much of the site is currently grazed pasture. There has been a recent pre-app consultation in relation to building a new road across the fields to service the site in the event of expansion of the site. This is likely to affect hedgerows known to be important for Brown Hairstreak butterflies, areas supporting great crested newts, bat foraging and flight lines, badgers and possibly dormice.</p>			
<b>Purton Brickworks Employment Allocation, Purton</b>	SU 086 886	Strategic	Waste Treatment / MRF/WTS / LR
<p>The site is not within or close to any statutory or non statutory designated sites. The waste facility would be an addition to an existing industrial site, which is currently a mixture of hard standing areas and buildings interspersed with hedgerows, rough grassland and scrub. An extended Phase I habitat survey, with particular reference to reptiles and badgers will be required to inform the planning decision.</p>			
<b>Hills Resource Recovery Centre, Compton Bassett</b>	SU 020 710	Strategic	Waste Treatment (Subject to Landscape Assessment)
<p>The site is not within or close to any statutory or non statutory designated sites. In ecological terms the site would effectively be an extension to an existing site which has a long history of gravel extraction and landfill. Location of the waste facility must not impact on current or previous mitigation measures or enhancements such as the planting that was part of previous planning permissions. Site level survey will be required to inform the planning application especially in respect of badgers and great crested newts which are both found in substantial numbers in close proximity to the site. The proposed waste site should be contained as far as possible within the existing buildings and hard standing area to avoid further land take. Substantial mitigation and enhancement will be required to offset the cumulative impacts of the sites.</p>			
<b>Land east of HRC / WTS at Stanton St Quintin</b>	ST 925 795	Strategic	Waste Treatment / MRF/WTS / LR
<p>The site is situated immediately to the south of the M4 motorway and adjacent to an existing household recycling centre and waste transfer station. The Stanton St Quintin SSSI (geological) lies approximately 525m to the west, while a small block of ancient woodland, designated as CWS lies 1.2km to the south east. North Draycott Park CWS lies within 1km to the west of the site but is also on the opposite side of the motorway. None of these statutory or non-statutory designated sites will be impacted by the operation of the proposed waste facilities at this location. The land within the site is currently greenfield (arable) surrounded by trees and hedgerows which, due to the location and proximity of the motorway serve as important wildlife commuting corridors into adjacent habitat areas and the wider landscape. It will therefore be imperative that all tree lines and hedgerows within and bordering the site are retained within the development. Site level survey will be necessary to inform the planning application and in particular this should include an extended Phase I habitat survey plus surveys for bats, badgers, great crested newts and farmland/arable/ground nesting birds (there are numerous records of all these species in close proximity to the site). There are two other waste allocations within 500m of this site. Some significant habitat enhancement may be required for all three sites to ensure that the overall cumulative impact of the three sites is mitigated for in relation to the surrounding habitat.</p>			



<b>Land west of HRC/WTS (land east of J17 of M4), Stanton St Quintin</b>	ST 919 794	Strategic	Waste Treatment / MRF/WTS / LR / IWR/T
<p>The site is located to the immediate south of the westbound slip road at Junction 17 of the M4 motorway. The Stanton St Quinton SSSI (geological) lies approximately 20m to the north at its nearest point but is unlikely to be impacted by the operation of the proposed waste site. There are no other statutory or non statutory designated sites within the immediate area that could be impacted by the development. Land within the site is currently greenfield (grazed pasture) surrounded by trees and hedgerows which, due to the location and proximity of the motorway serve as important wildlife commuting corridors into adjacent habitat areas and the wider landscape. It will therefore be imperative that all tree lines and hedgerows within and bordering the site are retained within the development. Site level survey will be necessary to inform the planning application and in particular this should include an extended Phase I habitat survey plus surveys for bats, badgers, great crested newts and farmland/arable/ground nesting birds (there are numerous records of all these species in close proximity to the site). There are two other waste allocations within 500m of this site. Some significant habitat enhancement may be required for all three sites to ensure that the overall cumulative impact of the three sites is mitigated for in relation to the surrounding habitat. Appropriate enhancement for biodiversity in relation to this site allocation would include additional planting along the northern and western boundaries with native trees/shrubs, to increase connectivity.</p>			
<b>Park Grounds Farm, Wootton Bassett</b>	SU 046 841	Strategic	Extension to landraise / Waste Treatment
<p>This site is an existing landfill and waste treatment centre located immediately adjacent to Callow Hill Farm Meadow CWS and Witybed, Wootton Bassett CWS. Both these CWSs have been treated with due care during existing permissions by ensuring that ground and surface water issues do not result in changes to the environmental conditions within the designated sites. To the north there are two large areas of important ancient woodland within 1km of the site, however neither is likely to be adversely impacted by the waste proposals for this site. If any further development of the existing site is permitted, it must not impact on nearby CWS or on current mitigation strategy for extant permission – this includes lighting constraints for bats, habitat creation and enhancement for great crested newts and habitat management for great crested newts.</p>			
<b>Barnground, South Cerney</b>	SU 042 964	Local	MRF/WTS / LR
<p>The current set of aerial photos of this site indicates that it is an area of either bare earth or hard standing within a grazed field, which is surrounded by hedgerows providing connectivity into the wider surrounding landscape.</p> <p>There are no statutory designated sites in the immediate surrounding area that could be impacted by the types of waste operations proposed for this site. The County Wildlife Site CWP pits 25, 26, 27 &amp; 62 lies within 100m to the east of the site and their value to biodiversity is for the birds that overwinter or breed there, however as all of the proposed waste operations at the site would be carried out mainly within buildings, there is little chance of adverse impact on these lakes or the fauna and flora they support.</p> <p>A site level survey would be required if this site were to be developed. The information would be required to inform a planning application and should include a Phase I habitat survey plus surveys for badgers, reptiles and commuting bats.</p>			
<b>Whitehills Industrial Estate, Wootton Bassett</b>	SU 059 823	Local	MRF/WTS / LR
<p>The site is currently a light industrial site on the edge of the town of Wootton Bassett, bounded on its western edge by a mainline railway. There are no statutory or non-statutory designated sites in the immediate surrounding area. All the waste operations proposed for this site are likely to be carried out inside buildings, with the effects contained on site and therefore the potential to impact on the surrounding habitat is very low. A site level survey would be required if this site were to be</p>			

further developed in order to design appropriate enhancement for biodiversity relative to the existing surrounding habitat features. It should be noted that there are existing records of badgers on land to the north west of the site and if any construction or other physical change is to be undertaken near the boundary of the existing hard standing, it would be prudent to check for badger activity within 30m of the site boundary so that necessary actions can be taken to avoid harming badgers or destroying their setts.

<b>Bumpers Farm Industrial Estate</b>	ST 899 738	Local	HRC / MRF/WTS / LR
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The site is currently a light industrial site on the western edge of the town of Chippenham, bounded on its western edge by the busy A350 trunk road. There are no statutory designated sites in the immediate surrounding area. The County Wildlife Site known as Vincient's Wood, a Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Reserve, lies approximately 150m to the south however since all the waste operations proposed for this site are likely to be carried out inside buildings, with the effects contained on site the potential to impact on the surrounding habitat is very low and there will be no adverse effect on the CWS. A site level survey would be required if this site were to be further developed in order to design appropriate enhancement for biodiversity relative to the existing surrounding habitat features.

<b>Thingley Junction, Chippenham</b>	ST 900 703	Local	MRF/WTS / LR
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The proposed site is situated on brownfield land, outside of the future employment area being promoted in the emerging Wiltshire Core Strategy. There are no statutory or non-statutory designated sites within the zone of impact for the types of waste process described for this site, which are all likely to be carried out inside buildings, which will serve to contain any dust, noise and light spill from the site, onto the surrounding landscape. The land comprises a former railway depot which is currently still used for storage of railway sleepers and ancillary large railway items. There is a gypsy caravan site to the immediate north east and a former landfill area to the south east (separated from the proposed site by the railway line). Ponies from the gypsy site are grazed on the proposed site and the grass quality is reportedly in poor condition through over grazing, as a result, the site may support unusual ecology typical of brownfield sites near transport routes. There are existing Great Crested Newt (GCN) records within 350m of the site and several records of some of the rarer butterfly species. A full ecological survey will be required to inform any future planning application and this should be a full Phase I survey with additional reptile and GCN surveys (if no water body exists within 500m, a habitat suitability index for GCNs should be drawn up). An invertebrate survey will also be required. Enhancement of the site boundaries with additional planting should complement the current ecology of the site. Proposals for site enhancement should aim to help meet targets in the Wiltshire Biodiversity Action Plan (Wilts BAP), particularly within the "Batscapes" project that is part of the bat species action plan.

<b>Leaffield Industrial Estate, Corsham</b>	ST 861 685	Local	<del>HRC</del> / MRF/WTS / LR
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The proposed site is situated within an existing industrial estate for which all infrastructure such as drainage and water supply is already in place. The site is situated within 200m of Corsham Railway Cutting Geological SSSI however the proposals for new development are not likely to result in adverse effect on the SSSI since most of the operations will be carried out within sheds or fenced areas therefore airborne pollution is not likely to be significant. A site level survey will be required to inform any future planning application focusing on reptiles and amphibians in grass margins/hedgerow bottoms and bats in trees. Enhancement on a site such as this may necessarily be limited however it should aim to improve connectivity of natural habitat as wildlife corridors both around and within the site.

<b>Porte Marsh Industrial Estate, Calne</b>	SU 002 723	Local	MRF/WTS / LR
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The proposed site is situated within an existing light industrial estate, which currently consists of areas of hard standing with buildings but also some significant areas of semi natural habitat such as grassland, hedgerows and trees. The proposal is within 0.5km of Whitley Farm Meadow CWS (with two further CWSs lying approximately 1.5km away), however the siting of the proposed waste site types within the industrial site is unlikely to result in adverse effect on the special interest of the

CWS, since all these operations are likely to be carried out within buildings which will reduce the possibility of wind borne pollution from dust or litter. In addition, there is no hydrological connectivity between the proposed site and the CWS and therefore no likelihood of water borne pollution. There are no statutory designated sites within the immediate surrounding area that could be adversely impacted by this proposal. Existing records within the immediate surrounding area indicate that survey for reptiles (especially slow worms) and badgers will be required to inform any future planning application for this site. Enhancement of the site for biodiversity should aim to improve connectivity of habitats for wildlife species both across and around the site.

**Table 2: South Wiltshire sites**

Site Name	Grid Reference	Strategic / Local scale	Potential uses
<del>Solstice Business Park, Amesbury</del>	<del>SU 175 420</del>	<del>Strategic</del>	<del>MRF/WTS / LR</del>
<p><del>This is an existing industrial site within 1km of Salisbury Plain SAC. The County Ecologist has carried out a test of likely significance of any adverse impact on the designated features of the SAC, as a result of development of the site for any or all of the potential uses listed above and concluded that the proposed site is sufficiently far from the designated site that no significant effect will result from the implementation of proposals. A site level survey will be required to inform any future planning application with particular reference to achieving some gain for biodiversity through further development of the site.</del></p>			
<b>CB Skip Hire, St Thomas Farm, Salisbury</b>	SU 159 314	Strategic	MRF/WTS / LR / C / IWR/T
<p>The proposed site is situated on the edge of Salisbury and is an existing waste site operating MRF, WTS and LR facilities. As the site lies 75m from the River Avon SAC the County Ecologist has carried out a test of likely significance of any adverse impact on the designated features of the SAC, as a result of development of the site for any or all of the potential uses listed above and concluded that there could be a risk of adverse impact on the SAC as a result of implementing the potential uses but that the significance of impact can be removed or greatly reduced by the design of a robust management plan for site operation, which must address potential issues around dust deposition and pollution. A site level survey will be required to inform any future planning application. This should consist of an extended Phase I survey with particular reference to otters, reptiles, bats and badgers, assuming that the extension of the existing site will occupy the south-west area of the site.</p>			
<del>Sarum Business Centre, Salisbury</del>	<del>SU 152 336</del>	<del>Local</del>	<del>MRF/WTS/LR</del>
<p><del>The proposed site is situated within an existing built development. As the site lies 940m to the north of the River Avon SAC the County Ecologist has carried out a test of likely significance of any adverse impact on the designated features of the SAC, as a result of development of the site for any or all of the potential uses listed above and concluded that there are no mechanisms by which any of the proposed waste uses at the site could impact on the designated features of the SAC. A site level survey will be required to support any future planning application and provide information on badgers, reptiles and bats (in trees or in relation to buildings to be demolished and replaced) to inform any future planning application. Appropriate enhancement as required by PPS9 should aim to reinforce wildlife corridors around and within the site, however as a private airfield is situated immediately to the south, it may not be appropriate to rely on bat and bird boxes as enhancement for biodiversity.</del></p>			
<del>Thorney Down WTS, Winterslow</del>	<del>SU 155 592</del>	<del>Local</del>	<del>C/IWR/T</del>
<p><del>As the proposed site is situated within 200m of the Porton Down SPA the County Ecologist has carried out a test of likely significance of any adverse impact on the designated features of the SPA, as a result of development of the site for any or all of the potential uses listed above and concluded that the site is sufficiently far from the SPA and sufficiently far from nesting and foraging sites within the SPA that the facility would be unlikely to result in any adverse impact on the designated features, particularly if operation of the site is restricted to daylight hours. The site boundary is also within 30m of Thorney Down Road Verge CWS, but proposals for new development are considered unlikely to have any adverse effect on this site unless, for example, new development leads to the generation of large quantities of dust, unacceptable increases in traffic on the local highway network, or inappropriate lighting on site. Ecological survey to investigate presence of bats, badgers and reptiles within or immediately adjacent to the site boundary will be required to inform any future planning application. In addition, a robust management plan for the operation of any additional waste operations on the site will be required to address issues of noise, dust, litter and lighting. Appropriate enhancement as required by PPS9 should seek to improve connectivity of wildlife corridors around the site boundaries; however any enhancement should be carefully</del></p>			

~~assessed to ensure that it does not compromise the integrity of the habitat on either the SPA or the GWS.~~

<b>Salisbury Road Industrial Estate, Downton</b>	SU 152 336	Local	MRF/WTS / LR
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~~The proposed site is situated within an existing industrial estate and as it is within 200m of the River Avon SAC the County Ecologist has carried out a test of likely significance of any adverse impact on the designated features of the SAC, as a result of development of the site for any or all of the potential uses listed above and concluded that as the site location is wholly within an existing light industrial site and that the operation of the proposed waste processes at this site is unlikely to result in impacts outside the site boundary, the site is a sufficient distance from the SAC and features will not be impacted as a direct result of operation of the site. There may be indirect impacts such as dust, noise, light pollution and litter and all of these should be controlled by a robust management plan to ensure that no adverse impact on the features of the SAC results from operation of waste facilities at this site. An ecological survey at site level survey will be required to support any future planning application where further development is to be on previously unbuilt areas of the site or where buildings are to be demolished. Appropriate enhancement for biodiversity required by PPS9 should aim to extend connectivity of wildlife corridors around the site boundaries where possible.~~

<b>Brickworth Quarry and Landfill</b>	SU214 339	Local	C / IWR/T
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The site is situated immediately adjacent to Lowden's Copse CWS to the south east and Sandland/Goose Eye Copse CWS to the west, both of which are designated for their Ancient Woodland (UK BAP Priority Habitat) interest. The existing permitted site only accepts inert waste as part of the overall restoration scheme. Any additional waste imports must be inert and in accordance with existing mitigation strategy for sand extraction. The existing restoration plan aims to enhance both areas of ancient woodland CWS and any further proposals for waste import must not compromise the integrity of the existing plan. Considerable ecological survey has already been carried out on the site to inform applications for extant permissions. Any further proposals will be expected to be accompanied by updated ecological survey reports.

<b>Employment Allocation, Mere</b>	SU 170 220	Local	HRC / MRF/WTS / LR
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The proposed allocation is situated on a greenfield site (currently in arable use). The site is also adjacent to Dead Maid Quarry SSSI (designated for its geological interest) and approximately 50m south from Norwood South CWS (designated for its Ancient Woodland interest and BAP Priority Habitat "Broadleaved, mixed and Yew Woodland"). As the CWS is already bisected by the A303 Trunk Road, the southern part of the woodland is already vulnerable to impacts of edge effects. The waste site would be upwind of the CWS and therefore there is potential for dust to reach the CWS. While it is acknowledged that most of the proposed waste facilities suitable for this site will be carried out inside buildings, there is potential for litter to be blown onto the CWS and surrounding habitat. A robust construction method statement will be required at the planning application stage to address containment of dust and litter. In addition, there are numerous badger records in the immediate vicinity and the proximity of the woodland indicates suitable habitat for a wide variety of species. Any planning application will need to be accompanied by an extended Phase I survey to inform the planning decision in relation to sensitive habitats and species. Appropriate enhancement in line with PPS9 would include further planting of the strip between the proposed waste site and the CWS to act as a buffer for the sensitive woodland habitats.

<b>Former Imerys Quarry, Quidhampton</b>	SU 228232	Local	IWR/T associated with landfill inputs
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The proposed site is situated within an existing industrial site/working quarry and as it is within 250m north of the River Avon SAC the County Ecologist has carried out a test of likely significance of any adverse impact on the designated features of the SAC, as a result of development of the site for any or all of the potential uses listed above and concluded that the site is in flood zone 1 and is unlikely to be affected by flood events, therefore the potential for materials to be picked up and carried in the river is negligible. The waste site lies to the north of the SAC therefore prevailing winds will not carry air borne pollutants onto the SAC from the waste site. The site is sufficiently distant from the SAC that disturbance is unlikely to be an issue.

~~The site is also partially within the Quidhampton Quarry CWS<sup>1</sup>.~~ Natural habitats on the site should be subject to survey to inform any future planning applications for this site and this should pay particular attention to badgers, nesting birds and reptiles. Enhancement for biodiversity required by PPS9 should be designed according to ecological survey report findings regarding the use of the site by any European Protected Species and nesting birds. ~~while falling in line with any existing management prescriptions for the CWS<sup>1</sup>.~~



<sup>1</sup> The non-statutory designation of CWS was removed from the Quidhampton Quarry site following a decision by the Wildlife Sites Project Steering Group in October 2011.

**Table 3: East Wiltshire sites**

Site Name	Grid Reference	Strategic / Local scale	Potential uses
<b>Castledown Business Park, Ludgershall</b>	SU 256 505	Local	HRC / MRF/WTS / LR
<p>The proposed allocation is currently situated on a greenfield site, bounded to the north by a line of trees and with a block of native planting in the north western corner. It lies immediately adjacent to the east of Castledown School which is currently being redeveloped as Wellington Academy. The Wellington Academy scheme includes stringent mitigation for reptiles and bats and this should be taken into account in any consideration of proposed waste uses on the Business Park. Any proposal for waste use(s) must not impact on the ecology of school grounds or compromise the mitigation strategy that is part of the planning permission for the school. Two CWSs lie to the immediate north west, west and south west of the school site, within 600m of the proposed waste site in a general westerly direction. These are Pickpit Hill and Wildmill Hill Down and both are designated for their chalk grassland habitat which is a UK BAP priority habitat supporting many UK BAP priority species including butterflies, brown hare and reptiles, especially slow worm. Two large areas of important ancient woodland lie to the north east of the site which may be sensitive to air pollution from some proposed waste operations, since the prevailing wind would carry particulate matter in their direction. Site survey to inform any future planning application for waste facilities on this site should include an extended Phase I survey of the entire site, with particular reference to badgers, bats (flight lines and possible tree roosts) and reptiles, especially slow worm and grass snake. Any necessary mitigation for the waste site must not compromise the integrity of the mitigation and enhancement for the adjacent Wellington Academy site. Enhancement in line with PPS9 should seek to further buffer the ancient woodland by increasing the volume of hedgerow and tree line around the north of the site and by providing new and enhanced habitat corridors around the south, south east and north east edges of the site as appropriate (e.g. hedgerow and tree planting or maintenance of rough grassland strips).</p>			
<b>Hopton Industrial Estate, Devizes</b>	SU 017 625	Local	MRF/WTS / LR
<p>The proposed allocation is within an existing light industrial site, the northern part of which is still unbuilt therefore it is likely that further development will be situated in this part of the site. The northern part of the site consists of scrub and rough grassland and is surrounded in the wider landscape area by arable fields. The only designated site within 1km of the proposed allocation is the Kennet &amp; Avon Canal CWS approximately 400m to the south. It is unlikely that any of the potential waste operations for this site would result in any adverse impact on the CWS. Survey at the site level to inform any planning application should consist of an extended Phase I survey with particular respect to badgers, barn owls and farmland birds on adjacent arable fields. Depending of the findings of the survey a lux plot and lighting constraints may be required to ensure avoidance of light pollution onto fields.</p>			
<b>Nursteed Road Employment Allocation, Devizes</b>	SU024 630	Local	MRF/WTS / LR
<p>The proposed allocation would be an extension to the south of an existing light industrial site. There are no statutory or non-statutory designated sites within 2km of the site. The site currently consists of rough grassland which may be potentially suitable for great crested newt terrestrial habitat, especially as there are several ponds within 250m of the site. The habitats on site may also be suitable for badgers and reptiles. An extended Phase I habitat survey with particular reference to reptiles, great crested newts and badgers will be required to support any future planning application. Creation and enhancement of wildlife corridors and the provision of areas for reptiles may be required if deemed appropriate to the current ecology of the site.</p>			
<b>Wiltshire Waste (Recycling), Tinkersfield Farm Transfer Station, Monument Hill Nursteed Road, Devizes</b>	SU 015606	Local	MRF/WTS / LR
<p>The proposed allocation is situated immediately adjacent to Nursteed Farm Woods CWS. There are existing records of badgers on the site and immediately adjacent land. Any future planning</p>			

<p>application should be informed by an extended Phase I survey of the application site and surrounding area, with particular reference to badgers and reptiles. There will be a requirement to provide habitat enhancement to buffer the woodland and to provide corridors around and across the site. Consideration will have to be given to the need for sensitive siting of buildings and plant within the site so that waste operations carried out at the site do not result in adverse impact to the CWS.</p>			
<b>Salisbury Road Business Park, Marlborough</b>	SU 197 683	Local	MRF/WTS/LR
<p>The HRC has already been brought forward and been granted planning permission, after extensive ecological survey and mitigation for dormice, bats and reptiles. Lighting restrictions have been imposed to protect commuting bats and dormice. Mitigation for any further development will need to complement that already detailed as part of extant permission. An appropriately scoped site level survey should be sufficient to support any future planning application for expansion of development.</p>			
<del>Salisbury Road Business Park, Pewsey</del>	<del>SU 155 592</del>	<del>Local</del>	<del>MRF/WTS/LR</del>
<p><del>The site is within 2km of the River Avon SAC, therefore the County Ecologist has carried out a test of likely significance of any adverse impact on the designated features of the SAC, as a result of development of the site for any or all of the potential uses listed above and concluded that the site allocation is wholly within an existing light industrial site and the operation of the proposed waste processes at this site is unlikely to result in impacts outside the site boundary, however there may be indirect impacts such as dust, noise, light pollution affecting wildlife using the riparian woodland and litter. All these should be controlled by a robust management plan to ensure that no adverse impact on the features of the SAC results from operation. The management plan must also address issues around oil bunding and oil traps to control pollution in surface water run-off. Survey to inform the planning application should include reptiles, badgers, bats, water voles and otters and habitat enhancement in line with PPS9 should be designed to be in line with any river restoration projects currently being run by Natural England.</del></p>			
<b>Everleigh Waste Management Facility</b>	SU 197 683	Local	MRF/WTS / LR <span style="float: right;">■</span>
<p>The proposed allocation is situated on an existing waste site but is immediately adjacent to woodland and 150m from Everleigh Ashes CWS which is designated for its Ancient Woodland interest and is also an important area of dormouse habitat. Any expansion of the waste facility is unlikely to impact on the Ancient Woodland, but it would be advisable to undertake an extended phase I habitat survey with particular reference to dormice and bats to inform any future planning application. Some lighting constraints may be necessary to protect dormice and bats from possible disturbance. Appropriate enhancement in line with PPS9 could seek to extend areas of suitable dormouse habitat around the site boundary to connect with other habitats in the wider countryside.</p>			
<b>Pickpit Hill, Ludgershall</b>	SU 247 499	Local	HRC / MRF/WTS / LR / IWR/T / C
<p>The proposed site is surrounded on three sides by the Pickpit Hill County Wildlife Site, designated for its chalk grassland interest, a UK BAP priority habitat, which in turn is important for the large variety of butterflies, reptiles and small mammals, including brown hare that are found here. The site itself is covered with trees and scrub, which may offer suitable secluded resting places for birds, bats and small mammals. An extended Phase I habitat survey with particular reference to reptiles, bats and badgers will be required to inform any future planning application on this site. Appropriate enhancement in line with PPS9 could include the provision of new or extended areas of wildlife corridor and refuge sites on the boundary between the waste site and the CWS. A robust management plan for the potential waste site will need to address the issue of dust and litter being carried onto the CWS by the prevailing wind and measures put in place to prevent this.</p>			



**Table 4: West Wiltshire sites**

Site Name	Grid Reference	Strategic / Local scale	Potential uses
<b>Hampton Business Park, Melksham</b>	ST 906 615	Strategic	Waste Treatment MRF/ WTS / LR
<p>The proposed allocation is situated on land currently used partly as a playing field/sports ground and partly as grazed pasture. The allocation would be an extension of an existing light industrial site into what is currently "greenfield" land. There are numerous existing records in the surrounding area for bats, badgers, reptiles and great crested newts, therefore an extended Phase I habitat survey with particular respect to these species will be required to inform the planning application for the site. The proposed site is within the Melksham potential future employment sites outlined in the emerging Wiltshire Core Strategy. Enhancement for biodiversity in relation to planning permission for this site would be required to fall in line with any ecological strategy that has been designed for the area as part of the Wiltshire Core Strategy.</p>			
<b>West Wilts Trading Estate, Westbury</b>	ST 858 528	Strategic	Waste Treatment MRF/ WTS / LR / HRC
<p>The proposed allocation is situated on an existing industrial site. A site level survey should be undertaken if development is on, or adjacent to part of the site that is currently occupied by trees, hedgerow or grass/scrub, or immediately adjacent to the River Biss, or if any existing buildings are to be demolished and rebuilt. The site is within the Westbury potential future employment sites in the emerging Wiltshire Core Strategy. There may be an ecological strategy associated with areas of development within the Core Strategy that may put constraints on some sites in relation to habitat retention and enhancement. This should be investigated and addressed within the planning application for the site.</p>			
<b>Northacre Trading Estate, Westbury</b>	ST 853 521	Strategic	Waste Treatment MRF/ WTS / LR
<p>The proposed allocation is situated on what is currently a mix of greenfield and brownfield land as part of a relatively new area of light industrial development in Westbury. Development on the currently undeveloped part of the site will require a site level phase I extended survey with particular reference to water voles, badgers and reptiles (existing records in the immediate area) to inform any future planning application. The site is within the Westbury potential future employment sites in the emerging Wiltshire Core Strategy. There may be an ecological strategy associated with areas of development within the Core Strategy that may put constraints on some sites in relation to habitat retention and enhancement. This should be investigated and addressed within the planning application for the site.</p>			
<b>Lafarge Cement Works / Westbury Waste Management Facility</b>	ST 887 527	Strategic	HRC / MRF/WTS / LR / IWR/T / C / T (and associated L of residual waste from T process)
<p>The proposed allocation is situated within the existing Lafarge Cement Works site and Claypit RIGS. It is also immediately adjacent to and partially within the Blue Circle Cement Works Claypit CWS. Most of the site can be classed as an existing industrial site and the majority of the waste treatments proposed would be carried out under cover on the existing hard standing areas. However there is also a proposed landfill potential at this site. An extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey will be required in order to fully assess any areas of the site not previously developed. Enhancement in line with PPS9 is likely to be required to benefit the adjacent CWS therefore relevant and recent information as to the current state of the CWS and its feature interest should be sought at the planning application stage.</p>			
<b>Bowerhill Industrial Estate, Melksham</b>	ST 912 620	Local	MRF/WTS / LR
<p>The proposed allocation is situated on an existing industrial site. A site level survey should be undertaken if development is on, or adjacent to part of the site that is currently occupied by trees, hedgerow or grass/scrub, or if any existing buildings are to be demolished and rebuilt. There are existing records of GCN in the surrounding area therefore mitigation and enhancement may need to include maintenance of habitat connectivity.</p>			

<b>Canal Road Industrial Estate, Trowbridge</b>	ST 857 594	Local	MRF/WTS / LR
<p>The proposed allocation is situated within an existing industrial estate, but immediately adjacent to Kennet &amp; Avon Canal. There will be a requirement for a robust management plan to control litter, dust and surface water run-off. A site level survey should be undertaken if development is on, or adjacent to part of the site that is currently occupied by trees, hedgerow or grass/scrub, or if any existing buildings are to be demolished and rebuilt.</p>			
<del><b>West Ashton Employment Allocation, Trowbridge</b></del>	<del>ST 869 572</del>	<del>Local</del>	<del>MRF/WTS / LR</del>
<p><del>The proposed allocation is situated within 20m of the Biss Meadow Country Park, also within 600m of Green Lane Wood and Meadow CWS. These assets are all important for Bechstein's bat (one of the rarest species in Britain). On-site mitigation is likely to be extensive and required to address screening and lighting constraints. The ecological assets may also be adversely impacted by any increase of traffic associated with the development of the site. The proposed allocation should also be looked at carefully in relation to the Wiltshire Core Strategy and should only go ahead if the employment allocation in the draft Core Strategy is implemented. There is likely to be an ecological strategy for the employment allocation within the Wiltshire Core Strategy. This should be investigated and addressed at the planning application stage.</del></p>			
<b>Warminster Business Park, Warminster</b>	ST 869 458	Local	MRF/WTS / LR
<p>The proposed allocation is situated within an existing waste facility/council depot. Reptile, badger and water vole surveys should be undertaken, particularly if any ditches are affected. Additional survey work should be undertaken if development is on, or adjacent to part of the site that is currently occupied by trees, hedgerow or grass/scrub, or if any existing buildings are to be demolished and rebuilt. This information should be compiled and submitted to inform any future planning application process.</p>			
<del><b>Chitterne Waste Management Facility, Land at Valley Farm, Chitterne</b></del>	<del>ST 968 434</del>	<del>Local</del>	<del>Local Scale Waste Treatment / MRF/WTS / LR / C / IWR</del>
<p>The proposed allocation is situated on a site that appears to be either rough grassland or arable field and within 300m to the north of Codford Down CWS (chalk grassland). However, it is considered that if the proposed allocation were to be developed, it would be unlikely to impact on the designated feature since the prevailing wind is from the south west and there is no hydrological connectivity between the allocation site and the CWS. There are several existing records in the immediate area for badgers and reptiles therefore an extended phase 1 habitat survey with particular reference to (although not exclusively) these species, will be required to inform any future planning application process.</p>			

**Table 5: Swindon Borough sites**

Site Name	Grid Reference	Strategic / Local scale	Potential uses
<b>Chapel Farm, Blunsdon</b>	SU 125 910	Strategic	C / LR / MRF/WTS / IWR/T / T
<p>The proposed allocation is apparently situated on farmland (according to aerial photos that may be out of date). There are two blocks of UK BAP Priority Habitat, one within 20m to the south of the site and one more than 200m to the south east, both notified for their broadleaved mixed woodland interest. In addition the Widhill Copse County Wildlife Site, designated for its Ancient Woodland interest which is also a UK BAP Priority Habitat, lies within 200m to the south east of the site. A drain runs along the northern edge of the site and another runs north along the eastern edge of the site. Although the flow is away from the County Wildlife site, there remains hydrological connectivity. None of the areas of priority habitat are likely to be adversely affected by the types of waste facility being considered for this site, however, an extended Phase I habitat survey with particular respect to badgers, reptiles and water voles will be required in order to inform any future planning application for this site. Appropriate enhancement in relation to the site, in line with PPS9, would include improvement of connectivity between the areas of woodland and the wider ecological landscape.</p>			
<b>Waterside Park, Swindon</b>	SU 131 863	Strategic	T / LR / IWR/T
<p>The proposed allocation is situated within an existing industrial estate, although some parts of this are still undeveloped and there are significant areas of scrub and rough grassland within the proposed site boundary. A site level survey should be undertaken if development is on, or adjacent to part of site that is currently occupied by trees, hedgerow or grass/scrub, or if any existing buildings are to be demolished and rebuilt. This should be in the form of an extended Phase I survey with particular reference to reptiles, badgers and water voles if any ditches are affected. Appropriate enhancement in line with the requirements of PPS9 would include improvement of connectivity to strengthen wildlife corridors both through and around the site.</p>			
<b>Brindley Close / Darby Close, Swindon</b>	SU 132 861	Local	MRF/WTS / LR
<p>The proposed allocation site is wholly within an existing light industrial area and there is unlikely to be any loss of natural habitat, however it is diagonally adjacent to Cheney Manor Ponds CWS. It is therefore likely that there will be a requirement for robust mitigation to ensure ponds are not adversely impacted by any new development proposals. There are existing records of great crested newts, water voles and otters in the immediate vicinity. A site level survey of ecology should be sufficient at the planning application stage.</p>			
<b>Land at Kendrick Industrial Estate, Swindon</b>	SU 133 857	Local	MRF/WTS / LR / IWR/T
<p>The proposed allocation site is wholly within an existing light industrial area and there is unlikely to be any loss of natural habitat however it is approximately 30m south from Cheney Manor Ponds CWS, on the opposite side of the railway. There are records of otters and water voles in the immediate surrounding area and so a site level survey will be required to determine if these species could be impacted by any future development at the site. There may be a requirement for mitigation to ensure the County Wildlife Site ponds are not adversely impacted by any new development proposals.</p>			
<b>Rodbourne Sewage Works</b>	SU 131 856	Local	WWT
<p>The proposed site is adjacent to Swindon Sewage Treatment Works Lagoon CWS and Rivermead CWS. A limit on land take and/or a limit on increase in vehicle movements close to the lagoon may be required to prevent adverse impact on ecology. There are numerous existing records of otter, water vole and great crested newt in the immediate surrounding area. A site level survey of ecology to determine any adverse impact on these species, to inform the planning application will be required.</p>			

<b>Land within Dorcan Industrial Estate, Swindon</b>	SU 190 840	Local	HRC / MRF/WTS / LR
<p>The proposed site allocation is entirely within an existing industrial site, surrounded by residential development. Operation of the site for the proposed waste facilities is unlikely to result in any adverse impact to local biodiversity. A site level survey for the presence of any protected species should inform any planning application for the site.</p>			

# APPENDIX A

## Habitats Regulations Tests of Likely Significant Effects on European Sites

The Habitats Regulation Assessment Report for the Wiltshire & Swindon Minerals and Waste Development Framework, carried out by Enfusion/C4S in July 2008 provides conclusions on the likely significant effects of waste facility sites on European statutory designated sites and recommendations to be implemented at the Development Plan Document stage.

The Core Strategy HRA document determined the predicted impacts of each type of waste site on the features of each European designated site, based on the sensitivities of those features as documented in the site information given by the Joint Nature Conservancy Council. (This information is given in Appendix 4 of the Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Minerals and Waste Core Strategies & Development Control Policies: Submission Reports July 2008).

For each European site the HRA concludes a distance below which it cannot be certain that a likely significant effect will not result from the siting and operation of a waste site. Those distances are as follows:

Avon Valley SPA	-	Less than 500m
Avon Valley Ramsar site	-	Less than 500m
Bath & Bradford on Avon Bat SAC	-	Less than 500m <sup>1</sup>
Chilmark Quarries SAC	-	Less than 500m
Mottisfont Bats SAC	-	Less than 500m
New Forest SAC	-	Less than 2km
New Forest SPA	-	Less than 500m
New Forest Ramsar site	-	Less than 500m
North Meadow & Clattinger Farm SAC	-	Less than 2km
Porton Down SPA	-	Less than 500m
River Avon SAC	-	Less than 2km
Salisbury Plain SAC	-	Less than 500m
Salisbury Plain SPA	-	Less than 500m

None of the proposed locations for waste facilities are either within or immediately adjacent to a designated European site, however following Enfusion/C4S conclusions on distances at which operations associated with the range of waste site types may still adversely affect European sites, the operation of proposed waste sites falling within 500m - 2km of the River Avon SAC ~~and within 0 – 500m of Salisbury Plain SAC/SPA and within 0 – 500m of Porton Down SPA,~~ could be likely to result in a significant adverse effect on the designated features of the European site. These are:

### River Avon SAC

CB Skip Hire, Salisbury  
The Former Imerys Quarry, Salisbury  
~~Salisbury Road Business Park, Powsey  
Salisbury Road Industrial Estate, Downton  
Sarum Business Centre, Salisbury~~

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<sup>1</sup> unless resulting in habitat fragmentation or land take in the surrounding area

**Porton Down SPA**

~~Thorney Down Waste Treatment Site, Winterslow~~

**Salisbury Plain SAC/SPA**

~~Solstice Business Park, Amesbury~~

~~The Solstice Business Park at Amesbury is approximately 725m from the Salisbury Plain SAC/SPA boundary, however, the proximity of the A303 trunk road to both the proposed waste site allocation and the European site could be a factor in creating a vector for dust and other airborne pollutants, so the precautionary approach is taken and a test of likely significance was carried out for the site.~~

The criteria for determining significant effect is based on the likelihood of the predicted impacts for each of the designated features of a particular European site actually occurring, when taking into account all other biotic and abiotic factors.

The format used for the Test of Likely Significance pro forma is that used by Wiltshire Council's ecologists for all planning applications that have the potential to result in an adverse effect on a European site. The pro forma is accepted by Natural England as suitable procedure for this purpose and is self explanatory.

In all cases the conclusions were that the proposals would not result in a significant adverse effect on a European site, in some cases after additional mitigation or constraints. Recommendations are given for any special considerations for determination of the planning permission.

The Test of Likely Significance pro formas are set out for each of the sites below:

CB Skip Hire, St Thomas' Farm, Salisbury



Plate 1. Aerial photograph of the site showing location in relation to the River Avon SAC

CB Skip Hire, St Thomas' Farm, Salisbury

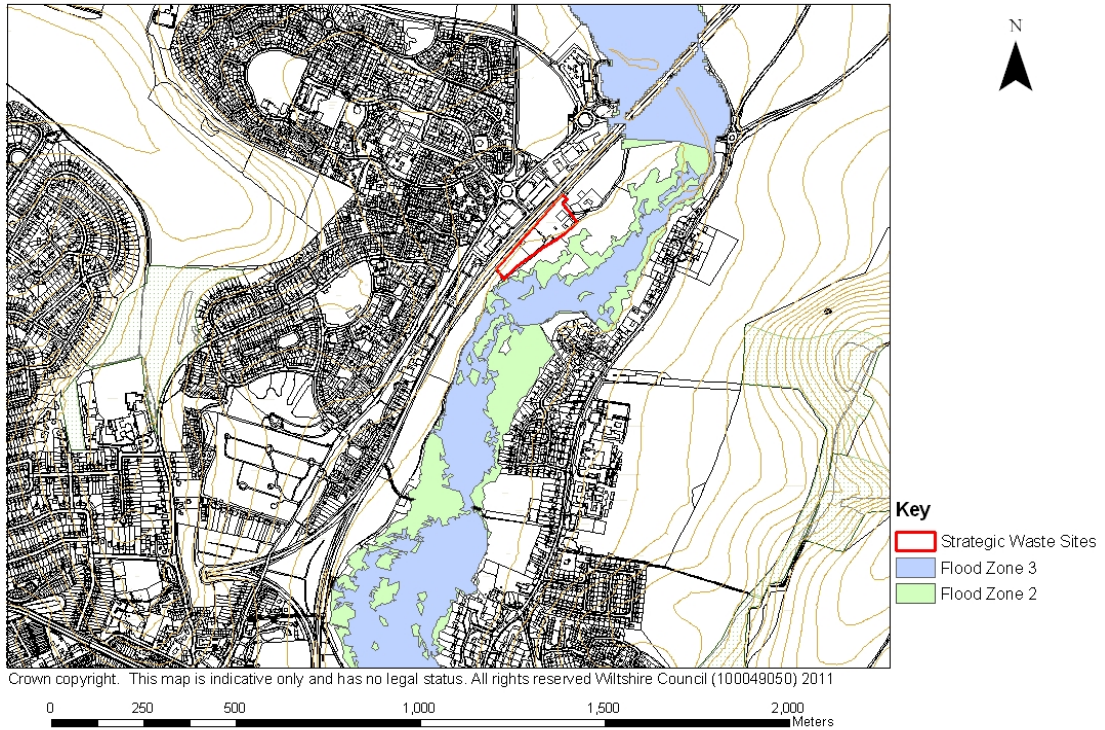


Plate 2. Location map showing proposed site in relation to flood zones 2 and 3

## ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS ON A EUROPEAN SITE

This is a record of the judgement by Wiltshire Council, required under Regulation 61 of the Habitats Regulations 2010 as to the “likely significant effect”, if any, of a proposed waste facility site on one or more European protected sites.

<b>PART A: THE PROPOSAL</b>		
<b>National Grid Reference</b> SU 159 314		
<b>Name of Site</b> CB Skip Hire, St Thomas Farm, Salisbury		
<b>Waste Development Types Proposed at the Site</b> Materials Recovery Facility, Waste Transfer Station, Local Recycling, Inert Waste Recycling/Treatment, Outdoor Composting		
<b>European Sites that could be affected by the proposals</b> <b>River Avon SAC</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Component SSSIs - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ River Till</li> <li>○ River Avon System</li> <li>○ Porton Meadows</li> <li>○ Lower Woodford Water Meadows</li> <li>○ Jones' Mill</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		<b>Distance of proposed allocation from European Site</b> Approximately 82 metres to the north of the SAC at its nearest point.
<b>List of European Site interest features</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Cottus gobio</i></li> <li>2. <i>Salmo salar</i></li> <li>3. <i>Lampetra planeri</i></li> <li>4. <i>Petromyzon marinus</i></li> <li>5. <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i></li> <li>6. <i>Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation</i></li> <li>7. <i>Alkaline fens</i></li> <li>8. <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i></li> <li>9. <i>Lutra lutra</i></li> <li>10. <i>Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)</i></li> </ol>	<p>Bullhead. Atlantic salmon. Brook lamprey. Sea lamprey. Desmoulin`s whorl snail. Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot.  Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens. White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish. Otter. Alder woodland on floodplains.</p>
<b>Key ecological features that support European Site integrity</b>	<p>The River Avon system is considered to be one of the most biodiverse in lowland Britain, with exceptionally rich flora, fish and invertebrate fauna. There is concern that the cumulative impacts of increasingly intensive land use are causing problems of reduced water quality and flow which, especially where combined with insensitive engineering and/or management are significantly affecting the ecology. External factors such as deep sea salmon fishing and water resource on a regional basis are impacting on the ecology. At present the most directly influential factor on the Upper Avon is salmonid fishery management (including bank stabilisation, fish stocking, control of predators/competitors, weed cutting and bank vegetation cutting). On the lower Avon, management is more directed to land drainage, through manipulation of water flows and weed cutting, although fishery management is carried out. The operation of hatches, sluices etc have a significant influence throughout the system.</p>	



**PART B: ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS**

**What potential hazards are likely to affect the interest features?**

Potential hazard	Potential exposure to hazard and mechanism of effect/impact if known	Existing or additional possible mitigation to remove/reduce the hazard
1. Changes in water chemistry	Run off from the site could cause changes in water chemistry particularly if the site is used for composting or where waste materials are stored prior to treatment. This could result in unfavourable water chemistry for all of the designated features but will directly affect fish migration for spawning and ecological suitability for desmoulin's whorl snail. Although there is no direct hydrological connectivity, the site is within 85m of the watercourse and a severe flooding event could result in adverse impact.	The site is within flood zone 1 although the south west corner abuts flood zones 2 and 3, however the likelihood of flooding across the whole site is minimal. Run off would need to be addressed through suitable bunding of the site and adherence to Environment Agency guidelines, especially for composting operations. The relevant waste licence criteria would ensure that issues of runoff would be addressed at the site design stage.
2. Increased turbidity	Silt run off from site could result in increased turbidity and fish deaths from gill damage. Although there is no direct hydrological connectivity, the site is within 85m of the watercourse and a severe flooding event could result in adverse impact.	As above.
3. Pollution of watercourse	Spillage of fuels etc could reach the watercourse via run off in wet weather or during flood events.	A robust management plan for the operation of the site should address bunded storage of all fuels and other potentially pollutant substances.
4. Suffocation	Wind borne dust deposition, particularly on slow-flowing backwater stretches, may result in suffocation of macrophytes and invertebrate species in extreme cases. Plastics in litter can be ingested by fish, becoming caught in gills and blocking digestive tracts resulting in fish deaths.	Most of the potential waste processing operations on the site can/will be carried out in covered sheds so that dust would be contained. The exception is composting which essentially has to be carried out in the open. Wind borne dust is only likely to be an issue if compost is allowed to become too dry. A robust management plan would be necessary to ensure that dust from the composting facility will be controlled.
5. Disturbance	Light spillage onto the SAC may result in disturbance to otters (and possibly to fish migration during the spawning season) if operations continue during hours of darkness, since the site is within the normal diurnal range for otters.	Most otter activity is during the hours of darkness. The operational hours of the site are unlikely to continue beyond nightfall in normal conditions. During winter months when it is dark earlier, otter movements are generally less frequent. Disturbance is therefore unlikely although still possible. Additional restrictions on operational times could be imposed via condition of planning permission,

		particularly in regard to security lights during the hours of darkness.
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**PART C: CONCLUSION**

**Is the potential scale or magnitude of any effect likely to be significant?**

**a) Alone? No**

(explain conclusion e.g. in relation to *de minimus* criteria)

The site is in flood zone 1 and is unlikely to be affected by flood events, therefore the potential for materials to be picked up and carried in the river is negligible.

A robust management plan for site operation must address potential issues around dust deposition and pollution as detailed above.

**b) In combination with other plans or projects? No**

There is no mechanism for this site to add to any cumulative effect on the River Avon SAC in combination with other plans and projects.

**Conclusion: Is the proposal likely to have a significant effect on a European Site? (Include justification)**

**No.**

The site is in flood zone 1 so is unlikely to cause impact as a result of flood events carrying materials or substances into the watercourse. Mitigation can be designed to address run off and dust deposition. Operational hours can be restricted by condition to avoid disturbance to otters.

**Recommendations:**

The operational management of the site will need to meet the necessary criteria for the relevant waste management licence issued by the Environment Agency.

A robust management plan should address bunding of fuels, litter control and control of airborne dust particles, particularly from a composting facility.

A planning condition should be imposed to restrict operation to daylight hours in order to avoid disturbance to otters.

<b>Name of Officer(s) making the assessment</b>	Fiona Elphick Principal Ecologist, Wiltshire Council
<b>Date</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> June 2010

Salisbury Road Business Park, Pewsey

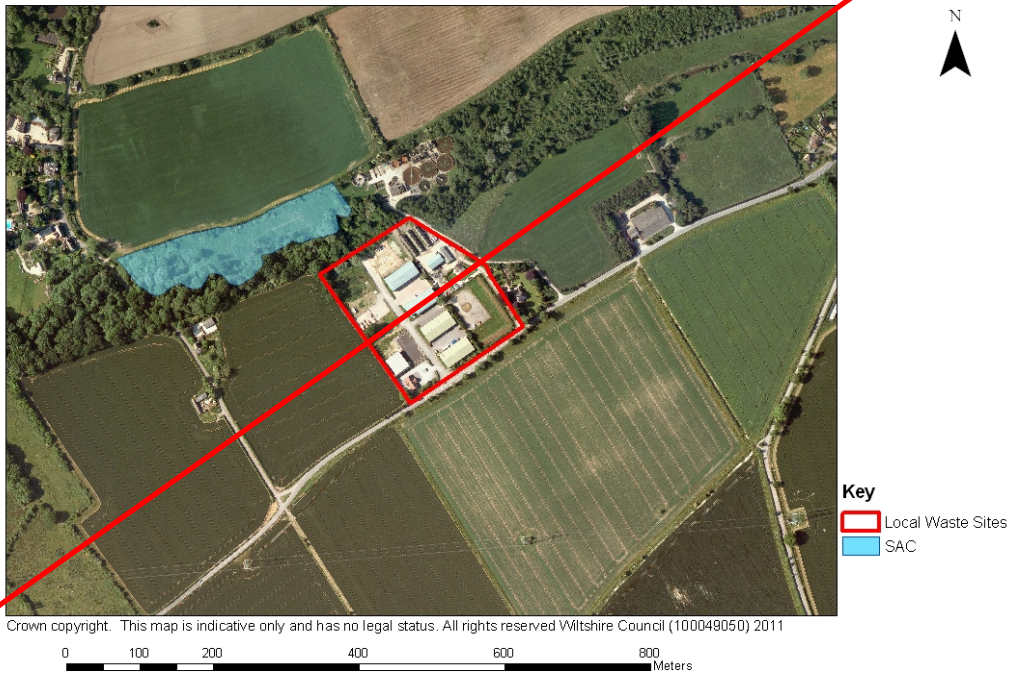


Plate 1. Aerial photograph of the site showing location in relation to the River Avon SAC

Salisbury Road Business Park, Pewsey

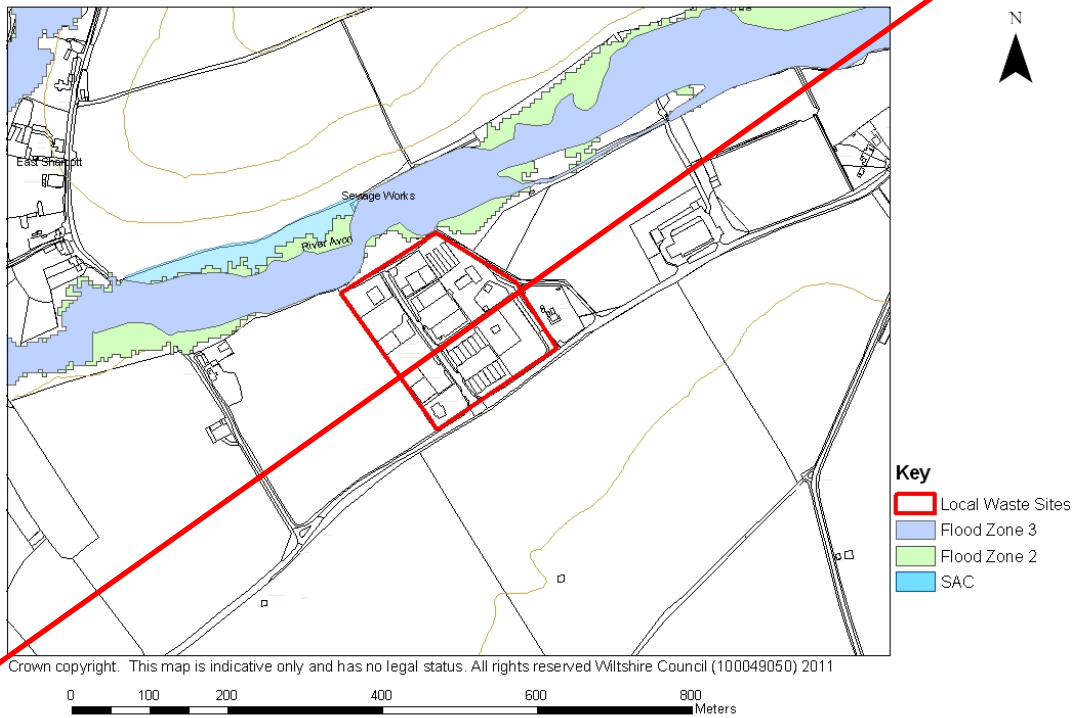


Plate 2. Location map showing proposed site in relation to flood zones 2 and 3

## ~~ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS ON A EUROPEAN SITE~~

This is a record of the judgement by Wiltshire Council, required under Regulation 61 of the Habitats Regulations 2010 as to the "likely significant effect", if any, of a proposed waste facility site on one or more European protected sites.

<b>PART A: THE PROPOSAL</b>			
<b>National Grid Reference</b> SU 155 592			
<b>Name of Site</b> Salisbury Road Business Park, Pewsey			
<b>Waste Development Types Proposed at the Site</b> Materials Recovery Facility/Waste Transfer Station, Local Recycling			
<b>European Sites that could be affected by the proposals</b> <b>River Avon SAC</b> ● Component SSSIs :- ○ River Till ○ River Avon System ○ Porton Meadows ○ Lower Woodford Water Meadows ○ Jones' Mill	<b>Distance of proposed site from European Site</b> Approximately 18m to the south of River Avon SAC.		
<b>List of European Site interest features</b>	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Cottus gobio</i></li> <li>2. <i>Salmo salar</i></li> <li>3. <i>Lampetra planeri</i></li> <li>4. <i>Petromyzon marinus</i></li> <li>5. <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i></li> <li>6. <i>Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation</i></li> <li>7. <i>Alkaline fens</i></li> <li>8. <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i></li> <li>9. <i>Lutra lutra</i></li> <li>10. <i>Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)</i></li> </ol> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bullhead.</li> <li>Atlantic salmon.</li> <li>Brook lamprey.</li> <li>Sea lamprey.</li> <li>Desmoulin's whorl snail.</li> <li>Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot.</li> <li>Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens.</li> <li>White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish.</li> <li>Otter.</li> <li>Alder woodland on floodplains.</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Cottus gobio</i></li> <li>2. <i>Salmo salar</i></li> <li>3. <i>Lampetra planeri</i></li> <li>4. <i>Petromyzon marinus</i></li> <li>5. <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i></li> <li>6. <i>Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation</i></li> <li>7. <i>Alkaline fens</i></li> <li>8. <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i></li> <li>9. <i>Lutra lutra</i></li> <li>10. <i>Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)</i></li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bullhead.</li> <li>Atlantic salmon.</li> <li>Brook lamprey.</li> <li>Sea lamprey.</li> <li>Desmoulin's whorl snail.</li> <li>Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot.</li> <li>Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens.</li> <li>White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish.</li> <li>Otter.</li> <li>Alder woodland on floodplains.</li> </ul>
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<b>Key ecological features that support European Site integrity</b>	The River Avon system is considered to be one of the most biodiverse in lowland Britain, with exceptionally rich flora, fish and invertebrate fauna. There is concern that the cumulative impacts of increasingly intensive land use are causing problems of reduced water quality and flow which, especially where combined with insensitive engineering and/or management are significantly affecting the ecology. External factors such as deep sea salmon fishing and water resource on a regional basis are impacting on the ecology. At present the most directly influential factor on the Upper Avon is salmonid fishery management (including bank stabilisation, fish stocking, control of predators/competitors, weed cutting and bank vegetation cutting). On the lower Avon management is more directed to land drainage, through manipulation of water flows and weed cutting, although fishery management is carried out. The operation of hatches, sluices etc has a significant influence throughout the system.		

**PART B: ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS**

**What potential hazards are likely to affect the interest features?**

Potential hazard	Potential exposure to hazard and mechanism of effect/impact if known	Existing or additional possible mitigation to remove/reduce the hazard
1. Changes in water chemistry	Additional waste water discharge and run-off from the site could cause changes in water chemistry particularly where waste materials are stored prior to treatment. This could result in unfavourable water chemistry for all of the designated features but will directly affect fish migration for spawning and ecological suitability for desmoulin's whorl snail.	The site is relatively level, on an existing concrete pad, within an existing light industrial area. Additional abstraction from or discharge to the river would need to fall within licensable volumes. It is likely that the site would need bunding or a drainage system that includes purpose built pollution traps for surface water. There is no hydrological connectivity between the site and the river.
2. Increased turbidity	Silt run off from site could result in increased turbidity and fish deaths from gill damage. It may also reduce the suitability of gravels for spawning and quality of water needed by invertebrate populations.	As above.
3. Pollution of watercourse	Spillage of fuels etc could reach the watercourse via run-off in wet weather or during flood events, causing oxygen depletion and poisoning of faunal and floral species.	Run off unlikely to reach the river (as above), however, site is located on the edge of flood zone 1 therefore a satisfactory Flood Risk Assessment would need to be submitted to the Environment Agency.
4. Suffocation	Wind borne dust and litter deposition, particularly on slow flowing backwater stretches, may result in suffocation of macrophytes and invertebrate species in extreme cases. Plastics in litter can be ingested by fish, becoming caught in gills and blocking digestive tracts resulting in fish deaths.	Most of the operations can/will take place in enclosed buildings which will prevent wind borne dust escaping from the site. A strict litter control strategy within the site can be addressed in the site management plan.
5. Disturbance	Otters may be disturbed by operations during hours of darkness, since the site is within the normal diurnal range for otters. Noise and vibration from increased traffic or heavy plant may act as a barrier to fish migration. Light spillage from the site onto the SAG could also be a barrier to otter and fish movements.	Most otter activity and fish migration is during the hours of darkness. The operational hours of the site are unlikely to continue beyond nightfall in normal conditions. During winter months when it is dark earlier, otter and fish movements are generally less frequent. Disturbance is therefore unlikely. Additional restrictions on operational times could be imposed via condition of planning permission, particularly in regard to security lights during the hours of darkness.

**PART C: CONCLUSION**

**Is the potential scale or magnitude of any effect likely to be significant?**

**a) Alone?—No**

(explain conclusion e.g. in relation to *de minimus* criteria)

The site location is wholly within an existing light industrial site and the operation of the proposed waste processes at this site is unlikely to result in impacts outside the site boundary, however there may be indirect impacts such as dust, noise, light pollution and litter and all these should be controlled by a robust management plan to ensure that no adverse impact on the features of the SAC results from operation.

**b) In combination with other plans or projects?—No**

The site location is wholly within an existing light industrial site and the operation of processes at this site is unlikely to combine with other nearby sites to increase the potential for impact on the SAC, as it will be a requirement of further planning permissions that a robust management plan is in place. There is headroom in the abstraction and discharge licence allocation for the whole industrial site, so that any issues of water resource or water quality have already been addressed.

**Conclusion: Is the proposal likely to have a significant effect on a European Site?**

**No**

**Recommendations:**

A robust management plan should address litter control and dust.

A planning condition should be imposed to restrict operation to daylight hours in order to avoid disturbance to otters and fish migration.

<b>Name of Officer(s) making the assessment</b>	Fiona Elphick Principal Ecologist Wiltshire Council
<b>Date</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> June 2010

Salisbury Road Industrial Estate, Downton



Plate 1. Aerial photograph of the site showing location in relation to the River Avon SAC

Salisbury Road Industrial Estate, Downton

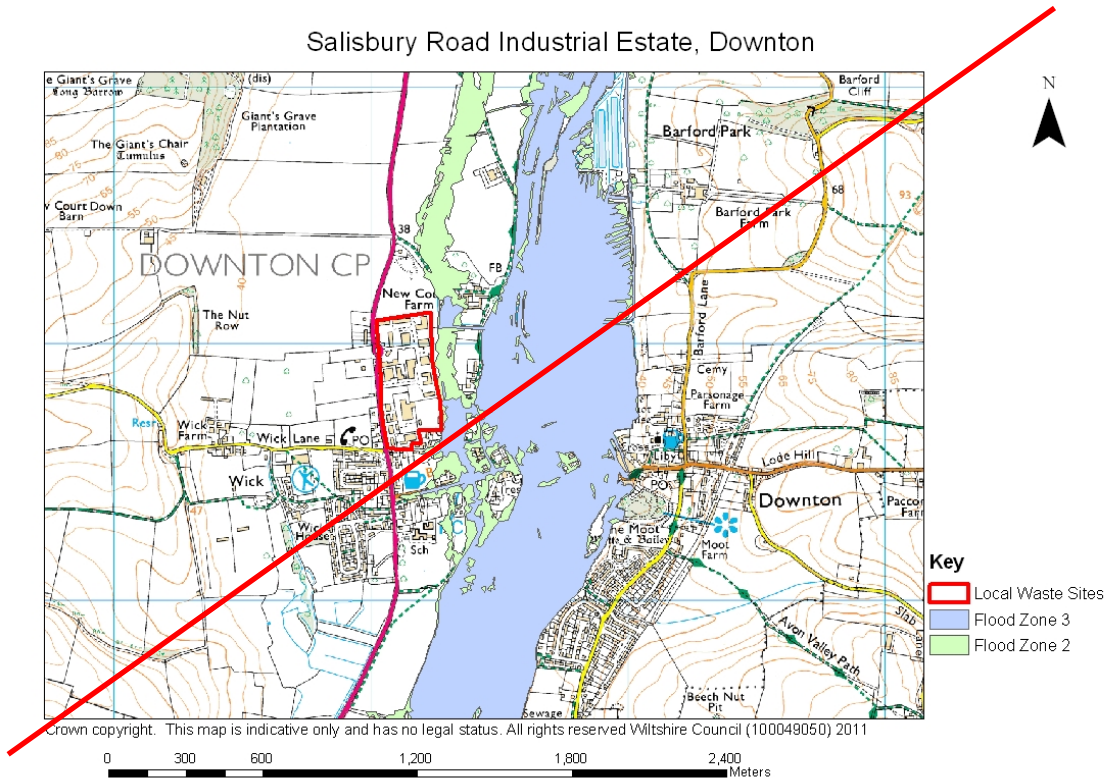


Plate 2. Location map showing proposed site in relation to flood zones 2 and 3

## ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS ON A EUROPEAN SITE

This is a record of the judgement by Wiltshire Council, required under Regulation 61 of the Habitats Regulations 2010 as to the “likely significant effect”, if any, of a proposed waste facility site on one or more European protected sites.

<b>PART A: THE PROPOSAL</b>			
<b>National Grid Reference</b> SU 171 218			
<b>Name of Site</b> Salisbury Road Industrial Estate, Downton			
<b>Waste Development Types Proposed at the Site</b> Household Recycling Centre, Materials Recovery Facility/Waste Transfer Station, Local Recycling			
<b>European Sites that could be affected by the proposals</b> <b>River Avon SAC</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Component SSSIs :- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ River Till</li> <li>○ River Avon System</li> <li>○ Porton Meadows</li> <li>○ Lower Woodford Water Meadows</li> <li>○ Jones' Mill</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>Distance of proposed site from European Site</b> 200m to the west of River Avon SAC boundary.		
<b>List of European Site interest features</b>	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Cottus gobio</i></li> <li>2. <i>Salmo salar</i></li> <li>3. <i>Lampetra planeri</i></li> <li>4. <i>Petromyzon marinus</i></li> <li>5. <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i></li> <li>6. <i>Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation</i></li> <li>7. <i>Alkaline fens</i></li> <li>8. <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i></li> <li>9. <i>Lutra lutra</i></li> <li>10. <i>Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)</i></li> </ol> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bullhead.</li> <li>Atlantic salmon.</li> <li>Brook lamprey.</li> <li>Sea lamprey.</li> <li>Desmoulin's whorl snail.</li> <li>Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water crowfoot.</li> <li>Calcium rich springwater fed fens.</li> <li>White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish.</li> <li>Otter.</li> <li>Alder woodland on floodplains.</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Cottus gobio</i></li> <li>2. <i>Salmo salar</i></li> <li>3. <i>Lampetra planeri</i></li> <li>4. <i>Petromyzon marinus</i></li> <li>5. <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i></li> <li>6. <i>Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation</i></li> <li>7. <i>Alkaline fens</i></li> <li>8. <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i></li> <li>9. <i>Lutra lutra</i></li> <li>10. <i>Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)</i></li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bullhead.</li> <li>Atlantic salmon.</li> <li>Brook lamprey.</li> <li>Sea lamprey.</li> <li>Desmoulin's whorl snail.</li> <li>Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water crowfoot.</li> <li>Calcium rich springwater fed fens.</li> <li>White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish.</li> <li>Otter.</li> <li>Alder woodland on floodplains.</li> </ul>
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<b>Key ecological features that support European Site integrity</b>	The River Avon System is considered to be one of the most biodiverse in lowland Britain, with exceptionally rich flora, fish and invertebrate fauna. There is concern that the cumulative impacts of increasingly intensive land use are causing problems of reduced water quality and flow which, especially where combined with insensitive engineering and/or management are significantly affecting the ecology. External factors such as deep sea salmon fishing and water resource on a regional basis are impacting on the ecology. At present the most directly influential factor on the Upper Avon is salmonid fishery management (including bank stabilisation, fish stocking, control of predators/competitors, weed cutting and bank vegetation cutting). On the lower Avon management is more directed to land drainage, through manipulation of water flows and weed cutting, although fishery management is carried out. The operation of hatches, sluices etc has a significant influence throughout the system.		



**PART B: ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS**

**What potential hazards are likely to affect the interest features?**

Potential hazard	Potential exposure to hazard and mechanism of effect/impact if known	Existing or additional possible mitigation to remove/reduce the hazard
1. Changes in water chemistry	Additional waste water discharge and run-off from the site could cause changes in water chemistry particularly where waste materials are stored prior to treatment. This could result in unfavourable water chemistry for all of the designated features but will directly affect fish migration for spawning and ecological suitability for Desmoulin's whorl snail.	The land is relatively level, on an existing concrete pad, within an existing light industrial area and the addition of this facility would not result in additional discharge to the watercourse other than that already licensed by EA. There is a small linear residential development and a road, both running north—south between the site and the river and there is no hydrological connectivity for surface water between the site and the river, therefore run-off from the site is unlikely to reach the river.
2. Increased turbidity	Silt run-off from site could result in increased turbidity and fish deaths from gill damage. It may also reduce the suitability of gravels for spawning and quality of water needed by invertebrate populations.	As above.
3. Pollution of watercourse	Spillage of fuels etc could reach the watercourse via run-off in wet weather or during flood events, causing oxygen depletion and poisoning of faunal and floral species.	Run-off would be unlikely to reach the river (as above), however, the site is located on the edge of flood zone 3 therefore consultation with Environment Agency should be sought.
4. Suffocation	Wind borne dust and litter deposition, particularly on slow-flowing backwater stretches, may result in suffocation of macrophytes, invertebrate and fish species in extreme cases. Plastics in litter can be ingested by fish, becoming caught in gills and blocking digestive tracts, resulting in fish deaths	Most of the operations will take place in enclosed buildings which will prevent wind borne dust escaping from the site. A strict litter control strategy within the site can be addressed in the site management plan.
5. Disturbance	Otters may be disturbed by operations during hours of darkness, since the site is within the normal diurnal range for otters. Noise and vibration from increased traffic or heavy plant may act as a barrier to fish migration.	Most otter activity and fish migration is during the hours of darkness. The operational hours of the site are unlikely to continue beyond nightfall in normal conditions therefore disturbance to otters is unlikely. Additional restrictions on operational times could be imposed via condition of planning permission. Since distance is 200m between the site and the river corridor and there is a line of residential development plus its accompanying infrastructure between the two, it is very unlikely that fish migration will be affected by noise or vibration from the proposed

		use of the site.
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**PART C: CONCLUSION**

**Is the potential scale or magnitude of any effect likely to be significant?**

**a) Alone?—No**

The site allocation is wholly within an existing light industrial site, sufficient distance from the SAC and with no mechanism by which adverse impacts could result from the operation of the proposed waste facilities.

**b) In combination with other plans or projects?—No**

The site location is wholly within an existing light industrial site and the operation of processes at this site is unlikely to combine with other nearby sites to increase the potential for impact on the SAC. There is headroom in the abstraction and discharge licence allocation for the whole industrial site, so that any issues of water resource or water quality have already been addressed.

**Conclusion: Is the proposal likely to have a significant effect on a European Site?**

**(Include Justification)**

**No**

Mechanisms for potential impact are greatly reduced due to the distance of the site from the SAC (200m) and the lack of hydrological connectivity, however, the site is within flood zone 3. Issues of litter and disturbance from light pollution can be removed by careful site design, a robust site management plan and constraints to prevent night time operation.

**Recommendations:**

Consultation with Environment Agency to address flood risk.

A robust management plan should address litter control.

A planning condition should be imposed to restrict operation to daylight hours in order to avoid disturbance to otters

<b>Name of Officer(s) making the assessment</b>	Fiona Elphick Principal Ecologist Wiltshire Council
<b>Date</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> June 2010

Thorney Down Waste Treatment Site, Winterslow

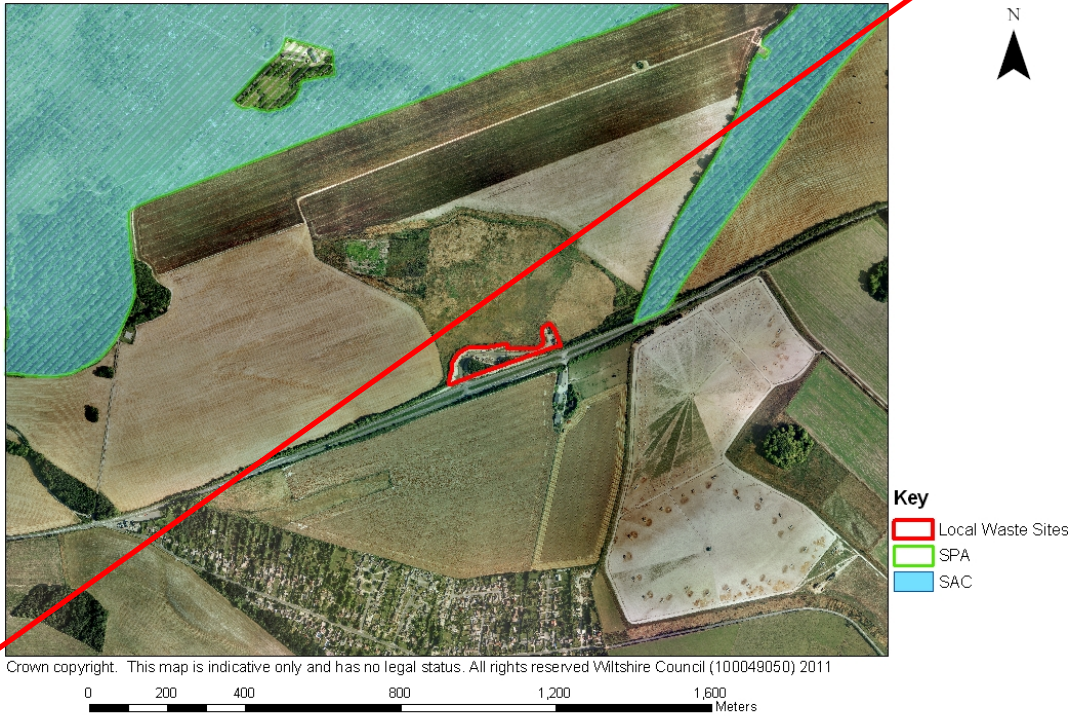


Plate 1. Aerial photograph of the site showing location in relation to Porton Down SPA

Thorney Down Waste Treatment Site, Winterslow

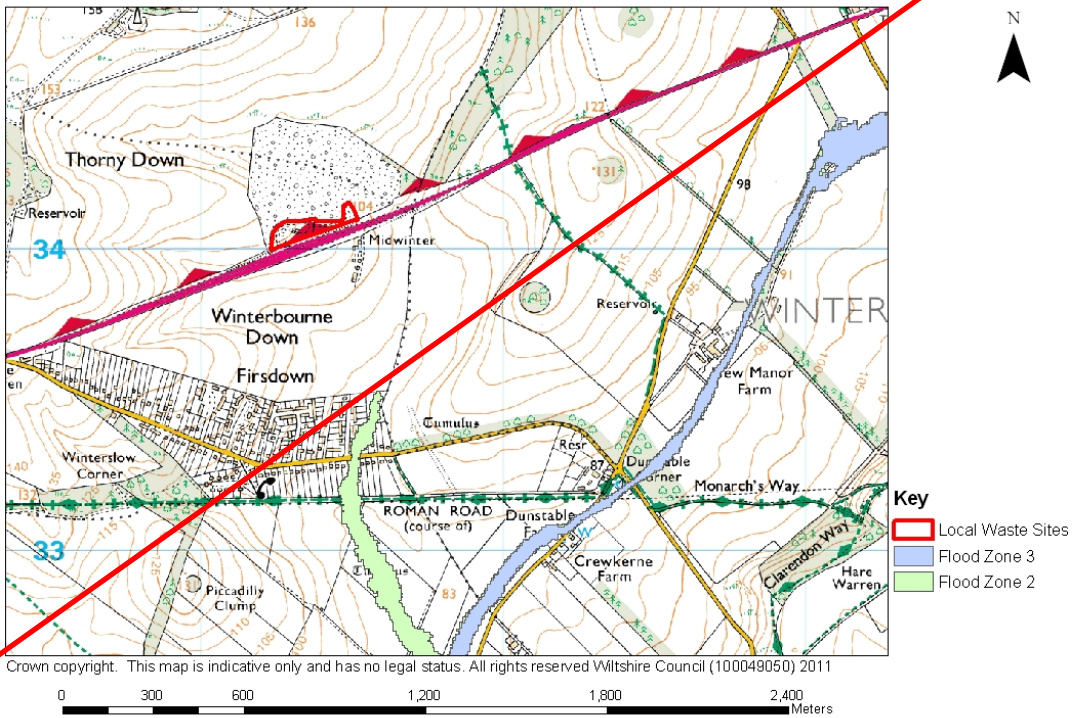


Plate 2. Location map showing proposed site in relation to flood zones 2 and 3

## **ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS ON A EUROPEAN SITE**

This is a record of the judgement by Wiltshire Council, required under Regulation 61 of the Habitats Regulations 2010 as to the “likely significant effect”, if any, of a proposed waste facility site on one or more European protected sites.

<b>PART A: THE PROPOSAL</b>	
<b>National Grid Reference</b> SU 155 592	
<b>Name of Site</b> Thorney Down Waste Treatment Site, Winterslow	
<b>Waste Development Types Proposed at the Site</b> Composting, Inert Waste Recycling/Transfer	
<b>European Sites that could be affected by the proposals</b> <b>Perton Down SPA</b>	<b>Distance of proposed allocation from European Site</b> 200m to the west of one arm of the SPA and 630m to the south of the main part of the SPA (see map)
<b>List of European Site interest features</b>	During the breeding season this site regularly supports <i>Burhinus oedichnemus</i> the Stone Curlew
<b>Key ecological features that support European Site integrity</b>	<p>The SPA interest is dependent on the chalk grassland habitat. The structure and composition of vegetation is important to provide a mosaic of suitable habitats for nesting, feeding and roosting by stone curlews. They require open stoney ground with sparse vegetation and bare soil, with short to medium height vegetation. Stone curlew nest in short sward grassland over thin, stony, free draining soils.</p> <p>The site forms the ranges of the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory, which is used for military training activities. This in turn may lead to the disruption of habitats and breeding grounds.</p> <p>The site is divided in two by the A30. North of this lies the MOD site, whilst land to the south is predominantly privately owned. The area has potential to be affected by air and noise pollution.</p> <p>The privately owned area is arable with a more formal network of hedgerows and trees. The area is at risk if farming were to be intensified, which would lead to further amalgamation and enlargement of fields and the breakdown of traditional field boundaries. There is also a risk of scrub invasion.</p> <p>Potentially the impact of tall structures — communications masts, transmitters and future renewable energy developments (wind turbines) could all have a major impact on the habitats and species.</p>

<b>PART B: ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS</b>		
<b>What potential hazards are likely to affect the interest features?</b>		
<b>Potential hazard</b>	<b>Potential exposure to hazard and mechanism of effect/impact if known</b>	<b>Existing or additional possible mitigation to remove/reduce the hazard</b>
Airborne pollutants	Airborne pollutants could include dust particles and litter from the waste site. Deposition on areas used for nesting or foraging by stone curlews could	Potential uses of the site are restricted to those that are unlikely to create airborne pollution. Successful and efficient composting of green

	<p>render these locations less favourable by restricting the suitability of the area for invertebrate prey species and this may in turn have an adverse impact on the viability of the stone curlew population through restrictions on successful breeding. In extreme cases deposition of dust and litter particles could cause smothering of vegetation species leading to a change in the vegetation species assemblage, which in turn could alter the suitability for nesting or foraging at such areas.</p>	<p>waste will be dependent on materials being kept at the correct level of humidity and therefore not dry enough to become wind blown. Inert waste recycling and transfer will be undertaken within buildings on the site which will reduce the likelihood of particles becoming airborne to an insignificant level.</p> <p>A strict litter picking regime should be included in the operational management plan for the site to reduce the possibility of litter from the waste facility causing adverse impact on the N2K site.</p>
Discharges to surface/ground water	<p>Run off from the site could carry leachate from outdoor composting units, especially during periods of wet weather, with the potential to adversely impact on surface and groundwater. In particular, the proposed site overlies the Nodular Chalk Formation which is designated a principal aquifer and this could be contaminated if there is inadequate provision to deal with surface water disposal.</p> <p>In addition, the site is located above a former landfill site and construction works could result in disturbance of contaminated land which could then lead to pollution of surface or ground water through run off.</p>	<p>Suitable bunding, oil interceptors and drainage to prevent pollution of surface and ground water should be included in the layout design for the site.</p> <p>As the site is within an existing industrial development, it is unlikely that there will be any significant increase in discharges to surface or ground water from increased activity on the site. In addition, there is no hydrological connectivity between the proposed waste site and the SPA therefore the likelihood of polluted surface or ground water resulting in an adverse impact on the SPA is very low.</p>
Potential landtake	<p>Direct or indirect habitat loss, whether within the SPA or immediately adjacent to it, could result in loss of foraging and nesting sites. If adjacent land is taken for development there could be an indirect impact on sight lines used by these ground nesting birds.</p>	<p>The proposed waste uses of this site will not result in new land take—the site is wholly contained within an existing industrial site. Erection of any new buildings to house the waste facilities will be within the existing footprint. In addition, they are not likely to be tall enough to interfere with sight lines for the stone curlew.</p>
Habitat disturbance	<p>Disturbance of habitat either within or immediately adjacent to the SPA, e.g. from noise, light pollution or construction of tall structures, could prevent stone curlews from using some or all of their foraging and nesting areas. The increased use of the site could theoretically result in an increase in traffic volumes using the A30 which runs adjacent to the SPA and this could increase the level of disturbance from noise and light, especially during the hours of</p>	<p>The proposed waste site is more than 200m from the nearest point of the SPA and current records suggest that this area of the SPA is not favoured by stone curlews as either foraging or nesting habitat. It is unlikely that noise and/or light within the proposed site would travel far enough to result in disturbance for the birds, however, the management plan for the site should include restrictions on working hours to daylight hours only and an</p>

	darkness.	acceptable lighting plan can be agreed at the planning permission stage.
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**PART C: CONCLUSION**

**Is the potential scale or magnitude of any effect likely to be significant?**

**a) Alone?—No**

(Explain conclusion e.g. in relation to *de minimus* criteria)

The site is sufficiently far from the SPA and sufficiently far from nesting and foraging sites within the SPA that the facility would be unlikely to result in any adverse impact on the designated features, particularly if operation of the site is restricted to daylight hours.

**b) In combination with other plans or projects?—No**

There is no mechanism for this site to act in combination with other sites.

The site location is wholly within an existing waste management site and the operation of additional processes is unlikely to combine with other similar sites, or operations within this site to increase the potential for impact on the SPA.

**Conclusion: Is the proposal likely to have a significant effect on a European Site?**

**(Include justification)**

**No**

Mechanisms for potential impact are greatly reduced due to the distance of the site from the SAC, the lack of hydrological connectivity and the lack of nesting or foraging areas suitable for use by stone-curlews within the part of the SAC nearest to the proposed site. Potential issues of litter and disturbance from noise and light pollution can be removed by careful site design, a robust site management plan and constraints to restrict night time operation.

**Recommendations:**

A robust management plan should address litter control.

A planning condition should be included to prevent night time operation of the facility.

<b>Name of Officer(s) making the assessment</b>	Fiona Elphick Principal Ecologist Wiltshire Council
<b>Date</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> June 2010

Solstice Business Park, Amesbury

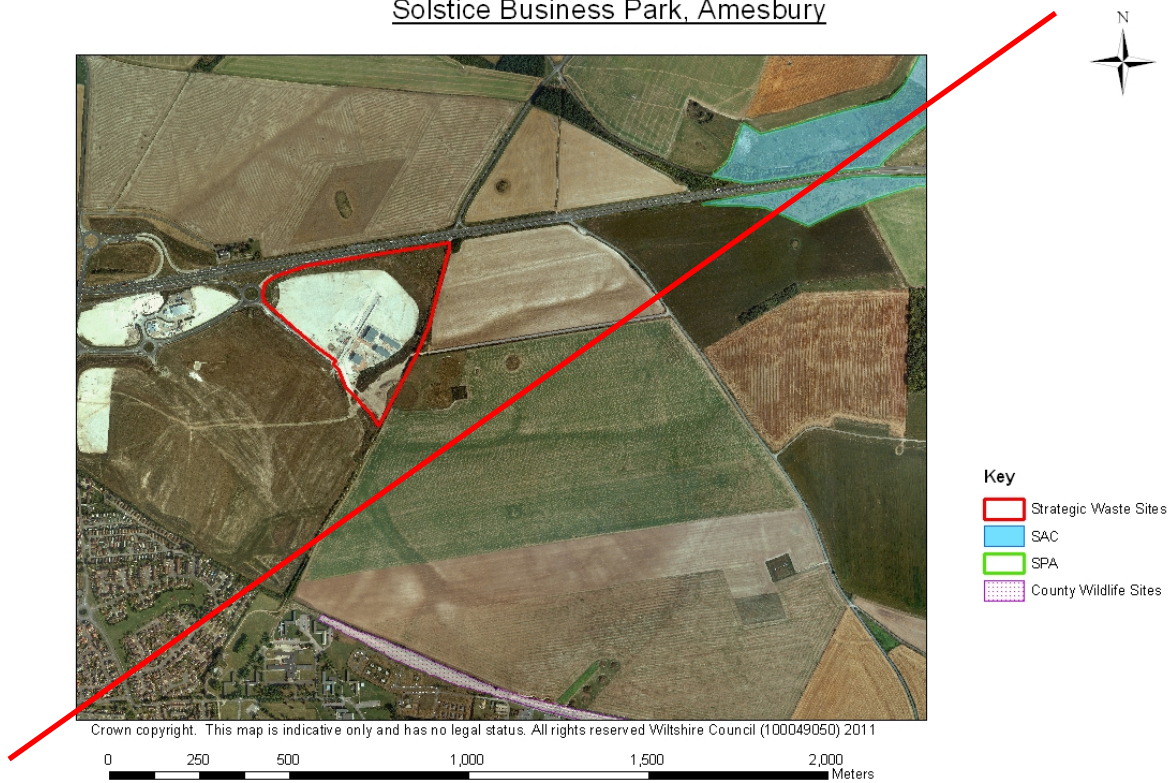


Plate 1. Aerial photograph of the site showing location in relation to Salisbury Plain SAC/SPA

Solstice Business Park, Amesbury

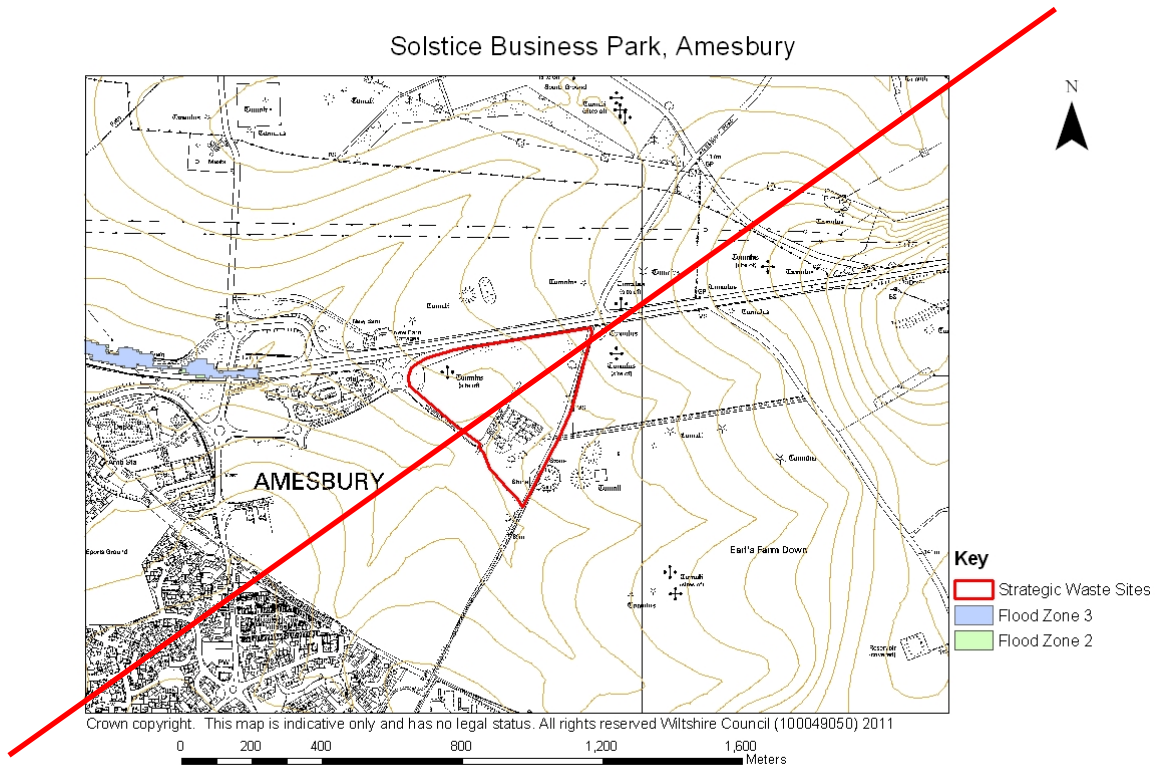


Plate 2. Location map showing proposed site in relation to flood zones 2 and 3

**ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS ON A EUROPEAN SITE**

This is a record of the judgement by Wiltshire Council, required under Regulation 61 of the Habitats Regulations 2010 as to the “likely significant effect”, if any, of a proposed waste facility site on one or more European protected sites

<b>PART A: THE PROPOSAL</b>																							
<b>National Grid Reference</b> SU 175 420																							
<b>Name of Site</b> Solstice Business Park, Amesbury																							
<b>Waste Development Types Proposed at the Site</b> Materials Recovery Facility/Waste Transfer Station, Local Recycling																							
<b>European Sites that could be affected by the proposals</b> <b>Salisbury Plain SAC</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Component SSSIs- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Parsonage Down</li> <li>○ Porton Down</li> <li>○ Salisbury Plain</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <b>And Salisbury Plain SPA</b>	<b>Distance of proposed site from European Site</b> Approximately 715m to the west of the SAC/SPA boundary  The two designations are contiguous at this location.																						
<b>List of European Site interest features</b>	<p><b>Salisbury Plain SAC</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>1. <del>Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia)</del></td> <td><del>Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone.</del></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. <del>Euphydryas (Eurodryas, Hypodryas) aurinia</del></td> <td><del>Marsh fritillary butterfly.</del></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. <del>Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands</del></td> <td><del>Juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands.</del></td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. <del>Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (important orchid sites)</del></td> <td><del>Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone, including important orchid sites.</del></td> </tr> <tr> <td>5. <del>Gentianella anglica</del></td> <td><del>Early gentian.</del></td> </tr> <tr> <td>6. <del>Triturus cristatus</del></td> <td><del>Great crested newt.</del></td> </tr> <tr> <td>7. <del>European dry heaths</del></td> <td><del>Dry heaths.</del></td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Salisbury Plain SPA</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>1. <del>Burhinus oedichnemus</del></td> <td><del>Stone Curlew</del></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. <del>Circus cyaneus</del></td> <td><del>Hen Harrier</del></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. <del>Coturnix coturnix</del></td> <td><del>Quail</del></td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. <del>Falco subbuteo</del></td> <td><del>Hobby</del></td> </tr> </table>	1. <del>Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia)</del>	<del>Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone.</del>	2. <del>Euphydryas (Eurodryas, Hypodryas) aurinia</del>	<del>Marsh fritillary butterfly.</del>	3. <del>Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands</del>	<del>Juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands.</del>	4. <del>Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (important orchid sites)</del>	<del>Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone, including important orchid sites.</del>	5. <del>Gentianella anglica</del>	<del>Early gentian.</del>	6. <del>Triturus cristatus</del>	<del>Great crested newt.</del>	7. <del>European dry heaths</del>	<del>Dry heaths.</del>	1. <del>Burhinus oedichnemus</del>	<del>Stone Curlew</del>	2. <del>Circus cyaneus</del>	<del>Hen Harrier</del>	3. <del>Coturnix coturnix</del>	<del>Quail</del>	4. <del>Falco subbuteo</del>	<del>Hobby</del>
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<b>Key ecological features that support European Site integrity</b>	Salisbury Plain is the largest area of open chalk grassland in the north-west of Europe. It is owned by the MOD and used intensively for military training. Other land uses include agriculture, forestry and recreation. Military uses cause intense pressure on the habitats and species indigenous to Salisbury Plain and constrain conservation management. The SPA interest is dependent on the chalk grassland habitat. The structure and composition of vegetation is important to provide a mosaic of suitable habitats for nesting, feeding and roosting by stone curlews. They require open stoney ground with sparse vegetation and bare soil, with short to medium height vegetation. Stone curlew																						



	<p>nest in short-sward grassland over thin, stony, free draining soils. The SAC interest is dependent on maintaining open, often flower-rich character of the juniper scrublands, without allowing these to succeed to woodland. A mosaic of grassland and scrub habitat is particularly valuable for the marsh fritillary butterflies which require a number of different areas of mosaic since they exist as a meta-population, their local numbers varying greatly in any one year as they die out and re-colonise in linked habitat areas. The chalk grassland itself requires low level grazing to maintain the floral diversity which is a feature of the habitat.</p>
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<b>PART B: ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS</b>		
<b>What potential hazards are likely to affect the interest features?</b>		
<b>Potential hazard</b>	<b>Potential exposure to hazard and mechanism of effect/impact if known</b>	<b>Existing or additional possible mitigation to remove/reduce the hazard</b>
Air pollution including dust deposition	Increases in airborne pollutants from incineration activities and the increases in traffic volumes associated with waste sites, together with dust deposition, if reaching the SAC/SPA could lead to subtle changes in the pH of the soil and the vegetation it supports, which in turn may lead to a reduction in suitable sites for meta-populations of marsh fritillary butterflies and a reduction in suitable nesting and foraging sites for stone curlews. The chalk grassland habitat in general could be affected as a result of smothering by dust deposition.	The SAC/SPA lies approximately 750m to the east of the proposed waste site. The site lies adjacent to the very busy A303 Trunk Road with the residential and commercial developments of Amesbury to the south, south west and west of the site. The proposed types of waste operations at the site will be carried out mainly inside buildings, which will reduce the likelihood of dust and other pollutants becoming airborne. The proposed site is on an existing light industrial site with existing infrastructure including surfaced roads and hard standing areas; therefore increased use of the site is unlikely to increase the background air pollution in the immediate area.
Disturbance including noise and light pollution	Stone curlews in particular are vulnerable to disturbance from noise and light pollution that may arise from increased traffic using the site. If affected this could lead to abandonment of nesting sites and reduced use of foraging areas which would result in an adverse impact on the local population.	The nearest recorded stone curlew nesting plot is more than 2km west of the proposed site. Lights and noise from traffic on the A303 area already present during day and night. Increased traffic into and out of the site as a result of siting a waste facility here is unlikely to raise the level of light and noise reaching the SAC/SPA and is unlikely to result in disturbance to stone curlews.

<b>PART C: CONCLUSION</b>
<b>Is the potential scale or magnitude of any effect likely to be significant?</b>
<p><b>a) Alone?— No</b> (explain conclusion e.g. in relation to <i>de minimus</i> criteria) The site is sufficiently far from the SAC/SPA and sufficiently far from nesting and foraging sites within the SAC/SPA that the facility would be unlikely to result in any adverse impact on the designated features.</p>
<p><b>b) In combination with other plans or projects?— No</b></p>

The site location is wholly within an existing light industrial site, with no new infrastructure required to accommodate the proposal and the operation of processes at this site is unlikely to combine with other nearby sites to significantly increase the potential for impact on the SAC.

**Conclusion: Is the proposal likely to have a significant effect on a European Site?  
(Include Justification)**

**No**

Mechanisms for potential impact are greatly reduced due to the distance of the site from the SAC and the lack of hydrological connectivity.

**Recommendations:**

A robust site management plan should address litter control.

**Name of Officer(s)  
making the assessment**

Fiona Elphick  
Principal Ecologist  
Wiltshire Council

**Date**

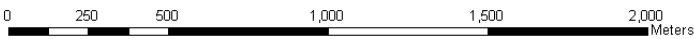
7<sup>th</sup> June 2010

Sarum Business Centre, Salisbury



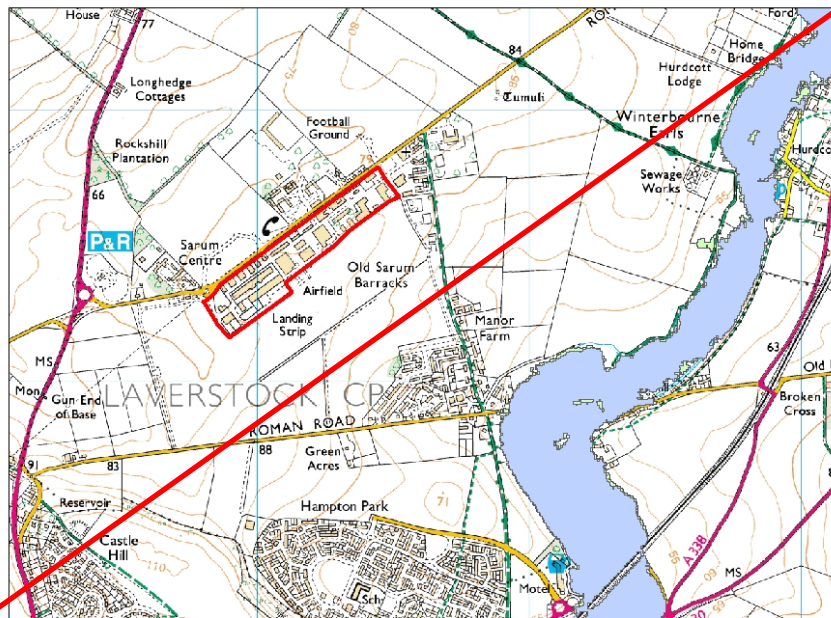
- Key
- Local Waste Sites
  - SAC
  - County Wildlife Sites

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~~Plate 1. Aerial photograph of the site showing location in relation to the River Avon SAC~~

Sarum Business Centre, Salisbury



- Key
- Local Waste Sites
  - Flood Zone 3
  - Flood Zone 2

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~~Plate 2. Location map showing proposed site in relation to flood zones 2 and 3.~~

**ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS ON A EUROPEAN SITE**

This is a record of the judgement by Wiltshire Council, required under Regulation 61 of the Habitats Regulations 2010 as to the "likely significant effect", if any, of a proposed waste facility site on one or more European protected sites.

<b>PART A: THE PROPOSAL</b>																					
<b>National Grid Reference</b> SU 152 336																					
<b>Name of Site</b> Sarum Business Centre, Salisbury																					
<b>Waste Development Types Proposed at the Site</b> Materials Recovery Facility, Waste Transfer Station, Local Recycling																					
<b>European Sites that could be affected by the proposals</b> <b>River Avon SAC</b> ● Component SSSIs :- ○ River Till ○ River Avon System ○ Porton Meadows ○ Lower Woodford Water Meadows ○ Jones' Mill	<b>Distance of proposed site from European Site</b> Approximately 940 metres to the north of the SAC at its nearest point.																				
<b>List of European Site interest features</b>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>1. <i>Cottus gobio</i></td> <td>Bullhead.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. <i>Salmo salar</i></td> <td>Atlantic salmon.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. <i>Lampetra planeri</i></td> <td>Brook lamprey.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. <i>Petromyzon marinus</i></td> <td>Sea lamprey.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5. <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i></td> <td>Desmoulin's whorl snail.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6. <i>Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation</i></td> <td>Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7. <i>Alkaline fens</i></td> <td>Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8. <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i></td> <td>White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9. <i>Lutra lutra</i></td> <td>Otter.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10. <i>Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)</i></td> <td>Alder woodland on floodplains.</td> </tr> </table>	1. <i>Cottus gobio</i>	Bullhead.	2. <i>Salmo salar</i>	Atlantic salmon.	3. <i>Lampetra planeri</i>	Brook lamprey.	4. <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>	Sea lamprey.	5. <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>	Desmoulin's whorl snail.	6. <i>Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation</i>	Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot.	7. <i>Alkaline fens</i>	Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens.	8. <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>	White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish.	9. <i>Lutra lutra</i>	Otter.	10. <i>Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)</i>	Alder woodland on floodplains.
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<b>Key ecological features that support European Site integrity</b>	The River Avon system is considered to be one of the most biodiverse in lowland Britain, with exceptionally rich flora, fish and invertebrate fauna. There is concern that the cumulative impacts of increasingly intensive land use are causing problems of reduced water quality and flow which, especially where combined with insensitive engineering and/or management are significantly affecting the ecology. External factors such as deep sea salmon fishing and water resource on a regional basis are impacting on the ecology. At present the most directly influential factor on the Upper Avon is salmonid fishery management (including bank stabilisation, fish stocking, control of predators/competitors, weed cutting and bank vegetation cutting). On the lower Avon, management is more directed to land drainage, through manipulation of water flows and weed cutting, although fishery management is carried out. The operation of hatches, sluices etc have a significant influence throughout the system.																				

**PART B: ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS**  
**What potential hazards are likely to affect the interest features?**

Potential hazard	Potential exposure to hazard and mechanism of effect/impact if known	Existing or additional possible mitigation to remove/reduce the hazard
1. Changes in water chemistry	If run-off from the site were to reach the river this could cause changes in water chemistry particularly waste materials are stored prior to treatment. This could result in unfavourable water chemistry for all of the designated features but will directly affect fish migration for spawning and ecological suitability for desmoulin's whorl snail. Although there is no direct hydrological connectivity, the site is within 100m of the watercourse and a severe flooding event could result in adverse impact.	<p>The waste allocation is wholly within Flood Zone 1 and therefore the likelihood of flooding from the river reaching the site is minimal.</p> <p>There is no direct hydrological connectivity between the proposed waste site and the River Avon SAC, such as small streams or ditches, issues or sinks.</p> <p>In addition there are two minor roads, a large agricultural complex and a ribbon of residential development to the south-southeast of the waste facility and these would act a barrier to prevent run-off finding a direct route to the river.</p> <p>The allocation is wholly within an existing industrial estate for which there is already a discharge licence with headroom for the remainder of the site. There will be no significant increase in discharge levels as a result of the operation of the site. The north-eastern end of the site is susceptible to an intermediate risk of surface water flooding, however this is unlikely to have any effect on the River Avon SAC.</p>
2. Increased turbidity	Silt run-off from site could result in increased turbidity and fish deaths from gill damage. Although there is no direct hydrological connectivity, the site is within 100m of the watercourse and a severe flooding event could result in adverse impact.	As above.
3. Pollution of watercourse	Spillage of fuels etc could reach the watercourse via run-off in wet weather or during flood events.	As above
4. Suffocation	Wind borne dust deposition, particularly on slow-flowing backwater stretches, may result in suffocation of macrophytes and invertebrate species in extreme cases. Plastics in litter can be ingested by fish, becoming caught in gills and blocking digestive tracts resulting in fish deaths.	Most of the potential waste processing operations on the site can/will be carried out in covered sheds so that dust would be contained. In addition, the SAC is to the south-east of the proposed waste allocation site, therefore prevailing winds would not normally blow dust from waste operations onto the SAC other than in exceptional weather conditions.

5.—Disturbance	Light spillage onto the SAC and noise may result in disturbance to otters and fish migration if operations continue during hours of darkness,	<p>The site is sufficiently far from the SAC that it is unlikely that light pollution from the site would reach the SAC and therefore there will be no barrier to fish migration.</p> <p>The waste site lies adjacent to an existing small airfield and it is unlikely that waste operations at the site will add significant noise levels to those already present within the area adjacent to the river.</p> <p>The site is also separated from the river valley and associated riparian habitat by roads and residential development, so that it is unlikely that otters would be foraging in the immediate vicinity of the waste site and therefore unlikely to suffer disturbance.</p>
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**PART C: CONCLUSION**

**Is the potential scale or magnitude of any effect likely to be significant?**

**a) Alone?—No**

(explain conclusion e.g. in relation to *de minimus* criteria)

The site is in flood zone 1 and is unlikely to be affected by flood events, therefore the potential for materials to be picked up and carried in the river is negligible. The site is also sufficiently far from the river, with residential, agricultural and highways development between the waste site and the river, such that noise and light from the site is unlikely to reach the SAC. Increase in traffic volume is likely to be small since the waste facility is on an existing industrial site and no new roadways will be constructed in order to operate the site.

**b) In combination with other plans or projects?—No**

There is no mechanism for this site to add to any cumulative effect on the River Avon SAC in combination with other plans and projects.

**Conclusion: Is the proposal likely to have a significant effect on a European Site? (Include justification)**

**No.**—The site is in flood zone 1 so is unlikely to cause impact as a result of flood events carrying materials or substances into the watercourse. It is also in an existing industrial estate and separated from the river SAC by roads, residential development and an agricultural complex.

**Recommendations:**

The operational management of the site will need to meet the necessary criteria for the relevant waste management licence issued by the Environment Agency.

Issues of possible surface water flooding may need to be addressed at the site layout and design stage however this is not likely to have any significance for the SAC.

<b>Name of Officer(s) making the assessment</b>	Fiona Elphick Principal Ecologist, Wiltshire Council
<b>Date</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> June 2010

The Former Imerys Quarry, Salisbury



Plate 1. Aerial photograph of the site showing location in relation to Salisbury Plain SAC/SPA

The Former Imerys Quarry, Salisbury

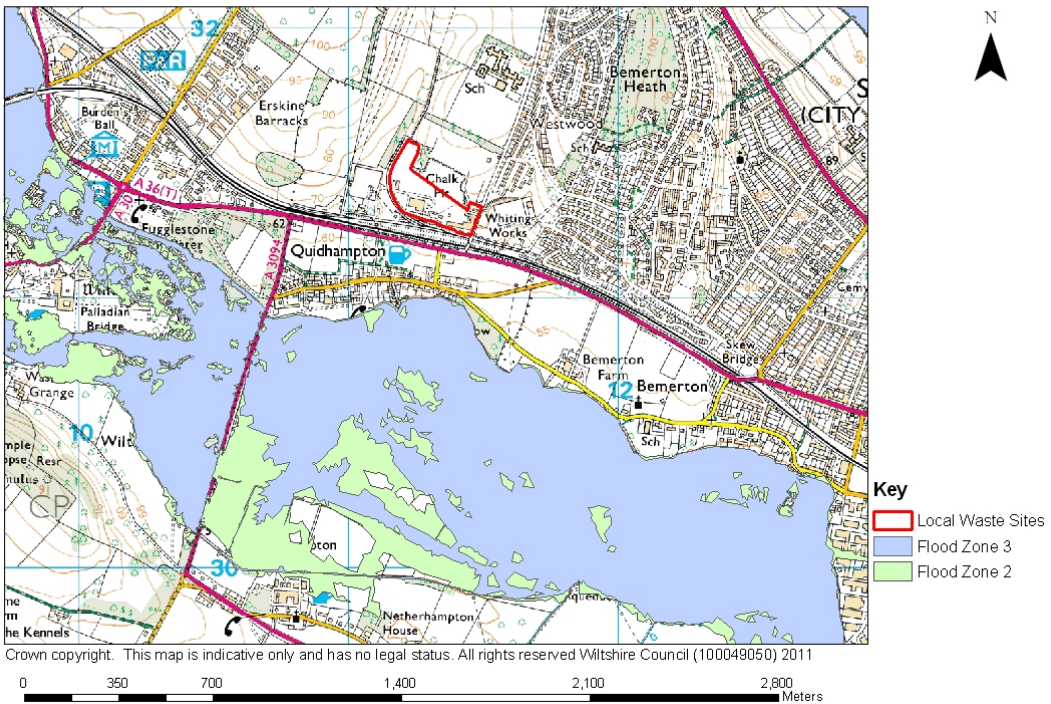


Plate 2. Location map showing proposed site in relation to flood zones 2 and 3

## ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS ON A EUROPEAN SITE

This is a record of the judgement by Wiltshire Council, required under Regulation 61 of the Habitats Regulations 2010 as to the “likely significant effect”, if any, of a proposed waste facility site on one or more European protected sites.

<b>PART A: THE PROPOSAL</b>		
<b>National Grid Reference</b> SU 112 313		
<b>Name of Site</b> Former Imerys Quarry, Quidhampton, Salisbury		
<b>Waste Development Types Proposed at the Site</b> Household Recycling Centre, Materials Recovery Facility, Waste Transfer Station, Local Recycling, T (Local Scale)		
<b>European Sites that could be affected by the proposals</b> River Avon SAC Component SSSIs : - River Till River Avon System Porton Meadows Lower Woodford Water Meadows Jones' Mill		<b>Distance of proposed site from European Site</b> Approximately 250 metres to the north of the SAC at its nearest point.
<b>List of European Site interest features</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Cottus gobio</i></li> <li>2. <i>Salmo salar</i></li> <li>3. <i>Lampetra planeri</i></li> <li>4. <i>Petromyzon marinus</i></li> <li>5. <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i></li> <li>6. <i>Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation</i></li> <li>7. <i>Alkaline fens</i></li> <li>8. <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i></li> <li>9. <i>Lutra lutra</i></li> <li>10. <i>Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)</i></li> </ol>	<p>Bullhead. Atlantic salmon. Brook lamprey. Sea lamprey. Desmoulin`s whorl snail. Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot.  Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens. White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish. Otter. Alder woodland on floodplains.</p>
<b>Key ecological features that support European Site integrity</b>	<p>The River Avon system is considered to be one of the most biodiverse in lowland Britain, with exceptionally rich flora, fish and invertebrate fauna. There is concern that the cumulative impacts of increasingly intensive land use are causing problems of reduced water quality and flow which, especially where combined with insensitive engineering and/or management are significantly affecting the ecology. External factors such as deep sea salmon fishing and water resource on a regional basis are impacting on the ecology. At present the most directly influential factor on the Upper Avon is salmonid fishery management (including bank stabilisation, fish stocking, control of predators/competitors, weed cutting and bank vegetation cutting). On the lower Avon, management is more directed to land drainage, through manipulation of water flows and weed cutting, although fishery management is carried out. The operation of hatches, sluices etc have a significant influence throughout the system.</p>	



**PART B: ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS**

**What potential hazards are likely to affect the interest features?**

Potential hazard	Potential exposure to hazard and mechanism of effect/impact if known	Existing or additional possible mitigation to remove/reduce the hazard
1. Changes in water chemistry	Run off from the site could cause changes in water chemistry particularly where waste materials are stored prior to treatment. This could result in unfavourable water chemistry for all of the designated features but will directly affect fish migration for spawning and ecological suitability for Desmoulin's whorl snail. The site is within 250m of the watercourse and a severe flooding event could result in adverse impact.	The site is within flood zone 1 and in addition is at a higher elevation than the SAC, therefore flooding issues are unlikely to occur and result in take up of pollutants by the river in flood.  There is no hydrological connectivity between the waste site and the SAC. Run off from the site is unlikely to find any direct route to the river as there are several roads, a railway line and a line of residential development between the waste facility and the SAC.
2. Increased turbidity	Silt run off from site could result in increased turbidity and fish deaths from gill damage. Although there is no direct hydrological connectivity, the site is within 85m of the watercourse and a severe flooding event could result in adverse impact.	As above.
3. Pollution of watercourse	Spillage of fuels etc could reach the watercourse via run off in wet weather or during flood events. Air pollution from some waste treatments could result in fish deaths, loss of macrophytes and loss of habitat suitable for Desmoulin's whorl snail.	As above in respect of pollution via run off.  Waste treatments will have to meet EA or LA licensing criteria and are therefore not likely to result in deposition of pollutants on the watercourse.
4. Suffocation	Wind borne dust deposition, particularly on slow-flowing backwater stretches, may result in suffocation of macrophytes and invertebrate species in extreme cases. Plastics in litter can be ingested by fish, becoming caught in gills and blocking digestive tracts resulting in fish deaths.	Most of the potential waste processing operations on the site can/will be carried out in covered sheds so that dust would be contained. In addition the waste site is to the north of the SAC, therefore the prevailing winds will not carry materials from the waste site to the SAC.
5. Disturbance	Light spillage onto the SAC and noise from waste operations may result in disturbance to otters and fish migration if operations continue during hours of darkness.	The waste site is sufficiently far from the SAC for noise and light spillage not to be an issue. In addition the existence of several roads, a railway line and a residential development between the waste site and the SAC make it unlikely that light spillage or noise from the waste site would result in disturbance,. Noise and light spillage from these other factors is likely to be at a level where additional light and noise from the waste site will not result in any

		greater impact on the SAC.
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**PART C: CONCLUSION**

**Is the potential scale or magnitude of any effect likely to be significant?**

**a) Alone? No**

(explain conclusion e.g. in relation to *de minimus* criteria)

The site is in flood zone 1 and is unlikely to be affected by flood events, therefore the potential for materials to be picked up and carried in the river is negligible.

The waste site lies to the north of the SAC therefore prevailing winds will not carry air borne pollutants onto the SAC from the waste site.

The site is sufficiently distant from the SAC that disturbance is unlikely to be an issue.

**b) In combination with other plans or projects? No**

There is no mechanism for this site to add to any cumulative effect on the River Avon SAC in combination with other plans and projects.

**Conclusion: Is the proposal likely to have a significant effect on a European Site? (Include justification)**

**No.** The site is in flood zone 1 and has no hydrological connectivity with the SAC so is unlikely to cause impact as a result of flood events carrying materials or substances into the watercourse. In addition the site is sufficiently far from the SAC so that disturbance from noise or light, or deposition of dust is unlikely to be an issue. Air pollution is unlikely to impact on the SAC since the operations within the waste facility will be required to meet strict licensing criteria.

**Recommendations:**

The operational management of the site will need to meet the necessary criteria for the relevant waste management licence issued by the Environment Agency.

<b>Name of Officer(s) making the assessment</b>	Fiona Elphick Principal Ecologist, Wiltshire Council
<b>Date</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> June 2010