

# Wiltshire & Swindon Minerals & Waste Development Framework

## Consultation on the Wiltshire & Swindon Draft Aggregate Minerals Site Selection & Site Appraisal Methodology

May 2009



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## Introduction

This consultation paper introduces Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Councils' proposed methodology for site selection and site appraisal to be used in the preparation of the forthcoming Wiltshire and Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Allocations Development Plan Document (hereafter referred to as the Sites DPD). The objective of the Councils' methodology is to identify a range of sites that can reasonably be considered as socially, economically and environmentally acceptable for sand and gravel extraction and processing.

The consultation for this paper will run from **9am Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May to 12 noon Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2009**. Comments received during this consultation will be used to inform the preparation of the final site selection and appraisal methodology. The first round of consultation on sites identified using the methodology and considered for inclusion in the Sites DPD is expected to be undertaken in the latter part of the summer of this year. A similar consultation is also being undertaken on the proposed site selection and site appraisal methodology for the Waste Site Allocations DPD. Inherent differences in minerals and waste development means that although many aspects of the minerals and waste site appraisal matrices will be very similar, if not the same, some parts will be noticeably different in approach.

## Background

The Minerals Core Strategy has recently been found sound by the Planning Inspectorate and forms the strategic direction for future minerals development in Wiltshire and Swindon. The Minerals Core Strategy indicates that the National and Regional provision requirement for sand and gravel in Wiltshire and Swindon equates to approximately 32 million tonnes (taking into account remaining undeveloped Preferred Areas and permitted reserves) for the period 2006 – 2026. Provision should be delivered through sites located within the following Mineral Resource Zones (MRZs):

- Upper Thames Valley;
- Calne Area;
- Land South East of Salisbury;
- Bristol Avon; and
- Salisbury Avon.

The Councils began the process of identifying sites to meet this provision requirement with two 'call for sites' letters to mineral operators and landowners in 2004 and 2006. This resulted in a number of sites being put forward for consideration. However, the combined estimated yield for these sites was insufficient to meet the full requirement to 2026.

This raised obvious concerns about the capacity for Wiltshire and Swindon to meet forecast demand and in response the Councils commissioned the British Geological Survey (BGS) to carry out a provisional assessment of the remaining sand and gravel resources within the Plan area. The results of the BGS assessment showed that, in principle, the remaining resource could meet demand to 2026 and beyond. However, the BGS assessment only considered international and national environmental constraints (designations), and did not consider other planning constraints, such as local environmental constraints, residential amenity or landowner consent which will invariably result in additional areas of resource being excluded from consideration.

To ensure that all potential constraints for each MRZ are taken into account the Councils published Topic Papers in August/September 2007. Local communities and stakeholders were asked to inform the Councils if the evidence presented in the reports contained any inaccuracies or if there were any local issues that should be considered as part of the site appraisal process.

The Councils methodology, set out below, has therefore been designed to ensure that all potential constraints to sand and gravel extraction are robustly considered through a detailed assessment of the remaining resource in Wiltshire and Swindon. The methodology will answer two key questions:

- Which specific areas or sites within the MRZs can, in principle, be realistically worked within environmentally acceptable limits?
- Of the site/areas identified (assuming there are enough to meet full provision and more), which of these, individually or in combination with other sites, represent the most sustainable option?

## **Proposed Methodology for Site Selection and Site Appraisal**

The methodology outlined in this paper offers a means to objectively identify potential sites for inclusion in the Sites DPD. The methodology follows an iterative 'sieving' process where areas of land, including those put forward for consideration by minerals operators and landowners are assessed against a set of objectives and indicators within an appraisal matrix to determine their potential to accommodate future aggregate minerals development.

### **Types of Aggregate Minerals Development Considered**

Areas of land will be appraised for their suitability to accommodate the following types of minerals development:

- Surface extraction (wet or dry) of aggregate minerals; and
- Provision of washing/grading/drying plant.

### **Methods of Data Collection and Assessment**

The site selection and site appraisal process comprises the following key stages:

1. Development of site appraisal objectives, indicators and site appraisal matrix (the subject of this consultation);
2. Desk top surveys;
3. Landowner survey;
4. Site Appraisals;
5. Meetings with key stakeholders;
6. Consolidation of evidence and reporting including formal consultation on initial sites;
7. Detailed survey work undertaken by consultants (where a need is flagged up through previous stages);

8. Consolidation of evidence and preparation of Draft Sites DPD followed by further consultation, and submission to Secretary of State for Independent Examination.

The methods for each stage are outlined in more detail in the sections below.

## 1. Development of Site Appraisal Objectives, Indicators and Site Appraisal Matrix

The site appraisal matrix will be used by Council officers<sup>1</sup> to record the suitability of each site for sand and gravel extraction against a series of specific criteria based objectives and indicators, either through desk based research or site visits. The matrix comprises social, economic and environmental objectives and indicators relevant to aggregate minerals development that have derived through a review of relevant national, regional and local policies and objectives (see Appendix A and policy justification and scoping exercise table in Appendix B). For ease of reference the objectives have been grouped under topic headings.

Indicators have been assigned to each objective to ensure that all relevant issues are considered by the appraisal and to measure the extent that a site meets the objectives (see objectives and indicators table in Appendix C) These indicators have been deliberately kept separate from the main matrices to avoid unduly long and complicated appraisal documents, although they will be used as a point of reference when the matrices are being completed by officers.

The aggregate minerals site appraisal matrix that will be used to record assessments can be found in Appendix D.

### Topics within the Site Appraisal Matrix

For clarity the objectives and indicators in the site appraisal matrix have been grouped under the following topics:

- Biodiversity and Geodiversity;
- Historic and Cultural Heritage;
- Human Health and Amenity;
- Land Use;
- Landscape and Visual;
- Restoration;
- Traffic and Transportation; and
- Water Environment.

### Objectives

The site matrices will be completed in two stages and will contain two types of objectives:

- Stage 1: Exclusionary objectives; and
- Stage 2: Discretionary objectives.

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<sup>1</sup> Council officers will be responsible for the majority of site appraisals but consultants may be used to undertake more detailed survey work to inform the site appraisal process, where this is required.

## Stage 1: Exclusionary Objectives

Exclusionary objectives represent a means of removing unsuitable areas from further assessment in the early stages of the site identification process. In Stage 1 of the site appraisal process, exclusionary objectives act as a sieve to identify exclusionary constraints which would prevent minerals development from taking place. The approach works on a simple 'yes/no' basis. If a site is restricted by an exclusionary constraint there is no need for further assessment and the site is removed from the assessment process. If a site is not restricted by an exclusionary constraint it is carried forward and is subject to further assessment.

Table 1 records the exclusionary constraints used during Stage 1 of the site appraisal process.

**Table 1: Exclusionary constraints used during Stage 1 of the site appraisal process**

Exclusionary constraint
Site is within a Special Area for Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) or Ramsar.
Site is within a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) or National Nature Reserve (NNR).
Development would lead to loss of ancient woodland.
Site is within a World Heritage Site (WHS).
Significant adverse impact on Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM).
Significant adverse impact on Grade I /II* listed building.
Significant adverse impact on registered battlefield.
Significant adverse impact on historic park and garden.
Site is on a playing field with no scope for relocation.
Significant adverse impact on people living and working in the Plan area.
Site is within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

The 'yes/no' approach of the Stage 1 exclusionary objectives will be depicted in the site appraisal matrix as red and green colour grades (see Figure 1).

**Figure 1: Exclusionary colour grading**

<b>Green</b> ✓	Area has the potential to be a suitable site. Continue with discretionary appraisal.	<b>Red</b> X	Absolute sustainability constraints associated with this option. Exclude this option from further appraisal.
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If a site is not restricted by an exclusionary constraint it carries forward for consideration in Stage 2 of the site appraisal process where it is assessed against a series of discretionary objectives.

## Stage 2: Discretionary Objectives

Discretionary objectives fulfil a similar role to the exclusionary objectives; however they only reflect the desire to avoid development in certain locations. Not meeting the objective does not necessarily prevent the development outright but acts as more of an objective consideration that must be balanced against the outcomes of the appraisal of the site against all other discretionary objectives.



Discretionary objectives rely on professional judgement to assess the level of impacts and decide whether minerals development at the site would be acceptable. Where more detail is needed to inform the assessment the Councils will consult in-house specialists and external consultants to carry out additional assessments.






### Assessment of Effects for Discretionary Objectives

Each discretionary objective will be subject to an 'assessment of effects' judgement which will identify the nature of the predicted sustainability effect. For example, whether the effect is positive or negative; short, medium or long term; whether it will contribute to cumulative effects; and what the scale, reversibility and likelihood of the effects will be. Based on this information, each discretionary objective will then be assigned a Sustainability Threshold Assessment (STA) 'summary of effects' colour grade.

### STA Colour Grading

During Stage 2 of the site appraisal process discretionary objectives (partial constraints) will each be graded using a previously assigned colour coded grade which indicates the relative acceptability of an impact against each site appraisal objective. The STA approach was recommended by consultants C4S and Enfusion who are undertaking the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) for the Minerals and Waste DPDs respectively. This ensures that the Sustainability Objectives are integrated into the site appraisal process. Figure 2 illustrates the STA method by means of a 'blank' STA key. Full STA keys for the aggregate minerals objectives are provided in Appendix E.

**Figure 2: Example of discretionary STA colour grading**

Sustainability Objective & Thresholds for Assessment	STA Key	
Objective...	Topic...	
N/A		Absolute sustainability constraints; exclude this option
Significant adverse impacts on...		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered problematic
Limited adverse impacts on...		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered achievable
No adverse impacts...		No sustainability constraints
No adverse impacts and opportunities to...		Development will support Sustainable Objectives

The use of STA colour coded grades, rather than numerical grades, avoids the temptation to add up and calculate a score for individual sites. Site appraisal is difficult to work with objectively when using a numerical system as it can fail to pay heed to the ability for slight or potentially severe adverse impacts to be mitigated or controlled. The use of colour grades should therefore only be used to provide a visual scan of matrices and are simply indicative of the general qualities of an individual site. The selection of sites for aggregate minerals will not rely wholly on the use of colour grades, but should also use professional judgement to recognise any inconsistencies.

The STA key approach to appraisal ensures that the colour grades assigned to objectives during the site appraisal process are consistent. Once individual site matrices have been completed the colour grades for each objective will be

summarised in a comparison table which will provide an opportunity to visually compare sites (see Figure 3).

**Figure 3: Example STA comparison table**

Topics and Objectives																																		
	B&G									H & C H	HH&A								L					LT&V			R	T&T			WE			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3		1	2	3	1	2		
Site 1	Orange	Green	Blue	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Orange	Green	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Orange	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
Site 2	Yellow	Red	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Orange	Green	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Orange	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	
Site 3	Yellow	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Orange	Green	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Orange	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	
Site 4	Blue	Green	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Orange	Green	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Orange	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	
Site 5	Blue	Green	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Orange	Green	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Orange	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	
Site 6	Green	Green	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Orange	Green	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Orange	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	
Site 7	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Orange	Green	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Orange	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	
Site 8	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Orange	Green	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Orange	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	
Site 9	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Orange	Green	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Orange	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	
Site ...																																		

**Key:**

B&G: Biodiversity and Geodiversity  
H&CH: Historic and Cultural Heritage  
HH&A: Human Health and Amenity  
L: Landuse

LT&V: Landscape, Townscape and Visual  
R: Restoration  
T&T: Traffic and Transportation  
WE: Water Environment

**Sustainability Appraisal**

Sustainability Appraisal of the site selection and site appraisal matrix has been undertaken by environmental consultants C4S and Enfusion to ensure that the matrix complies with the SA/SEA Objectives (see Appendix F).

**2. Desktop Survey**

The Councils are currently using a Geographic Information System (GIS) desk top study to systematically eliminate areas of sand and gravel resource that cannot be or are unlikely to be worked for a number of reasons. This initial 'sieving' exercise will remove areas of land within MRZs that are:

- Previously worked out sand and gravel sites;
- Beneath urban areas, rivers and roads;
- Not considered economically viable;
  - less than 200,000 tonnes of mineral (except where they might have potential as extension to existing site)<sup>2</sup>;
  - less than 200 metres in width<sup>3</sup>;
- Inaccessible (where new infrastructure would not be a realistic option); and
- Covered by exclusionary objectives (absolute constraints) identifiable at desktop level<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> Areas that are estimated to contain <200,000 tonnes of reserve are considered unlikely to generate any mineral operator interest, unless they can be worked as an extension/satellite site linked to an existing site.

<sup>3</sup> Due to the nature of sand and gravel resources it is likely that these areas will be problematic to work and are therefore unlikely to be of interest to mineral operators, unless they can be worked as natural extensions to existing sites.

<sup>4</sup> The exclusionary desktop criteria also form part of the formal assessment criteria used when undertaking site visits. The site visits should therefore pick up on any areas that have been missed at the desktop level.

Parts of the MRZs that remain after the sieving exercise will be subject to the site appraisal matrices (developed at step 1 above and applied in step 4, described below).

### 3. Landowner Survey

Areas that are considered to have potential for sand and gravel extraction following the desktop survey will be shortlisted for site appraisal using the site appraisal matrices. For those sites that have been submitted by landowners and developers, landowner details will be known, however, in the interests of ensuring deliverability, the Councils will need to ensure that landowner consent is obtained for all sites that will eventually be included in the Sites DPD.

For land where the owners are not known the Councils will request contact details from the land registry. This should identify the majority of the relevant landowners, however it is possible that some parcels of land will not have been listed on the land registry and in this instance the Councils will use the first round of consultation on initial sites as a means of encouraging those landowners to come forward and state whether or not they wish their land to continue to be considered. If the Councils are not contacted by the landowner then that area of land will automatically be removed from the list and will not be included in the Sites DPD.

### 4. Site Appraisals

Site appraisals will be undertaken by Council officers using the site appraisal matrices. Advice will be sought from in-house experts in the fields of Transport, Ecology, Landscape and Archaeology, where required.

### 5. Meetings with Key Stakeholders

The Councils will meet with key stakeholders during the site identification and site appraisal process, to discuss potential issues that have been identified through the site appraisals. Those key stakeholders involved will include, but are not exclusive to, the following organisations/individuals:

- Environment Agency;
- Natural England;
- English Heritage;
- Highways Agency;
- Landowners;
- Mineral Operators;
- In-house experts (Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council);
- SA Consultants; and
- Representatives of local communities.

Stakeholder meetings will be held with two main objectives in mind. The first will be to gain additional information to assist Council officers in selecting which sites should be included in the initial list of sites for consultation in the summer of this year. The second objective will be to establish the level of additional survey work/evidence gathering that will be required for each site at step 7 below.

## **6. Consolidation of Evidence and Reporting including Formal Consultation on Initial Sites**

Site appraisals will be completed over a number of weeks and will comprise an iterative process of desktop study, site visits and discussions with stakeholders. The evidence gathered will be consolidated and presented in an 'initial sites' consultation document which will be available in the latter part of the summer of this year.

It is unlikely that all of the sites included in the initial consultation document will be suitable for inclusion in the Sites DPD. The consultation is intended to provide an opportunity for local communities and stakeholders to express their views to the Councils of the merits or disadvantages of individual sites.

## **7. Detailed Survey Work Undertaken by Consultants (where a need is flagged up through previous stages)**

Detailed site survey and appraisal will need to be undertaken by in-house experts and/or external consultants. This will ensure that the Councils have a robust and credible evidence base to support the case for inclusion or exclusion of each site in the Sites DPD. This additional work would cover aspects such as<sup>5</sup>:

- Transport Assessments;
- Ecological surveys;
- Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments;
- Historic Landscape Character Assessments;
- Flood Risk Assessments; and
- Noise Surveys.

## **8. Consolidation of Evidence and Preparation of Draft Sites DPD followed by further Consultation and Submission to Secretary of State for Independent Examination**

Once the additional survey work has been completed and the findings have been reported to the Councils, all evidence collected throughout the site selection and site appraisal process, including comments received during consultation, will be brought together and analysed. The Councils will then prepare a draft Sites DPD.

The draft Sites DPD will reflect, in light of the available evidence, what the Councils believe to be the most sustainable option for sand and gravel extraction and processing in Wiltshire and Swindon, having considered all other realistic alternatives. The draft DPD will be published for a 6 week period of consultation. Comments received during this consultation will be carefully considered by the Councils and any changes deemed necessary to make the document sound will be made. The final Submission Draft Sites DPD will then be submitted to the Secretary of State for Independent Examination, timetabled for March 2010.

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<sup>5</sup> Please note that the list is not intended to be exhaustive.

## Suggested Consultation Questions

The consultation questions below are provided as a guide. Please feel free to comment on any aspect of the Councils proposed methodology for site appraisal and site selection.

### Question 1

Do you agree with the initial site selection process which has been undertaken by the Council's? If not, why not?

### Question 2

Do you agree that the site appraisal methodology provides an appropriate mechanism for assessing sites which are suitable for aggregate minerals development? If not, how should the methodology be changed?

### Question 3

Do you have any other comments on the practicalities of the proposed site selection and site appraisal processes?

### Question 4

Do you agree that the proposed exclusionary and discretionary criteria are appropriate for the assessment of sites? If not, how should the criteria be changed and, specifically, are there any additional criteria that should also be used? Should the classifications of any of the exclusionary or discretionary criteria be changed?

## How to Participate in this Consultation

Stakeholders are invited to submit comments on any part of the site selection methodology and/or the site appraisal matrices by **12 noon on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2009**.

If you would like to comment please respond by any of the following means:

Email: [mineralsandwastepolicy@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:mineralsandwastepolicy@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Post: Geoff Winslow  
Team Leader – Minerals and Waste Policy  
Wiltshire Council  
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Fax: 01225 713437

This document can be accessed via the Wiltshire Council web site:  
<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/environmentandplanning/planning.htm> by clicking on the 'What's On' link.



## Appendix A

### National, regional and local documents and other literature scoped as part of the development of the aggregate minerals site selection and site appraisal matrix

1. Previous mineral site work produced by Atkins (October 2006);
2. 'Good Practice Guidance on the Environmental Appraisal of the Provision of Aggregates' (ODPM; Jan 2004);
3. Wiltshire and Swindon Minerals and Waste Development Framework SA/SEA Objectives;
4. Minerals Core Strategy Development Plan Document;
5. Minerals Development Control Policies Development Plan Document;
6. Relevant national guidance:
  - a. **PPG 13**: Transport
  - b. **PPG 15**: Planning and the Historic Environment
  - c. **PPG 16**: Archaeology and Planning
  - d. **PPG 17**: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation
  - e. **MPG 7**: Reclamation of Mineral Workings
  - f. **MPS 1**: Planning and Minerals
  - g. **MPS 2**: Controlling and Mitigating the Environmental Effects of Mineral Extraction in England
  - h. **PPS 1**: Delivering Sustainable Development
  - i. **PPS 1**: Planning and Climate Change – Supplement to PPS 1.
  - j. **PPS 7**: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas
  - k. **PPS 9**: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation
  - l. **PPS 12**: Local Spatial Planning
  - m. **PPS 23**: Planning and Pollution Control
  - n. **PPS 25**: Development and Flood Risk
7. South West of England Regional Spatial Strategy - Proposed Modifications (July 2008);
8. Wiltshire Local Transport Plan (2006/07 – 2010/11);
9. Swindon Local Transport Plan (2006/07 – 2010/11).





## Appendix B

### Wiltshire & Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Appraisal Policy Justification & Scoping Exercise

Relevant Policies/Guidance	Source/Justification for Inclusion	Potential Objectives
<b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b>		
To protect and enhance the diverse and highly valued natural and historical environment of Wiltshire and Swindon, incorporating the landscape character, the setting of local settlements, <b>biodiversity and geological conservation interests</b> , the water environment including flood-risk, and cultural heritage.	MCS: Strategic Objective 4: The Environment	To protect and enhance the intrinsic value of <b>internationally</b> designated sites.
LDFs should: - Indicate the location of designated sites of importance for biodiversity and geodiversity, making clear distinctions between the hierarchy of international, national, regional and locally designated sites.	PPS 9	To protect and enhance the intrinsic value of <b>nationally</b> designated sites.
Ensure that the statutory protection given to many individual wildlife species under a range of legislative provision, and the special protection afforded to European protected species, is fully taken into account when considering mineral proposals which might affect them.	MPS 1 (National Policies); PPS9; OPDM/DEFRA Circular	To protect and enhance the intrinsic value of <b>regionally</b> designated sites.
Protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity: Avoid minerals development that would impact directly and indirectly on designated sites and species of international, national, county, or local importance, BAP habitats and species and other habitats of notable ecological value (e.g. brownfield sites).	SA/SEA Objective 5	To protect and enhance the intrinsic value of <b>locally</b> designated sites.
In preparing development plans, planning authorities should seek to... (ix) Enhance as well as <b>protect biodiversity, natural habitats</b> , the historic environment and landscape and townscape character.	PPS 1	
Protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity: Consider alternatives to mineral extraction in resource areas of high ecological value.	SA/SEA Objective 5	
Development plan policies and proposals for minerals extraction and associated development should take into account: - The impacts on landscape, agricultural land, soil resources, <b>ecology and wildlife</b> , including severance of landscape and <b>habitat loss, and impacts on sites of nature conservation</b> , archaeological and cultural heritage.	MPS 2	
Any development that could have any negative effect on the integrity and conservation objectives of a N2K site would not be in accordance with the development plan.	RSS Proposed Modifications ENV1	
Do not normally grant planning permission for a proposed mineral development on land within or outside a SSSI, if it is likely to have an adverse effect on a SSSI (either individually or in combination with other developments).	MPS 1 (National Policies)	
Protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity:	SA/SEA Objective 5	

## Appendix B

### Wiltshire & Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Appraisal Policy Justification & Scoping Exercise

Relevant Policies/Guidance	Source/Justification for Inclusion	Potential Objectives
Actively seek to protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity in each development.		
Protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity: Encourage the restoration and the creation of habitats and geodiversity features.	SA/SEA Objective 5	
To promote sustainable development by ensuring that biological and geological diversity are conserved and enhanced as an integral part of social, environmental and economic development.	PPS 9	
To conserve, enhance and restore the diversity of England's wildlife and geology by sustaining, and where possible improving, the quality and extent of natural habitat and Geological and Geomorphological sites; the natural physical processes on which they depend; and the populations of naturally occurring species which they support.	PPS 9	
Generic criteria for guiding the location of Minerals Development: Likely effects on designated habitats and priority species.	MCS 1(B)	
All proposals for minerals development will be assessed using the following key criteria: c) The extent to which the development ensures <b>protection and enhancement of biodiversity, geodiversity</b> and the historic and cultural environment.	MDC 1	
Proposals for minerals development in Wiltshire and Swindon must be accompanied by an objective assessment of the potential effects of the development on areas of biodiversity and/or geological interest, taking into account cumulative impacts with other development and the potential impacts of climate change.	MDC 6	
Proposals must maintain and/or enhance internationally and nationally designated features of biodiversity and/or geological interest, species of principal importance and the following features of local and regional and international importance: - European Protected Species; - Wiltshire's BAP habitats and species; - County Wildlife Sites (including Semi Natural Ancient Woodlands); - Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites; - Local Nature Reserves; - The Great Western Community Forest. Proposals for minerals development will only be permitted where adverse impacts will be: a) avoided; or b) where an adverse impact cannot be avoided, the impact will be adequately mitigated; or	MDC 6	

## Appendix B

### Wiltshire & Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Appraisal Policy Justification & Scoping Exercise

Relevant Policies/Guidance	Source/Justification for Inclusion	Potential Objectives
c) where adverse impacts cannot be avoided or adequately mitigated, compensation will result in the maintenance or enhancement of biodiversity/geodiversity.		
Do not permit mineral proposals that would result in the loss or deterioration of ancient woodland, not otherwise statutorily protected, unless the need for, and benefits of, the development in that location outweigh the loss of the woodland habitat.	MPS 1 (National Policies)	To avoid the loss or damage to ancient woodland and aged or veteran trees.
Local Authorities and other bodies will support the implementation of the Regional Woodland and Forestry Framework (RWFF), ensuring the environmental, social and economic value and character of the region's trees, woods and forests are protected and enhanced in a sustainable way. Woodland areas, including ancient and semi-natural woodland should be maintained at least at 2005 levels and expanded where possible to provide a buffer to core areas of woodland. Ancient or veteran trees should be protected against loss. Where woodland is unavoidably lost through development it should be replaced with appropriate new woodland on at least the same scale.	RSS Proposed Modifications RE8	
All proposals for minerals development will be assessed using the following key criteria: i) The quality and appropriateness of the restoration, aftercare and after-use proposals, considering the contribution that could be made to the UK, South West and/or Wiltshire, Swindon and Cotswold Water Park Biodiversity Action Plan targets, the South West Nature Map and <b>Great Western Community Forest</b> .	MDC 1	To protect and enhance community forest.
The proposals must demonstrate that: 3. After-use - Where the proposed after-use will achieve habitat creation it aims to deliver the objectives of the relevant National, Regional or Local Biodiversity Action Plan, and where applicable, contribute to the delivery of the South West Nature Map and/or the <b>Great Western Community Forest</b> .	MDC 9	
To reduce and buffer the impacts of climate change, particularly on vulnerable habitats and species.	MCS: Strategic Objective 4: The Environment	
In deciding which areas and sites are suitable, and for what type and intensity of development...planning authorities should take into account: - The effect on biodiversity and its capacity to adapt to likely changes to the climate.	PPS 1 Supplement	To ensure that minerals development (including restoration following extraction) aims to reduce and buffer the impacts of climate change on vulnerable habitats and species.

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Relevant Policies/Guidance	Source/Justification for Inclusion	Potential Objectives
Ensure that adequate measures are in place to adapt to the impacts of climate change: Reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change.	SA/SEA Objective 13	
Priority will be given to meeting targets for maintenance, restoration and recreation of priority habitats and species set out in Appendix 1, focusing on the Nature Map areas identified in Map 7.3. Proposals which provide opportunities for the beneficial management of these areas and habitats and species generally, should be supported, including linking habitats to create more functional units which are more resilient to climate change.	RSS Proposed Modifications ENV4	
Generic criteria for guiding the location of Minerals Development: The ability for a site or sites to deliver significant contributions to local, regional and national BAP targets for habitat creation and priority species as well as geodiversity gains where applicable.	MCS 1(B)	To identify areas for creation, restoration and enhancement of BAP habitats following minerals extraction that contributes towards targets in local and regional BAPs.
All proposals for minerals development will be assessed using the following key criteria: i) The quality and appropriateness of the restoration, aftercare and after-use proposals, considering the contribution that could be made to <b>the UK, South West and/or Wiltshire, Swindon and Cotswold Water Park Biodiversity Action Plan targets</b> , the South West Nature Map and Great Western Community Forest.	MDC 1	To protect populations of protected or notable species.
The proposals must demonstrate that: 3. After-use - Where the proposed after-use will achieve habitat creation it aims to deliver the objectives of the relevant <b>National, Regional or Local Biodiversity Action Plan</b> , and where applicable, contribute to the delivery of the South West Nature Map and/or the Great Western Community Forest.	MDC 9	
The distinctive habitats and species of the South West will be maintained and enhanced in line with national targets and the South West Regional Biodiversity Action Plan.	RSS Proposed Modifications ENV4	
Protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity: To consider whether sites can maintain and expand the Strategic Nature Areas that are identified in the South West Nature Map.	SA/SEA Objective 5	To maintain and expand the Strategic Nature Areas that are identified in the South West Nature Map.
All proposals for minerals development will be assessed using the following key criteria: i) The quality and appropriateness of the restoration, aftercare and after-	MDC 1	

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use proposals, considering the contribution that could be made to the UK, South West and/or Wiltshire, Swindon and Cotswold Water Park Biodiversity Action Plan targets, the <b>South West Nature Map</b> and Great Western Community Forest.		
The proposals must demonstrate that: 3. After-use - Where the proposed after-use will achieve habitat creation it aims to deliver the objectives of the relevant National, Regional or Local Biodiversity Action Plan, and where applicable, contribute to the delivery of <b>the South West Nature Map</b> and/or the Great Western Community Forest.	MDC 9	
Local Authorities should use the Nature Map to help map local opportunities for biodiversity enhancement in LDDs, taking into account the local distribution of habitats and species, and protecting these sites and features from harmful development. Priority will be given to meeting targets for maintenance, restoration and recreation of priority habitats and species set out in Appendix 1, focusing on the Nature Map areas identified in Map 7.3. Proposals which provide opportunities for the beneficial management of these areas and habitats and species generally, should be supported, including linking habitats to create more functional units which are more resilient to climate change.	RSS Proposed Modifications ENV4	
Promote the conservation and wise use of land: To minimise the loss of soil resources and to encourage the re-use of soils locally.	SA/SEA Objective 6	To recognise the importance of soil as an ecosystem for vital organisms and minimise the loss of soil resources and encourage the re-use of soils locally.
Development plan policies and proposals for minerals extraction and associated development should take into account: - The impacts on landscape, <b>agricultural land, soil resources</b> , ecology and wildlife, including severance of landscape and habitat loss, and impacts on sites of nature conservation, archaeological and cultural heritage.	MPS 2	To reduce the spread of non-native invasive species.
The proposals must demonstrate that: 1. Restoration - Measures will be taken to ensure that soil quality will be adequately protected and maintained throughout the life of the development and in particular during stripping, storage and management of soils, subsoils and overburden arisings as a result of site operations.	MDC 9	
<b>Historic and Cultural Heritage</b>		
All minerals development proposals will be designed to the highest environmental standards and will apply clear objectives to:	MSC Spatial Vision	To preserve and enhance sites or structures of <b>international</b> historic and cultural heritage importance

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- Robustly protect and enhance sites designated for historic, cultural and environmental importance.		and their setting.
Do not permit major mineral developments in National Parks, The Broads, AONBs and <b>World Heritage Sites</b> except in exceptional circumstances.	MPS 1 (National Policies)	To preserve and enhance sites or structures of <b>national</b> historic and cultural heritage importance and their setting.  To preserve and enhance areas or structures of <b>local</b> historic and cultural heritage importance and their setting.
Individual governments are responsible for the nomination of [World Heritage] sites, and for ensuring the protection for sites which are inscribed in the list.	PPG 15	
The Historic Environment: Proposals affecting the setting of the World Heritage Site of Stonehenge and Avebury will not be permitted.	MDC 7	
Where nationally important archaeological remains, whether scheduled or not, and their settings, are affected by proposed development there should be a presumption in favour of their physical preservation.	PPG 16	
Protect areas of nationally-designated landscape or <b>archaeological value, cultural heritage</b> or nature conservation from mineral development, other than in exceptional circumstances where it has been demonstrated that the proposed development is in the public interest.	MPS 2	
Maintain and enhance cultural and historical assets: Preserve and enhance archaeological sites, historic buildings, Conservation Areas, registered battlefields, historic parks and gardens and other locally important features and areas and their settings.	SA/SEA Objective 8	
The protection of the historic environment, whether individual listed buildings, conservation areas, parks and gardens, battlefields or the wider historic landscape, is a key aspect of wider environmental responsibilities.	PPG 15	
Adopt a presumption in favour of the preservation of listed buildings, nationally important archaeological remains (including scheduled ancient monuments) in situ, and their setting, if mineral proposals would cause damage or have a significant impact on them, unless there are overriding reasons of national importance for the development to proceed.	MPS 1 (National Policies)	
Authorities are required by section 66(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, in considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting to have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of architectural or historic interest which it possesses.	PPG 15	
All proposals for minerals development will be assessed using the following key	MDC 1	

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criteria: d) The extent to which the development ensures protection and enhancement of biodiversity, geodiversity and <b>the historic and cultural environment</b> .		
In the interest of protecting the rich historic character of Wiltshire and Swindon, proposals for minerals development will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that areas of archaeological or cultural heritage importance and their settings can be protected, enhanced and/or preserved.	MDC 7	
The quality, character, diversity and local distinctiveness of the natural and <b>historic environment</b> in the South West will be protected and enhanced, and developments which support their positive management will be encouraged. Where development and changes in land use are planned which would affect these assets, Local Authorities will first seek to avoid loss of or damage to the assets, then mitigate any unavoidable damage, and compensate for loss or damage through offsetting actions.	RSS Proposed Modifications ENV1	
Priority will be given to preserving and enhancing sites of international or national landscape, nature conservation, geological, archaeological or <b>historic importance</b> .	RSS Proposed Modifications ENV1	
The historic environment of the South West will be preserved and enhanced. Local Authorities and other partners will identify and assess the significance of the historic environment and its vulnerability to change, using characterisation to understand its contribution to the regional and local environment and to identify options for its sensitive management.	RSS Proposed Modifications ENV5	
<b>Human Health and Amenity</b>		
Generic criteria for guiding the location of Minerals Development: Proximity to local communities and the need to maintain and enhance the local landscape character and setting of settlements.	MCS 1(B)	To maintain and enhance the quality of life of people living and working in proximity to minerals development.
To maintain an acceptable separation of residential areas from proposed minerals development within Wiltshire and Swindon.	MCS 8	To maintain and where possible enhance the overall amenity of the countryside to residents and visitors.
Promote stronger more vibrant communities: Ensure that both positive and negative impacts are identified for the proximity of mineral workings and/or ancillary development to settlements and individual properties.	SA/SEA Objective 1	To avoid the loss or damage to protected trees/groups of protected trees.
Promote stronger more vibrant communities: Maintain or where possible enhance the quality of life for people affected by mineral working and/or ancillary development.	SA/SEA Objective 1	
MPAs should ensure that the adverse effects of mineral working on neighbouring	MPS 2	

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communities are minimised.		
Protect and improve the health and well-being of people living and working in Wiltshire as well as visitors to the County: Promote healthy exercise, especially daily exercise by providing access to greenspace.	SA/SEA Objective 2	
Protect and improve the health and well-being of people living and working in Wiltshire as well as visitors to the County: Minimise the impact of minerals developments on rights of way, recreational facilities and open space.	SA/SEA Objective 2	
Protect and enhance landscape and townscape: Maintain and wherever possible enhance access and overall amenity of the countryside to residents and visitors.	SA/SEA Objective 7	
The proposals must demonstrate that: 3. After-use - The after-use will benefit the local and/or wider community.	MDC 9	
Major developments, including urban extensions and regeneration, should be planned on a comprehensive and integrated basis to ensure that they contribute to the delivery of sustainable communities and a high quality of life by providing for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• high standards of design and access and the lowest practicable levels of energy and car use;</li> <li>• public transport, <b>cultural, leisure</b>, retail, health care, education and other services and facilities commensurate with the needs of the expected population of the area and delivered in step with growth of that population;</li> <li>• sustainable transport links between urban extensions and city/town centres, with an emphasis on public transport, cycling and walking;</li> <li>• <b>amenity space and green infrastructure that meets community needs</b> and supports improved biodiversity; and</li> <li>• a range of housing types and tenures.</li> </ul>	RSS Proposed Modifications Development Policy F	
LDDs should embrace preventive measures to address the causes of ill health and reflect the role spatial planning can play in shaping healthy communities. Health Impact Assessment should be an integral part of the decision making process on all major development proposals.	RSS Proposed Modifications HE2	
In the Secretary of State's view, TPOs should be used to protect selected trees and woodlands if their removal would have a significant impact on the local environment	Tree Preservation Orders: A Guide to the Law and Good	



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and its enjoyment by the public.	Practice	
In advance of an assessment of need, local authorities should give very careful consideration to any planning applications involving development on playing fields. <sup>6</sup> Where a robust assessment of need in accordance with this guidance has not been undertaken, planning permission for such developments should not be allowed unless: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(ix) Proposed development is ancillary to the use of the site as a playing field;</li> <li>(x) Proposed development only affects land which is incapable of forming a playing pitch;</li> <li>(xi) Playing fields lost would be replaced by equivalent or better quantity/quality in a suitable location;</li> <li>(xii) Proposed development is for an outdoor or indoor sports facility.</li> </ul>	PPG 17	To avoid development on a playing field where there is no scope for its relocation.
Development plan policies and proposals for minerals extraction and associated development should take into account: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The impacts of mineral working, such as visual intrusion, dewatering, water pollution, noise, dust and fine particulates, blasting and traffic.</li> </ul>	MPS 2	To minimise the detrimental impacts of noise and vibration associated with the extraction, processing, management or transportation of minerals.
To secure working practices which prevent or reduce as far as possible, impacts on the environment and human health arising from the extraction, processing, management or transportation of minerals.	MPS 1 (National Objective)	To minimise the detrimental impacts of dust and particulates associated with the extraction, processing, management or transportation of minerals.
MPAs should have regard where relevant to cumulative impacts of simultaneous and/or successive working of a number of sites in a wider area of commercially-viable deposits. These may affect communities and localities over an extended period, depending on the nature, age and size of the site(s).	MPS 2	To minimise the detrimental impacts of light intrusion associated with the extraction, processing, management or transportation of minerals.
Policies and proposals should take into account the level of existing activity and impacts, the duration and nature of proposals for new or further working, and the extent of impacts which a particular site, locality, community, environment or wider area of mineral working can reasonably be expected to tolerate over a particular or proposed period. With respect to an individual site, the effect of all relevant impacts (i.e. of noise, dust, traffic, on landscape etc.) should be considered objectively.	MPS 2	To minimise any detrimental effects to air quality.  To minimise any detrimental impacts on water quality (see <i>Water Environment Objectives</i> )
Protect and improve the health and well-being of people living and working in Wiltshire	SA/SEA Objective 2	

<sup>6</sup> As defined in Statutory Instrument 1996 No.1817 which amends the Town and Country (General Development Procedure) Order 1995(b). This amendment requires local planning authorities to consult Sport England about developments that affect land used as playing fields.

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as well as visitors to the County: Minimise health impacts (noise, dust, fumes and vibration) from minerals workings and HGV site traffic.		
Minimise land, water, air, light, noise and genetic pollution: Minimise the impact of mineral workings through implementing effective measures to control emissions to air (including particulates), dust, noise, groundwater, surface water and soils.	SA/SEA Objective 11	
Applications for minerals development in Wiltshire and Swindon will only be permitted where it is demonstrated that the proposal avoids and/or adequately mitigates significant adverse impacts associated with the following environmental considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- noise levels;</li> <li>- dust levels;</li> <li>- air emissions;</li> <li>- lighting; and</li> <li>- vibration levels.</li> </ul>	MDC 2	
The impacts of development proposals on air quality must be taken into account and Local Authorities should ensure, through LDDs, that new development will not exacerbate air quality problems in existing and potential AQMAs. This should include consideration of the potential impacts of new developments and increased traffic levels on internationally designated nature conservation sites, and adopt mitigation measures to address these impacts.	RSS Proposed Modifications RE9	
Protect and improve the health and well-being of people living and working in Wiltshire as well as visitors to the County: Protect and enhance rights of way, open space and common land and maintain access to the countryside.	SA/SEA Objective 2	To avoid loss to public footpaths and public rights of way and where possible enhance the overall network of rights of way within the Plan area.
Local authorities should seek opportunities to provide better facilities for walkers, cyclists and horse-riders, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks.	PPG 17	
Protect and improve the health and well-being of people living and working in Wiltshire as well as visitors to the County: Minimise the impact of minerals developments on rights of way, recreational facilities and open space.	SA/SEA Objective 2	

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Relevant Policies/Guidance	Source/Justification for Inclusion	Potential Objectives	
<b>Land Use</b>			
Development plan policies and proposals for minerals extraction and associated development should take into account: - The impacts on landscape, <b>agricultural land</b> , soil resources, ecology and wildlife, including severance of landscape and habitat loss, and impacts on sites of nature conservation, archaeological and cultural heritage.	MPS 2	To identify and protect wherever possible areas of best and most versatile agricultural land from significant minerals development.	
Safeguard the long-term capability of <b>best and most versatile agricultural land</b> and conserve soil resources for use in a sustainable way.	MPS 2		
The presence of best and most versatile agricultural land (defined as land in grades 1, 2 and 3a of the Agricultural Land Classification), should be taken into account alongside other sustainability considerations when determining planning applications. Where significant development of agricultural land is unavoidable, local planning authorities should seek to use areas of poorer quality land (grades 3b, 4 and 5) in preference to that of a higher quality, except where this would be inconsistent with other sustainability considerations.	PPS 7		
Where significant development of agricultural land is unavoidable, seek to use areas of poorer quality land in preference to that of a higher quality, except where this would be inconsistent with other sustainability considerations.	MPS 1 (National Policies)		
All proposals for minerals development will be assessed using the following key criteria: e) The extent to which the development avoids loss of best and most versatile agricultural land and ensures the protection of soil resources throughout the life of the development.	MDC 1		
Spatial planning goes beyond traditional land use planning to bring together and integrate policies for the development and use of land with other policies and programmes which influence the nature of places and how they can function (para 30)...In preparing spatial plans, planning authorities should seek to integrate the wide range of activities relating to development...(para 32(iii)).	PPS 1		To avoid prejudicing designated Development Plan land-uses (e.g. housing, tourism, recreation etc).
Meeting the Need for Primary Aggregate Minerals: The Councils will aim to make a provision of land in Wiltshire and Swindon sufficient to meet demand for sand and gravel in accordance with National and Regional policy. This will be achieved through the identification of sites within the Mineral Resource Zones identified on the Key Diagram and Proposals Map.	MCS 1		To wherever possible allocate sites for minerals development from environmentally acceptable sources within identified 'Mineral Resource Zones'.
Strategic Approach to Identifying Future Supplies of Aggregate Minerals: In recognition of the fact that mineral resources can only be worked where they exist,	MCS 1(A)		

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proposals for aggregate minerals extraction that lie outside of the identified Mineral Resource Zones will be considered on their merits.		
Minimise waste and the use of non-renewable mineral resources and where possible promote the use of renewable resources: Reduce reliance upon primary, land-won minerals in favour of increasing the contribution made by secondary and/or recycled materials.	SA/SEA Objective 10	To reduce reliance upon primary, land-won minerals in favour of increasing the contribution made by secondary and/or recycled materials.
Extensions to existing sites will be given priority over new sites, subject to environmental acceptability.	MCS 1	To favour extensions to existing mineral sites over new mineral sites, subject to environmental acceptability.
Consider the benefits, in terms of reduced environmental disturbance and more efficient use of mineral resources including full recovery of minerals, or extensions to existing mineral workings rather than new sites.	MPS 1 (National Policies)	
Maximising the use of secondary and recycled aggregates: Sites for the reception, processing and distribution of secondary and recycled aggregates will be identified in the following locations within Wiltshire and Swindon: (a) Industrial areas and previously developed land within 16km of the SSCTs; (b) Within existing, proposed or former minerals developments; (c) Co-located with existing or proposed waste management facilities.	MCS 2	
Promote the conservation and wise use of land: Minimise the area of land take per tonne of mineral (aggregate) produced if appropriate.	SA/SEA Objective 6	<i>Objectives not measurable at site selection stage.</i>
Minimise waste and the use of non-renewable mineral resources and where possible promote the use of renewable resources: Minimise the amount of waste produced per tonne of saleable material.	SA/SEA Objective 10	
<b>Landscape, Townscape and Visual</b>		
To protect and enhance the diverse and highly valued natural and historical environment of Wiltshire and Swindon, incorporating the <b>landscape character</b> , the <b>setting of local settlements</b> , biodiversity and geological conservation interests, the water environment including flood-risk, and cultural heritage.	MCS: Strategic Objective 4: The Environment	To protect and enhance the character and local distinctiveness of the landscape and townscape setting of Wiltshire and Swindon.
To protect internationally and nationally designated areas of <b>landscape value</b> and nature conservation importance from minerals development, other than in the exceptional circumstances detailed in paragraph 14 of MPS 1.	MPS 1 (National Objective)	
Do not permit major mineral developments in <b>National Parks, The Broads, AONBs</b> and World Heritage Sites except in exceptional circumstances.	MPS 1 (National Policies)	
Protect areas of nationally-designated <b>landscape</b> or archaeological value, cultural	MPS 2	

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heritage or nature conservation from mineral development, other than in exceptional circumstances where it has been demonstrated that the proposed development is in the public interest.		
Development plan policies and proposals for minerals extraction and associated development should take into account: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The impacts on <b>landscape, agricultural land</b>, soil resources, ecology and wildlife, <b>including severance of landscape</b> and habitat loss, and impacts on sites of nature conservation, archaeological and cultural heritage.</li> </ul>	MPS 2	
The Government is committed to protecting and enhancing the quality of the natural and historic environment...Planning policies should seek to protect and enhance the quality, character and amenity value of the countryside and urban areas as a whole. <b>A high level of protection should be given to most valued townscapes and landscapes</b> , wildlife habitats and natural resources. Those with national and international designations should receive the highest level of protection.	PPS 1	
Generic criteria for guiding the location of Minerals Development: Likely effects on designated sites and other environmentally valuable features.	MCS 1(B)	
Generic criteria for guiding the location of Minerals Development: Proximity to local communities and the need to maintain and enhance the <b>local landscape character and setting of settlements</b> .	MCS 1(B)	
Protect and enhance landscape and townscape: Protect designated and non designated areas of landscape or other amenity value.	SA/SEA Objective 7	
Protect and enhance landscape and townscape: Consider alternatives to mineral working in resource areas of high landscape value or areas of tranquillity.	SA/SEA Objective 7	
Protect and improve the health and well-being of people living and working in Wiltshire as well as visitors to the County: Protect local rural communities and rural ways of life.	SA/SEA Objective 2	
Planning authorities should continue to ensure that the quality and character of the wider countryside is protected and, where possible, enhanced. They should have particular regard to any areas that have been statutorily designated for their <b>landscape</b> , wildlife or historic qualities where greater priority should be given to restraint of potentially damaging development.	PPS 7	
All minerals development proposals will be designed to the highest environmental standards and will apply clear objectives to:	MSC Spatial Vision	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Safeguard and enhance the landscape character and setting of settlements in mineral working areas.</li> </ul>		
<p>Proposals for minerals development should include an assessment of the adverse impacts upon Wiltshire and Swindon's landscape character and the landscape character of adjacent areas, as deemed appropriate to the scale and nature of the development, and in particular in relation to the following designated areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The New Forest National Park;</li> <li>- The Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB;</li> <li>- The Cotswold AONB;</li> <li>- The North Wessex Downs AONB.</li> </ul> <p>The assessment should be informed by the Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment, as a minimum, and where the proposed development is situated within or in proximity to an AONB or in proximity to the New Forest National Park, the relevant Management Plan.</p>	MDC 5	
<p>Proposals for minerals development should include appropriate provisions to protect and where possible enhance the quality and character of the countryside and landscape. Proposals in proximity to settlements must safeguard their character, setting and rural amenity through the implementation of mitigation measures that incorporate an acceptable distance, landscaping and planting, appropriate to the existing landscape setting and consistent with the proposed afteruse of the site.</p>	MDC 5	
<p>All development should deliver the highest possible standards of design, both in terms of urban form and sustainability criteria.</p>	RSS Proposed Modifications Policy E	
<p>The distinctive qualities and features of the South West's landscape character areas will be sustained and enhanced by local planning authorities undertaking assessments of landscape character at a strategic level and in partnership with adjoining authorities (where landscape character areas cross administrative boundaries) in order to identify priority areas for the maintenance, enhancement and/or restoration of that character and provide an appropriate policy framework in LDDs for each area.</p>	RSS Proposed Modifications ENV2	
<p>Development will only be provided for where it would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; or</li> <li>• Promote the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park; or</li> <li>• Foster the social or economic well-being of the communities within the</li> </ul>	RSS Proposed Modifications ENV3	

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<p>National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, provided that such development is compatible with the pursuit of National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty purposes.</p> <p>Consideration will also be given to proposals which promote the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Particular care will be taken to ensure that no development is permitted outside the National Park or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty which would damage their natural beauty, character and special qualities or otherwise prejudice the achievement of National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty purposes.</p>		
<p>Local Authorities, other agencies and the private sector will promote an integrated approach to land management by developing area-specific packages which achieve multiple benefits, reinforce and enhance the specific natural and cultural features of local areas.</p>	RSS Proposed Modifications RE7	
<p>Protect and enhance landscape and townscape: Reduce visual intrusion from mineral workings and/or ancillary development.</p>	SA/SEA Objective 7	To prevent visual intrusion from minerals development.
<p>Development plan policies and proposals for minerals extraction and associated development should take into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The impacts of mineral working, such as <b>visual intrusion</b>, dewatering, water pollution, noise, dust and fine particulates, blasting and traffic.</li> </ul>	MPS 2	
<p>All proposals for minerals development will be assessed using the following key criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>f) The extent to which the visual/landscape impact of any structures and buildings is minimised in terms of the appropriate use of scale and form.</li> </ul>	MDC 1	
<p>Note that while there is a general presumption against inappropriate development in the Green Belt, which should not be approved except in very special circumstances, mineral extraction need not be inappropriate development, nor conflict with the purposes of designating Green Belts. However, in permitting mineral developments in Green Belts, authorities should ensure that high environmental standards are maintained during operation, and that sites are well restored to after-uses consistent with Green Belt objectives (see PPG 2).</p>	MPS 1 (National Policies)	
<p>Inappropriate development is, by definition, harmful to the Green Belt. It is for the applicant to show why permission should be granted. Very special circumstances to justify inappropriate development will not exist unless the harm by reason of inappropriateness, and any other harm, is clearly outweighed by other considerations.</p>	PPG2	

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<b>Restoration</b>		
LDFs should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identify any areas or sites for the restoration or creation of new priority habitats which contribute to regional targets and support this restoration or creation through appropriate policies.</li> </ul>	PPS 9	To ensure that the restoration, after-care management and future after-use of mineral sites will be primary considerations in the selection of sites for all new minerals development <i>(Objective not measurable at site selection stage. This will be considered leading up to the submission draft DPD).</i>
A restoration led approach will result in the implementation of well-designed operations and aftercare provision that afford protection and enhancement of the environment whilst ensuring that communities are engaged in resolving environmental issues and are active in creating local solutions.	MCS Spatial Vision	
Promote the conservation and wise use of land: Assess and evaluate early in the development phase the ability to restore the land use for mineral working and ancillary development to a high standard and ensure restored sites are properly managed in the long term future.	SA/SEA Objective 6	
All minerals development proposals will be designed to the highest environmental standards and will apply clear objectives to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ...restore land in a phased and timely manner so as to maximise the potential for afteruses.</li> </ul>	MSC Spatial Vision	
To protect and seek to enhance the overall quality of the environment once extraction has ceased, through high standard of restoration, and to safeguard the long-term potential of land for a wide range of after-uses.	MPS 1 (National Objective)	
Encourage sensitive working, restoration and aftercare practices during minerals extraction and to conserve or enhance the overall quality of the environment once extraction has ceased.	MPS 2	
Promote stronger more vibrant communities: Encourage high standards of restoration to bring benefits to local communities.	SA/SEA Objective 1	
Protect and improve the health and well-being of people living and working in Wiltshire as well as visitors to the County: Protect and improve the quality of the countryside in proximity to mineral working and/or ancillary development.	SA/SEA Objective 2	
Protect and enhance landscape and townscape: Ensure all mineral sites and areas affected by mineral working are restored to a high standard.	SA/SEA Objective 7	
When drawing up their plans, local authorities should have regard to Government policies on land use. A wide range of possible options exist for suitable after-uses for	MPG 7	



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Relevant Policies/Guidance	Source/Justification for Inclusion	Potential Objectives
minerals workings. Reclamation provides the opportunity to return land either to its original, or an alternative, use of benefit to the local or wider community.		
All proposals for minerals development will be assessed using the following key criteria: i) The quality and appropriateness of the restoration, aftercare and after-use proposals, considering the contribution that could be made to the UK, South West and/or Wiltshire, Swindon and Cotswold Water Park Biodiversity Action Plan targets, the South West Nature Map and Great Western Community Forest.	MDC 1	
Protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity: Ensure that the risk of bird-strike is kept to an absolute minimum through implementing appropriate mitigation and site management measures.	SA/SEA Objective 5	To ensure that mineral developments, including schemes for restoration, do not significantly increase risks to aircraft (civil or military) through 'bird-strike'.
A restoration-led approach to mineral workings will make a positive contribution to BAP targets and the implementation of the South West Nature Map. The approach will need to address the potential for open water restoration to increase the risk of bird strike within Aerodrome Safeguarding Areas and the threat to military and civilian aircraft.	MCS: Strategic Objective 4	
Proposals for minerals development within...Airfield Safeguarding Areas, as identified on the Proposals Map, will be permitted when the applicant can demonstrate that the proposed extraction and after-use will not cause an unacceptable risk of bird strike.	MDC 10	
<b>Traffic and Transportation</b>		
All minerals development proposals will be designed to the highest environmental standards and will apply clear objectives to: - Wherever practicable minimise vehicular movements and promote alternative modes of transport.	MSC Spatial Vision	To minimise vehicular movements by encouraging the most sustainable transport mode options for minerals supply.
Encourage more sustainable transportation of minerals and reduce the impacts of transport: Encourage the best use of existing transport mode options for mineral supply.	SA/SEA Objective 4	
Strategic approach to managing minerals transportation: Priority will be given to proposals for minerals development that demonstrate a commitment to implementing sustainable modes and methods for transporting minerals and recyclable wastes. Ultra-short transfer of minerals and recyclable wastes by conveyor either within or between sites will be encouraged.	MCS 9	
Strategic approach to managing minerals transportation:	MCS 9	

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Relevant Policies/Guidance	Source/Justification for Inclusion	Potential Objectives
The sustainable transportation of minerals, recyclable wastes and material used in restoration schemes will be encouraged. Proposals for new or improved rail depots and/or sidings as well as innovative schemes utilising the potential for canals and rivers to transport minerals and recyclable wastes within Wiltshire and Swindon will be supported subject to the social, economic and environmental impacts of such development being avoided, mitigated and where necessary compensated for. Proposals for new RADs will be directed towards the Swindon area.		
To promote the sustainable transport of minerals by rail, sea or inland waterways.	MPS 1 (National Objective)	
Bulk transportation: Seek to promote and enable the bulk movement of minerals by rail, sea or inland waterways to reduce the environmental impact of their transportation.	MPS 1 (National Policies)	
Bulk transportation: Safeguard and promote rail links to quarries where there is potential to move minerals by rail.	MPS 1 (National Policies)	
Local authorities should seek to enable the carrying of material by rail or water wherever possible, through partnership with extractors and rail and water operators, appropriate planning conditions and obligations, the use of DETR freight grants and promoting facilities for landing of aggregates by sea and distribution by rail or water.	PPG 13	
All proposals for minerals development will be assessed using the following key criteria: g) The extent to which the proposal facilitates sustainable transport.	MDC1	
Minerals development will only be permitted where it is demonstrated that the proposals facilitate sustainable transport by: - Minimising transportation distances; - Maximising the use of rail or water to transport minerals where practicable and environmentally acceptable.	MDC 8	
Encourage more sustainable transportation of minerals and reduce the impacts of transport: Reduce transportation of minerals by road through the use of the proximity principle.	SA/SEA Objective 4	To locate future mineral developments as close as practicable to local centres of demand.
Generic criteria for guiding the location of Minerals Development: Proximity to primary end-use market(s).	MCS 1(B) MCS 9	
Generic criteria for guiding the location of Minerals Development: Proximity to the Wiltshire HGV route network as defined in the County Freight Strategy and/or alternative transport modes.	MCS 1(B); & MCS 9	To promote development sites with good links and access to the Wiltshire HGV route network and Primary Route network (PRN) and to recognise the

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Relevant Policies/Guidance	Source/Justification for Inclusion	Potential Objectives
Develop a supporting network of local lorry routes to meet the local freight needs of the county and encourage HGVs to use those roads where a minimum of environmental damage will occur.	FT7: Wiltshire Freight Strategy	benefits of inter-connecting the transport network to accommodate associated vehicle movements.
Options for sustainable transportation will be encouraged and pursued in order to reduce the environmental impacts of transporting minerals by road across Wiltshire and Swindon.	MCS: Strategic Objective 4: The Environment	
Encourage more sustainable transportation of minerals and reduce the impacts of transport: Enhance and promote opportunities for sustainable transport options for mineral supply.	SA/SEA Objective 4	
In preparing development plans, planning authorities should seek to: (iv) Bring forward sufficient land of a suitable quality in appropriate locations to meet the expected needs for housing, for industrial development, for the exploitation of raw materials such as minerals, for retail and commercial development, and for leisure and recreation – taking into account issues such as accessibility and sustainable transport needs, the provision of essential infrastructure, including for sustainable waste management, and the need to avoid flood risk and other natural hazards.	PPS 1	
Minerals development will only be permitted where it is demonstrated that the proposals facilitate sustainable transport by: - Ensuring a proposal has direct access or has suitable links with the Wiltshire HGV Route Network or primary route network. - Mitigating or compensating for any adverse impact on the safety, capacity and use of a highway, railway, canal route, cycleway or public right of way, through improvements to the appropriate network where necessary.	MDC 8	
The primary route network (including motorways and trunk roads) should be promoted for use by HGVs in preference to other roads.	RSS Proposed Modification RTS4	
The planning and delivery of development should ensure efficient and effective use of existing infrastructure and should provide for the delivery of new or improved transport, education, health, culture, sport and recreation and green infrastructure in step with development. Central Government, Local authorities, regional bodies, service providers and developers will work in partnership to identify regionally and sub-regionally significant infrastructure requirements and solutions, including funding.	RSS Proposed Modification Development Policy D	
Ensure the environmental impacts caused by mineral operations and the transport of	MPS 2	<i>See Objectives in the Human Health and Amenity and</i>

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Relevant Policies/Guidance	Source/Justification for Inclusion	Potential Objectives
minerals is kept to an acceptable minimum.		<i>Water Environment sections.</i>
Promote stronger more vibrant communities: Minimise nuisance impacts (noise, dust, fumes and vibration) from mineral workings and HGV site traffic.	SA/SEA Objective 1	
Development plan policies and proposals for minerals extraction and associated development should take into account: - The impacts of mineral working, such as visual intrusion, dewatering, water pollution, noise, dust and fine particulates, blasting and traffic.	MPS 2	
To reduce the impact of traffic on people's quality of life and Wiltshire's built and natural environment, and to manage the transport network in a sensitive and appropriate manner.	P11: Wiltshire LTP2 Primary Objective	
Reduce greenhouse gas emissions: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from site operations and transportation.	SA/SEA Objective 12	
Take account of the benefit, including the reduction in carbon emissions, which local supplies of minerals would make in reducing the impact of transporting them over long distances by road.	MPS 1 (National Policies)	
<b>Water Environment</b>		
Generic criteria for guiding the location of Minerals Development: Proximity to a defined flood zone and/or groundwater Source Protection Zone, and other water interests.	MCS 1(B)	To encourage appropriate development in a floodplain that would increase its flood storage capacity where appropriate and reduce as far as possible the risk of flooding.
Flooding: Development proposals must avoid or mitigate any aspect of the development that could potentially lead to an increase in a likelihood of flooding, and where appropriate provide additional flood storage capacity to increase protection for vulnerable land uses, taking into account the impacts of climate change, where an opportunity/need is identified through the SFRA/FRA process.	MCS 7	
Ensure that adequate measures are in place to adapt to the impacts of climate change: Reduce the risks of flooding.	SA/SEA Objective 13	
Ensure that adequate measures are in place to adapt to the impacts of climate change: Reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change.	SA/SEA Objective 13	
Ensure, in association with the Environment Agency, that in areas at risk of flooding, minerals extraction proposals do not have a significant adverse impact on flood flows	MPS 1 (National Policies)	

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Relevant Policies/Guidance	Source/Justification for Inclusion	Potential Objectives
or flood storage capacity. Operators should demonstrate that minerals working should not materially increase the risk of flooding at other properties or locations and, where practicable, should increase flood storage capacity.		
LPAs should prepare and implement planning strategies that help to deliver sustainable development by: Appraising risk: - Identifying land at risk and the degree of risk of flooding from river, sea and other sources in their areas.	PPS 25	
In preparing development plans, planning authorities should seek to: (iv) Bring forward sufficient land of a suitable quality in appropriate locations to meet the expected needs for housing, for industrial development, for the exploitation of raw materials such as minerals, for retail and commercial development, and for leisure and recreation – taking into account issues such as accessibility and sustainable transport needs, the provision of essential infrastructure, including for sustainable waste management, and the need to avoid flood risk and other natural hazards.	PPS 1	
Flood Risk Assessments will be required for minerals development proposals in areas at risk of flooding or likely to contribute to flooding elsewhere, as appropriate to the nature and scale of the development, and must take into account cumulative effects with other existing or proposed development. Where a risk of flooding is identified through FRA, proposals must include measures to ensure the avoidance of and/or mitigation of that risk.	MDC3	
Taking account of climate change and the increasing risk of coastal and river flooding, the priority is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defend existing properties and, where possible, locate new development in places with little or no risk of flooding;</li> <li>• Protect flood plains;</li> <li>• Follow a sequential approach to development in flood risk areas;</li> <li>• Use development to reduce the risk of flooding through location, layout and design;</li> <li>• Identify areas of opportunity for managed realignment to reduce the risk of flooding and create new wildlife areas.</li> </ul> In preparing their LDDs Local Authorities should have regard to the Regional Flood	RSS Proposed Modifications F1	

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Relevant Policies/Guidance	Source/Justification for Inclusion	Potential Objectives
Risk Assessment.		
Keep water consumption within local carrying capacity limits (taking account of climate change) and reduce adverse hydrological effects: Protect and where possible improve surface, groundwater and drinking water quantity.	SA/SEA Objective 9	To avoid, mitigate and where necessary compensate for any significant impacts on the quality and quantity of groundwater, surface water and drinking water resources.
Minimise land, water, air, light, noise and genetic pollution: Minimise the impact of mineral workings through implementing effective measures to control emissions to air (including particulates), dust, noise, <b>groundwater, surface water</b> and soils.	SA/SEA Objective 11	
Minimise land, <b>water</b> , air, light, noise and genetic pollution: Protect and where possible improve surface, groundwater and drinking water quality.	SA/SEA Objective 11	
Consider in association with the Environment Agency, the potential for mineral developments, individually or cumulatively, to affect the flow, quality and quantity of surface and groundwater supplies and the water table, taking account of best available options in preventing leachate generation and water pollution.	MPS 1 (National Policies)	
Development plan policies and proposals for minerals extraction and associated development should take into account: - The impacts of mineral working, such as visual intrusion, <b>dewatering, water pollution</b> , noise, dust and fine particulates, blasting and traffic.	MPS 2	
All proposals for minerals development will be assessed using the following key criteria: h) The extent to which the development ensures the efficient use of water resources on site and the extent that the adverse impacts on the water environment and flood risk can be avoided and/or mitigated.	MDC 1	
Proposals for minerals development will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that appropriate controls will be made available to protect and, where appropriate, enhance the water environment. This includes making provisions to ensure the protection and maintenance of: - the quality of groundwater, water courses and other surface water; and - the volume/levels of groundwater, water courses and other surface water.	MDC 3	
Where appropriate, development proposals will also be required to include provision for the efficient use of water resources on site and the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS).	MDC 3	
The region's network of ground, surface and coastal waters and associated ecosystems will be protected and enhanced, taking account of the Environment	RSS Proposed Modifications RE6	

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Relevant Policies/Guidance	Source/Justification for Inclusion	Potential Objectives
<p>Agency's 'Regional Water Resources Strategy', catchment abstraction management strategies, groundwater vulnerability maps, groundwater source protection zone maps and river basin management plans. Surface and groundwater pollution risks must be minimised so that environmental quality standards are achieved and where possible exceeded. Local planning authorities, through their LDDs, must ensure that rates of planned development do not exceed the capacity of existing water supply and wastewater treatment systems and do not proceed ahead of essential planned improvements to these systems.</p>		





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### Wiltshire & Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Appraisal Objectives & Indicators

#### Stage 1: Exclusionary Objectives & Indicators

Exclusionary Objectives	Indicators	Thresholds of Concern	Opportunities	Comments
<b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b>				
a. To protect and enhance the intrinsic value of internationally designated sites.	Proximity <sup>7</sup> to Special Areas for Conservation (SAC).	Is the site within or does development at this site have the potential to have a likely significant adverse impact <sup>8</sup> on a SAC, SPA or Ramsar?	Potential for habitat creation following minerals restoration.	
	Proximity to Special Protection Areas (SPA).			
	Proximity to Ramsar site.			
b. To protect and enhance the intrinsic value of nationally designated sites.	Proximity to Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).	Is the site within or will development at this site lead to a significant adverse impact on a site of national importance or its setting?	Potential for habitat creation following minerals restoration.	
	Proximity to National Nature Reserves (NNR).			
c. To avoid the loss or damage to ancient woodland.	Proximity to ancient woodland.	Is the site within or will development at this site lead to the significant loss or damage of ancient woodland?		
<b>Historic and Cultural Heritage</b>				
d. To preserve and enhance sites or structures of international historic and cultural heritage importance and their setting.	Proximity to World Heritage Site (WHS).	Is the site within or will development at this site lead to a significant adverse impact on a WHS or its setting?	Enhance sites or structures of historic and cultural heritage.	
e. To preserve and enhance sites or structures of national historic and cultural heritage importance and their setting.	Proximity to Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM).	Will development at this site lead to a significant adverse impact on a site or structure of national importance or its setting?	Enhance sites or structures of historic and cultural heritage.	
	Proximity to Grade I/II* listed buildings.			

<sup>7</sup> The word 'proximity' is used when assessing potential sites because it allows a greater degree of flexibility than the word 'distance' which assumes that there is space between objects.

<sup>8</sup> At present, the Councils have adopted the use of 'significant adverse impacts/effects' as thresholds for concern because this is the approach adopted in national policy (PPS1, PPS10, PPS22 and PPS25). The approach encourages the application of professional judgement and means that impacts are judged on a site-by-site basis.

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Exclusionary Objectives	Indicators	Thresholds of Concern	Opportunities	Comments
	Proximity to Historic Parks and Gardens.			
	Proximity to registered battlefield.			
<b>Human Health and Amenity</b>				
f. To maintain and enhance the quality of life of people living and working in proximity to minerals development.	Proximity to residential areas.	Will development at this site lead to significant adverse impacts on people living and working in the Plan area?	Potential to improve quality of life post minerals development.	
	Proximity to schools and associated land/playing fields.			
	Proximity to hospitals.			
	Proximity to existing urban businesses.			
	Proximity to concentrations of urban development.			
	Proximity to active airfields.			
g. To avoid development on a playing field where there is no scope for its relocation.	Proximity to playing fields.	Is the site situated on a playing field where there is no scope for its relocation?	Improve access to open space and public amenity.	
<b>Landscape, Townscape and Visual</b>				
h. To protect and enhance the character and local distinctiveness of the landscape and townscape setting of Wiltshire and Swindon.	Proximity to Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).	Will development at this site lead to a significant adverse impact on the New Forest National Park, an AONB or its setting?	Enhance the character and local distinctiveness of the landscape and townscape setting.	

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### Wiltshire & Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Appraisal Objectives & Indicators

#### Stage 2: Discretionary Objectives & Indicators

Discretionary Objectives	Indicators	Thresholds of Concern	Opportunities	Comments
<b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b>				
1. To protect and enhance the intrinsic value of internationally, nationally, regionally and locally designated sites.	Proximity to Special Areas for Conservation (SAC/cSAC).	Will development at this site lead to a significant adverse impact on a SAC, SPA or Ramsar or its setting?	Potential for habitat creation following minerals restoration.	
	Proximity to Special Protection Areas (SPA/pSPA).			
	Proximity to Ramsar site.			
	Proximity to Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).	Will development at this site lead to a significant adverse impact on a site of national importance or its setting?		
	Proximity to National Nature Reserves (NNR).			
	Proximity to Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGs).	Will development at this site lead to a significant adverse impact on a RIG or its setting?		
	Proximity to County Wildlife Sites.	Will development at this site lead to a significant adverse impact on a locally designated site or its setting?		
	Proximity to Local Nature Reserves (LNR) and any other (non-statutory) Nature Reserves.			
Consistency with Local Geodiversity Action Plan (LGAP) objectives.			<i>Currently no LGAPs in Wilts &amp; Swindon although work has begun on the North Wessex Downs AONB LGAP. The Gloucestershire Cotswold LGAP (2005) covers an area to the north of Wilts &amp; Swindon.</i>	
2. To avoid the loss or damage to ancient woodland and aged or veteran trees.	Proximity to ancient woodland and aged or veteran trees.	Will the development at this site result in the loss of or damage to ancient woodland or aged or veteran trees?		
3. To protect and enhance community forest.	Proximity to Community Forest.	Will development at this site lead to significant adverse impacts on a community forest?	Contribute to the objectives of the Community Forest.	

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Discretionary Objectives	Indicators	Thresholds of Concern	Opportunities	Comments
4. To ensure that minerals development (including restoration following extraction) aims to reduce and buffer the impacts of climate change on vulnerable habitats and species.	Presence of vulnerable/protected habitats and species likely to be sensitive to changing climatic conditions <sup>9</sup> .	Will development at this site have a significant adverse impact on BAP habitats and other habitats of notable ecological value?	Development could create/enhance BAP habitat.	<i>Survey required.</i>
	Proximity to green corridors, including hedgerows.	Will development at this site lead to loss of or damage to green corridors?	Development could create/enhance green corridor.	
5. To identify areas for creation, restoration and enhancement of BAP habitats following minerals extraction that contributes towards targets in local and regional BAPs.	Presence of local and regional BAP Priority Habitats and Species.	Will development at this site have a significant adverse impact on BAP habitats and species?	Development could create/enhance BAP habitats and species.	<i>Survey required.</i>
6. To protect populations of protected or notable species.	Presence of protected or notable species <sup>10</sup> .	Will development at this site have a significant adverse impact on protected or notable species?	Development could enhance presence of protected or notable species.	
7. To maintain and expand the Strategic Nature Areas that are identified in the South West Nature Map.	Proximity to Strategic Nature Areas.	Will development at this site lead to loss or damage to areas that fall within the South West Nature Map Areas?	Contribute to the maintenance and expansion of the South West Nature Map.	
8. To recognise the importance of soil as an ecosystem for vital organisms and minimise the loss of soil resources and encourage the re-use of soils locally.	Is the site on the contaminated land register?	Will development at this site result in the release of contaminants into the water course?	Development could lead to remediation of contaminated land.	
	Can top soils be stored onsite?	Is there enough room onsite to store top soils or is the site within a floodplain?		
9. To reduce the spread of non-native invasive species.	Presence of non-native invasive species.	Is a suitable soil handling strategy to meet the objective possible?	Potential for contribution to eradication programmes offsite.	<i>Survey required.</i>

<sup>9</sup> 'European protected species Circular 06/2005, Annex A, Tables 2 and 3' lists the species (Schedule 2 and Schedule 4 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 identify those species of the habitats directive applicable to the UK). See also 'Species of principal importance' (Circular 06/2005, paragraphs 84-86 and Annex C) which lists the species and habitats of principal importance.

<sup>10</sup> Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended and NERC Act 2006.

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Discretionary Objectives	Indicators	Thresholds of Concern	Opportunities	Comments
<b>Historic and Cultural Heritage</b>				
1. To preserve and enhance sites, areas or structures of international, national and local historic and cultural heritage importance and their setting.	Proximity to World Heritage Site (WHS).	Will development at this site lead to a significant adverse impact on a site, area or structure of international or national importance?	Enhancement of international and national historic and cultural heritage sites and their setting.	<i>Any development that may affect a SAM requires Scheduled Monument Consent from English Heritage.</i>
	Proximity to Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM).			
	Proximity to Historic Parks and Gardens.			
	Proximity to registered battlefield.			
	Proximity to Grade I/II* Listed Buildings.	Will development at this site lead to a significant adverse impact on a listed building?	Development could lead to restoration/enhancement of Grade I and/or II* listed building.	Development could lead to restoration/enhancement of Grade II listed building.
	Proximity to Grade II listed buildings.			
	Proximity to locally defined conservation areas.	Will development at this site lead to a significant adverse impact on an area or structure of local importance?	Enhancement of local historic and cultural heritage sites.	<i>See sites and monuments record.</i>
	Proximity to areas of archaeological significance.			
<b>Human Health and Amenity</b>				
1. To maintain and enhance the quality of life of people living and working in proximity to minerals development.	Proximity to existing rural businesses.	Will development at this site lead to significant adverse impacts on people living and working in the Plan area?	Potential to improve quality of life post minerals development.	
	Proximity to allotments.			
	Proximity to public services (gas/water/electricity).			
	Proximity to residential areas.			
	Proximity to schools and associated land/playing fields.			
	Proximity to hospitals.			
	Proximity to existing urban businesses.			
	Proximity to concentrations of			

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Discretionary Objectives	Indicators	Thresholds of Concern	Opportunities	Comments
	urban development.			
	Proximity to active airfields.			
2. To maintain and where possible enhance the overall amenity of the countryside to residents and visitors.	Proximity to recreational land/open space and tourist attractions.	Will development at this site result in loss of or damage to amenity?	Potential to improve quality of life post minerals development.	<i>This objective covers exclusionary objective g. (playing fields).</i>
	Proximity to managed woodland.			
	Proximity to active golf courses.			
	Proximity to playing fields.			
3. To avoid the loss or damage to protected trees/groups of protected trees.	Presence of Tree Preservation Order.	Will development at this site lead to the loss or damage to protected trees/groups of protected trees?	Could the development lead to a net gain in trees through additional tree planting?	
4. To minimise the detrimental impacts of noise and vibration associated with the extraction, processing, management or transportation of minerals.	Background noise levels and tranquillity.	Will development at this site result in significant adverse impact on noise and vibration levels?	Remediate existing noise and vibration issues.	<i>Consult DEFRA. Surveys required.</i>
	Background vibration levels.			
5. To minimise the detrimental impacts of dust and particulates associated with the extraction, processing, management or transportation of minerals.	Sources of dust and particulates.	Will development at this site result in significant adverse impact on dust and particulate levels?	Remediate existing dust and particulate pollution.	<i>Consult DEFRA. Surveys required.</i>
6. To minimise the detrimental impacts of light intrusion associated with the extraction, processing, management or transportation of minerals.	Sources of light.	Will development at this site result in significant adverse impact on light intrusion?	Remediate existing light pollution.	<i>Consult DEFRA. Surveys required.</i>
7. To minimise any detrimental effects to air quality.	Current air quality levels.	Will development at this site result in significant adverse impact on air quality?	Remediate existing air quality issues.	<i>Consult DEFRA. Surveys required.</i>
8. To avoid loss to public footpaths and public rights of way and where possible enhance the overall network of rights of way within the Plan area.	National trail/footpaths/PROW on or adjacent to the site?	Will development at this site have significant adverse impacts on a national trail, public footpath or the ROW network?	Potential to improve national trail/footpaths/PROW.	<i>See Definitive Footpaths Map.</i>
<b>Land Use</b>				
1. To identify and protect wherever possible areas of best and most versatile agricultural land from significant minerals development.	Agricultural Land Quality Classification (ALQC).	Will development at this site avoid the use of ALQC Grades 1, 2 and 3a?		
	Current land use (e.g. productive agriculture)			

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Discretionary Objectives	Indicators	Thresholds of Concern	Opportunities	Comments
2. To avoid prejudicing designated Development Plan land uses (e.g. housing, tourism, recreation etc).	Is the site allocated in Development Plan Documents for other land-uses?	Could development at the site affect or be affected by other development plans?	Phased extraction prior to non-mineral development taking place.	
	Are there any plans for new residential/business developments in the vicinity of the site?			
	Is the site located on land within a rural buffer area (Swindon)?	Will development at this site lead to coalescence of settlements within the rural buffer (i.e. permanent buildings for ancillary development etc)?		
	Does the site boundary extend into a neighbouring authority or share a neighbouring boundary?	Is the site allocated in neighbouring authority development plan?		
3. To wherever possible allocate sites for minerals development from environmentally acceptable sources within identified 'Mineral Resource Zones'.	Mineral Resource Zone.	The site is not within a Mineral Resource Zone.		
4. To reduce reliance upon primary, land-won minerals in favour of increasing the contribution made by secondary and/or recycled materials.	Size/location of the site.	Is this site suitable for recycling activities?	Increase contributions made by secondary and/or recycled materials.	
5. To favour extensions to existing mineral sites over new mineral sites, subject to environmental acceptability.	Is the site within an existing, proposed or former minerals development?	Are there likely to be any cumulative impacts as a result of other mineral extraction sites nearby?	Potential to use existing infrastructure.	
	Is the site co-located with existing or proposed waste management facilities?			
<b>Landscape, Townscape and Visual</b>				
1. To protect and enhance the character and local distinctiveness of the landscape and townscape setting of Wiltshire and Swindon.	Proximity to Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).	Will development at this site lead to a significant adverse impact on an AONB or its setting?	Enhance the character and local distinctiveness of the landscape and townscape setting.	
	Proximity to New Forest National Park.	Will development at this site lead to a significant adverse impact on the New Forest National Park		

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Discretionary Objectives	Indicators	Thresholds of Concern	Opportunities	Comments
		or its setting?		
	Proximity to Special Landscape Areas (SLA).	Will development at this site affect the landscape setting, townscape setting, tranquillity and/or sense of remoteness of the countryside?		<i>N.B. The South West draft RSS is 'phasing' this designation out.</i>
	Classification/type of area in the Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment.	Can the land be restored to a suitable condition that is commensurate with the landscape character of the area?		<i>Where the proposed development is situated within or in proximity to an AONB or the New Forest National Park, the relevant Management Plan should be referred to.</i>
2. To prevent visual intrusion from minerals development.	Existing dominant topography and key landscape features: field patterns, built structures, hedges, stone walls, ponds etc. Existing dominant vegetation and landcover. Contrasting elevation of land. Existing dominant views from/onto site. Is the site well screened by existing vegetation cover, topography and/or buildings?	Will development at this site have a significant adverse visual impact?	Preserve and enhance the landscape character.	
3. To avoid inappropriate minerals development in the Green Belt.	Is the site on land allocated within the Green Belt?	Will development at this site lead to a significant adverse impact on the Green Belt?		
<b>Restoration</b>				
1. To ensure that mineral developments, including schemes for restoration, do not significantly increase risks to aircraft (civil or military) through 'bird-strike'.	Is the site within a defined airfield safeguarding area? <sup>11</sup>	Is the MOD likely to raise an objection to the proposed development?		

<sup>11</sup> See Circular 01/03: Safeguarding Aerodromes, Technical Sites and Military.



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Discretionary Objectives	Indicators	Thresholds of Concern	Opportunities	Comments
<b>Traffic and Transportation</b>				
1. To minimise vehicular movements by encouraging the most sustainable transport mode options for minerals supply.	Capacity for existing network to deal with additional development related traffic e.g. peak traffic flows, road alignments, access splays, visibility into site.	Is suitable infrastructure already in place at this site?		<i>Traffic survey/modelling required.</i>
	Planned road improvements in proximity to the site.			<i>Liaise with Highways Development Control.</i>
	Mode of transport.	Is this site only accessible by road or can it make use of existing rail/water infrastructure or a conveyor?	Potential for water/rail freight.	
2. To locate future mineral developments as close as practicable to local centres of demand.	Proximity to SSCTs and other centres of demand.	Are the key market areas more than 40km distance by road?	Reduction in journey distances.	<i>Calculate using GIS.</i>
3. To promote development sites with good links and access to the Wiltshire HGV route network and Primary Route Network (PRN) and to recognise the benefits of inter-connecting the transport network to accommodate associated vehicle movements.	Proximity to Wiltshire HGV route network and Primary Route Network (PRN).	Is the site connected to the Wiltshire HGV route network or PRN?	Enhance the HGV route network and/or PRN.	
	Proximity to 'A' and 'B' class roads (avoidance of over-reliance on lower class roads).	Would the site lead to over-reliance of unsuitable roads?		
	Do any potential transport routes (not part of the HGV route network) run through settlements which may be affected by minerals development at the site?	Potential HGV route passes through small settlement on non A-class road.		
	Suitability of local highway network e.g. existing network layout and potential constraints (routes, junctions, speed limits, widths of road, HGV restrictions).			

## Appendix C

### Wiltshire & Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Appraisal Objectives & Indicators

Discretionary Objectives	Indicators	Thresholds of Concern	Opportunities	Comments
<b>Water Environment</b>				
1. To encourage appropriate development in a floodplain that would increase its flood storage capacity and reduce as far as possible the risk of flooding.	Proximity to a defined flood zones 2 and 3.	Will development at this site cause significant adverse impacts to the hydrological regime?	Potential to increase water/flood water storage.	
2. To avoid, mitigate and, where necessary compensate for any significant impacts on the quality and quantity of groundwater, surface water and drinking water resources.	Proximity to a groundwater SPZ.		Potential to improve water quality and remediate existing quantity constraints.	<i>Consult EA/surveys required.</i>
	Current groundwater levels.			
	Current groundwater flows.			
	Proximity to any inland water body (e.g. canals, lakes, ponds).			
	River quality – chemical and biological.			
	Proximity to Nitrate Vulnerable Zones.			
	Proximity to Phosphate Vulnerable Zones.			
	Pesticides in rivers and groundwater.			
	Known pollution incidents at the site.			
	Impact on water abstraction quality or quantity: status of water availability.			
	Location of boreholes.			
	Location of public or private water sources.			
	Groundwater vulnerability.			
Surface water.				

## Appendix D

### Wiltshire & Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Appraisal Matrix

#### Site details

Site name:		Date of appraisal:	
Site reference:		Appraised by:	
Area:		Current use:	
Nearest settlement(s):		Size of site (ha):	
OS grid reference:	E	N	Land owner (if known):

<b>Potential allocation:</b>

## Appendix D

### Wiltshire & Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Appraisal Matrix

#### Exclusionary Appraisal STA Colour Grading

<b>Green</b> ✓	Area has the potential to be a suitable site. Continue with discretionary appraisal.	<b>Red</b> X	Absolute sustainability constraints associated with this option. Exclude this option from further appraisal.
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#### Stage 1: Exclusionary Objectives & Absolute Constraints

Exclusionary Objectives	Absolute Constraint	Yes/No?	Comments	STA Colour Grading
<b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b>				
a. To protect and enhance the intrinsic value of internationally designated sites.	Is the site within a SAC, SPA or Ramsar?			
b. To protect and enhance the intrinsic value of nationally designated sites.	Is the site within a SSSI or NNR?			
c. To avoid the loss or damage to ancient woodland.	Is the site within an area identified as ancient woodland?			
<b>Historic and Cultural Heritage</b>				
d. To preserve and enhance sites or structures of international historic and cultural heritage importance and their setting.	Is the site within a WHS?			
e. To preserve and enhance sites or structures of national historic and cultural heritage importance and their setting.	Will development at this site lead to a significant adverse impact <sup>12</sup> on a SAM, Grade I/II* listed building, Registered			

<sup>12</sup> At present, the Councils have adopted the use of 'significant adverse impacts/effects' as thresholds for concern because this is the approach adopted in national policy (PPS1, PPS10, PPS22 and PPS25). The approach encourages the application of professional judgement and means that impacts are judged on a site-by-site basis.

## Appendix D

### Wiltshire & Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Appraisal Matrix

Exclusionary Objectives	Absolute Constraint	Yes/No?	Comments	STA Colour Grading
	Battlefield and/or Historic Park and Garden or its setting?			
<b>Human Health and Amenity</b>				
f. To maintain and enhance the quality of life of people living and working in proximity to minerals development.	Will development at the site lead to significant adverse impacts on people living and working in the Plan area?			
g. To avoid development on a playing field where there is no scope for its relocation.	Is the site situated on a playing field where there is no scope for its relocation?			
<b>Landscape, Townscape and Visual</b>				
h. To protect and enhance the character and local distinctiveness of the landscape and townscape setting of Wiltshire and Swindon.	Is the site within an AONB?			

#### Additional comments and recommendations:

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## Appendix D

### Wiltshire & Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Appraisal Matrix

#### Discretionary Appraisal STA Colour Grading

<b>Green</b>	Development will support Sustainable Objectives.	<b>Blue</b>	No sustainability constraints.	<b>Yellow</b>	Potential sustainability issues; mitigation considered achievable.	<b>Orange</b>	Sustainability issues; mitigation considered problematic.	<b>Red</b>	Absolute sustainability constraints.
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#### Stage 2: Discretionary Objectives incorporating Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

Discretionary Objectives	Relevant SA Framework Objectives <sup>13</sup>	Assessment of Effects Nature of the predicted sustainability effect (positive/negative, short/medium/long term, cumulative, scale, reversibility, likelihood)	STA Colour Grading
<b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b>			
1. To protect and enhance the intrinsic value of internationally, nationally, regionally and locally designated sites.	5		
2. To avoid the loss or damage to ancient woodland and aged or veteran trees.	5		
3. To protect and enhance community forest.	1, 5 & 7		
4. To ensure that minerals development (including restoration following extraction) aims to reduce and buffer the impacts of climate change on vulnerable habitats and species.	5 & 13		
5. To identify areas for creation, restoration and enhancement of BAP habitats following minerals extraction that contributes towards targets in local and regional BAPs.	5		
6. To protect populations of protected or notable	5		

<sup>13</sup> Please refer to Appendix F for details.

## Appendix D

### Wiltshire & Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Appraisal Matrix

Discretionary Objectives	Relevant SA Framework Objectives <sup>13</sup>	Assessment of Effects Nature of the predicted sustainability effect (positive/negative, short/medium/long term, cumulative, scale, reversibility, likelihood)	STA Colour Grading
species.			
7. To maintain and expand the Strategic Nature Areas that are identified in the South West Nature Map.	5		
8. To recognise the importance of soil as an ecosystem for vital organisms and minimise the loss of soil resources and encourage the re-use of soils locally.	5, 6 & 11		
9. To reduce the spread of non-native invasive species.	5		
<b>Historic and Cultural Heritage</b>			
1. To preserve and enhance sites, areas or structures of international, national and local historic and cultural heritage importance and their setting.	8		
<b>Human Health and Amenity</b>			
1. To maintain and enhance the quality of life of people living and working in proximity to minerals development.	1 & 2		
2. To maintain and where possible enhance the overall amenity of the countryside to residents and visitors.	2 & 7		
3. To avoid the loss or damage to protected trees/groups of protected trees.	2 & 7		
4. To minimise the detrimental impacts of noise and vibration associated with the extraction, processing, management or transportation of minerals.	1 & 11		
5. To minimise the detrimental impacts of dust and particulates associated with the extraction, processing, management or transportation of	1 & 11		

## Appendix D

### Wiltshire & Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Appraisal Matrix

Discretionary Objectives	Relevant SA Framework Objectives <sup>13</sup>	Assessment of Effects Nature of the predicted sustainability effect (positive/negative, short/medium/long term, cumulative, scale, reversibility, likelihood)	STA Colour Grading
minerals.			
6. To minimise the detrimental impacts of light intrusion associated with the extraction, processing, management or transportation of minerals.	1 & 11		
7. To minimise any detrimental effects to air quality.	1 & 11		
8. To avoid loss to public footpaths and public rights of way and where possible enhance the overall network of rights of way within the Plan area.	2		
<b>Land Use</b>			
1. To identify and protect wherever possible areas of best and most versatile agricultural land from significant minerals development.	6		
2. To avoid prejudicing designated Development Plan land uses (e.g. housing, tourism, recreation etc).	3		
3. To wherever possible allocate sites for minerals development from environmentally acceptable sources within identified 'Mineral Resource Zones'.	3		
4. To reduce reliance upon primary, land-won minerals in favour of increasing the contribution made by secondary and/or recycled materials.	10		
5. To favour extensions to existing mineral sites over new mineral sites, subject to environmental acceptability.	6		
<b>Landscape, Townscape and Visual</b>			
1. To protect and enhance the character and local distinctiveness of the landscape and	7		



## Appendix D

### Wiltshire & Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Appraisal Matrix

Discretionary Objectives	Relevant SA Framework Objectives <sup>13</sup>	Assessment of Effects Nature of the predicted sustainability effect (positive/negative, short/medium/long term, cumulative, scale, reversibility, likelihood)	STA Colour Grading
townscape setting of Wiltshire and Swindon.			
2. To prevent visual intrusion from minerals development.	7		
3. To avoid inappropriate minerals development in the Green Belt.	1, 2 & 7		
<b>Restoration</b>			
1. To ensure that mineral developments, including schemes for restoration, do not significantly increase risks to aircraft (civil or military) through 'bird-strike'.	5		
<b>Traffic and Transportation</b>			
1. To minimise vehicular movements by encouraging the most sustainable transport mode options for minerals supply.	1, 2, 4 & 12		
2. To locate future mineral developments as close as practicable to local centres of demand.	1, 2, 4 & 12		
3. To promote development sites with good links and access to the Wiltshire HGV route network and Primary Route Network (PRN) and to recognise the benefits of inter-connecting the transport network to accommodate associated vehicle movements.	1, 2, 4 & 12		
<b>Water Environment</b>			
1. To encourage appropriate development in a floodplain that would increase its flood storage capacity and reduce as far as possible the risk of flooding.	1 & 13		
2. To avoid, mitigate and, where necessary compensate for any significant impacts on the quality and quantity of groundwater, surface water and drinking water resources.	1, 9 & 11		

## Appendix D

### Wiltshire & Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Appraisal Matrix

Additional comments and recommendations/further information required:

## Appendix E

### Wiltshire & Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Appraisal Objectives & Thresholds for Sustainability Assessment (STA) Key (Summary of Effects)

Sustainability Objective & Thresholds for Assessment		STA Key
<b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b>		
<b>1. To protect and enhance the intrinsic value of internationally, nationally, regionally and locally designated sites.</b>		
Significant adverse impact on site of international or national importance.		Absolute sustainability constraints
Significant adverse impact on site of regional or local importance.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered problematic
Limited adverse impact on site of international, national, regional or local importance.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered achievable
No adverse impacts.		No sustainability constraints
No adverse impacts and opportunities to maximise biodiversity gain.		Development will support Sustainable Objectives
<b>2. To avoid the loss or damage to ancient woodland and aged or veteran trees.</b>		
Loss or damage to ancient woodland or aged or veteran trees.		Absolute sustainability constraints
Direct but limited damage to ancient woodland or aged or veteran trees.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered problematic
Potential to cause limited damage to ancient woodland or aged or veteran trees.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered achievable
No adverse impacts.		No sustainability constraints
Likely to have a positive impact on ancient woodland or aged or veteran trees.		Development will support Sustainable Objectives
<b>3. To protect and enhance community forest.</b>		
N/A		Absolute sustainability constraints
Significant adverse impact on a community forest.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered problematic
Limited adverse impact on a community forest.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered achievable
No adverse impacts.		No sustainability constraints
No adverse impacts on a community forest and opportunities for enhancement.		Development will support Sustainable Objectives
<b>4. To ensure that minerals development (including restoration following extraction) aims to reduce and buffer the impacts of climate change on vulnerable habitats and species.</b>		
N/A		Absolute sustainability constraints
Significant loss of or damage to green corridors, including hedgerows.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered problematic
Limited damage to green corridors, including hedgerows.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered achievable
No adverse impacts.		No sustainability constraints
No adverse impacts and opportunities to create or enhance green corridors, including hedgerows, resulting in net gain in wildlife corridors.		Development will support Sustainable Objectives

## Appendix E

### Wiltshire & Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Appraisal Objectives & Thresholds for Sustainability Assessment (STA) Key (Summary of Effects)

<b>5. To identify areas for creation, restoration and enhancement of BAP habitats following minerals extraction that contributes towards targets in local and regional BAPs.</b>		
N/A		Absolute sustainability constraints
Significant adverse impact on BAP habitats.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered problematic
Limited adverse impact on BAP habitats.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered achievable
No adverse impacts.		No sustainability constraints
No adverse impacts and opportunities to maximise biodiversity gain through the creation, restoration and enhancement of BAP habitats.		Development will support Sustainable Objectives
<b>6. To protect populations of protected or notable species.</b>		
N/A		Absolute sustainability constraints
Significant adverse impact on populations of protected or notable species.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered problematic
Limited adverse impact on populations of protected or notable species.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered achievable
No adverse impacts.		No sustainability constraints
No adverse impacts and opportunities for enhancement.		Development will support Sustainable Objectives
<b>7. To maintain and expand the Strategic Nature Areas that are identified in the South West Nature Map.</b>		
N/A		Absolute sustainability constraints
Loss or damage to areas that currently contribute to the objectives of the South West Nature Map Areas.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered problematic
Limited loss or damage to areas that contribute to the objectives of the South West Nature Map Areas.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered achievable
No adverse impacts.		No sustainability constraints
Will contribute to the maintenance and expansion of the South West Nature Map.		Development will support Sustainable Objectives
<b>8. To recognise the importance of soil as an ecosystem for vital organisms and minimise the loss of soil resources and encourage the re-use of soils locally.</b>		
N/A		Absolute sustainability constraints
No scope to accommodate soils onsite away from plant and machinery or flood zones 2 and 3.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered problematic
Limited scope to accommodate soils onsite away from plant and machinery or flood zones 2 and 3.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered achievable
No likely adverse soil impact.		No sustainability constraints
Soils can be stored onsite away from plant and machinery or flood zones 2 and 3.		Development will support Sustainable Objectives

## Appendix E

### Wiltshire & Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Appraisal Objectives & Thresholds for Sustainability Assessment (STA) Key (Summary of Effects)

9. To reduce the spread of non-native invasive species.		
N/A		Absolute sustainability constraints
Significant risks associated with non-native invasive species.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered problematic
Minor risks associated with non-native invasive species.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered achievable
No non-native invasive species present and no requirement to bring soils onsite.		No sustainability constraints
Opportunities to contribute to eradication programmes offsite.		Development will support Sustainable Objectives

Sustainability Objective & Thresholds for Assessment	STA Key	
<b>Historic and Cultural Heritage</b>		
<b>1. To preserve and enhance sites, areas or structures of international, national and local historic and cultural heritage importance and their setting.</b>		
Significant adverse impact on area or structure of international or national historic and cultural heritage importance and its setting.		Absolute sustainability constraints
Significant adverse impact on area or structure of local historic and cultural heritage importance and its setting. Limited adverse impact on area or structure of international or national historic and cultural heritage importance and its setting.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered problematic
Limited adverse impact on area or structure of local historic and cultural heritage importance and its setting.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered achievable
No adverse impacts.		No sustainability constraints
No adverse impacts and opportunities to enhance area or structure of historic and cultural heritage importance and its setting.		Development will support Sustainable Objectives

Sustainability Objective & Thresholds for Assessment	STA Key	
<b>Human Health and Amenity</b>		
<b>1. To maintain and enhance the quality of life of people living and working in proximity to minerals development.</b>		
Site has been developed as a residential area or workplace.		Absolute sustainability constraints
Potential for significant adverse impact as the site is adjacent to a residential area, workplace or public amenity.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered problematic
Potential for some limited adverse impact as the site is close to a residential area, workplace or public amenity.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered achievable
No adverse impacts.		No sustainability constraints
Minerals development at the site will contribute to regeneration of the area.		Development will support Sustainable Objectives

## Appendix E

### Wiltshire & Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Appraisal Objectives & Thresholds for Sustainability Assessment (STA) Key (Summary of Effects)

<b>2. To maintain and where possible enhance the overall amenity of the countryside to residents and visitors.</b>		
N/A		Absolute sustainability constraints
Minerals development at the site will cause a permanent change in land use that will result in significant loss of amenity.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered problematic
Minerals development at the site will result in a limited loss of amenity.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered achievable
No adverse impacts.		No sustainability constraints
No adverse impacts. Minerals development at the site will lead to enhanced amenity.		Development will support Sustainable Objectives
<b>3. To avoid the loss or damage to protected trees/groups of protected trees.</b>		
N/A		Absolute sustainability constraints
Loss or significant damage to protected trees/groups of protected trees.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered problematic
Limited damage to protected trees/groups of protected trees.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered achievable
No adverse impacts.		No sustainability constraints
No loss or damage to trees/groups of protected trees.		Development will support Sustainable Objectives
<b>4. To minimise the detrimental impacts of noise and vibration associated with the extraction, processing, management or transportation of minerals.</b>		
Significant adverse impact on noise and vibration levels, with no potential for mitigation.		Absolute sustainability constraints
Significant adverse impact on noise and vibration levels.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered problematic
Limited adverse impact on noise and vibration levels.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered achievable
No adverse impact on noise and vibration levels.		No sustainability constraints
No adverse impact on noise and vibration levels and opportunities to remediate existing noise pollution and vibration issues.		Development will support Sustainable Objectives
<b>5. To minimise the detrimental impacts of dust and particulates associated with the extraction, processing, management or transportation of minerals.</b>		
Significant adverse impact on dust and particulate levels, with no potential for mitigation.		Absolute sustainability constraints
Significant adverse impact on dust and particulate levels.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered problematic
Limited adverse impact on dust and particulate levels.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered achievable
No adverse impact on dust and particulate levels.		No sustainability constraints
No adverse impact on dust and particulate levels and opportunities to remediate existing dust and particulate pollution.		Development will support Sustainable Objectives

## Appendix E

### Wiltshire & Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Appraisal Objectives & Thresholds for Sustainability Assessment (STA) Key (Summary of Effects)

<b>6. To minimise the detrimental impacts of light intrusion associated with the extraction, processing, management or transportation of minerals.</b>		
Significant adverse impact on light intrusion, with no potential for mitigation.		Absolute sustainability constraints
Significant adverse impact on light intrusion.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered problematic
Limited adverse impact on light intrusion.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered achievable
No adverse impact on light intrusion.		No sustainability constraints
No adverse impact on light intrusion and opportunities to remediate existing light pollution.		Development will support Sustainable Objectives
<b>7. To minimise any detrimental effects to air quality.</b>		
Significant adverse impact on air quality, with no potential for mitigation.		Absolute sustainability constraints
Significant adverse impact on air quality.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered problematic
Limited adverse impact on air quality.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered achievable
No adverse impact on air quality.		No sustainability constraints
No adverse impact on air quality and opportunities to remediate existing air quality issues.		Development will support Sustainable Objectives
<b>8. To avoid loss to public footpaths and public rights of way and where possible enhance the overall network of rights of way within the Plan area.</b>		
N/A		Absolute sustainability constraints
Loss of or significant adverse impact on a national trail, footpath and/or public right of way.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered problematic
Limited loss or temporary diversion of a national trail, footpath and/or public right of way.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered achievable
National trail, footpath and/or public right of way not affected.		No sustainability constraints
Opportunities to enhance national trail, footpath and/or public right of way.		Development will support Sustainable Objectives

Sustainability Objective & Thresholds for Assessment	STA Key	
<b>Land Use</b>		
<b>1. To identify and protect wherever possible areas of best and most versatile agricultural land from significant minerals development.</b>		
N/A		Absolute sustainability constraints
Significant adverse impact on Grades 1, 2 and 3a agricultural land.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered problematic
Limited adverse impact on Grades 1, 2 and 3a agricultural land.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered achievable
No adverse impact on Grades 1, 2 and 3a agricultural land.		No sustainability constraints
No adverse impact on Grades 1, 2 and 3a agricultural land and opportunities to enhance.		Development will support Sustainable Objectives

## Appendix E

### Wiltshire & Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Appraisal Objectives & Thresholds for Sustainability Assessment (STA) Key (Summary of Effects)

<b>2. To avoid prejudicing designated Development Plan land uses (e.g. housing, tourism, recreation etc).</b>		
Site is on allocated land that has been developed.		Absolute sustainability constraints
Site is close to or within land allocated in a Development Plan for other land uses and there is limited scope for mineral extraction prior to non-mineral development.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered problematic
Site is close to land designated in a Development Plan for other land uses and there is scope for mineral extraction prior to non-mineral development proceeding.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered achievable
Site is close to or within land designated in a Development Plan for other land uses but the developments are suited to co-location.		No sustainability constraints
Site is not on land designated in a Development Plan for other land-uses.		Development will support Sustainable Objectives
<b>3. To wherever possible allocate sites for minerals development from environmentally acceptable sources within identified 'Mineral Resource Zones'.</b>		
N/A		Absolute sustainability constraints
Site is not within or near to a Minerals Resource Zone.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered problematic
Site is near to a Minerals Resource Zone.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered achievable
N/A		No sustainability constraints
Site is within a Mineral Resource Zone.		Development will support Sustainable Objectives
<b>4. To reduce reliance upon primary, land-won minerals in favour of increasing the contribution made by secondary and/or recycled materials.</b>		
N/A		Absolute sustainability constraints
Site is not suitable for recycling activities due to its size/location.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered problematic
Limited scope on the site to accommodate recycling activities.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered achievable
N/A		No sustainability constraints
Site is suitable for recycling.		Development will support Sustainable Objectives
<b>5. To favour extensions to existing minerals sites over new minerals sites, subject to environmental acceptability.</b>		
N/A		Absolute sustainability constraints
New site or a site extension in an area already under significant pressures.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered problematic
Site extension in an area under limited pressures.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered achievable
No adverse impact.		No sustainability constraints
Site extension with no existing environmental constraints.		Development will support Sustainable Objectives



## Appendix E

### Wiltshire & Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Appraisal Objectives & Thresholds for Sustainability Assessment (STA) Key (Summary of Effects)

Sustainability Objective & Thresholds for Assessment	STA Key
<b>Landscape, Townscape and Visual</b>	
<b>1. To protect and enhance the character and local distinctiveness of the landscape and townscape setting of Wiltshire and Swindon.</b>	
Significant adverse impact on an AONB or New Forest National Park.	Absolute sustainability constraints
Significant adverse impact on the character and local distinctiveness of the landscape and townscape setting. Limited adverse impact on an AONB or New Forest National Park.	Sustainability issues; mitigation considered problematic
Limited adverse impact on the character and local distinctiveness of the landscape and townscape setting.	Sustainability issues; mitigation considered achievable
No adverse impacts.	No sustainability constraints
No adverse impacts and opportunities to enhance the character and local distinctiveness of the landscape and townscape setting.	Development will support Sustainable Objectives
<b>2. To prevent visual intrusion from minerals development.</b>	
Significant adverse visual impact. Site can not be integrated into existing landform and landscape features. No opportunities to preserve or enhance landscape character.	Absolute sustainability constraints
Significant adverse visual impact. Integration into existing landform and landscape features. Opportunities to preserve or enhance landscape character constrained.	Sustainability issues; mitigation considered problematic
Limited adverse visual impact. Integration into existing landform and landscape features. Opportunities to preserve or enhance landscape character possible.	Sustainability issues; mitigation considered achievable
No adverse visual impact. Achieves integration into the existing landform and landscape features. Opportunities to preserve landscape character.	No sustainability constraints
No adverse visual impact. Achieves integration into the existing landform and landscape features along with opportunities to preserve and enhance landscape character.	Development will support Sustainable Objectives

## Appendix E

### Wiltshire & Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Appraisal Objectives & Thresholds for Sustainability Assessment (STA) Key (Summary of Effects)

3. To avoid inappropriate minerals development in the Green Belt.		
N/A		Absolute sustainability constraints
Site is in the Green Belt. Site is considered to conflict with the purposes of the designation and/or can not be restored to an after-use consistent with Green Belt objectives.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered problematic
Site is in the Greenbelt. Site is not considered to conflict with purposes of the designation and/or site can be restored to an after-use consistent with Green Belt objectives.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered achievable
N/A		No sustainability constraints
Site is not within the Greenbelt.		Development will support Sustainable Objectives

Sustainability Objective & Thresholds for Assessment	STA Key	
<b>Restoration</b>		
<b>1. To ensure that mineral developments, including schemes for restoration, do not significantly increase risks to aircraft (civil or military) through 'bird strike'.</b>		
MOD raises objection to proposed minerals development at the site. Mitigation not possible.		Absolute sustainability constraints
MOD raises objection to proposed minerals development. Limited scope for mitigation.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered problematic
MOD supports proposed minerals development subject to certain mitigation measures being implemented.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered achievable
MOD supports proposed minerals development within the Airfield Safeguarding Area.		No sustainability constraints
Site is outside Airfield Safeguarding Area.		Development will support Sustainable Objectives

Sustainability Objective & Thresholds for Assessment	STA Key	
<b>Traffic and Transportation</b>		
<b>1. To minimise vehicular movements by encouraging the most sustainable transport mode options for minerals supply.</b>		
N/A		Absolute sustainability constraints
Site is only accessible by road and would lead to a significant increase in traffic.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered problematic
Site is mainly accessible by road and would lead to an increase in traffic but there is scope for use of conveyor.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered achievable
Site is an extension to an existing site and would lead to no change in existing traffic movements.		No sustainability constraints
Site can make use of existing rail/water infrastructure.		Development will support Sustainable Objectives

## Appendix E






### Wiltshire & Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Appraisal Objectives & Thresholds for Sustainability Assessment (STA) Key (Summary of Effects)

<b>2. To locate future mineral developments as close as practicable to local centres of demand.</b>		
N/A		Absolute sustainability constraints
Site is more than 16 km from a local centre of demand.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered problematic
Site is less than 16 km from a local centre of demand.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered achievable
N/A		No sustainability constraints
Site is within or adjacent to a local centre of demand.		Development will support Sustainable Objectives
<b>3. To promote development sites with good links and access to the Wiltshire HGV route network and Primary Route Network (PRN) and to recognise the benefits of inter-connecting the transport network to accommodate associated vehicle movements.</b>		
Site is inaccessible. Additional infrastructure not feasible.		Absolute sustainability constraints
Site would lead to use of significant stretches of unsuitable roads to access HGV route network or PRN. Significant new or improved infrastructure required.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered problematic
Site would lead to limited use of unsuitable roads to access HGV Route Network or PRN. Minor improvements to infrastructure required.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered achievable
Site has direct access to HGV Route network or PRN. Infrastructure already in place.		No sustainability constraints
Infrastructure already in place, opportunities to enhance the HGV route network and PRN.		Development will support Sustainable Objectives

Sustainability Objective & Thresholds for Assessment	STA Key	
<b>Water Environment</b>		
<b>1. To encourage appropriate development in a floodplain that would increase its flood storage capacity where appropriate and reduce as far as possible the risk of flooding.</b>		
Site will significantly increase risk of flooding with no potential for mitigation.		Absolute sustainability constraints
Site will significantly increase risk of flooding.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered problematic
Site will increase the risk of flooding.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered achievable
Site will not increase the risk of flooding or lead to any increase in flood storage capacity.		No sustainability constraints
Site will reduce the risk of flooding and where appropriate, increase flood storage capacity.		Development will support Sustainable Objectives

## Appendix E

### Wiltshire & Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Appraisal Objectives & Thresholds for Sustainability Assessment (STA) Key (Summary of Effects)

<b>2. To avoid, mitigate and where necessary compensate for any significant impacts on the quality and quantity of groundwater, surface water and drinking water resources.</b>		
Significant adverse impact on water quality and quantity with no potential for mitigation.		Absolute sustainability constraints
Significant adverse impact on water quality and quantity.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered problematic
Limited adverse impact on water quality and quantity.		Sustainability issues; mitigation considered achievable
No adverse impact.		No sustainability constraints
No adverse impact on water quality and quantity and opportunities to improve water quality and/or remediate existing quantity constraints.		Development will support Sustainable Objectives

## Appendix F

### Wiltshire & Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Appraisal Amended SA Framework

The SA/SEA Scoping in 2005 covered all the Minerals Development Plan Documents (DPDs), which form part of the Wiltshire and Swindon Minerals and Waste Development Framework. The SA Framework proposed within the SA/ SEA Scoping Report was subject to consultation from the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2005 to 19<sup>th</sup> September 2005.

As SA/SEA is an iterative process the SA Framework has since been modified and consulted upon several times during the SA/SEA of the Core Strategy and Development Control DPDs. In line with good practice the SA Framework is again being refined to make it more relevant to the Minerals Site Allocations DPD.

The table below presents the revised and reorganised SA Framework tailored for SA/SEA of the minerals site selection. The changes to the SA objectives and decision-aiding questions are marked in **red (additions)** and ~~strike through~~ (deletions). The SA objectives have been adapted so that they better relate to sustainability issues surrounding potential mineral sites and can integrate more effectively into the mineral site appraisal process.

Please note changes to the minerals and waste SA Frameworks have been carried out in parallel, to ensure that there is an appropriate level of consistency.

Scoped in Appraisal questions. SA/SEA objectives. Does the policy...		SA/SEA sub-objectives	SA/SEA Assessment Questions. Would the <b>development of the site plan in association with other plans, programmes and projects ...</b>
4	<del>Help make suitable housing available and affordable for everyone</del>	<del>Make a positive sustainable contribution by minimising negative impacts to meet Wiltshire and Swindon's sub-regional apportionment</del>	<del>Help ensure that a sustainable contribution is made to the sub-regional aggregate apportionment?</del>
1	Promote stronger more vibrant communities	Maintain or where possible enhance the quality of life for people affected by mineral working and / or ancillary development Ensure that both the positive and negative impacts are identified for the proximity of mineral workings and / or ancillary development to settlements and individual properties Minimise nuisance <del>and health</del> impacts (noise, dust, fumes and vibration) from mineral workings and HGV site traffic Encourage high standards of restoration using <del>progressive techniques</del> to bring benefits to local communities <del>Promote healthy exercise, especially daily exercise by providing access to countryside</del>	Cause a change in the number of people directly affected by mineral working (living in close proximity to a mineral site or an access route) whose impact cannot be mitigated? Cause a cumulative beneficial or adverse impact on certain communities (either through permitting more reserves affecting the same community or by lengthening the time period of permission)? Provide incentives and opportunities for operators to use alternative transport modes to transport minerals? <del>Cause changes in traffic flows or the nature of traffic (an increase in HGVs for example) in any part of Wiltshire and Swindon that could alter the character of the landscape or townscape?</del>

## Appendix F

### Wiltshire & Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Appraisal Amended SA Framework

	Scoped in Appraisal questions. SA/SEA objectives. Does the policy...	SA/SEA sub-objectives	SA/SEA Assessment Questions. Would the <b>development of the site plan</b> in association with other plans, programmes and projects ...
		<del>spaces and areas.</del>	Ensure appropriate standards of restoration, including progressive restoration techniques in order to bring benefits to local communities and the environment?
2	Protect and improve the health and well-being of people living and working in Wiltshire and Swindon as well as visitors to the Plan Area	<p>Minimise health impacts (noise, dust, fumes, and vibration) from minerals workings and HGV site traffic</p> <p>Minimise the impact of minerals developments on rights of way, recreational facilities and open space</p> <p>Promote healthy exercise, especially daily exercise by providing access to greenspace</p> <p>Protect local rural communities and rural ways of life</p> <p>Protect and improve the quality of countryside in proximity to mineral working and / or ancillary development</p> <p>Protect and enhance rights of way, open space and common land and maintain access to the countryside</p>	<p>Ensure appropriate standards of restoration, including progressive restoration techniques in order to bring health benefits to local communities?</p> <p>Change the ease with which people can access the countryside, rights of way, open space and common land?</p> <p>Cause development in areas which are valued for their tranquillity?</p>
3	<del>To foster a vibrant, varied economy, with particular emphasis on supporting regeneration projects in market towns</del>	<p>Increase employment opportunities through an increase in minerals developments</p> <p>Promote diversification in the economy</p> <p>Promote methods for protecting valuable mineral reserves from sterilisation</p> <p>Provide materials that help to support the local economy</p> <p><del>Promote dialogue between all local authorities to ensure valuable mineral resources are not sterilised by non-minerals development</del></p>	<p>Help to provide employment opportunities in both rural and urban areas of the County?</p> <p>Provide employment opportunities in an area of low employment?</p> <p>Provide employment opportunities close to where employees might live?</p> <p><del>Help to protect mineral reserves (i.e. through the establishment of Mineral Consultation Areas or Mineral Safeguarding Areas)?</del></p> <p><del>Help to promote dialogue between all local authorities to ensure valuable mineral resources are not sterilised by non-minerals development?</del></p> <p><b>Provide materials which will enable the</b></p>

## Appendix F

### Wiltshire & Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Appraisal Amended SA Framework

Scoped in Appraisal questions. SA/SEA objectives. Does the policy...	SA/SEA sub-objectives	SA/SEA Assessment Questions. Would the development of the site plan in association with other plans, programmes and projects ...
		<del>maintenance and further development of infrastructure and facilities that benefit the local economy, i.e. workplaces and transport infrastructure?</del>
4	<p>Encourage <b>more sustainable transportation of minerals</b> and reduce the impacts of transport a <b>switch from transporting freight by road to rail or water</b></p>	<p><del>Reduce transportation of minerals by road through locating minerals sites close to growth centres</del></p> <p>Encourage the best use of existing transport mode options for mineral supply</p> <p><del>Protect important distribution network nodes (e.g. rail facilities)</del></p> <p>Enhance and promote opportunities for sustainable transport options for mineral supply</p> <p>Allow for sensitive lorry routing?</p> <p>Encourage the use of sustainable alternative fuels?</p> <p><del>Identify and provide incentives to use sustainable transport options?</del></p> <p>Encourage a switch from transporting freight by road to rail, water or conveyor?</p> <p>Help to protect important existing distribution network nodes (e.g. rail facilities)?</p> <p><del>Encourage, wherever possible the identification of Provide new minerals sites facilities close to major centres of growth?</del></p> <p><del>Identify and provide incentives to use sustainable transport options?</del></p>
5	<p>Protect <b>and enhance habitats and species biodiversity and geodiversity</b></p>	<p><del>To enhance the biodiversity resource and if possible prevent damage to geodiversity. Avoid key biodiversity and geodiversity features.</del></p> <p>Actively seek to protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity in each development</p> <p>Encourage the restoration and the creation of habitats and geodiversity features</p> <p>Avoid minerals development that would impact directly and indirectly on designated sites and species of international, national, county, or local importance, BAP habitats and species and other habitats of notable ecological value (e.g. brownfield sites)</p> <p>Consider alternatives to mineral extraction in resource areas of high ecological value</p> <p>Adversely affect the integrity of designated sites?</p> <p>Cause changes in habitat fragmentation or habitat loss (including those that affect affecting important/rare species) especially those affecting sites of international or national importance?</p> <p>Improve or remove geodiversity?</p> <p>Affect an area in a way that could have long term effects in relation to species lifestyles or irreversible effects where there are no known mitigation techniques?</p> <p>Include actions that affect areas where biodiversity is already exposed to significant threat, e.g. through habitat loss or fragmentation?</p> <p><b>Increase the risk of bird strike?</b></p> <p>Include actions that help to reach targets or</p>

## Appendix F

### Wiltshire & Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Appraisal Amended SA Framework

Scoped in Appraisal questions. SA/SEA objectives. Does the policy...		SA/SEA sub-objectives	SA/SEA Assessment Questions. Would the <b>development of the site plan</b> in association with other plans, programmes and projects ...
		<p>To consider whether sites can maintain and expand the Strategic Nature Areas that are identified in the South West Nature Map</p> <p>To explore, encourage and promote alternatives to mineral extraction in resource areas that fall within Strategic Nature Areas identified in the SW Regional Nature Map</p> <p>Maximise the potential for habitat creation through positive restoration of mineral workings</p> <p>Ensure that the risk of bird-strike is kept to an absolute minimum through implementing appropriate mitigation and site management measures</p>	<p>compromise targets of BAPs and / or Geodiversity Action Plans (GAPs) where produced?</p> <p>Include actions that affect Natura 2000 sites, SSSIs or other designated site?</p> <p>Include actions that could increase the risk of bird strike?</p> <p>Provide an major opportunity for habitat creation and enhancement to maximise biodiversity gain?</p>
6	Promote the conservation and wise use of land	<p>Minimise the area of land take per tonne of mineral (aggregate) produced if appropriate.</p> <p>Assess and evaluate early in the development phase the ability to restore the land use for mineral working and ancillary development to a high standard and ensure restored sites are properly managed in the long term future</p> <p>To minimise the loss of soil resources and to encourage the re-use of soils locally</p>	<p>Change the area of land take per tonne of mineral produced?</p> <p>Improve the planning of site restoration by considering restoration and mitigation throughout the life of the site not just at the end?</p> <p>Consider the long term aftercare and after-use of mineral sites?</p> <p>Cause significant loss of soils, particularly carbon-rich soils, due to site development and usage?</p> <p>Cause the best and most versatile agricultural land to be lost either temporarily or permanently?</p>
7	Protect and enhance landscape and townscape	<p>Protect designated and non designated areas of landscape or other amenity value</p> <p>Reduce visual intrusion from mineral workings and / or ancillary development</p> <p>Ensure all mineral sites and areas affected by mineral working are restored to a high standard</p> <p>Consider alternatives to mineral working in</p>	<p>Cause changes to designated areas which threatens the reason for their designation?</p> <p>Cause changes to the landscape / townscape that are completely at variance with the character of the area?</p> <p>Change the number of people that are affected by the visual impact of minerals development?</p>



## Appendix F

### Wiltshire & Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Appraisal Amended SA Framework

Scoped in Appraisal questions. SA/SEA objectives. Does the policy...		SA/SEA sub-objectives	SA/SEA Assessment Questions. Would the development of the site plan in association with other plans, programmes and projects ...
		resource areas of high landscape value or areas of tranquillity Maintain and wherever possible enhance access and overall amenity of the countryside to residents and visitors	Cause changes in traffic flows or the nature of traffic (an increase in HGVs for example) in any part of Wiltshire and Swindon that could alter the character of the landscape or townscape? (Note: no methodology currently exists to adequately model this)
9	Value and protect diversity and local distinctiveness including rural ways of life	<del>Minimise significant impacts on the countryside from all stages of mineral working and / or ancillary development Protect local rural communities and rural ways of life Protect and improve the quality of countryside in proximity to mineral working and / or ancillary development Protect and enhance rights of way, open space and common land and maintain access to the countryside Protect the best and most versatile agricultural land</del>	
8	Maintain and enhance cultural and historical assets	Preserve and enhance archaeological sites, historic buildings, Conservation Areas, registered battlefields, historic parks and gardens and other locally important features and areas and their settings	Include actions that could impact upon sites, monuments and areas valued for their cultural heritage? Cause a change in traffic flows or the nature of traffic (an increase in HGVs for example) that affects sites and monuments valued for their cultural heritage or changes the number of sites at risk?
10	Reduce vulnerability to flooding	<del>Reduce risk of flooding Minimise risk of flood pollution from minerals workings</del>	<del>Improve flood management and reduce flood risk?</del>
9	Keep water consumption within local carrying capacity limits (taking account of climate change) and	<del>Minimise any adverse impacts on water resources at all stages of mineral working through effective site design and management</del>	<del>Include measures that could increase or decrease the potential for water pollution? Increase / reduce the risk of effects on</del>

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### Wiltshire & Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Appraisal Amended SA Framework

Scoped in Appraisal questions. SA/SEA objectives. Does the policy...		SA/SEA sub-objectives	SA/SEA Assessment Questions. Would the development of the site plan in association with other plans, programmes and projects ...
	reduce adverse hydrological effects	Protect and where possible improve surface, groundwater and drinking water <del>quality</del> <b>quantity</b>	groundwater and surface water <del>quality and</del> quantity? Minimise on-site water consumption?
12	<del>Reduce waste produced by mineral development</del>	<del>Minimise the amount of waste produced per tonne of saleable mineral</del>	<del>Increase or decrease the amount of waste produced including uneconomic quarry fines per tonne of mineral?</del>
10	Minimise <b>waste and</b> the use of non-renewable <b>minerals</b> resources and where possible promote the use of renewable resources	Reduce reliance upon primary, land-won minerals in favour of increasing the contribution made by secondary and / or recycled materials Minimise the amount of waste produced per tonne of saleable mineral	Change the mix of aggregates produced between primary materials and secondary / recycled materials? <b>Provide suitable sites for aggregate recovery and recycling?</b> Increase or decrease the amount of waste produced including uneconomic quarry fines per tonne of mineral?
11	Minimise land, water, air, light, noise, and genetic pollution	Minimise the impact of mineral workings through implementing effective measures to control emissions to air (including particulates), dust, noise, groundwater, surface water and soils <del>Protect and improve the quality of water resources</del> Protect and where possible improve surface, groundwater and drinking water quality	Change the amount of pollution caused by mineral working? Encourage suitable mitigation measures (e.g. the establishment of Dust Management Plans for all mineral sites)? <b>Result in minerals workings or associated transportation in proximity to an AQMA?</b> Include measures that could increase or decrease the potential for water pollution? <b>Take account of the precautionary principle?</b> <b>Protect and/or enhance groundwater resources (paying particular regard to sensitive aquifers, potable reserves and Source Protection Zones)?</b> Create the likelihood for increased genetic pollution
12	<del>Minimise the impacts on climate change</del> <b>Reduce greenhouse gas emissions</b>	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from site operations and transportation <del>Minimise the vulnerability of minerals extraction operations to climate change</del>	Reduce energy consumption on sites? <b>Improve the production and use of renewable energies?</b> <b>Maintain existing carbon stores (e.g. organic</b>

## Appendix F

### Wiltshire & Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Appraisal Amended SA Framework

Scoped in Appraisal questions. SA/SEA objectives. Does the policy...		SA/SEA sub-objectives	SA/SEA Assessment Questions. Would the <b>development of the site plan</b> in association with other plans, programmes and projects ... soils, broad-leaved woodland)?
13	Ensure that adequate measures are in place to adapt to the impacts of climate change	Reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change Reduce the risks of flooding	Minimise the vulnerability of minerals extraction operations to climate change? Result in minerals development within the floodplain? Mitigate against flooding or drainage problems? Increase flood storage capacity, improve flood management and reduce flood risk? Provide habitat corridors to allow species to adapt to the changing climate?

