



Wiltshire and Swindon Minerals Core Strategy Development Plan Document

Submission Draft

Sustainability Appraisal

**Appendix Volume 1:
Appendices A - B**

UPR/IE/17/08

CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Appendix A Review of other Plans and Programmes	2
Appendix B Environmental Baseline	60

Introduction

This document consists of supporting information to the documents entitled 'Wiltshire and Swindon Minerals Core Strategy – Sustainability Appraisal Report for the Submission Draft'. The information in the appendices is in the form of tables and should be read in conjunction with the Sustainability Appraisal Report.

The following appendices are included:

Appendix A: Review of other Plans and Programmes

Appendix B: Wiltshire and Swindon SA/SEA Baseline Information

Appendix A. Review of other Plans and Programmes

A.1 Air Quality and Noise

Directive 1996/62/EC on Ambient Air Quality and Management
This Directive covers the revision of previously existing legislation and the introduction of new air quality standards for previously unregulated air pollutants, setting the timetable for the development of daughter directives on a range of pollutants. The list of atmospheric pollutants to be considered includes sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, lead and ozone – pollutants governed by already existing ambient air quality objectives- and benzene, carbon monoxide, poly-aromatic hydrocarbons, cadmium, arsenic, nickel and mercury.
Objectives, Targets and Indicators
Establishes mandatory standards for air quality and sets limits and guides values for sulphur and nitrogen dioxide, suspended particulates and lead in air.
Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise (The Environmental Noise Directive)
The aim of the Environmental Noise Directive (END) is to define a common approach across the European Union with the intention of avoiding, preventing or reducing on a prioritised basis the harmful effects, including annoyance, due to exposure to environmental noise. Until May 2005 DEFRA consulted on the implementation of the Directive into UK law.
Objectives, Targets and Indicators
This will involve: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Informing the public about environmental noise and its effects;• Preparing of strategic noise maps for: large urban areas (referred to as 'agglomerations' in the END and in this document), major roads, major railways and major airports as defined in the END; and• Preparing action plans based on the results of the noise mapping exercise. Such plans will aim to manage and reduce environmental noise where necessary, and preserve environmental noise quality where it is good.
PPG 24 – Planning and Noise
This PPG gives guidance to local authorities in England on the use of their planning powers to minimise the adverse impact of noise. It outlines the considerations to be taken into account in determining planning applications both for noise sensitive developments and for those activities which will generate noise and introduces the concept of noise exposure categories, recommending appropriate levels for exposure to different sources of noise; and advising on the use of conditions to minimise the impact of noise.
Objectives, Targets and Indicators
Noise-sensitive developments should be located away from existing sources of significant noise (or programmed development such as new roads) and that potentially noisy developments are located in areas where noise will not be such an important consideration or where its impact can be minimised.

Air Quality Strategy: Working Together for Clean Air

This Strategy describes the plans drawn up by the Government and the devolved administrations to improve and protect ambient air quality in the UK in the medium-term, so to protect people's health and the environment without imposing unacceptable economic or social costs.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Sets objectives for eight main air pollutants to protect health.

How the Minerals Local Development Document should address air quality and noise

MLDD should include consideration of how site management can positively contribute to air quality and noise especially through HGV management policies. The plan should have regard for PPG24 when developing policies, particularly with regard to site selection, design, site management and monitoring. Site selection should also take into account air quality impacts where possible. The MLDD needs to include air quality policies for instance with regard to dust, and emissions from machinery and vehicles.

Relevant objectives for the plan and the SA

- Minimise emissions to air; and
- Minimise nuisance from minerals working and HGV traffic (including the effects of noise).

A.2 Climatic Factors

Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change

Signing up to the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, 38 Countries (plus the EU) have committed to individual, legally-binding targets to limit or reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. These add up to a total cut in greenhouse-gas emissions of at least 5% from 1990 levels in the commitment period 2008-2012. The UK has committed to an 8% reduction (base year = 1990).

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Achieve a reduction in anthropogenic CO₂ levels to at least 5% below 1990 levels by 2012. Consider afforestation and reforestation as carbon sinks.

Our Energy Future – Creating a Low Carbon Economy

The White paper defines a long-term strategic vision for energy policy combining our environmental, security of supply, competitiveness and social goals.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Stimulate new, more efficient sources of power generation, and cut emissions from the transport and agricultural sector.

PPS 1: Planning and Climate Change Supplement to Planning Policy Statement 1

PPS1 sets out the overarching planning policies on the delivery of sustainable development through the planning system. This supplementary document indicates how spatial planning should contribute to reducing emissions and stabilising climate change (mitigation) and take into account the unavoidable consequences (adaptation).

Objectives, Targets and Indicators
Regional planning bodies, and all planning authorities should prepare and deliver spatial strategies that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make a full contribution to delivering the Government's Climate Change Programme and energy policies, and in doing so contribute to global sustainability; • in enabling the provision of new homes, jobs, services and infrastructure and shaping the places where people live and work, secure the highest viable standards of resource and energy efficiency and reduction in carbon emissions; • deliver patterns of urban growth that help secure the fullest possible use of sustainable transport for moving freight, public transport, cycling and walking; and, overall, reduce the need to travel, especially by car; • secure new development and shape places resilient to the effects of climate change in ways consistent with social cohesion and inclusion; • sustain biodiversity, and in doing so recognise that the distribution of habitats and species will be affected by climate change; • reflect the development needs and interests of communities and enable them to contribute effectively to tackling climate change; and, • respond to the concerns of business and encourage competitiveness and technological innovation.
Climate Change: The UK Programme (DEFRA, 2006)
So This Climate Change Programme sets out the Government's commitments both at international and domestic levels to meet the challenge of climate change. It also sets out our approach to strengthening the role that individuals can play.
Objectives, Targets and Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report annually to Parliament on emissions, our future plans and progress on domestic climate change; • set out our adaptation plan for the UK, informed by additional research on the impacts of climate change;
A Sustainable Future for the South West: The Regional Sustainable Development Framework for the South West of England
This is an integrated strategic framework, endorsed by the South West Assembly, for the promotion of the sustainable economic, social and environmental well-being of the South West. It provides a set of sustainable development guidelines for all organisations within the region. The main themes and objective are summarised as follows:
Objectives, Targets and Indicators
Theme: Climate Change Efficient use of affordable energy, reducing energy demand, increased role of renewable energy and Combined Heat and Power (CHP), reducing the adverse environmental impacts of energy production, reduce risk from climate change and sea level rise, minimise flooding risk.
Revision 2010: Empowering the Region- Renewable Energy Targets for the South West
Revision 2010 seeks to secure greater support for renewables within the region by encouraging the adoption of county or sub regional targets for the development of renewable electricity up to 2010. the project assumes seven county/sub regional areas including Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Dorset, Wiltshire, former Avon and Gloucestershire.
Objectives, Targets and Indicators

The Renewable Energy Strategy outlines what needs to be done to deliver the target in RPG10 for 11-15% of the region's power to be generated from renewable sources by 2010, and looks set to establish the South West as the UK leader in renewable energy. The strategy identifies 50 actions that will ensure the South West remains at the forefront of the UK's renewable energy industry, including working with farmers to develop energy crops, mapping the potential for renewable energy for every local Authority area in the region, and supporting experimental projects in wave and tidal power. As of June 2004, targets have been adopted or approved in Wiltshire. Wiltshire is also in the process of developing renewable energy/climate change strategies and/or associated action plans, which can also provide added weight to the target. More importantly these strategies provide the mechanism for supporting the target's successful delivery.

How the Minerals Local Development Document should address climatic factors

The plan should have regard to climate change when developing policy options. The SA of the plan should contain objectives for reducing emissions and coping with the effects of climate change. The MLDDS could contribute to UK greenhouse gas reduction targets, for instance through encouraging industrial efficiency, procurement of renewable energy, and more sustainable transport of materials and personnel. The proximity principle in particular needs to be built into site selection for the MLDDS.

Relevant objectives

- Encourage the use of sustainable transport options for minerals;
- Where possible, adopt the proximity principle when siting facilities;
- Minimise the impact of mineral workings through implementing effective measures to control emissions to air;
- Sustain biodiversity, recognising the fact that habitats and species will be affected by climate change; and
- Reduce the risk of flooding by siting developments away from floodplains.

A.3 Human health and safety

A Sustainable Future for the South West: The Regional Sustainable Development Framework for the South West of England

This is an integrated strategic framework, endorsed by the South West Assembly, for the promotion of the sustainable economic, social and environmental well-being of the South West. It provides a set of sustainable development guidelines for all organisations within the region. The main themes and objective are summarised as follows:

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Theme: Health & Well-Being

Health and wellbeing,
Reduce health inequalities,
Improve key determinants of health

Health Strategy 2000 (EU Commission Communication COM(2000) 285 final)

EU action on health is based on three key principles: integration, sustainability and focus on priority issues. This has led to an integrated approach to health-related work at Community level, making health-related policy areas work together towards achieving health objectives. This Communication called

for concentrating resources where the Community can provide real added value, without duplicating work which can be better done by the Member States or international organisations.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

The public health programme focuses on three priorities:

(1) Improving health information and knowledge

A comprehensive health information system will be put in place which will provide policy makers, health professionals and the general public the key health data and information that they need.

(2) Responding rapidly to health threats

An effective rapid response capability will be put in place to deal with threats to public health, for example, arising from communicable diseases. The integration of the EU based on the principle of free movement increases the need for vigilance.

(3) Addressing health determinants

The programme will help to improve the health status of the population and reduce premature deaths in the EU by tackling the underlying causes of ill health, through effective health promotion and disease prevention measures.

Programme of Community action in the field of public health (2003-2008) (European Parliament Decision No 1786/2002/EC)

On 23 September 2002, the European Parliament and the Council adopted a new Community action programme for public health. This programme runs for a 6 year period (from 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2008).

The new programme is based on three general objectives: health information, rapid reaction to health threats and health promotion through addressing health determinants. Activities such as networks, co-ordinated responses, sharing of experience, training and dissemination of information and knowledge will be inter-linked and mutually reinforcing. The aim is to embody an integrated approach towards protecting and improving health. As part of this integrated approach, particular attention is paid to the creation of links with other Community programmes and actions. Health impact assessment of proposals under other Community policies and activities, such as research, internal market, agriculture or environment will be used as a tool to ensure the consistency of the Community health strategy.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

The public health programme focuses on three priorities:

(1) Improving health information and knowledge

A comprehensive health information system will be put in place which will provide policy makers, health professionals and the general public the key health data and information that they need.

(2) Responding rapidly to health threats

An effective rapid response capability will be put in place to deal with threats to public health, for example, arising from communicable diseases. The integration of the EU based on the principle of free movement increases the need for vigilance.

(3) Addressing health determinants

The programme will help to improve the health status of the population and reduce premature deaths in the EU by tackling the underlying causes of ill health, through effective health promotion and disease prevention measures.

Draft Guidance on Health in Strategic Environmental Assessment: Consultation Document (DCLG, 2007)

The Department of Health have recently published a consultation document on Health and SEA, which refers specifically to how the health topic could be addressed in Local Development Documents (LDDs).

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

- SEA consultation must be carried out with the public and certain named organisations (known as Consultation Bodies). As a health organisation is not included amongst the Consultation Bodies, this guidance encourages interaction between RAs and health organisations to ensure that the population's health is assessed during the SEA process.
- SEA is a major opportunity to prevent ill health and tackle health inequalities as set out in the White Papers Choosing Health and Our health, our care, our say.
- RAs should know and understand how health is affected by their plans and programmes so that, in assessing them, major relevant health issues are covered, maximising positive effects and preventing, offsetting or minimising negative ones, and promoting healthier planning as set out in the White Paper Strong and Prosperous Communities.

Health organisations should be effectively engaged in the process, with the health needs of the population being addressed in the SEA process.

Choosing Health: making Healthier Choices Easier - Health White Paper (2004)

This White Paper sets out the key principles for supporting the public to make healthier and more informed choices in regards to their health. The Government will provide information and practical support to get people motivated and improve emotional wellbeing and access to services so that healthy choices are easier to make. This strategy has 3 underpinning principles: informed choice, personalisation and working together.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Set out priorities:

- Reducing the numbers of people who smoke
- Reducing obesity and improving diet and nutrition
- Increasing exercise
- Encouraging sensible drinking
- Improving sexual health

Improving mental health

How the Minerals Local Development Document should address human health and safety

The plan should take account of the needs to conserve green areas for informal and formal recreation, and to site development away from communities, where possible, in order to minimise those affected by air (inc. dust), noise, and vibration.

Relevant objectives

- Maintain or where possible enhance the quality of life for people affected by mineral working and/or ancillary development;
- Promote habits and activities which will help to improve the health status of the population;
- Ensure robust consideration is given to the proximity of mineral workings and/or ancillary development to developments and individual properties; and
- Protect rights of way, open space and common land.

A.4 Population

A Shared Vision for Swindon 2008-2030

This document sets out the views and aspirations of how the Swindon community would like its Borough to be in the year 2030.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Key objectives:

- Destination of choice
- All Swindon people are benefiting from the growing economy
- Safeguarding the environment for future generations
- Healthy, caring and supportive community
- A place where high aspirations are supported by superb education provision for all ages
- A place where local people can have real influence and where they feel safe.

Wiltshire Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2016

This Strategy aims to actively promote the health of residents, and seek to reduce local health inequalities.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Such communities will be better able to rise to the future challenges and pressures facing the County, and will have the following features:

- Communities where people want to live and work. People are there by choice, and take pride in the distinctiveness of their towns and villages.
- Communities which are inclusive. People of different backgrounds, ages and beliefs feel a valued part of the community, not separate, marginalised or disadvantaged by, amongst other things, a lack of transport or affordable housing.
- Communities which are lively, busy places. People get together to tackle local concerns, to organise cultural events, and to socialise. People readily volunteer and feel encouraged to do so. There are many social 'networks' between individuals and families, which allow people to live active, varied and independent lives.
- Communities where people feel safe, and are treated with respect.

- Communities which possess the skills and businesses to remain competitive, and generate enough jobs to meet local employment needs.
- Communities where children and young people enjoy life, and achieve their potential in and out of school.
- Communities which have effective political processes, characterised by trust and openness, high political participation, and effective working relations between public, voluntary and business sectors.
- Communities which actively promote the health of residents, and seek to reduce local health inequalities.

How the Minerals Local Development Document should address population

The plan should pay due regard to the objectives of the Sustainable Community Strategy for Wiltshire, and help provide and contribute towards making Swindon and economically prosperous place, without detracting from its environment.

Relevant objectives

- Ensure that sub regional aggregate apportionment is met to ensure adequate materials for house building.

A.5 Landscape, Open Space and Recreation

European Landscape Convention

The European Landscape Convention was developed by the Council for Europe and came into force in 2004. It was signed by the UK in February 2006. The aims of the convention are to promote European landscape protection, management and planning and to organise European co-operation on landscape issues. Nations that sign the Convention agree to take action to raise the standing given to landscape in public policy.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

The ELC sets out four general measures and five specific measures:

- To recognise landscapes in law as an essential component of people's surroundings, an expression of the diversity of their shared cultural and natural heritage, and a foundation of their identity;
- To establish and implement landscape policies aimed at landscape protection management and planning;
- To establish procedures for participation of the general public, local and regional authorities, and other parties with an interest in the definition and implementation of landscape policies;
- To integrate landscape into its regional and town planning policies and in its cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies, as well as in any other policies with possible direct or indirect on landscape.
- Awareness-raising: involves increasing awareness among civil society, private organisations and public authorities of the values of landscape, their role and the changes to them;
- Training and education: involves promoting: training for specialists in landscape appraisal and operations, multidisciplinary training programmes in landscape policy, protection, management and planning;
- Identification and assessment: involves mobilising the interested parties with a view to improving knowledge of the landscape and guiding the landscape identification and assessment procedures through exchanges of experiences and methodology. Each Party should: identify its own landscapes, analyse their characteristics and the forces and pressures transforming them, take note of change and assess the identified

<p>landscapes;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape quality objectives: involves framing landscape quality objectives for the identified landscapes; and • Implementation: involves introducing instruments aimed at protecting, managing and/or planning the landscape.
<p>PPG 17 – Planning for Open Space, Sport, and Recreation</p>
<p>This PPG comprises the guidance to support outdoor and recreational activities which contribute to the delivery of broader sustainable development objectives such as the support of urban renaissance and rural renewal, the promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion, health and well being.</p>
<p>Objectives, Targets and Indicators</p>
<p>The recreational quality of open spaces can be eroded by insensitive development or incremental loss. In considering planning applications - either within or adjoining open space - local authorities should weigh any benefits being offered to the community against the loss of open space that will occur. Accessibility should be promoted by sustainable modes of transport (including disabled facilities).</p>
<p>Good Practice Guide on Planning for Tourism (ODPM, 2006)</p>
<p>This guidance outlines the economic significance of tourism and its environmental impact, and therefore its importance in land-use planning. It explains how the needs of tourism should be dealt with in development plans and in development control.</p>
<p>Objectives, Targets and Indicators</p>
<p>Ensure land use is distributed and managed in such a way that it supports the qualities that underpin the tourism industry.</p>
<p>Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW)</p>
<p>CROW extends the public's ability to enjoy the countryside whilst also providing safeguards for landowners and occupiers. It creates a new statutory right of access to open country and registered common land, modernise the rights of way system, give greater protection to Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), provide better management arrangements for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), and strengthen wildlife enforcement legislation.</p>
<p>Objectives, Targets and Indicators</p>
<p>Emphasises the public's right of access to open country and common land, and gives additional protection to Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The Act imposes a duty on public bodies, including WCC to have regard to the conservation and enhancement of the AONBs in the County.</p>
<p>A Sustainable Future for the South West: The Regional Sustainable Development Framework for the South West of England</p>
<p>This is an integrated strategic framework, endorsed by the South West Assembly, for the promotion of the sustainable economic, social and environmental well-being of the South West. It provides a set of sustainable development guidelines for all organisations within the region. The main themes and objective are summarised as follows:</p>
<p>Objectives, Targets and Indicators</p>
<p>Theme: Food & farming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote high quality local food and drink; • Improve the viability of mixed family-run farms; • Raise the skills and aspirations of the farming and food workforce; • Reconnect farmers and food producers with local communities; and

- Enhance the quality of farmland landscapes and habitats.

The State of the Countryside in the South West (Countryside Agency)

Concise overview of facts and trends about the social, economic and environmental issues for the rural areas within the region.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Not applicable

Cotswolds AONB Management Plan

This plan is primarily about conserving and enhancing the AONB, and provides a guide to everyone who lives, works and enjoys the Cotswolds AONB.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Key objectives:

- To conserve and enhance the landscape of the AONB (including historic features and ecological diversity).
- Promote quiet enjoyment of AONB.
- Involving the public and stakeholders.

Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB Management Plan

The management plan sets out a vision for the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire AONB, a policy framework and an action plan under 3 themes, environment theme, rural economy theme and community theme.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Community theme vision: "...sustainable villages offer key facilities and services that are accessible to local needs..."

Economy vision: "A diverse thriving and sustainable economy in which agriculture, forestry and tourism are viable sectors..."

Environment vision: "A unique, tranquil and evolving landscape..."

North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan

This plan identifies the issues affecting the AONB and then suggests how they might be addressed. It offers a vision for the future and practical actions that can be taken to achieve this vision.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Key objectives:

- Conserve and enhance landscape character, heritage, and biodiversity within the AONB.
- Sustain natural resources (e.g. soils) and promote low carbon economy.

New Forest Strategy (2003)

The Strategy for the New Forest describes the main issues facing the conservation of the special qualities and character of the New Forest. It proposes a series of co-ordinated policies and a framework for action to protect these special qualities, and to promote their better understanding and enjoyment by

all those who use the Forest. The Strategy also makes clear the inextricable and often complex links which exist between the landscape, habitats and cultural heritage of the Forest, and the local economy and way of life of the Forest communities. The Forest and its people have evolved together over thousands of years. The Strategy therefore proposes an integrated approach to management through which the Forest's economy and culture continue to contribute to, and support, its special character.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

The overall aims of the Strategy are:

- To work together in partnership* to promote and achieve the Vision for the Forest through co-ordinated and innovative policies and actions. (Involving local communities, statutory organisations, land managers, recreational users, businesses and other interested groups).
- To conserve and enhance the unique environment of the Forest, and in particular the special qualities of its landscape, cultural heritage and wildlife habitats.
- To support the social and economic well-being of local communities in ways which sustain the special character of the Forest.
- To encourage everyone to understand and enjoy the special qualities of the Forest, while ensuring that its character is not harmed by recreational use.

How the Minerals Local Development Document should address landscape, open space and recreation

The MLDDS should take into account PPG 17 and Good Practice Guide on Planning for Tourism in preserving the quality of open space and hence avoiding the adverse impacts on areas like the Cotswold AONB. Proposed new mineral sites must take account of the CRoW Act and should not, where possible, hinder accessibility to open country and common land.

The plan should aim to reduce the impacts on agricultural land of mineral developments and take into account the objectives of the North Wessex Downs and Cotswold AONBs particularly relating to landscape and natural resources.

Relevant objectives

- Ensure that future quarrying proposals within AONBs are only permitted for cases of overriding national need and when alternative sources outside the AONBs have been fully considered;
- Reduce visual intrusion from mineral working and/or ancillary development;
- Ensure effective restoration of all mineral sites and areas affected by mineral working;
- Protect and improve the quality of the countryside in proximity to mineral working and/or ancillary development; and
- Maintain and enhance access to the countryside for residents and visitors.

A.6 Cultural Heritage including Architectural and Archaeological Heritage

Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe 1985

This European Convention sets a common policy for the conservation and enhancement of the architectural heritage.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Objectives include:

- To take statutory measures to protect architectural heritage;
- To make provision for the protection of monuments, groups of buildings and sites; and
- To make the conservation, promotion and enhancement of the architectural heritage a major feature of cultural, environmental and planning policies.

European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage 1992

This convention recognises that archaeology is seriously threatened with deterioration because of the increasing number of major planning schemes, natural risks, clandestine or unscientific excavations and insufficient public awareness. The aim the Convention is to protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

- The maintenance of an inventory of its archaeological heritage and the designation of protected monuments and areas;
- The mandatory reporting of archaeological heritage found and making them available for examination;
- To apply procedures for the authorisation and supervision of excavation and other archaeological activities;
- To ensure that excavations and other potentially destructive techniques are carried out only by qualified, specially authorised persons;
- The modification of development plans likely to have adverse effects on the archaeological heritage;
- The allocation of sufficient time and resources for an appropriate scientific study to be made of the site and for its findings to be published;
- To ensure that environmental impact assessments and the resulting decisions involve full consideration of archaeological sites and their settings; and
- To make provision, when elements of the archaeological heritage have been found during development work, for their conservation in situ when feasible.

PPG 15 – Planning and the Historic Environment

This PPG provides a full statement of Government policies for the identification and protection of historic buildings, conservation areas, and other elements of the historic environment. It explains the role played by the planning system in their protection. It complements the guidance on archaeology and planning given in PPG 16.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Objectives are for effective protection for all aspects of the historic environment. Consider opportunities to re-use derelict transport infrastructure.

PPG 16 – Archaeology and Planning

This guidance is for planning authorities in England, property owners, developers, archaeologists, amenity societies and the general public. It sets out the Secretary of State's policy on archaeological remains on land, and how they should be preserved or recorded both in an urban setting and in the countryside. It gives advice on the handling of archaeological remains and discoveries under the development plan and control systems, including the weight to be given to them in planning decisions and the use of planning conditions.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators
Development plans should reconcile the need for development with the interests of conservation including archaeology. Detailed development plans should include policies for the protection, enhancement and preservation of sites of archaeological interest and of their settings.
The Historic Environment: A Force for Our Future
This statement sets out the intention of the Government to protect the historic environment recognising its major contribution to the economy in rural and deprived communities as well as in traditional economic centres. It also states the need for the development of new policies to further realise economic and educational potential.
Objectives, Targets and Indicators
The historic environment should be protected and sustained for the benefit of our own and future generations.
A Sustainable Future for the South West: The Regional Sustainable Development Framework for the South West of England
This is an integrated strategic framework, endorsed by the South West Assembly, for the promotion of the sustainable economic, social and environmental well-being of the South West. It provides a set of sustainable development guidelines for all organisations within the region. The main themes and objective are summarised as follows:
Objectives, Targets and Indicators
Theme: Culture & Heritage Encourage increased access to, and participation in, cultural activities across the SW, capitalising on the latest developments in ICT Ensure the SW remains a region of diverse and distinct cultural landscapes and townscapes. Endow the region's creative capabilities and maximise their social and economic benefit.
Culture South West (2003): In Search of Chunky Dunsters – A Cultural Strategy for the South West.
This strategy sets out what the region can achieve by working together to improve the quality and range of cultural activities and creative industries available in the South West. Culture plays an important role in the economic growth of the region, and it is an integral part of the SWRDA plans.
Objectives, Targets and Indicators
Strategic themes; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage access and participation • Improve quality of the region's cultural facilities and activities • Support the regional cultural and creative industries Local Authorities have lead responsibility for encouraging and supporting the development of local cultural strategies
Strategy for the Historic Environment (HE) in the South West (English Heritage, 2004)
This strategy emphasises the contribution of the historic environment to the quality of life, and culture of the region, and sets out a vision for the future management of this irreplaceable historic resource.
Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Priorities:

- Informed conservation of the historical environment
- Sustainable management of HE in rural areas, including establishment of agri-environment schemes
- Conservation of coastal and maritime environments and wetland landscapes.
- Promote design of buildings and landscape sensitive to their location
- Promote the use of traditional conservation and management skills
- Remove physical, social and cultural barriers to the access, understanding and enjoyment of the HE

English Heritage Policy Position Statement: Mineral Extraction and the Historic Environment (Consultation Draft, 2007)

This sets out English Heritage's position on mineral extraction and the historic environment. It examines the historic significance of mining and quarrying sites and landscapes, the impacts on the historic environment that can be caused by mineral extraction together with advice on appropriate mitigation measures, and the need for and supply of natural stone and other materials required to conserve the historic environment and maintain local distinctiveness.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Priorities:

- Ensuring the supply of historically and technically appropriate local building stone;
- Work should continue to enhance understanding and public enjoyment of the historic legacy of extractive industries;
- Extraction should not take place if it would result in the destruction of or damage to a nationally important historic or archaeological site or listed building, or where it would have a significant adverse effect on setting;
- Ensure the environmental impacts of minerals are adequately mitigated; and
- Transport of minerals should be managed to minimise the impacts of vehicle movements (transport by rail and water will have a lower impact than transport by road).

How the Minerals Local Development Document should address cultural heritage

The MLDDS should be committed to PPG 15 and PPG 16 objectives for the effective protection of the historic environment and archaeological remains through site selection. It should also take into account the strategic aims of the South West Cultural Strategy.

Relevant Objectives

- Protect designated and, where possible, non-designated sites and monuments of cultural/archaeological importance.

A.7 Biodiversity, Fauna, Flora and Soil

EU Habitats Directive [Directive 92/43/EC]
The Habitats Directive is a major European policy directive that aims to contribute towards protecting biodiversity - the variety of life - through the conservation of natural habitats and wild plants and animals. Recognising that wildlife habitats are under pressure from increasing demands made on the environment, the Directive provides for the creation of a network of protected areas across the European Union to be known as 'Natura 2000' sites. This network includes Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs), which, on land, are already Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). Plans or programmes need to be 'screened' to determine whether they are likely to affect the integrity of a Natura 2000 site. If it is decided that this might be the case an Appropriate Assessment is required. The purpose of the Appropriate Assessment is to assess the impacts of a land-use plan against the conservation objectives of a European Site and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of that site. Where significant negative effects are identified, alternative options should be examined to avoid any potential damaging effects.
Objectives, Targets and Indicators
Maintain or restore in a favourable condition designated natural habitat types and habitats of designated species listed in Annexes I and II respectively of the Directive. If a project compromising one of these habitats must proceed in spite of negative conservation impacts due to it being in the public interest, compensatory measures must be provided for. Linear structures such as rivers/streams, hedgerows, field boundaries, ponds, etc., that enable movement and migration of species should be preserved.
The EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds 79/409/EEC 1979
The Birds Directive has created a protection scheme for all of Europe's wild birds, identifying 194 species and sub-species (listed in Annex I) among them as particularly threatened and in need of special conservation measures. There are a number of components to this scheme. Within others, Member States are required to designate Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for the 194 threatened species and all migratory bird species. SPAs are scientifically identified areas critical for the survival of the targeted species, such as wetlands. The designation of an area as a SPA gives it a high level of protection from potentially damaging developments.
Objectives, Targets and Indicators
Imposes duty on Member States to sustain populations of naturally occurring wild birds by sustaining areas of habitats in order to maintain populations at ecologically and scientifically sound levels.
The Convention on Biological Diversity, Rio de Janeiro 1992
This convention was agreed among the vast majority of the world's governments and sets out their commitments to maintaining the world's biodiversity so to achieve a more sustainable economic development. The Convention establishes three main goals: the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from the use of genetic resources.
Objectives, Targets and Indicators
Article 6a requires each Contracting Party to develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

EU Thematic Soil Strategy 2006

The Soil Thematic Strategy is seeking to: establish common principles for the protection and sustainable use of soils; prevent threats to soils, and mitigate the affects of those threats; preserve soil functions within the context of sustainable use; and restore degraded and contaminated soils to approved levels of functionality. The Soil Thematic Strategy proposes the introduction of a Soil Framework Directive.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

The overall objective of the Strategy is protection and sustainable use of soil, based on the following guiding principles:

(1) Preventing further soil degradation and preserving its functions:

- when soil is used and its functions are exploited, action has to be taken on soil use and management patterns, and
- when soil acts as a sink/receptor of the effects of human activities or environmental phenomena, action has to be taken at source.

(2) Restoring degraded soils to a level of functionality consistent at least with current and intended use, thus also considering the cost implications of the restoration of soil.

PPS 9 – Biodiversity and Geological Conservation

PPS9 sets out a series of key principles which need to be taken into consideration when preparing local development documents and regional spatial strategies:

- Decisions should be based upon up-to-date information about the environmental characteristics of the area.
- Decisions should seek to maintain, or enhance, or add to biodiversity and geological conservation interests.
- A strategic approach to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and geology should be taken.
- Developments seeking to conserve or enhance the biodiversity and geological conservation interests of the area should be encouraged.
- LPAs should consider whether proposed developments can be accommodated without causing harm to biodiversity and geological conservation interests.
- Where development will result in unavoidable and significant adverse impacts, planning permission for it should only be granted where adequate mitigation measures are put in place.
- Development policies should promote opportunities for the incorporation of beneficial biodiversity and geological features within the design of development.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Points specific to LDDs are:

- When identifying designated sites of importance for biodiversity and geodiversity on the proposals map, clear distinctions should be made between the hierarchy of international, national, regional, and locally designated sites.
- Biodiversity objectives that reflect both national and local priorities, including those which have been agreed by local biodiversity partnerships, should be reflected in policies in local development documents and proposals. Local planning authorities should ensure that all policies in local development documents and proposals are consistent with those biodiversity objectives.

Other areas covered by the guidance are:

- Biodiversity interest of:
 - International sites, SSSIs, regional and local sites
 - Ancient woodlands

- Networks of natural habitats
- Previously developed sites
- Biodiversity within developments
- Species protection

PPS 9 includes no targets or indicators.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

The act implements the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (the 'Bern Convention') and the European Union Directives on the Conservation of Wild Birds and Natural Habitats. The Act is concerned with the protection of wildlife and their habitat (countryside, national parks and designated protected areas).

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Addresses the problem of species protection and habitat loss by setting out the protection that is afforded to wild animals and plants in Britain.

UK Biodiversity Action Plan

The UK BAP was published in response to the requirements of the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992).

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

It highlights a number of priority habitats and species with associated action plans.

'Working with the Grain of Nature': A Biodiversity Strategy for England (2002)

The Strategy seeks to ensure biodiversity considerations become embedded in all main sectors of public policy and sets out a programme for the next five years to make the changes necessary to conserve, enhance and work with the grain of nature and ecosystems rather than against them.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Ensures biodiversity considerations are embedded in all main sectors of economic activity. (It is the principal means by which the government will comply with duties under section 74 of the CRoW Act).

A Sustainable Future for the South West: The Regional Sustainable Development Framework for the South West of England

This is an integrated strategic framework, endorsed by the South West Assembly, for the promotion of the sustainable economic, social and environmental well-being of the South West. It provides a set of sustainable development guidelines for all organisations within the region. The main themes and objective are summarised as follows:

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Theme: Biodiversity & Landscapes

- Protect and enhance habitats and species
- Promote biodiversity as a regional asset
- Protect and enhance the region's urban and rural landscapes

South West Biodiversity Partnership and the Association of Local Government Ecologists. A biodiversity guide for the planning and development sectors in the SW.

Illustrates cases of best practice in the following areas:

- Action for habitats and species
- Community action for nature
- Nature and the economy
- Improving quality of life
- Ecosystem and landscape management

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

No specific objectives of relevance.

South West Biodiversity Partnership – South-West Biodiversity Implementation Plan (July 2004)

This plan has been developed to provide a more coordinated approach to delivering biodiversity related action across the South-West. It sets out a framework of policy, priorities and actions to assist in a more joined up approach to biodiversity delivery, and updates those actions included in the SWBAP. It identifies key programmes of work which are designed to:

- Help meet biodiversity targets for priority habitats and species in the South West.
- Ensure regional strategic plans incorporate biodiversity issues for the South West.
- Provide a strategic framework for the work undertaken by regional and local biodiversity partnerships in conserving biodiversity and promoting the sustainable use of biological resources.
- Develop wider support and active engagement by increasing awareness and understanding of the importance of biodiversity to the region's health, quality of life and economic productivity.

The BIP identifies key programmes of work, both for those directly involved and for those who can enable these, under five specific sectors:

- Farming and Food
- Water and Wetlands
- Woodlands and Forestry
- Towns, Cities and Development

Headline objectives of the BIP are:

Ensure we meet:

- Our international commitments, in particular to halt biodiversity loss by 2010.
- The Defra Public Service Agreement Target to “Care for our natural heritage, make the countryside attractive and enjoyable for all and preserve biological diversity” by
 - reversing the long-term decline in the number of farmland birds by 2020, as measured annually against under-lying trends;
 - and, bringing into favourable condition by 2010 95% of all nationally important wildlife sites”.
- Continuing and sustained improvement in the status of terrestrial and marine species and habitats listed on the Biodiversity Action Plan.

Farming and food Objectives:

- Assist the continued development of high quality support services for land managers to develop and adopt best practice for biodiversity action as part of their farming business.
- Promote ongoing dialogue to establish a better shared understanding between stakeholders in the biodiversity and land-owning/farming communities.
- Ensure that Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMS) deliver maximum biodiversity gain.
- Integrate resource protection on farmed land with delivery of biodiversity.
- Ensure that the conservation of farmland biodiversity is an integral part of all relevant regional policies, strategies and programmes.
- Improve outcomes for biodiversity and the environment from food chain action in the region.
- To develop a regional approach to the environmental challenges of improved grassland farming so that biodiversity is rebuilt in this land use.

Water and Wetlands Objectives:

- Manage water and wetlands using an integrated and sustainable approach to increase biodiversity.
- Continue improvements in water quality, including minimising diffuse pollution by reducing run off of water and soil from farmland.
- Ensure regional policies and strategies promote the conservation and enhancement of rivers, wetlands and coasts.
- Restore degraded rivers and wetlands to provide multiple social, economic and environmental benefits, and open up opportunities for tourism and recreation linked to the water environment.
- Raise awareness of the value of green spaces alongside rivers through our towns and cities resulting in the creation of urban river corridors.

Woodlands and Forestry Objectives:

- Protect native woodland from unnecessary damage.
- Enhance, extend and restore the existing native woodland resource.
- Manage non-native woodland to improve biodiversity in the wider landscape.
- Realise the broader social and economic benefits of woodland biodiversity.

Towns, Cities and Development Objectives

- Ensure that planning decisions take full account of biodiversity and avoid negative outcomes.
- Co-ordinate the management and enhancement of natural green spaces.
- Improve access to natural green spaces.
- Enhance people's awareness of wildlife in the urban area.
- Involve communities in biodiversity creation and management in their own areas.

South West Biodiversity Partnership – South-West Biodiversity Action Plan (1997)

Contains action plans for 12 species and 18 habitat types. Each action plan contains objectives and proposed targets. The following symbols indicate where action plans are also included in the Wiltshire (*), Swindon (#), and Cotswold Water Park (\$) BAPs.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Species Action Plans:

- Early Gentian
 - 2 known sites in Wiltshire

Habitat Action Plans

- Ash Maple Woodland (*)(#)
- Arable farmland (*)(#)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marsh Fritillary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 56 known sites in Wiltshire • White Clawed Crayfish (\$) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 26 known sites in Wiltshire (2 Avon, 24 Thames) • Great Crested Newt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 24 known sites in Wiltshire • Sand Lizard • Nightjar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 17 known sites in Wiltshire • Water Vole (\$) • Pipistrelle Bat (*)(#) • Southern Damselfly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calcareous Grassland (*)(#) • Hedgerows (*)(#) • Lowland Heathland • Wood Pasture and Parkland (*)(#) • Reedbeds • Rivers, Streams and Associated Habitats (*)(#) • Standing Open Water (*)(#)(\$) • Upland heath • Upland oakwood • Urban Areas (*)(#)
--	--

Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act is designed to help achieve a rich and diverse natural environment and thriving rural communities. The Act also created the Natural England to act as a champion for the natural environment. Section 40 of which places a Biodiversity Duty on all public bodies (including the Council), to have due regard for conserving biodiversity. This includes restoring or enhancing a population or habitat.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Other measure involve:

Biodiversity and wildlife protection

Biodiversity duty;

Land drainage byelaws;

Wildlife protection;

Habitat protection.

National Parks, Broads and Outstanding Natural Beauty

Rights of Way

TCPA (2004): Biodiversity by Design

This Guide sets out practical, design led solutions to implement the objective of supporting a richness of biodiversity to build more sustainable neighbourhoods. The guide introduces the core design principles that form the basis for a 'biodiversity by design' approach, such as understanding ecological function, realising the benefits of biodiversity, and connecting with nature.

Then it explores tools and techniques for analysing a site and its context, in particular with the existing 'green infrastructure': the distinctive and multi-functional network of habitats, greenspaces and linkages.

Chapter Three explores how to masterplan the green infrastructure for a sustainable community, in particular looking at how ecologically functional green

<p>infrastructure can be created, and how it can connect with and enhance the existing assets.</p> <p>The guide then focuses on detailed design elements and on how the long-term management and stewardship of green infrastructure can be secured through management plans, and the establishment of ecologically functional green spaces.</p>
<p>Objectives, Targets and Indicators</p>
<p>Social: to increase public awareness of, and involvement in, conserving biodiversity.</p> <p>Environment: to conserve and where practicable to enhance: the population and natural ranges of native species; natural and semi-natural wildlife habitats; ecosystems that are characteristic of local areas. To contribute to the conservation of biodiversity on a European and global scale.</p>

<p>Natural Fit: Can Green Space and Biodiversity Increase Levels of Physical Activity? (RSPB, 2004)</p>
<p>This report looks into evidence to support the theory that the availability of safe, accessible natural green space encourages the uptake and continuation of physical activity.</p>
<p>Objectives, Targets and Indicators</p>
<p>Green and/or open space in the urban environment has been found to have positive benefits for health.</p>

<p>Soil Framework Directive (Consultation Draft), 2007</p>
<p>Emphasises the importance of soil as a resource which needs to be protected as part of our sustainable future.</p> <p>The main elements of the proposal includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) to assess impacts likely to cause soil degradation; ii) take measures to protect soil functions; iii) avoid permanent sealing of the soil surface with impermeable material; iv) identify risk areas with regard to soil erosion, loss of organic matter, compaction, and others; v) take action to prevent soil contamination; and vi) raise awareness of the importance of soils.
<p>Objectives, Targets and Indicators</p>
<p>The overall objective of the Strategy is protection and sustainable use of soil, based on the following guiding principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Preventing further soil degradation and preserving its functions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – when soil is used and its functions are exploited, action has to be taken on soil use and management patterns, and – when soil acts as a sink/receptor of the effects of human activities or environmental phenomena, action has to be taken at source. (2) Restoring degraded soils to a level of functionality consistent at least with current and intended use, thus also considering the cost implications of the restoration of soil.

Swindon Biodiversity Action Plan (March 2005)

This plan outlines the vision and strategy for protecting and enhancing the borough's biodiversity over the next ten years, along with a series of specific actions and targets for delivering the strategy.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Key objectives:

- Protection of nationally and locally designated sites, as well as strategic green corridors.
- Enhancement of wildlife in the wider landscape.
- Protect and enhance populations of protected species.
- Involve the public and stakeholders wherever possible.

Target is to have 100% of the Borough Phase 1 Habitat surveyed by 2007.

Most of the action plans include objectives for improving education, raising awareness, and introducing improved management practices.

Habitat Action Plans (NB: Action plans marked * have a corresponding SW BAP action plan)

Farmland Habitats

- Arable Habitat Action Plan*
- Hedgerow Habitat Action Plan*
 - 21% of English hedges lost between 1984 and 1990. No data for Swindon.
 - 20km of new hedgerow planting by 2010
 - Favourable management of 25km of ancient and species rich hedgerows by 2010.

Water and Wetland Habitats

- Standing Open Water Habitat Action Plan*
 - Swindon Borough has suffered a greater loss of ponds than the national average. South Marston parish had 36 ponds listed in 1880, but now has only one.
 - Target to create 10 new ponds per annum
- Urban Ponds Habitat Action Plan
 - Target to create 100 new garden ponds per annum
- Rivers and Streams Habitat Action Plan*
 - Over 175km of rivers and streams in Swindon Borough. 100km is designated as 'Main River' under the Environment Agency's Flood Defence remit.
 - Target to improve 2 otter kill black spots by 2008.
 - Coordinated mink trapping programme by 2006.
- Wetlands Habitat Action Plan
 - Identify two sites per annum for wetland restoration or creation projects.
 - Create two wetland LNRs by 2010

Grassland Habitats

- Amenity Grassland Habitat Action Plan
 - Currently 1,348 Ha of amenity grassland in Swindon Borough
 - Area of amenity grassland has decreased in recent years
 - Target for 80% of homes to be within 300m of amenity grassland by 2010
- Neutral Grassland Habitat Action Plan
 - 98% of lowland meadows have been lost in the UK since World War II.
 - Known sites in Swindon Borough amount to 120ha
 - Target to designate 2 LNR sites by 2010.
- Downland Habitat Action Plan*
 - 22 chalk grassland sites covering 432ha.
 - Nationally between 50-90% of chalk grassland has been lost since WWII.
 - Target to increase the extent of calcareous grassland to 150% of the 2005 baseline by 2010.
 - Restore 25% of existing sites by 2010.

Urban Habitats*

- Built-up Areas and Gardens Habitat Action Plan
 - 50% of all planning applications to incorporate biodiversity into building design by 2009.
 - Create one new urban wildlife site per annum
 - Improve greenspace connectivity by 50% by 2010.
 - 85% of schools to have a wildlife area by 2010
- Development Sites Habitat Action Plan
 - 100% of new open spaces to have a provision for wildlife

Woodland Habitats

- Woodland Habitat Action Plan*
 - 10 years ago the Borough had only 560ha of woodland (2% of land area)
 - Currently there are 925ha (4%) following the creation of the Great Western Community Forest (GWCF)
 - Allow creation of 20ha of woodland by natural succession by 2010.
 - Increase woodland cover in line with the GWCF objectives
- Scrub Habitat Action Plan
 - No Swindon or national figures to demonstrate amount of scrub or trends.
 - 5 sites per annum to have beneficial scrub management plans
 - Create 2 new scrub habitat sites per annum
- Parkland Habitat Action Plan*
 - No information available for the extent of this habitat in Swindon
 - 100% of sites to have new plantings by 2009
 - Plant 15ha of parkland by 2009

Species Action Plans

- Bats Species Action Plan*
 - Seven species of bat recorded in Swindon Borough at present (Brown Long-Eared, Daubenton's, Lesser Horseshoe, Natterer's, Noctule,

- Pipistrelle, and Serotine)
- o Put up 1,000 bat boxes by 2010
- o Encourage the use of bat bricks in new developments and restorations.

Wiltshire Biodiversity Action Plan

This plan is a vision document for positive action for biodiversity within the county. It aims to develop a number of local habitat and species action plans.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

9 Habitat Action Plans and 1 Species Action Plan lie with this BAP

Habitat Action Plans (NB: Action plans marked * have a corresponding SW BAP action plan)

- Woodland*
 - o Create new native woodland
 - o Restore ancient woodlands (200ha in 2005)
 - o Favourable condition in 100% of SSSI
- Wood-pasture, parkland and ancient trees*
 - o Determine current extent of habitat
 - o Protect and maintain
 - o Create and expand
- Rivers, streams and associated habitats*
 - o Maintain and enhance
 - o Restore to a favourable condition those rivers adversely affected by past activities
 - o Restore habitats
- Standing open water*
 - o Determine current extent of habitat
 - o Maintain and enhance
 - o Restore
 - o Create new water bodies
- Arable Farmland*
 - o No further loss or degradation
 - o Favourable management
 - o Raise awareness
 - o Meet needs of priority species
- Hedgerows*
 - o Determine current extent of habitat
 - o Manage

- Restore
- Increase the number of hedgerow trees
- Create
- Calcareous grassland*
 - Protect remaining areas
 - Restore
 - Create new areas
 - Reduce habitat fragmentation
- Unimproved neutral grassland
 - Protect remaining areas
 - Secure favourable management
 - Restore semi-improved and degraded areas.
 - Determine extent of semi-improved and degraded areas to inform the restoration programme
- Urban areas*
 - Safeguard wildlife habitats in urban areas
 - Create biodiversity gain
 - Greenspace network

Species Action Plan

- Bats Species Action Plan*
 - Five species of bat included (Barbastelle, Bechstein's, Lesser Horseshoe, Greater Horseshoe, and Pipistrelle)

Cotswold Water Park Biodiversity Action Plan (Consultation)

This plan represents a review and roll-forward of the policies and actions set out in the Cotswold Water Park (CWP) Nature Conservation Strategy. It will help ensure the sustainable development of the Water Park. Currently, the 2007-2016 BAP is at the consultation stage.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Key objectives:

- The CWP should be a premier site for nature conservation where the requirements of industry, leisure, people and wildlife are successfully integrated.
- To focus resources from local partnerships on the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in the Water Park.

Habitat Action Plans (NB: Action plans marked * have a corresponding SW BAP action plan)

- Standing open water*
 - Create large lakes where conditions allow
 - Maintain, create and enhance small ponds, shorelines, islands.
- Marshes and swamps
 - Create large reedbeds and small areas of marsh or swamp.
 - Maintain and enhance existing resource

- Unimproved neutral grassland
 - Maintain area
 - Create new lowland wet grassland
- Rivers and streams*
 - Maintain and enhance water quality
 - Maintain and enhance habitats
 - Reduce impacts of abstraction
- Canals
 - Maintain and enhance habitats
- Boundaries
 - Favourable management of species rich hedgerows and pollarded trees.
 - Maintain and enhance ditches and grassland verges
- Cereal field margins
 - Increase the extent of margins
- Woodlands*
 - Maintain existing designated woodland
 - Increase the area of woodland, particularly wet woodland
 - Manage woodland fringing lakes

Species Action Plans

- Otter, Water vole, Bittern, Tufted duck, Pochard, Gadwall, Reed bunting, Freshwater white clawed crayfish*, Lesser bearded stonewort.

River Avon cSAC Conservation Strategy (2003)

This strategy has been developed as part of the “Life in UK Rivers” project, and aims to define issues affecting the river, to note and assess the effectiveness of mechanisms already in place to address these issues, and to identify any further action required.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Action plans have been developed to focus on 24 specific issues affecting the cSAC:

- Existing point source discharges
- New discharges
- Agricultural diffuse pollution
- Road runoff
- Current and future abstractions
- Recreational fishery management
- Exploitation of salmon stocks
- Operation of eel traps
- Escapes from fish farms
- Flood defence operations and maintenance

- Water level management
- Catchment flood-risk management
- Non-native invasive plant species
- Mute swan grazing
- Avian predation
- Signal crayfish
- Planning and development
- Habitat rehabilitation
- Accessibility
- Data management
- Boundary of the cSAC
- Survey and monitoring
- Climate change

How the Minerals Local Development Document should address biodiversity, fauna, flora and soil

The MLDDS should accept the primacy of nature conservation objectives and pay particular regard to designated habitats and linear habitat structures. If developments that impact upon protected species or designated sites are necessary, then compensation measures and mitigation is required. Mitigation should be pro-active through site selection, timing, and consideration of alternatives. In particular, attention should be paid to the Biodiversity Action Plans and Geodiversity Action Plans for Swindon, Wiltshire, and the Cotswold Water Park as well as the UK and South West Biodiversity Action Plan, with minerals operations encouraged to adopt their own Biodiversity Action Plans. The River Avon cSAC Conservation Strategy should be consulted if mineral developments fall within the cSAC boundaries.

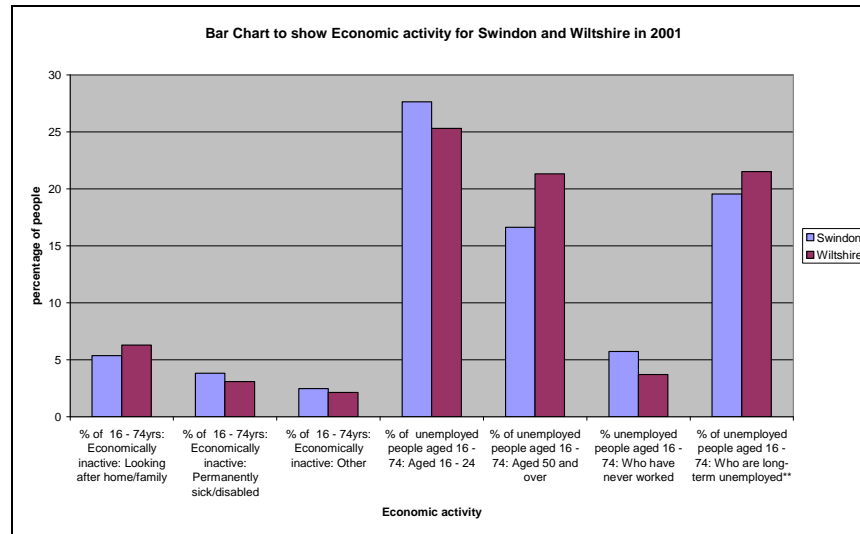
The restoration of old mineral working sites provides an opportunity to create some of the habitats prioritised in local Biodiversity/Habitat Action Plans. The MLDDS should be developed bearing in mind the objectives, targets, and indicators contained within the South West Biodiversity Implementation Plan.

Relevant Objectives

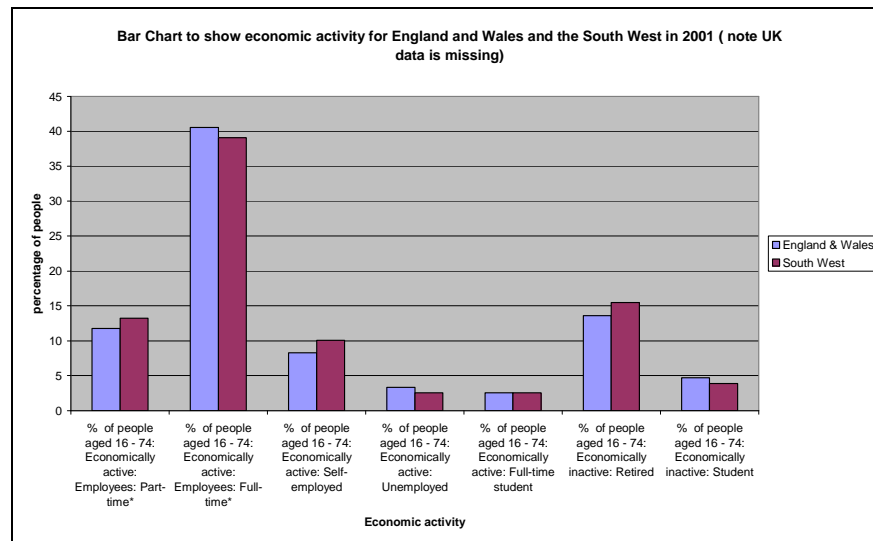
- Avoid minerals development which would impact on sites of international or national importance;
- Soil should be treated as an important resource through the Minerals DPDs;
- Avoid minerals development on identified sites of county/local importance, BAP habitats and other habitats of notable ecological value;
- Avoid the effects of minerals development on populations of protected or notable species; and
- To enhance biodiversity through the restoration and creation of habitat.

A.8 Water / Flooding

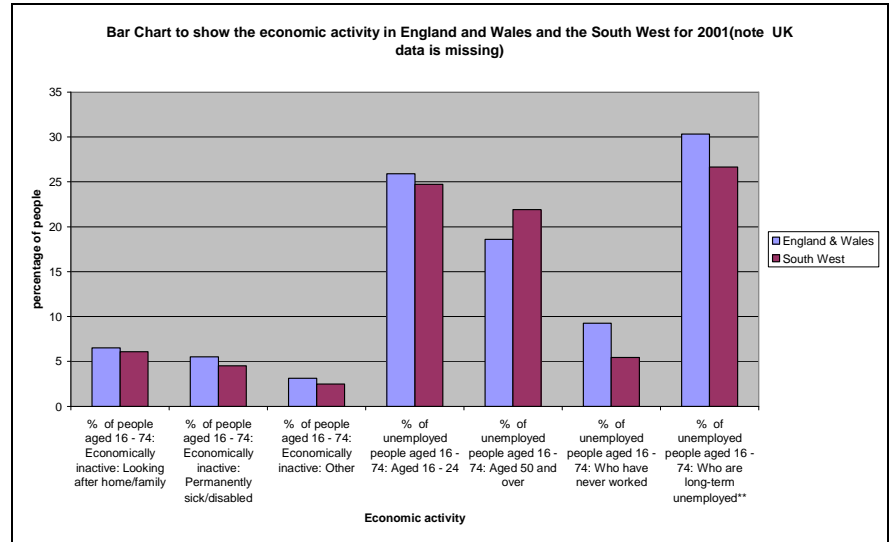
**Economic Activity
Swindon & Wiltshire 2**



**Economic Activity
England and Wales 1**



**Economic Activity
England and Wales 2**



Gross Value Added (GVA) per head.

1

Area	GVA £ per head	
	2000	2002
Swindon	22,433	24,113
Wiltshire	12,640	13,861
South West	12,902	14,286
UK	13,867	15,273

Results show that the GVA £ per head for Swindon is almost double that of Wiltshire and is almost double the UK and South West average. The GVA £ per head across all areas shows a positive trend.

Unemployment Rate

5

Wiltshire: June 2003. 2,790 (1.1%)

Claimant unemployed

1

Area	% of economically active 17-74yr old employees unemployed
Wiltshire	1.97
Swindon	2.46
South West	2.57
England	3.35

The table highlights that both Wiltshire and Swindon are below the national average of those unemployed.

