Working in partnership with

Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment
of the Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Site Allocations Development Plan Document

Pre-submission Sustainability Appraisal Report

Non- technical summary

April 2011

Enfusion *in association with*
Centre for Sustainability at TRL

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL / STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT of the Wiltshire & Swindon Waste Site Allocations DPD

PRE-SUBMISSION

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL REPORT
NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

April 2011

Prepared for: Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council

date:	April 2011	
prepared for:	Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council	
prepared by:	Alastair Peattie	
quality assurance:	Ruth Thomas Rob Gardner	

C4S

enfusion
environmental planning and management for sustainability

Treenwood House
Rowden Lane
Bradford on Avon
BA15 2AU
t: 01225 867112
www.enfusion.co.uk

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Introduction

1 This document is the summary of the Sustainability Appraisal Report for the Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) (Pre-submission Report 2011). It describes how the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process was used to assist in planning for the development and the use of land for waste management, as required by planning legislation and Government guidance. The SA supports sustainable development through an ongoing dialogue and assessment during the preparation of Development Plan Documents (DPDs), and considers the implications of social, economic and environmental demands on spatial planning. Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council are working jointly on the production of a Minerals and Waste Development Framework for the County and Borough and in 2005 commissioned the Centre for Sustainability (C4S) at TRL and Enfusion to progress the SA and SEA work.

The Minerals and Waste Development Framework (MWDF)

2 The Minerals and Waste Development Framework (MWDF) is part of the system introduced by the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act (2004), which takes the form of a portfolio of documents including Minerals and Waste DPDs (Core Strategy, Development Control Policies DPD, Site Specific Allocations and where required, Area Action Plans), the Statement of Community Involvement, and an Annual Monitoring Report. Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council are jointly preparing Minerals and Waste Development Plan Documents (DPDs), which cover the geographical areas of Wiltshire and Swindon Borough. The Waste Local Development Documents (WLDDs) will form part of the Councils' Minerals and Waste Development Framework (M&WDF). To date the Councils have produced:

- A Waste Core Strategy DPD (adopted July 2009); and
- A Waste Development Control Policies DPD (adopted September 2009).

The Waste Site Allocations DPD

3 The Waste Core Strategy for Wiltshire and Swindon sets out the strategic planning policy framework for waste management over the period to 2026. The purpose of the Waste Site Allocations DPD is to provide detailed local expression to the adopted Waste Core Strategy in terms of the identification of sites that the Councils consider will be required in order to meet the forecasts of demand for new waste management capacity. The Pre-submission (Regulation 27) document proposes a total of 43 sites that are considered to be suitable to accommodate future waste management uses by the Councils.

Sustainability Appraisal & Strategic Environmental Assessment

4 Planning legislation requires that DPDs are subject to a SA, a systematic process that is designed to evaluate the predicted social, economic and environmental effects of development planning. European and UK legislation require that the DPDs are also subject to a Strategic Environmental

Assessment (SEA), a process that considers the effects of development planning on the environment. Where significant adverse effects are predicted, the SEA aims to identify means to avoid or mitigate such effects. Government guidance advises that these two processes should be carried out together and requires DPDs to be subject to a SA incorporating SEA. Wiltshire and Swindon's Waste Site Allocations DPD has been prepared in accordance with these requirements for a SA/SEA.

The Stages of Sustainability Appraisal

5 Government guidance outlines stages of SA work that need to be carried out as the LDF is being prepared:

Stage A: Setting Context & Scope
Stage B: Developing Options & Assessing Effects
Stage C: Preparing the SA Report
Stage D: Consulting on the Plan & the SA
Stage E: Monitoring Implementation of the Plan

6 The SA for the Waste Site Allocations Pre-submission DPD has been prepared in accordance with these requirements for SA/SEA.

The Character of Wiltshire and Swindon

7 Wiltshire and Swindon are located in the east of the region of South West England and cover an area of 3,486 square kilometres. The area is predominantly rural in character, with the majority of settlements being market towns. Swindon is the largest settlement, with a population of approximately 159,000; other significant sized settlements include Salisbury (44,000), Trowbridge (36,000) and Chippenham (33,500).

8 Wiltshire has a high quality environment, with over two thirds of the Plan area designated for its international, national and local environmental importance. This includes three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB): the Cranbourne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs, the North Wessex Downs and the Cotswolds. It includes a number of European sites designated for ecological importance and over 130 Sites of Special Scientific Interest. There are also approximately 14,000 listed buildings, 10 Historic Parks and Gardens and more than 250 Conservation Areas.

9 The population of Wiltshire and Swindon is expected to grow, with Swindon, Salisbury, Trowbridge and Chippenham being identified in the South West Regional Spatial Strategy (proposed for revocation) as the main areas for growth. The Waste DPDs will need to account for the waste disposal needs of this growing population.

SA Scoping & Issues for Sustainability

10 During late 2005 a Scoping process was carried out to help ensure that the SA covered the key sustainability issues relevant to land use planning for waste development in Wiltshire and Swindon.

11 Relevant plans and programmes were reviewed to develop a wider understanding of the issues and priorities for Wiltshire and Swindon, and information about the current and future social, environmental and economic

characteristics of Wiltshire and Swindon were compiled. From these studies, key sustainability problems and issues were identified, and include landscape protection, air quality, climatic factors and transport, biodiversity, cultural heritage, and waste production. A SA Framework was compiled and included a list of 19 SA Objectives that aim to resolve the issues and problems identified.

Consultation and Preparing the SA Framework

12 The SA/SEA Scoping in 2005 covered all the Waste Development Plan Documents which form part of the Wiltshire and Swindon Minerals and Waste Development Framework. The SA Framework developed through this scoping process was sent to a wide range of organisations and also made available on the Councils' websites. The Scoping consultation took place from November 2005 to January 2006 and comments received were incorporated into the SA Framework. Subsequent revisions to the SA Framework to support the locationally specific Site Allocations DPD, were also subject to consultation. These SA Objectives were used to test each of the waste sites proposed in the Waste Site Allocations Pre-submission DPD:

Waste Site Allocations SA Objectives

1. To protect the health and well-being of people living and working in Wiltshire and Swindon as well as visitors to the Plan area;
2. Promote stronger more vibrant communities;
3. Give people in the county access to satisfying work opportunities, paid or unpaid;
4. Balance the need for growth with the protection of the environment;
5. Encourage more sustainable transport and reduce the impacts of transport;
6. Protect and enhance biodiversity;
7. Promote the conservation and wise use of land (minimise use of land for landfill);
8. Protect and enhance landscape and townscape;
9. Maintain and enhance cultural and historical assets;
10. Ensure that adequate measures are in place to adapt to the impacts of climate change; and
11. Reduce non renewable energy consumption and greenhouse emissions
12. Minimise land, water, air, light, noise, and genetic pollution.

Issues and Options Report (March 2006)

13 The initial identification of potential sites was undertaken during the preparation of the Issues and Options Waste Site Allocations report. A list of over 100 potential sites was identified from a variety of sources in June 2005 and these sites were subject to individual appraisals. Each of the potential sites was visited and then assessed against a number of exclusionary and discretionary objectives. The assessment used a colour coded sustainability threshold to indicate the relative acceptability of potential impacts in the light of the site appraisal objectives. The appraisal method was based on the sustainability appraisal process undertaken for the Waste Core Strategy and Development Control Policies DPDs and was integrated with the Wiltshire and Swindon's own detailed site appraisal systems.

Revised Waste Site Selection and Site Appraisal Method (May 2009)

14 In early 2009, the Council's decided it was necessary to revise the waste site selection and appraisal process given the length of time since the publication and subsequent consultation of the Issues and Options Report. The site selection and appraisal method developed follows a progressive 'sieving' process whereby areas of land (including alternatives put forward for consideration by waste operators, as well as interested landowners) are assessed against a set of objectives and indicators within an appraisal matrix to determine their potential to accommodate the different types of future waste management development.

15 Enfusion and C4S worked with the Councils to ensure that SA/SEA and HRA objectives were incorporated into this revised site selection and site appraisal method. As part of this work it was first considered necessary to undertake a review of the Waste Site Appraisal Process, which was carried out by Enfusion in March 2009. The review provided recommendations for how SA and HRA could be integrated more effectively into the site appraisal process. This included the suitability of using Sustainability Threshold Assessment during the Exclusionary Objective Stage and a compatibility analysis of the exclusionary and discretionary objectives against the current SA objectives.

16 As part of this revision process the SA Framework (originally developed in the SA/SEA Scoping Report published in 2005) was updated to make it more relevant to the Waste Site Allocations DPD. The SA objectives were adapted so that they better relate to sustainability issues surrounding potential waste sites and could also be integrated more effectively into the waste site appraisal process. Changes to the waste site appraisal objectives and matrices were then made as a result of the findings and recommendations of the review. This included the revision of the Exclusionary and Discretionary Objectives to ensure that SA/SEA and HRA issues have been considered. The revised waste site selection and site appraisal method, including the revised SA Framework was consulted on from 11th May to 22nd June 2009.

Waste site allocations additional informal consultation (January 2010)

17 Between September 2009 and May 2010 officers at Wiltshire and Swindon Councils used the revised site appraisal method and matrix to record the suitability of different waste development types for each potential site. Of the 58 site options appraised during this period, 52 were included in the Waste Site Allocations Additional Informal Consultation document which was produced to refresh the work undertaken in 2006. Consultation with statutory and non-statutory consultees ran from January to March 2010.

Joint waste site allocations site survey report (May 2010)

18 In early 2010, consultants were commissioned to undertake detailed assessments of each potential site contained in the Waste Site Allocations Additional Informal Consultation document. The detailed assessments sought to establish and consider the potential planning and environmental constraints for the 52 waste sites which had been appraised using the revised site appraisal matrix. Following the findings and recommendations of the Joint Waste Site Allocations Site Survey Report, seven site options were removed from further consideration, leaving a total of 43 sites potentially suitable for inclusion in the Waste Site Allocations DPD.

Appraisal of the Waste Site Allocations Pre-submission DPD

19 The Councils have been using a method of comprehensive site appraisal since the start of the Waste Local Plan (WLP) preparation process in 2000. The process has been refined and improved at each stage and is a key component in the preparation of the Waste Local Development Documents. Each of the 43 waste site allocations proposed in the Pre-submission document have been assessed by officers at Wiltshire and Swindon Councils using the revised waste site selection and site appraisal method.

20 The waste site appraisals matrices identified that there is the potential for sustainability issues to arise at the majority of sites - as is generally the case with most forms of development - the significance of which is dependent on the type and scale of waste management facility that is built, as well as the surrounding land uses and environmental conditions. The key sustainability issues identified by the appraisal for the majority of waste sites, which will require management and/ or mitigation as appropriate, are summarised in the table below.

Sustainability Issues for Waste Site Allocations	
Topic	**Sustainability Issue**
Air Quality	All waste development types have the potential to generate emissions through increased traffic and the operation of the facility itself. Certain waste development types can also release dust and spores into the atmosphere as a result of operations. Increased levels of atmospheric pollution have the potential to reduce air quality, with indirect negative effects on human health, biodiversity and the water environment.
Biodiversity & Geodiversity	As identified under Air Quality, all waste development types have the potential to increase levels of atmospheric pollution through increased traffic and operations. The deposition of nitrogen and acidifying air pollutants can have a detrimental effect on the quality of habitats and the species which rely upon them. Increased traffic and the operation of machinery can also result in increased levels of disturbance to habitats and species through noise and light pollution as well as vibration. There is also the potential for habitat loss and fragmentation due to the built structures associated with a waste management facility as well as any additional infrastructure.
Health & Amenity	As identified under Air Quality, all waste development types have the potential to generate emissions through increased traffic and the operation of the facility itself. Certain waste development types can also release dust and spores into the atmosphere as a result of operations, as well as having impacts on odour. Increased traffic and the operation of machinery can also impact road safety as well as resulting in noise and light pollution and vibration. These could have negative effects on the health of people living and working in close proximity to waste management facilities.
Traffic & Transportation	All waste development types have the potential to increase the level of traffic and congestion, the significance of this impact is dependent on the waste development type and available

Sustainability Issues for Waste Site Allocations	
Topic	**Sustainability Issue**
	infrastructure. Increased traffic and congestion can result in reduced air quality through increased emissions, increased disturbance through noise and vibration and reduced road safety as a result of a greater number of vehicles on the road.

21 While the focus of the site appraisal matrices is on issues that may require management to ensure no significant impacts to the baseline environmental conditions, the appraisal also highlights a range of positive environmental impacts and enhancements that may occur as a result of the Waste Site Allocations DPD implementation.

22 A number of the sites positively support the efficient use of land as they are situated on existing industrial estates so there are good opportunities to re-use existing derelict buildings/plots. The appraisal also identifies that there is the opportunity for positive effects on biodiversity at some waste site allocations through the enhancement of green corridors and hedgerows, as well as the creation of habitats.

Cumulative Effects

23 The SEA Directive requires that consideration is given to the combined effect of different measures within a plan as well as with other plans and programmes. The strategic nature of the SA/SEA process allows these combined or cumulative effects to be more effectively identified.

24 The key issues identified through the individual site appraisal matrices (outlined above) were considered in more detail for potential cumulative effects. The SA identified clusters/groups of sites where there is the potential for the impacts of waste management facilities to have cumulative effects on the key issues identified above. The site clusters and the potential cumulative effects identified are provided in the table below.

Cumulative Effects of Waste Site Allocations	
Site Cluster	**Cumulative Effects on:**
• Waterside Park, Swindon • Brindley Close / Darby Close • Land at Kendrick Industrial Estate, Swindon • Rodbourne Sewerage Treatment Works	**Air Quality** - sites are located in close proximity. **Biodiversity & Geodiversity** - sites are in close proximity to 3 County Wildlife Sites. **Human Health & Amenity** - sites are in close proximity to employment uses. **Traffic & Transportation** - potential for negative effects on local transport infrastructure.
• Parkgate Farm, Purton • Purton Brickworks Employment Allocation, Purton	**Air Quality** - sites are located in close proximity. **Human Health & Amenity** - sites are in close proximity to a residential area. **Traffic & Transportation** - potential for negative effects on local transport infrastructure.
• Land East of HRC/WTS at Stanton	**Air Quality** - sites are located in close

Cumulative Effects of Waste Site Allocations	
Site Cluster	**Cumulative Effects on:**
St Quinton • Land West of HRC & WTS, Stanton St Quinton	proximity. **Biodiversity & Geodiversity** - sites are in close proximity to 2 Sites of Special Scientific Interest. **Human Health & Amenity** - sites are located in close proximity to farms and businesses. **Traffic & Transportation** - potential for negative effects on local transport infrastructure.
• Hampton Business Park (Part of), Melksham • Bowerhill Industrial Estate, Melksham	**Air Quality** - sites are located in close proximity. **Human Health & Amenity -** sites are in close proximity to employment uses. **Traffic & Transportation** - potential for negative effects on local transport infrastructure.
• West Wilts Trading Estate, Westbury • Northacre Trading Estate, Westbury	**Air Quality** - sites are located in close proximity. **Biodiversity & Geodiversity -** a number of County Wildlife Sites are within 1km. **Human Health & Amenity -** sites are in close proximity to residential and employment areas. **Traffic & Transportation** - potential for negative effects on local transport infrastructure.
• Castledown Business Park, Ludgershall • Pickpit Hill, Ludgershall	**Air Quality** - sites are located in close proximity. **Human Health & Amenity -** sites are in close proximity to residential and employment areas. **Traffic & Transportation -** potential for negative effects on local transport infrastructure and congestion and capacity issues with regard to the A3026.
• Nursteed Road Employment Allocation, Devizes • Wiltshire Waste Tinkersfield Farm, Devizes	**Air Quality** - sites are located in close proximity. **Biodiversity & Geodiversity -** sites are in close proximity to Nursteed Farm Woods County Wildlife Site. **Human Health & Amenity -** sites are in close proximity to employment uses.
• Hopton Industrial Estate, Devizes • Nursteed Road Employment Allocation, Devizes • Wiltshire Waste Tinkersfield Farm, Devizes	**Traffic & Transportation -** potential for negative effects on local transport infrastructure and congestion and capacity issues with regard to the A361.
• CB Skip Hire, St Thomas Farm, Amesbury • Sarum Business Park, Salisbury • Salisbury Road Industrial Estate,	**Biodiversity & Geodiversity -** sites are in close proximity to the River Avon Special Area of Conservation.

Cumulative Effects of Waste Site Allocations	
Site Cluster	**Cumulative Effects on:**
Downton • Former Imerys Quarry, Quidhampton	
• Bumpers Farm Industrial Estate • Thingley Junction, Chippenham • Leafield Industrial Estate, Calne • Hampton Business Park (Part of), Melksham • West Wilts Trading Estate, Westbury • Northacre Trading Estate, Westbury • Lafarge Cement Works • Bowerhill Industrial Estate, Melksham • Canal Road Industrial Estate, Trowbridge • West Ashton Employment Allocation, Trowbridge • Warminster Business Park, Warminster	**Traffic & Transportation -** potential for congestion and capacity issues with regard to the A350.

25 The SA recommended that the Councils take account of potential sustainability issues which may be cumulative at the clusters identified and ensure that mitigation measures (which the appraisal identifies as being achievable) are fully integrated into site developments. Monitoring will allow the Councils to determine whether or not the potential effects identified materialise and if necessary, introduce corrective measures and/or further mitigation.

Mitigation

26 Suitable mitigation measures are available to address both the sustainability issues of waste sites alone, and the potential for cumulative effects of site clusters. The mitigation measures for waste sites are more appropriately dealt with at the planning application stage when further detail regarding the type and scale of waste facility will be known. Mitigation may include, for example, the careful design of site access to minimise queuing and disruption to base traffic flows; or acoustic screening in the form of bunds to reduce the impacts of increased noise.

Summary

27 The site selection and appraisal method has followed a progressive 'sieving' process where areas of land are assessed against a set of objectives and indicators to determine their potential to accommodate the different types of future waste management development. The integration of SA objectives into this process has ensured that the 43 site options contained in the Waste Site Allocations DPD have been thoroughly assessed for sustainability issues at both a strategic and local level. These assessments have been underpinned by an extensive, updated evidence base ensuring that the sites put forward by the DPD are the most suitable pieces of land for future waste development in

Wiltshire and Swindon. Through this, the Waste Site Allocations DPD takes forward commitments made by policies in the Waste Core Strategy to deliver sufficient capacity to manage future waste demands in Wiltshire and Swindon.

Monitoring the Implementation of the MWDF

28 The MWDF is being developed as an on-going, iterative process, in which stakeholders are kept up to date through a rolling process of public involvement, monitoring and, where necessary, adjustment. The monitoring of the significant effects of any plan of this type is an essential part of the European SEA Directive, and the Councils believe that all stakeholders should have an opportunity to be part of the process.

29 The Councils have developed one set of indicators to meet the monitoring requirements for both the MWDF and SA processes. The key sustainability issues identified in the SA Scoping Report, including consultation, and the SA of the Core Strategy DPD and Development Control Policies DPD have assisted in developing appropriate indictors and targets for monitoring.

Next Steps

30 This SA report accompanies the Waste Site Allocations Pre-submission DPD on consultation and forms part of the evidence base. If changes to the DPD are made as a result of the consultation then it may be necessary to amend the SA report prior to Submission.

How to Comment on the Report

31 The SA report, Non-technical Summary and technical appendices will be available along with the Waste Site Allocations Pre-Submission DPD on the Wiltshire Council website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/. Comments can be made online.

32 The Councils (at County Hall, Trowbridge; Watt Tyler House, Swindon; and all libraries in the County and Borough) will hold copies of the main report and/or non-technical summary along with the Waste Site Allocations Pre-submission DPD. Hard copies of any of the documents are available on request from the address below. If you wish to make comments in writing, please direct them to:

Geoff Winslow
Team Leader, Minerals and Waste Policy
mineralsandwastepolicy@wiltshire.gov.uk

Minerals & Waste Policy
Wiltshire Council
County Hall
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JD
Tel (01225) 713213
Fax (01225) 713437