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# **DOWNTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

## **SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL SCOPING REPORT**

**NOVEMBER 2014**

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### November 2014

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## DOWNTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

### Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

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## 1.0 Introduction

### ***Sustainability Appraisal (SA) & Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)***

- 1.1 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a systematic process that must be carried out during the preparation of development plans in England. The requirement is set out in Section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and in Paragraph 165 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). SA can also incorporate the requirements of the EU SEA Directive<sup>1</sup>, a systematic process that evaluates the likely effects of a plan on the environment. SA considers socio-economic factors, which are investigated in the same way and to the same extent as environmental matters. There is no legal requirement for a neighbourhood plan (NP) to be subject to SA. However the qualifying body (Downton Parish Council) must demonstrate how its' plan will contribute to achieving sustainable development and SA can be useful in this respect.
- 1.2 Sustainable development is defined within the NPPF as '*development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*' in accordance with Resolution 42/187 of the United Nations General Assembly.
- 1.3 In some circumstances a neighbourhood plan can have the potential for significant environmental effects, and as such may fall within the scope of the SEA Regulations<sup>2</sup>, thus requiring a SEA. As the local planning authority, Wiltshire Council is legally required to determine whether the Downton Neighbourhood Plan (DNP) will require SEA. Downton Parish Council (DPC) has not formally requested a SEA Screening Opinion from Wiltshire Council. The Parish Council has decided to undertake an SA incorporating SEA for various reasons as follows:
- the DNP will set the framework for future development consent of projects
  - there are internationally and nationally designated sites for biodiversity and cultural heritage within and adjacent to the DNP boundary
  - to inform the preparation of the DNP and demonstrate how the plan will contribute to achieving sustainable development
- 1.4 As the DNP will set the development framework for projects and has important biodiversity and heritage assets, it could have significant effects on the environment and therefore may fall within the scope of the UK SEA Regulations. The Downton Parish Council recognises that there is effectiveness in sharing the evidence base for both plan-making and assessment purposes. Therefore an integrated SA (SEA) will be produced that meets the SEA requirements and considers the further socio-economic effects. The SA (SEA) will be prepared in accordance with good practice SA and in compliance with the SEA Regulations<sup>3</sup>.

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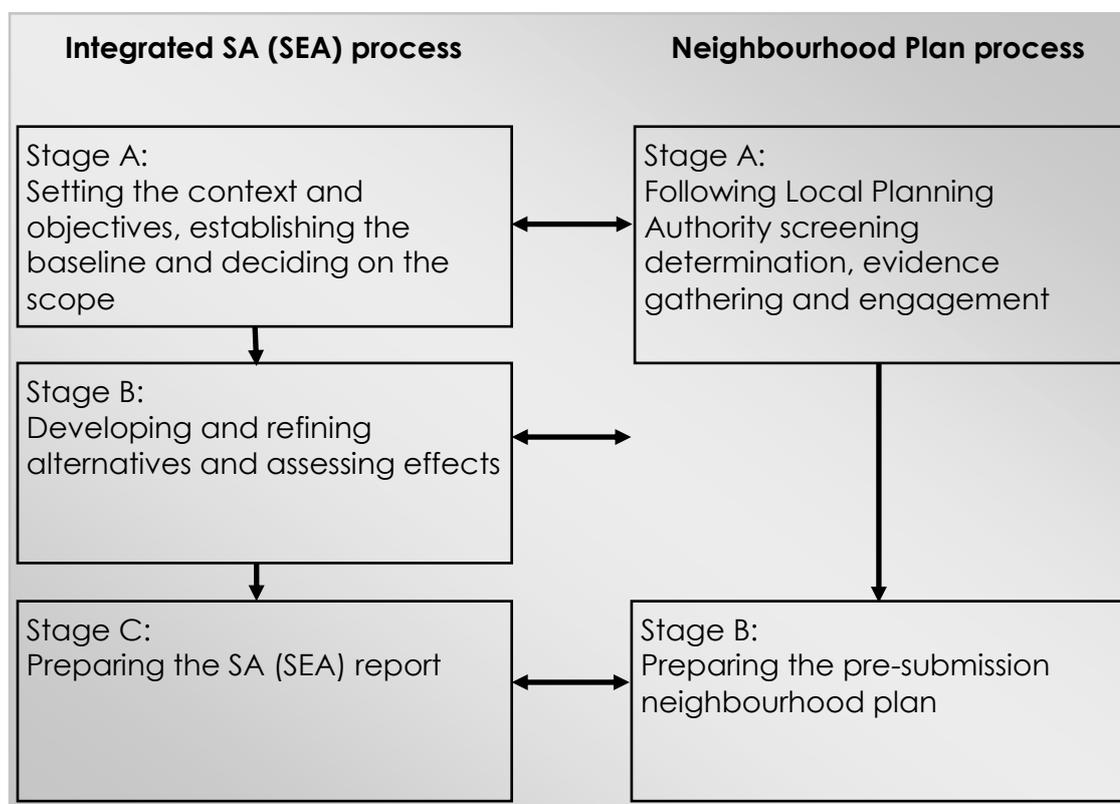
<sup>1</sup> EU Directive 2001/42/EC

<sup>2</sup> Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004)

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

- 1.5 Downton Parish Council has commissioned independent specialist consultants Enfusion Ltd to undertake the SA (SEA) scoping, prepare the SA (SEA) Scoping Report and to assist by providing specialist advice to during the subsequent assessment and reporting stages of the SA (SEA).
- 1.6 National Planning Practice Guidance sets out the key stages and tasks for the SEA process, and how these relate to the Neighbourhood Plan process, as shown in Appendix II. Figure 1.1 shows the interaction between this SA (SEA) and the DNP at the early stages of production, expanding on government guidance to show how the SA (SEA) is an iterative and on-going process.

**Figure 1.1: SA (SEA) and Neighbourhood Planning processes**



### ***Downton Neighbourhood Plan***

- 1.7 The NPPF acknowledges<sup>4</sup> that neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and deliver the sustainable development they need. A Neighbourhood Plan can set planning policies to determine decisions on planning applications, and grant planning permissions through Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders for specific development which complies with the order.

<sup>4</sup> Paragraph 182

- 1.8 The NPPF further identifies<sup>5</sup> that a Neighbourhood Plan must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan, in this case the emerging Wiltshire Core Strategy<sup>6</sup>. The Core Strategy has been prepared in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework and other relevant European and National legislation. By ensuring that the Downton Neighbourhood Plan is in conformity with the Core Strategy, it is therefore also considered to be in accordance with European requirements and National legislation and policy.
- 1.9 The Wiltshire Core Strategy identifies Downton as a Local Service Centre within the Community Area of Southern Wiltshire. Local Service Centres are defined as small towns and villages which serve a surrounding rural hinterland and possess a level of facilities and services that provide opportunities for greater containment. Downton is expected to provide modest levels of development that safeguards its' roles and delivers affordable housing. Core Policy 24 sets the level of growth at 190 new homes in the Downton area during the Plan period 2006 – 2026. During the period 2006 – 2011 there were 45 new house completions, leaving a remainder of 135 new homes to be identified and delivered.
- 1.10 As a result of this Core Strategy allocation, the village of Downton is expecting increased development pressures over the coming years, and therefore has formed the Downton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (DNPSG) to influence the direction of this development by consulting with the local community and to prepare a draft Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.11 The first formal stage in preparing a Neighbourhood Plan is to designate the neighbourhood area. The 'qualifying body' (in this case Downton Parish Council) is required under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 to notify the council (Wiltshire Council) of its intentions to designate a neighbourhood area, state its' reasons and submit a map of the proposed area. The Downton Parish Neighbourhood Area correlates with the existing Parish boundaries. The proposed area for designation was subject to consultation between April and June 2014, and approved in August 2014.
- 1.12 The next stage is information gathering and seeking the views of the community. A local survey has been conducted and DNP Vision and engagement working groups have been set up. The following website has been created for the DNPSG: [www.downtonfuture.org.uk](http://www.downtonfuture.org.uk); this records progress with the preparation of the DNP and invites public comments.
- 1.13 The gathered information will then support the preparation of a draft Plan which could involve the identification and assessment of site options, and the development of policies to guide growth in the area. This draft will be published for public comment for a period of 6 weeks (expected early 2015). The draft DNP will be amended and finalised, taking into account the views expressed during consultation, and then submitted to Wiltshire Council. If

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<sup>5</sup> Paragraph 184

<sup>6</sup> Wiltshire Council (2012) Wiltshire Core Strategy Pre-Submission Document [online] <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/wiltshire-core-strategy-pre-submission-document-with-bookmarks-february-2012> [accessed October 2014]

Wiltshire Council finds that the submission version meets legal requirements, they will invite further comments through a 6 week period of consultation on the submission version of the Plan.

- 1.14 Following this second round of consultation, an independent planner will undertake examination of the Plan. The examiner will issue a report to the local planning authority who will publish the report, and after considering it, will reach their own view, including a decision as to whether or not to take the DNP to a referendum. A neighbourhood plan needs to meet a number of conditions if it is to proceed to referendum, including the need to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development – and the SA(SEA) will help in this respect.
- 1.15 A community referendum gives those people who live in the DNP area (and are eligible to vote in a local election) the opportunity to vote on whether or not the neighbourhood plan should come into legal force. If more than 50% vote positively, then the DNP will be formally made and adopted as a planning document.

#### ***Purpose and Structure of this SA (SEA) Scoping Report***

- 1.16 This document reports the scoping stages of the SEA process, identified as Stage A in Figure 1.1. The purpose of the SA(SEA) Scoping Report is to:
- identify other existing plans and programmes that the DNP may influence, or that may be influenced by the DNP.
  - identify baseline characteristics and conditions in the DNP area, including any trends and key issues for sustainability
  - develop Sustainability Appraisal Objectives that seek to address the key issues identified, within a framework that will form the basis for assessing whether the emerging DNP is progressing toward achievement of those goals
  - allow statutory bodies and the public to have an early opportunity to consider and comment on the scope of the SA (SEA)
  - demonstrate compliance with SEA Regulations and good practice SA
- 1.17 The statutory bodies for consultation are; English Heritage, Environment Agency, Natural England and Wiltshire Council. The Scoping Report is structured into five sections; following this introductory section is a Plans and Programmes Review, Baseline, SA (SEA) Method and Framework, and a final section on Consultation & Next Steps
- 1.18 The SA (SEA) Framework created within this document will be used to assess how emerging policies or site options contribute to the defined SA (SEA) Objectives. These SA (SEA) Objectives have been developed to address the key sustainability issues that were identified in the process of evidence gathering.

## 2.0 Plans and Programmes Review

### *Introduction*

- 2.1 In order to establish a clear scope for the SA (SEA), it is necessary (and a requirement of SEA) to review and develop an understanding of the context of existing plans and programmes. There are a wide range of plans and programmes that may influence, or be influenced by the DNP. Summarising the objectives of these plans and programmes promotes systematic identification of the implications for the preparation of the DNP and the scope for the SA (SEA).
- 2.2 Wiltshire Council has reviewed a significant number of other plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives that are relevant to the Wiltshire Core Strategy and this is presented in the PP Review of the Wiltshire Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report<sup>7</sup>. Since the DNP is a lower level development plan that must be in conformity with the Wiltshire Core Strategy, it is not necessary to duplicate this work. However key documents that are particularly relevant to the DNP area and the SA (SEA) are included here in this SA (SEA) Scoping Report together with any additional local information that was identified.

### *Key Plans and Programmes Reviewed*

- 2.3 The key locally relevant plans and programmes reviewed are summarised in this section to provide an overview of the implications for the preparation of the DNP. A detailed Plans and Programmes Review is provided as Appendix 1 which further demonstrates compliance with the SEA Regulations.
- 2.4 The Wiltshire Core Strategy is the key document that the DNP must conform to. The document is the most important part of the Local Development Framework (LDF); a suite of documents that guide development in the District, and which will eventually replace the four Local Plans covering Wiltshire. The Strategy seeks to deliver a thriving economy, address climate change, provide everyone with access to a decent, affordable home, build resilient communities, protect and enhance the natural, historic and built environment, and ensure that adequate infrastructure is in place to support communities.
- 2.5 The growth targets for the Wiltshire District set in this Strategy include 37,000 new homes over the plan period 2006-2026, and 178ha of new employment land over the plan period 2011-2026. Core Policy 24 of this Strategy identifies Downton as a Local Service Centre and an area that can support growth. The DNP area is allocated for the delivery of 190 new homes, which sets the minimum growth parameters to be considered in the DNP. The policies within the Strategy set a framework for development consent. It is important that the DNP does not duplicate these policies, but rather uses the opportunity to

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<sup>7</sup> Wiltshire Council (2010) Wiltshire Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report [online] <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/wiltshire-sa-scoping-report-april-2010-main-report.pdf> [accessed October 2014]

protect the area with more site specific and local level knowledge and details where necessary.

- 2.6 The Strategy contains 20 different Area Strategies, of which the Southern Wiltshire Community Area (SWCA) strategy applies to Downton. The Strategy recognises development constraints for this area, including; the tight administrative constraining the growth of Salisbury, wildlife impacts in the Winterslow area, and congestion on the A36. It is important that the DNP considers these constraints when assessing the direction and level of growth in the DNP area, for example the development of Salisbury is likely to affect Downton now and into the future, as its expansion moves into the surrounding areas due to its tight administrative boundaries.
- 2.7 As the DNP seeks to conform to the Wiltshire Core Strategy, it is considered to be, by extension, also in conformity with national and international planning legislation and guidance, including the NPPF. It is important to understand that the overarching national planning framework is underpinned by a presumption in favour of sustainable development, and as such it sets out what could make a proposed plan or development unsustainable. The DNP seeks in turn to explore the local environment, and identify at the local level, what could make development unsustainable, and where opportunities to enhance sustainability exist.
- 2.8 The Hampshire Avon Water Framework Directive Management Area Abstraction Licensing Strategy indicates that in the lowest flows water is not available for licensing, and as such the DNP should consider ways in which to reduce the demand for water, which is likely to increase as a result of development. This will include directing development away from areas where improvements to river flows are necessary.
- 2.9 The DNP can support the goals of the Wiltshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2026 Strategy through the direction of development towards existing and new / proposed services, facilities, employment areas, and public transport links. This can contribute to the goal of reducing the need to travel.
- 2.10 The DNP area is located in southern Wiltshire, close to the New Forest District Council area. The Core Strategy for this area is broken down into three main plan areas, of which the Ringwood, Fordingbridge, the Avon Valley and the Western Downlands area is closest to the DNP area. This area of Hampshire is noted for national and international nature conservation designations, and protected landscapes including a greenbelt. Ringwood and Fordingbridge are the main shopping centres for this area, which are likely to also attract Downton residents. The DNP will need to ensure that environmental pathways that link the two areas are protected and enhanced, ensuring connectivity and avoiding fragmentation of habitats.
- 2.11 Key transport corridors connecting the two areas (e.g. the A338) are likely to experience increased pressures as a result of development in Downton, and these effects will also need to be considered. It is important that the DNP seeks to locate new housing in areas that connect to the services and

facilities, preferably by public transport, and in which safe access can be achieved.

- 2.12 The Wiltshire Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2 identifies that there are essential infrastructure priorities for the Southern Wiltshire Community Area, these include; an extension of the Downton Primary School to accommodate an additional 37 pupil places; an extension of existing primary schools in the villages to provide an additional 53 pupil places; and an extension of Trafalgar Secondary School. The DNP should ensure that any policy proposals or site options do not hinder the delivery of these essential infrastructure requirements.
- 2.13 The review of plans and programmes identified key issues for the preparation of the DNP and the SA (SEA) as follows:
- Wider impacts of development on the A36 and the A338
  - Downton Housing Allocation in Wiltshire Core Strategy is for 190 new homes
  - An opportunity to offer more local level and site specific knowledge and details
  - The overarching planning 'presumption in favour of sustainable development' presenting an opportunity or local areas to identify at the local level, what constitutes 'sustainable development'.
  - European, National, Regional and Local designations for biodiversity in the DNP area, and environmental pathways connecting the area with the wider natural landscape and habitats.
  - Important cultural and historic heritage
  - Improving the river water quality in the DNP area
  - Reducing the demand for water
  - Supporting a reduction in carbon emissions
  - Connecting development to existing facilities / services and employment areas, as well as new / proposed development, and supporting development with good public transport connections
  - Green Infrastructure
  - Protecting the Minerals Resource Zone
  - Development that does not hinder the planned school expansions in the area
- 2.14 Consideration of these issues for sustainability were used to inform the development of the SA (SEA) Objectives, as reported in section 4 of this report.

### 3.0 Baseline

#### *Introduction*

- 3.1 Task A2 of the SEA process (shown in Figure 1.1) is the requirement to gather baseline information and extant guidance<sup>8</sup> indicates that for SA (SEA) this should include environmental, economic and social characteristics of the area likely to be affected by the Plan and their likely evolution without implementation of the plan. Baseline information provides the basis against which the likely effects of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan is assessed.
- 3.2 The SA / SEA guidance provided by Government proposes a practical approach to data collection, recognising that information may not yet be available and that information gaps for future improvements should be reported as well as the need to consider uncertainties in data. Collection of baseline information should be continuous as the SA (SEA) process guides plan-making and as new information becomes available.
- 3.3 Much of the information to inform plan-making and the SA (SEA) processes is available at national and county levels – and was included in the preparation of the Wiltshire Core Strategy and its' accompanying SA. It is more difficult to gather relevant information at the local level. This compilation of the baseline condition for the DNP area has sought to focus on the local situation and consultation on the draft SA (SEA) Report will invite any additional information that may be available.

#### *Socio-Economic Characteristics*

- 3.4 Wiltshire is predominantly a rural area, and the largest unitary authority area in England. Around half of the near 471,000 residents live in towns or villages of less than 5000 people. In this respect, Downton is a relatively large village around 7 miles south of Salisbury, accommodating 3,073 residents<sup>9</sup>. The Parish comprises the villages of Downton and Charlton All Saints, and the hamlet of Standlynch. The highest population density is recorded within Downton South, indicating that this area has been the previous focus for housing development in the DNP area.
- 3.5 Of the 2,519 residents that were aged 16 and over in 2011, 547 of them had no formal qualifications, which is higher than the number of resident recorded as educated to degree or higher degree level (470 residents) and the number of residents with professional qualifications like nurses and teachers (516 residents)<sup>10</sup>. There are a number of schools in the DNP area; Trafalgar Secondary School, Downton C of E VA Primary School, Downton Community Pre-School and Giant Steps Day Nursery. There are large university bases in

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<sup>8</sup> National Planning Practice Guidance: Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal [online] <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/> [accessed October 2014]

<sup>9</sup> ONS (2011) Datasets for Lower Super Output Layers; Wiltshire 062C and Wiltshire 062E

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

Southampton and the DNP area relies on larger cities like this for higher educational purposes<sup>11</sup>.

- 3.6 Despite a general lack of health facilities within the DNP area, the 2011 census also indicates a good level of health, generally above UK averages. There are further health facilities in the wider Southern Wiltshire Community Area that support the residents of Downton, as well as a hospital in Salisbury.
- 3.7 There is a leisure centre in Downton Village, which is supported by further leisure facilities in Salisbury and Fordingbridge. Further to this Downton contains 5 open recreational spaces, and 1 important open space / park and garden in the village<sup>12</sup>. There are two allotment sites; one in Wick Lane managed by the Downton Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Association, and one at the rear of the Catholic Church which is owned and managed by the Church.
- 3.8 Crime statistics could not be found for the local level, however at the Wiltshire level, the area encountered less than 1% of England's violent crimes or vehicle offences in 2012-2013, experiencing 105 fatal casualties in that year.
- 3.9 Minority groups exist in the DNP area, in particular a small community of Gypsy and Travellers recorded in the 2011 census. The Wiltshire Council Evidence Base Topic Paper 16 on Gypsies and Travellers identifies a gypsy site at Lode Hill in Downton with 10 pitches and 16 community members
- 3.10 The DNP area contained around 1,346 households in 2011, the majority of which are single family homes, however there is also a large proportion of single person households. Of the 373 single person households, 220 were residents aged 65 and over. 70.8% of the homes in 2011 were owned, 10.3% were socially rented and 14.2% were privately rented<sup>13</sup>. House prices for Wiltshire are higher than South West and England averages; the Strategic Housing Market Assessment<sup>14</sup> also shows that in rural areas the average entry-level purchase price is higher than in urban areas. Wiltshire Council seeks to deliver 7,360 new affordable homes over the Local Plan period 2011 – 2026, and Core Policy 43 from the Wiltshire Core Strategy<sup>15</sup> sets an affordable housing provision of 40% for development sites of 5 or more homes. Financial contributions are expected for sites developing 4 or less homes. The preparation of a Community Infrastructure Levy is currently in progress and expected to be adopted in 2015 across the Wiltshire area. The draft version<sup>16</sup> sets different rates according to firstly zone, and then type of development.

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<sup>11</sup> Google Maps [online] <http://www.google.co.uk/maps>

<sup>12</sup> Wiltshire Council (2013) Salisbury and South Wiltshire Community Areas Map: Downton Inset Map (following modifications) [online] <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/wcsmods-downton-inset-updated.pdf> [accessed October 2014]

<sup>13</sup> ONS (2011) Datasets for Lower Super Output Layers; Wiltshire 062C and Wiltshire 062E

<sup>14</sup> Wiltshire Council (2011) Strategic Housing Market Assessment [online] <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/strategic-housing-market-assessment> [accessed October 2014]

<sup>15</sup> Wiltshire Council (2012) Wiltshire Core Strategy pre-submission document [online] <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/wiltshire-core-strategy-pre-submission-document-with-bookmarks-february-2012> [accessed October 2014]

<sup>16</sup> Wiltshire Council (2014) Wiltshire Community Infrastructure Levy Draft Charging Schedule submission version [online] <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/cil-draft-charging-schedule-submission-version-june-2014.pdf> [accessed October 2014]

For residential development the cost per square metre ranges between £30-85.

- 3.11 Essential priorities within the Wiltshire Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2013<sup>17</sup> are the extensions of both Downton Primary School to provide an additional 37 pupil places, and Trafalgar Secondary School. There is also a place-shaping priority for improvements to library bookstocks and facilities. There are no strategic waste sites within the DNP area; the closest strategic waste sites are in Salisbury and Whiteparish.
- 3.12 The Parish contains many local small scale employment opportunities - 57 different employers were recorded in a local survey undertaken by the DNPSG<sup>18</sup>, 3 of which employed over 50 people. Downton Business Centre is also recognised as the Principal Employment Area in the Wiltshire Core Strategy Policy Maps<sup>19</sup>.
- 3.13 The 2011 census data also shows that 5.2% of residents aged 16 – 74 used their home as their main employment location. Of the 2,131 residents aged between 16 and 74 in 2011; 72% were economically active (compared to 73.8% across the whole of Wiltshire), 2.6% were unemployed (compared to 2.9% across Wiltshire), and 20.4% were retired (compared to 14.7% of the Wiltshire population). The DNPSG local survey further indicates that 79% of residents work outside the village, reflecting the employment links with larger bases like Salisbury, Southampton and Bournemouth.
- 3.14 Of the 2,131 16 – 74 year olds in the DNP area, 50.4% used a car or van as their main method of travel to work. 5.2% worked from home, 6% travelled on foot, and 1.2% by bicycle. 1.8% of those recorded used a bus, minibus or coach as their main method of travel to work, with a further 0.9% using the train.
- 3.15 Downton straddles the River Avon and is well connected to the road network. On the western side of the river the A338 runs north-south, with traffic lights at the junction with the B3080; which runs east-west through the centre of the village, crossing the Avon's three branches. The A338 is recognised as the primary and local lorry route through the area in the Wiltshire Core Strategy<sup>20</sup>. Two minor roads run through the eastern part of the village, Barford Lane to the north; which connects with the A36 at the Salisbury end of the Alderbury by-pass, and Moot Lane; which connects with the Hampshire village of Wood Green and the river crossing to Breamore on the A338. The B3080 continues

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<sup>17</sup> Wiltshire Council (2013) Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2 Appendix 1: Southern Wiltshire Community Area [online]

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/corestrategydocument?directory=Examination%20Documents/EXAM%2066%20Infrastructure%20Delivery%20Plan%202&filerref=16> [accessed October 2014]

<sup>18</sup> DNPSG (2013) Parish Survey, soon to be uploaded to: <http://www.downtonfuture.org.uk/>

<sup>19</sup> Wiltshire Council (2013) Salisbury and South Wiltshire Community Areas Map: Downton Inset Map (following modifications) [online] <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/wcsmods-downton-inset-updated.pdf> [accessed October 2014]

<sup>20</sup> Wiltshire Council (2013) Salisbury and South Wiltshire Community Areas Map: Downton Inset Map (following modifications) [online] <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/wcsmods-downton-inset-updated.pdf> [accessed October 2014]

east to the Wiltshire Parish of Redlynch, then across the New Forest joining the B3078 Fordingbridge to Cadnam road.

- 3.16 The A338 connects with the A31 at Ringwood to the south and the Salisbury ring road to the north. It is prone to flooding in the south around North Charford Drove and there is peak-time congestion at the traffic lights. To the north of Salisbury the A338/A346 forms part of the National Primary Route to Swindon and the M4. The A338 also contains a bus route providing access to Salisbury, Odstock Hospital and Bournemouth. There are few minor roads across the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to the east of the A338 between the A354 junction to the north at Salisbury and the B3078 junction to the south at Fordingbridge.
- 3.17 The Downton Village Design Statement<sup>21</sup> shows that the western aspects of Downton Village are affected by the traffic on the A338, along with the effects of through-traffic connecting to the B3080 to the New Forest. Recent mitigation for this adverse effect includes road narrowing and traffic priority measures. Further to this the statement recognises key areas such as Barford Lane and South Lane that have no pavements.
- 3.18 Although pedestrian and cycle links exist, the village finds that all traffic converges at pinch points created by the 3 river crossing points. There are no National Cycle Network routes through the DNP area, although there is a cycle path alongside the A338 to the north but does not extend to Salisbury and has much scope for improvement. Downton Parish Council has a Rights of Way Working Group that is currently investigating improved footpaths and cycle routes within the DNP area.
- 3.19 The B3080 has a weight limit to inhibit HGV traffic but is a route across the New Forest to Junction 1 on the M27 at Cadnam and onward to Southampton, Winchester and Portsmouth. Various minor roads radiate from Redlynch, 1 to 2 miles east of the Downton Neighbourhood Plan area and in particular the road to Hamptworth joins the A36 at Landford.
- 3.20 Downton is currently served by the Wilts and Dorset X3 bus that operates between Salisbury and Bournemouth along the A338 and by the Salisbury Reds 44 service that runs through the village along the B3080 to Redlynch but not beyond across the New Forest. Charlton All Saints is served by the 49 bus connection between Fordingbridge and Salisbury. There are also school buses, and National Express coach services operate through Salisbury and Ringwood.
- 3.21 Barford Lane provides an alternative route to Salisbury from the eastern side of Downton, although it winds around former deer parks. Downton expanded along Moot Lane to the south during the 1950s and 1960s<sup>22</sup>, but south of the settlement it becomes a narrow winding lane, it also provides an alternative route to cross the river Avon at Breamore which has been used when the Downton bridges have closed.

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<sup>21</sup> Downton Parish Council & Salisbury District Council (2002) Downton Village Design Statement [online] [http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/downton\\_village\\_design\\_statement.pdf](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/downton_village_design_statement.pdf) [accessed October 2014]

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

- 3.22 The A36 is a major trunk road that runs northwest across Wiltshire. It is maintained by the Government's Highway Agency but is 4 miles to the east of Downton on the opposite side of the river Avon to the A338 and separated from Downton by Barford Down and woodland fringing the New Forest. The Wiltshire Core Strategy indicates that a key concern for development in the Southern Wiltshire Community Area are likely negative effects on the A36, although this is outside of the Downton Neighbourhood Area there is the potential for effects both on the A36 as a result of development in Downton and locally in Downton as a result of development pressures on the A36. The A31 is also a major trunk road maintained by the Highways Agency that runs southwest through Hampshire but is 10 miles south of Downton.
- 3.23 The closest train station is Salisbury Railway Station, approximately 6.3 miles away on the northern side of Salisbury but parking is limited and the Downton buses do not go direct to the station. Southampton Parkway Station off Junction 5 on the M27 is 14 miles away but straightforward to reach by car with a new multi-storey car park and a faster service to London Waterloo than from Salisbury.
- 3.24 Car usage in the Wiltshire area is forecast to rise over the next 15 years<sup>23</sup>, particularly with regard to commuting and school run purposes. For Downton, significant congestion issues around the primary school are noted at the local level.

### **Environmental Characteristics**

- 3.25 The whole of the Neighbourhood Plan area is recognised for naturally beautiful landscapes. A large proportion of the west of the DNP area falls within the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), stretching west of the A338 (including Charlton Manor Farm, but not including a vertical strip of land south of Charlton Manor Farm and west of the A338), and west of Wick. The rest of the area to the east of the AONB is a designated Special Landscape Area in the Wiltshire Core Strategy policies map. The 2008 South Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment<sup>24</sup> shows the River Avon area is defined as the Lower Avon Narrow Chalk River Valley character type, which is surrounded by the Downton Chalk Downland character type in the rest of the DNP area.
- 3.26 The New Forest National Park lies approximately 2.5 miles to the south of the DNP area. It includes a number of SSSI sites and the Avon Valley Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site in the south towards Bickton Hampshire.

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<sup>23</sup> Wiltshire Council (2012) Wiltshire Core Strategy Topic Paper 10: Transport [online] <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/wiltshire-core-strategy-topic-paper-10-transport-feb-2012.pdf> [accessed October 2014]

<sup>24</sup> Salisbury District Council (2008) South Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment [online] <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningpolicy/planningpolicyevidencebase/southwiltshirecorestrategievidencebase.htm#SalisburyLandscapeCharacterAssessment> [accessed October 2014]

- 3.27 The River Avon System is a nationally designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in 'unfavourable – no change' condition and also has European importance being designated a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Some of the River Avon water meadows within the DNP area are operated under Natural England's Environmental Stewardship scheme. Clearbury Down is another SSSI along the north west boundary of the Plan area west of Charlton Manor Farm, which is in 'favourable' condition<sup>25</sup>.
- 3.28 The DNP area includes UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Habitats of; Lowland Calcareous Grassland, Lowland Meadows, Deciduous Woodland, and Woodpasture and Parkland. There are also numerous woodland sites that are within the National Inventory for Woodland and Trees. A County Wildlife Site is in the west of DNP area. The DNP area is approximately 4.7 miles to the north west of the Langley Wood National Nature Reserve<sup>26</sup>.
- 3.29 The land surrounding the River Avon is identified as a Mineral Safeguarding Area in the 2013 Minerals Local Plan<sup>27</sup>, which reports that the Salisbury Avon deposits of sand and gravel have historically been subject to minor extractions but that are unlikely to be able to compete now with the Upper Thames Valley. Production is limited to one site, Brickworth Quarry which supplies soft sand for construction. The Minerals Plan proposes an extension to this quarry to meet demand needs.
- 3.30 Most of the soil in the DNP area is classified as arable land, with grassland and smaller pockets of rough grazing land. There are also a few patches of woodland<sup>28</sup>. Agricultural land grading is not recorded by Defra (Magic Maps) and other sources cannot be found for the area. Therefore this SA (SEA) Scoping Report seeks to ascertain the relative significance of such land.
- 3.31 The River Avon runs north to south through the centre of the DNP area, and the land in the immediate vicinity is largely part of the flood plain. The majority of this area is in Flood Zone 3, the Environment Agency Flood Map does not differentiate between Flood Zone 3a and 3b which means the land either has a high probability of flooding or comprises the functional floodplain. A further vertical strip just south of Charlton All Saints is a Flood Zone 2 area<sup>29</sup> of medium probability of flooding. These are the areas of most significance in terms of flood risk.
- 3.32 Downton is shown in the Joint South Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)<sup>30</sup> to intersect with Flood Risk Zones 3a and 3b, and the urban area is at risk from groundwater, sewer and surface water flooding. The assessment

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<sup>25</sup> DEFRA (2014) Magic Map [online] <http://www.magic.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

<sup>27</sup> Wiltshire Council (2013) Wiltshire and Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Allocations Local Plan [online] <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/minerals-adopted-sites-local-plan-may-13.pdf> [accessed October 2014]

<sup>28</sup> DEFRA (2014) Magic Map [online] <http://www.magic.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>

<sup>29</sup> Environment Agency (2014) Flood Maps [online] <http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk>

<sup>30</sup> Wiltshire Council, Bournemouth Borough Council, Christchurch Borough Council, East Dorset District Council, North Dorset District Council (2008) Joint South Strategic Flood Risk Assessment: Main Report and Appendix G Salisbury [online] [http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningpolicy/planningpolicyevidencebase/southwiltshirecorestrategyevidencebase.htm#SFRA\\_Level\\_1\\_Salisbury](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningpolicy/planningpolicyevidencebase/southwiltshirecorestrategyevidencebase.htm#SFRA_Level_1_Salisbury) [accessed October 2014]

recommends the prioritisation of surface water drainage techniques in the application of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, after infiltration drainage can be confirmed that it does not increase the risk of groundwater flooding. The assessment further recognises that there are flood defences within Downton and that if development is proposed behind any of these defences, a detailed breach and overtopping assessment could be required. The report shows that generally the further south the river travels the shallower the flood plain becomes, with the exception of a couple of deeper areas to the south east of Charlton All Saints.

- 3.33 Downton Village and the area south and west of it, is a designated Source Protection Zone (with regard to protecting water resources abstracted for potable use) in the Wiltshire Core Strategy policy maps. The DNPSG reports ongoing local issues of surface water pollution at Wick Lane, Long Close and Trafalgar School.
- 3.34 The DNP area does not include any Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs), and the nearest at over some 7 miles is listed in Salisbury<sup>31</sup>. The road river crossings in Downton have been identified as pinch points for traffic, together with the primary route of the A338, and it is likely that whilst not designated as AQMAs these congested road areas would be of local concern with regard to air pollution.
- 3.35 Downton Village is designated as a Conservation Area that contains over 85 Listed Buildings, including the Grade I listed Church of St Laurence, Moot House and Manor House. The Moot is also a Scheduled Monument<sup>32</sup>. The key characteristics for the Conservation Area, highlighted in the Conservation Area Appraisal<sup>33</sup>, are as follows:
- Its distinctive settlement layout and the contrast between the village core and The Borough
  - The survival of the important former industrial core to the village centred around the river
  - The setting of the valley floor comprising flood plain and former water meadow systems
  - Distant glimpses of buildings in a mature treed landscape
  - The importance of roofscape in local views particularly from The Moot
  - Continuous building lines providing good enclosure, defining roads and spaces complimented by the use of brick and flint boundary walls
  - The valuable survival of a significant number of thatched buildings individually and in groups
  - The use of traditional high quality, eighteenth century brickwork, often to re-front earlier timber framed buildings
  - Deep, narrow, open plots often backing onto open countryside

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<sup>31</sup> Wiltshire Council (2011) Wiltshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2026 Strategy [online] <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/ltp3-strategy.pdf> [accessed October 2014]

<sup>32</sup> Downton Parish Council & Salisbury District Council (2002) Downton Village Design Statement [online] [http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/downton\\_village\\_design\\_statement.pdf](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/downton_village_design_statement.pdf) [accessed October 2014]

<sup>33</sup> Salisbury District Council (2008) Downton Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan [online] [http://www.downtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/MiscDocs/Downton\\_Conservation\\_Area\\_Appraisal.pdf](http://www.downtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/MiscDocs/Downton_Conservation_Area_Appraisal.pdf) [accessed October 2014]

- 3.36 One of the recommendations from the appraisal highlights locally significant buildings that currently fall outside of the Conservation Area boundary, these are; Wick Lodge, South Lane Cottage and the Lode Hill flint retaining wall. The recommendation in the appraisal is to extend the existing boundaries to incorporate these buildings in the future.
- 3.37 The Salisbury Local Plan 2011<sup>34</sup> (soon to be superseded by the Wiltshire Core Strategy) identifies that the Neighbourhood Plan area is an Area of Special Archaeological Significance, and is located close to the designated New Forest Heritage Area. These designations have not been taken forward into the Wiltshire Core Strategy Policy Maps, although areas of local significance may still exist.

### **Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Plan**

- 3.38 The identification of Downton in the Wiltshire Core Strategy as a strategic location to support growth means that it is likely to come under increased development pressure with adverse effects on issues identified for sustainable development. Without the development of the Neighbourhood Plan, the area could see development guided by market preferences rather than local preferences. There is also the potential to miss the opportunity for coordinated development and infrastructure improvements that support rather than hinder the long-term growth and improvement of the Neighbourhood Plan area.

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<sup>34</sup> Salisbury District Council (2011) Salisbury District Local Plan [online]  
<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningpolicy/salisburydistrictlocalplan.htm>  
[accessed October 2014]

#### 4.0 Key Sustainability Issues & Proposed Method

##### *Key Sustainability Issues & Opportunities*

- 4.1 Table 4.1 summarises the key sustainability issues identified through the SA (SEA) Scoping process, and links them to the relevant SA (SEA) Objectives which have been identified in Table 4.2.

**Table 4.1: Key Sustainability Issues**

Topic	Issues Identified
Socio – Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Strategic Housing Allocation for 190 new homes</li> <li>■ The overarching planning 'presumption in favour of development' presenting a need for local areas to identify at the local level, what constitutes 'unsustainable development'</li> <li>■ Historic growth patterns in Downton south</li> <li>■ A growing and ageing population</li> <li>■ Minority ethnic groups including a gypsy and traveller community</li> <li>■ Limited health facilities within the Plan area</li> <li>■ Securing required school expansions, and ensuring that new development does not hinder the potential for schools to grow</li> <li>■ Lack of formal qualifications in resident population</li> <li>■ Raising the educational attainment levels in the DNP area</li> <li>■ Protecting and enhancing local employment opportunities</li> <li>■ Increasing access to employment for economically active but unemployed residents</li> <li>■ Delivering affordable homes</li> <li>■ Supporting more sustainable transport modes than the private car</li> <li>■ A transport network that supports access to employment areas, and economic growth</li> <li>■ Improvement to the A338 to improve air quality</li> <li>■ Improvement to the three river crossings identified as traffic pinch points, and ensuring improved air quality in these locations</li> <li>■ Through traffic to the New Forest National Park</li> <li>■ Dealing with the forecast rise in car usage</li> <li>■ Wider impacts of development on the A36 / on Downton from the A36.</li> <li>■ Wider impacts of development on the A338</li> <li>■ Opportunities for renewable energy</li> <li>■ New and affordable housing</li> <li>■ Opportunity to offer more local level and site</li> </ul>

	<p>specific knowledge and details</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Improved infrastructure development within the Plan area</li> <li>■ More people supporting public services e.g. local buses</li> </ul>
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ AONB designation in the west of the Plan area</li> <li>■ Natural and rural landscape character and designated Special Landscape Area</li> <li>■ International SAC and National SSSI designations for the River Avon System</li> <li>■ International SAC, SPA and Ramsar designations in close vicinity to the DNP area, and environmental pathways connecting the area with the wider natural landscape and habitats.</li> <li>■ Clearbury Down SSSI designation</li> <li>■ High quality BAP Priority Habitats</li> <li>■ Lack of information on agricultural land quality</li> <li>■ Protecting the Minerals Resource Zone</li> <li>■ Flood risk around the River Avon, and groundwater, sewer, and surface water flood risks in urban areas, especially at Wick Lane, Long Close and Trafalgar School</li> <li>■ Protection of existing flood defences</li> <li>■ Improving the water quality in the area</li> <li>■ Reducing demand for water</li> <li>■ Protection and enhancement of Downton Conservation Area, numerous Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monument</li> <li>■ The potential for archaeology</li> <li>■ Supporting a reduction in carbon emissions</li> <li>■ Water infrastructure improvement as a result of development</li> <li>■ To increase agricultural land quality knowledge</li> <li>■ Potential for increased local archaeological information</li> <li>■ To increase local biodiversity awareness and knowledge through the plan making process</li> </ul>

### **SA (SEA) Framework**

- 4.2 The SA (SEA) process uses a framework of objectives (and sub-objectives or decision-aiding questions) that represent the aspirations for sustainable development for a plan area and to help resolve identified issues. SA (SEA) objectives proposed to assess the emerging elements of the DNP against the

identified baseline have been compiled from the PP Review and the analysis of the baseline information. As the DNP must be in conformity with the Wiltshire Core Strategy, it is important that the SA (SEA) of the DNP aligns with the Wiltshire Core Strategy SA Framework.

- 4.3 The Wiltshire CS SA Objectives were reduced in number and made more relevant to the DNP level of planning. For example, the community, employment and water related objectives were amalgamated from 7 to 3 objectives to facilitate appraisal at this level of plan-making. The SA (SEA) Objectives seek to resolve the identified issues and enhance the identified opportunities.

**Table 4.2: SA (SEA) Framework**

SA (SEA) Objective		Decision-Aiding Criteria: Will the option / proposal...
1	Protect and enhance biodiversity and geological features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Protect and enhance priority habitats and species?</li> <li>■ Protect and enhance European, national, regional and locally designated wildlife sites (including SSSIs)?</li> <li>■ Contribute to the improvement of the River Avon System SSSI condition?</li> <li>■ Avoid habitat fragmentation?</li> <li>■ Contribute to the achievement of objectives and targets within national and local biodiversity strategies?</li> <li>■ Aid in the delivery on a network of multifunctional Green Infrastructure?</li> <li>■ Lead to habitat creation?</li> <li>■ Lead to habitat loss?</li> </ul>
2	Ensure the most efficient use of land and soil resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Utilise undeveloped greenfield land only where that land is located within close proximity to, or can provide, a good range of community facilities, key services, infrastructure and employment opportunities?</li> <li>■ Protect the best and most versatile agricultural land?</li> <li>■ Protect and enhance soil quality?</li> <li>■ Safeguard the mineral resources for future use?</li> <li>■ Use previously developed land?</li> </ul>
3	Promote sustainable waste management solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Reduce the amount of waste produced?</li> <li>■ Provide opportunities for recycling?</li> <li>■ Provide opportunities for local composting?</li> <li>■ Minimise waste water?</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Provide a framework in which communities take more responsibility for their own waste?</li> </ul>
4	Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner and reduce the risk of flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Encourage sustainable and efficient management of water resources?</li> <li>■ Ensure that essential water infrastructure is co-ordinated with all new development</li> <li>■ Contribute to the improvement of surface water quality at Wick Lane, Long Close and / or Trafalgar School?</li> <li>■ Protect and where possible improve surface, ground and drinking water quality?</li> <li>■ Minimise the risk of flooding to people and property (new and existing development)?</li> <li>■ Take climate change into account in the location and design of development, ensuring that development can adapt to any future flood risk scenarios?</li> <li>■ Ensure the use of SuDS in appropriate circumstances?</li> </ul>
5	Improve air quality and minimise environmental pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Maintain and improve local air quality?</li> <li>■ Mitigate the impacts on air quality from road transport?</li> <li>■ Minimise levels of noise, light pollution, odour and vibration?</li> </ul>
6	Minimise our impacts on climate change, and seek opportunities for renewable energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Minimise the emissions of greenhouse gases?</li> <li>■ Minimise the likely impacts of future development on climate change through appropriate adaptation?</li> <li>■ Promote the development of renewable energy resources?</li> <li>■ Promote energy efficiency in buildings and new development?</li> <li>■ Minimise contributions to climate change through sustainable building practices?</li> <li>■ Reduce transport emissions?</li> <li>■ Seek opportunities to provide / enhance renewable energy production?</li> </ul>
7	Protect, maintain and enhance the historic environment and archaeological assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Conserve and enhance features and areas of historical and cultural value, including Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, and Historic Parks and Gardens?</li> <li>■ Conserve and enhance archaeological assessment prior to development of</li> </ul>

		<p>greenfield and brownfield land?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Promote sensitive re-use of historical buildings and buildings of significant local interest, where appropriate?</li> <li>■ Improve and broaden access to, and understanding of local heritage and historic sites?</li> <li>■ Maintain and enhance the character and distinctiveness of settlements?</li> </ul>
8	Protect and enhance landscapes and the rural character of the area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Protect and enhance the landscape character and scenic quality of the countryside?</li> <li>■ Protect and enhance natural landscapes within the urban area, including recreational open space and strategic green corridors?</li> <li>■ Conserve and enhance areas with landscape designations and take account of their management objectives?</li> <li>■ Minimise the visual impact of new developments on the landscape?</li> <li>■ Promote the most efficient use of land, prioritising the use of previously developed land?</li> </ul>
9	Provide good quality and affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Provide an adequate supply of affordable housing?</li> <li>■ Support the provision of a range of housing types and sizes to meet the needs of all sectors of the community?</li> <li>■ Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people's needs?</li> <li>■ Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities?</li> </ul>
10	Safeguard and improve community health, safety and well-being, and support communities with the necessary infrastructure, facilities and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Promote design of buildings and spaces to minimise crime and fear of crime?</li> <li>■ Encourage healthy lifestyles and reduce health inequalities?</li> <li>■ Provide for high quality, accessible health care facilities?</li> <li>■ Incorporate a network of multifunctional green infrastructure?</li> <li>■ Promote recreational and leisure opportunities in the countryside?</li> <li>■ Encourage and promote social cohesion and inclusiveness?</li> <li>■ Minimise fuel poverty?</li> <li>■ Maintain or enhance the quality of life of</li> </ul>

		<p>existing local residents?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Improve the availability and accessibility of key local facilities?</li> <li>■ Maintain and enhance rural facilities?</li> </ul>
11	Support increased levels of educational attainment and provide opportunities for people to improve their workplace skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Provide and support high quality educational facilities?</li> <li>■ Improve the skills and qualifications of young people?</li> <li>■ Promote life-long learning that is accessible to all?</li> <li>■ Help to provide a supply of skilled labour to match the needs of local businesses?</li> <li>■ Support the creation of flexible jobs to meet the changing needs of the population?</li> </ul>
12	Reduce the need to travel and promote sustainable transport choices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Increase the uptake of sustainable travel choices?</li> <li>■ Improve the jobs / homes balance?</li> <li>■ Encourage home or other forms of remote working?</li> <li>■ Will it provide adequate means of access by a range of sustainable transport modes?</li> <li>■ Will it promote retained and short distance trips to access services and facilities?</li> </ul>
13	Ensure adequate provisions of quality employment land and encourage a vibrant and diversified economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Improve business development and enhance competitiveness?</li> <li>■ Support the rural economy?</li> <li>■ Support economic diversification?</li> <li>■ Provide a variety of employment land and mixed use development sites to support a varied and robust economy?</li> </ul>

4.4 The nature of the likely sustainability effects (including positive / negative, duration, permanent / temporary, secondary, cumulative and synergistic) should be described, along with any assumptions or uncertainties noted. The significance of potential effects will be assessed against the baseline information and wider Local Plan evidence, as well as any local level or site specific knowledge, and using professional judgment. The categories of significance are set out in Table 4.3 as follows:

**Table 4.3: SA (SEA) Key for Categories of Significance**

<b>Sustainability Threshold Assessment: Categories of Significance</b>		
<b>Symbol</b>	<b>Meaning</b>	<b>Sustainability Effect</b>
- -	Major Negative	Development problematical and improbable because of known sustainability issues; mitigation likely to be difficult and/or expensive
-	Minor negative	Potential sustainability issues: mitigation and/or negotiation possible
+	Minor positive	No sustainability constraints and development acceptable
++	Major Positive	Development encouraged as would resolve existing sustainability problem
?	Uncertain	Uncertain or Unknown Effects
0	Neutral	Neutral effect

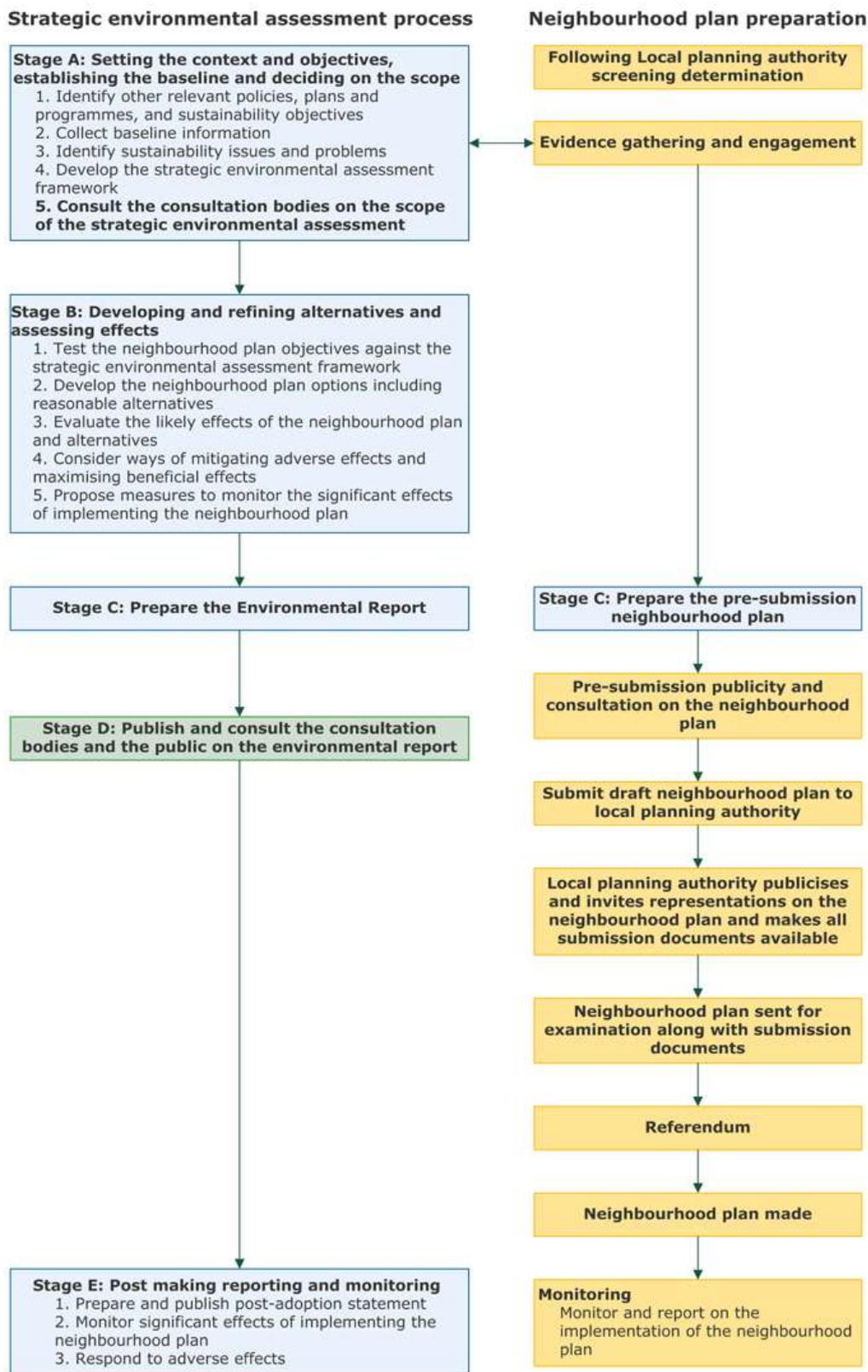
## **5.0 Consultation & Next Steps**

- 5.1 This SA (SEA) Scoping Report will be submitted to the statutory consultation bodies (Environment Agency, Natural England, English Heritage and Wiltshire Council) and be made available to the public and interested organisations and people through the DNP website. Any responses received will be taken into consideration in preparation of the final Scoping Report that will then set the scope for the SA (SEA) of the DNP.

## Appendix 1: Glossary and Abbreviations

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
BAP	UK Biodiversity Action Plan
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework, this document sets the overarching planning principles for England
NP	Neighbourhood plan
DNP	Downton Neighbourhood Plan
DNPSG	Downton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SA (SEA)	Integrated Sustainability Appraisal incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
Scoping Report	Initial stage of the SA or SEA process that sets the scope of the sustainability appraisal
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEA Directive	Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of certain plans and programmes on the environment
SFRA	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SuDS	Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems
SWCA	Southern Wiltshire Community Area
NPA	National Park Authority

## Appendix II: Strategic Environmental Assessment and Neighbourhood Planning Processes



Source: National Planning Practice Guidance

### Appendix III: Plans and Programmes Review

Plan or Programme	Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (The SEA Directive)
Author and Date	European Parliament, 2001
<b>Key Objectives / Requirements</b>	
<p>The Directive requires the implementation of SEA on agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste / water management, telecommunications, tourism, town &amp; country planning or land use plans or programmes, and plans that set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in the EIA Directive, or plans that require a Habitat Regulations Assessment. A screening procedure is used to determine whether SEA is required for a particular plan or programme. Requirements include the production of an environmental report (that is consulted on), consultation with environmental authorities at early screening stages, scoping, an assessment of reasonable alternatives, and the monitoring of significant environmental effects.</p>	
<b>Implications for the NP</b>	
<p>The SEA Directive requires SEA for land-use plans that are likely to have significant effects on the environment. As Downton NP will set the framework for future development consent of projects, and contains a European designated site for biodiversity it is likely to have significant effects on the environment, and therefore falls into the scope of the SEA Directive. Wiltshire Council will need to determine whether SEA is required for the NP, the DNPSG can formally request a screening opinion in order to establish this.</p>	

Plan or Programme	Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe
Author and Date	European Parliament, 2008
<b>Key Objectives / Requirements</b>	
<p>The Directive merges most of the existing legislation into a single Directive with no change to existing air quality objectives, except for a new objective for fine particles. This now incorporates the previous Air Quality Framework Directive (Directive 96/62/EC) which describes the basic principles as to how air quality should be assessed and managed. It lists the pollutants for which air quality standards and objectives will be developed and specified in legislation.</p>	
<b>Implications for the NP</b>	
<p>Concentrations of certain pollutants in the air are limited, this needs to be considered in areas subject to increased pressures from development on air quality, for example in locally designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs).</p>	

Plan or Programme	Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for the Community action in the field of water policy (The EU Water Framework Directive or WFD)
Author and Date	European Parliament, 2000

Key Objectives / Requirements	
<p>The Directive has the following key aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Expanding the scope of water protection to all waters, surface waters and groundwater</li> <li>■ Achieving 'good status' for all waters by 2015</li> <li>■ Water management based on river basins (a natural geographical and hydrological unit instead of administrative or political boundaries)</li> <li>■ Combined approach of emission limit values and quality standards</li> <li>■ Getting the prices right</li> <li>■ Getting the citizen involved more closely</li> <li>■ Streamlining legislation</li> </ul>	
Implications for the NP	
<p>The NP must ensure conformity with the relevant River Basin Management Plans, which set the local level water objectives. The NP must also ensure there are no significant negative effects on the quality of waters in and around the Plan area.</p>	

Plan or Programme	Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (The Habitats Directive)
Author and Date	European Parliament, 1992
Key Objectives / Requirements	
<p>The Directive forms the cornerstone of Europe's nature conservation policy. It is built around two pillars: the Natura 2000<sup>35</sup> network of protected sites and the strict system of species protection. The Directive protects over 1000 animal and plant species and over 200 habitat types which are of European importance.</p>	
Implications for the NP	
<p>If the NP is likely to have a significant effect upon a Natura 2000 site (also known as European sites), either individually or in combination with other projects, then a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) may be required.</p>	

Plan or Programme	EC Seventh Environmental Action Programme 2013 – 2020
Author and Date	European Community, 2013
Key Objectives / Requirements	
<p>The programme identifies three key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ To protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital</li> <li>■ To turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy</li> <li>■ To safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing</li> </ul> <p>There are four 'enablers' to help Europe deliver on these goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Better implementation of legislation</li> <li>■ Better information by improving the knowledge base</li> <li>■ More and wiser investment for environment and climate policy</li> </ul>	

<sup>35</sup> Natura 2000 network of European designated sites for biodiversity including Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full integration of environmental requirements and considerations into other policies</li> </ul>
Implications for the NP
The NP needs to support the EU goals. Baseline information gathered in the process can support local knowledge and information bases, and policies incorporated in the NP should be consistent with environmental and health requirements in development.

Plan or Programme	European Landscape Convention
Author and Date	Council of Europe, 2006
Key Objectives / Requirements	
The convention aims to encourage public authorities to adopt policies and measures at local, regional, national and international level for protecting, managing and planning landscapes throughout Europe. It covers all landscapes, both outstanding and ordinary, that determine the quality of people's living environments. The Convention proposes legal and financial measures at the national and international levels aimed at shaping landscape policies and promoting interaction between local and central authorities. The Convention also provides for a Council of Europe Landscape award for exemplary and long-lasting policies or measures to protect, manage and plan landscapes.	
Implications for the NP	
The NP will need to ensure that landscapes within the Plan area have been considered and protected where necessary. Any new policy approaches should be shared, and could be open to receiving the Landscape award.	

Plan or Programme	The Aarhus Convention
Author and Date	United Nations, 1998
Key Objectives / Requirements	
The Convention establishes a number of rights of the public with regard to the environment, providing for; the right of everyone to receive environmental information that is held by public authorities, the right to participate in environmental decision-making, and the right to review procedures to challenge public decision that have been made without respecting the two aforementioned rights or environmental law in general.	
Implications for the NP	
The NP process must include consultation with the wider public and consultation bodies on the preparation of, and draft versions of the NP	

Plan or Programme	The National Planning Policy Framework
Author and Date	Department for Communities and Local Government, 2012
Key Objectives / Requirements	
The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government's aspirations for the planning system in England. The underpinning message of the document is a presumption in favour of sustainable development, and as such the framework sets out what could make a proposed plan or development unsustainable. There are 12 core planning principles outlined in the document, and there is a requirement for both local and neighbourhood plans to take the Framework into account in the	

development of plans. The broad objectives and directions for planning are set across the topics of:

- Building a strong, competitive economy
- Ensuring the vitality of town centres
- Supporting a prosperous rural economy
- Promoting sustainable transport
- Supporting high quality communications infrastructure
- Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes
- Requiring good design
- Promoting healthy communities
- Protecting Green Belt land
- Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change
- Conserving and enhancing the natural environment
- Conserving and enhancing the natural environment
- Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals
- Plan-making
- Decision-taking

#### Implications for the NP

The NPPF sets the planning parameters, and the scope of influence for the NP. In light of the presumption in favour of sustainable development, the NP gives Downton a chance to direct development at the local scale, supporting sustainable development but also in conserving and enhancing the areas of value and requiring quality development with the necessary supporting infrastructure.

Plan or Programme	The Future of Transport – A Network for 2030
Author and Date	Department for Transport, 2004
Key Objectives / Requirements	
The strategy sets the investment plans to 2014-15, and is built around three main themes; sustained investment, improvements in transport management, and planning ahead. This is supported by the underlying objective of the strategy to balance the need to travel with the need to improve quality of life.	
Implications for the NP	
The NP needs to consider future implications for the transport system in and around the Plan area when directing growth and development.	

Plan or Programme	Towards a Sustainable Transport System: Supporting Economic Growth in a Low Carbon World
Author and Date	Department for Transport, 2007
Key Objectives / Requirements	
The Government agenda can be summarised into 5 broad goals:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ To maximise the competitiveness and productivity of the economy</li> <li>■ To address climate change by cutting emissions of greenhouse gases</li> <li>■ To protect people's safety, security and health</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ To improve the quality of life</li> <li>■ To promote greater equality of opportunity</li> </ul>
<b>Implications for the NP</b>
Transport has far reaching effects that impact upon other SA (SEA) topics like climate change and health. Transport considerations should be an integral part of growth and development plans, the NP should seek to place development in areas that are deemed the most well connected and the most accessible.

Plan or Programme	Active Travel Strategy
Author and Date	Department for Transport and Department of Health, 2010
<b>Key Objectives / Requirements</b>	
The strategy seeks to increase the cycling and walking rates in England. The three main aims for the strategy are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ To promote better public health and well-being by increasing levels of physical activity, particularly among the most inactive people in our society</li> <li>■ To increase accessibility and reduce congestion</li> <li>■ To improve air quality and reduce carbon emissions</li> </ul>	
<b>Implications for the NP</b>	
Promoting cycling and walking within the rural neighbourhood area will be a key challenge for the NP. The NP can coordinate growth with existing facilities, services and employment areas, as well as new or proposed employment areas to support existing connections with an increased resident population.	

Plan or Programme	Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services
Author and Date	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, 2011
<b>Key Objectives / Requirements</b>	
This strategy ties in with the EU biodiversity strategy in addition to drawing links to the concept of ecosystem services. The strategy's vision for England is "By 2050 our land and seas will be rich in wildlife, our biodiversity will be valued, conserved, restored, managed sustainably and be more resilient and able to adapt to change, providing essential services and delivering benefits for everyone". The strategy's overall mission is "to halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people".	
<b>Implications for the NP</b>	
The NP area contains various sites with biodiversity values, the impetus for the UK to protect and enhance these areas should be reiterated right through to the local level. Habitats and species of international, national, regional and local importance should be protected and enhanced in accordance with the national objectives for such designations.	

Plan or Programme	The UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework
Author and Date	Joint Nature Conservation Committee and Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, 2012
<b>Key Objectives / Requirements</b>	
<p>The UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework succeeds the Biodiversity Action Plan and is a result of a change in strategic thinking following the publications of; the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and the new EU Biodiversity Strategy (EUBS) 2011. The strategic goals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ To address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society</li> <li>■ To reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use</li> <li>■ To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity</li> <li>■ To enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystems</li> <li>■ To enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge, management and capacity building</li> </ul>	
<b>Implications for the NP</b>	
<p>The NP has the opportunity to direct development away from the most sensitive biodiversity, as well as enhance biodiversity opportunities in new development. The NP also presents the opportunity to increase local biodiversity awareness and knowledge through the plan making process.</p>	

Plan or Programme	Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England
Author and Date	Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, 2009
<b>Key Objectives / Requirements</b>	
<p>The soil strategy for England outlines the Government's approach to safeguarding our soils for the long-term. It provides a vision to guide future policy development across a range of areas and sets out the practical steps that are needed to prevent further degradation of our soils, enhance, restore and ensure their resilience, and improve understanding of the threats to soil and best practice in responding to them. Key objectives of the strategy include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Better protection for agricultural soils</li> <li>■ Protecting and enhancing stores of soil carbon</li> <li>■ Building the resilience of soils to a changing climate</li> <li>■ Preventing soil pollution</li> <li>■ Effective soil protection during construction and development</li> <li>■ Dealing with our legacy of contaminated land</li> </ul>	
<b>Implications for the NP</b>	
<p>The NP should seek to protect and enhance the best and most versatile agricultural land (Grade 1, 2, and 3a), and ensure soil quality is protected in new development.</p>	

Plan or Programme	Hampshire Avon Water Framework Directive Management Area Abstraction Licensing Strategy
Author and Date	Environment Agency, 2012

Key Objectives / Requirements	
The strategy provides information on where water is available for further abstraction and an indication of how reliable a new abstraction licence may be.	
Implications for the NP	
The River Avon is considered to be one of the most biodiverse rivers in lowland Britain, the part that runs through the NP area is protected as a SSSI and SAC. Resource availability is calculated at four different flows, and the report shows that in the lowest flows water is not available for licensing. The largest use for water abstracted in the NP area is for public and private water supply.	

Plan or Programme	River Basin Management Plan South West River Basin District
Author and Date	Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and Environment Agency, 2009 (updated 2011)
Key Objectives / Requirements	
<p>The Plan shows the current challenges for the South West River Basin include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Diffuse pollution from agricultural activities</li> <li>■ Diffuse and point source pollution from disused mines</li> <li>■ Point source pollution from water industry sewage works; and</li> <li>■ Physical modification of water bodies</li> </ul> <p>The Plan requires many water bodies to reach a 'good' status by 2015 in line with the Water Framework Directive.</p>	
Implications for the NP	
Any development in the NP area needs to consider effects on water bodies, both within and surrounding the NP area, and contribute to the requirement to enhance water quality and reach 'good status'.	

Plan or Programme	Water Resources Management Plan
Author and Date	Wessex Water
Key Objectives / Requirements	
<p>The Plan sets out how Wessex Water will maintain a balance between the demand for water and available supplies while ensuring the environment is protected over 25 years. The key objectives for the plan are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Reduce the demand for water</li> <li>■ Reduce leakage</li> <li>■ Reduce abstraction where it is required to improve river flows</li> <li>■ Identify whether there is scope to transfer water to neighbouring companies</li> </ul>	
Implications for the NP	
Development in the NP area is likely to increase demand for water, the NP will need to consider ways in which to reduce this demand. Directing development away from areas where improvements to river flows are	

necessary may support a reduction in abstraction from these areas.

Plan or Programme	Wiltshire Core Strategy (Pre-Submission Document)
Author and Date	Wiltshire Council, 2012
Key Objectives / Requirements	
<p>The Wiltshire Core Strategy is the most important part of the Local Development Framework (LDF), a suite of documents that will eventually replace the four Local Plans covering Wiltshire. The document has six Strategic Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Delivering a thriving economy</li> <li>■ Addressing climate change</li> <li>■ Providing everyone with access to a decent, affordable home</li> <li>■ Helping to build resilient communities</li> <li>■ Protecting and enhancing the natural, historic and built environment</li> <li>■ Ensuring that adequate infrastructure is in place to support our communities</li> </ul> <p>The core policy framework is structured around these Strategic Objectives, and the strategy seeks to deliver 37,000 new homes (over the plan period 2006 – 2026) and 178 ha of new employment land (over the plan period 2011 – 2026). The document sets 20 different Area Strategies.</p>	
Implications for the DNP	
<p>One of the Area Strategies relates to the Southern Wiltshire Community Area. The strategy recognises development constraints for this area of; the tight administrative boundaries constraining the growth of Salisbury, wildlife impacts in the Winterslow area; and congestion on the A36. It is important that the Neighbourhood Plan considers the wider constraints on the Community Area, in particular transport impacts on the A36.</p> <p>Core Policy 24 identifies Downton as a Local Service Centre and strategic location to support growth of the area. The strategic allocation is for 190 new homes, which sets the minimum growth parameters to be considered in the development of the DNP</p> <p>The Core Policies identify the framework for development consent, it is important that the DNP does not duplicate these, but rather uses the opportunity to protect the area with more site specific or local level knowledge and details where necessary.</p>	

Plan or Programme	Wiltshire Local Transport Plan 2011 – 2026 Strategy
Author and Date	Wiltshire Council, 2011
Key Objectives / Requirements	
<p>The plan sets out a long-term transport strategy, a shorter-term implementation plan and a number of supporting strategies. A number of objectives have been developed to support achievement of the following goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Support economic growth</li> <li>■ Reduce carbon emissions</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Contribute to better safety, security and health</li> <li>■ Promote equality of opportunity</li> <li>■ Improve quality of life and a healthy natural environment</li> </ul>
<b>Implications for the NP</b>
Development in the NP area is likely to increase carbon emissions as a result of more cars on the road, housing development can support objectives by closely linking housing development with existing facilities, services and employment areas, as well as new or proposed employment areas, connected with viable public transport links.

<b>Plan or Programme</b>	New Forest Core Strategy outside the National Park
<b>Author and Date</b>	New Forest District Council, 2009
<b>Key Objectives / Requirements</b>	
The Strategy identifies the key sustainability issues, and the level and direction of growth for the New Forest Plan area. The Strategy seeks to deliver 3,920 new homes and supported economic and employment growth across the District area. Policy CS10 identifies the spatial strategy for the area.	
<b>Implications for the NP</b>	
Downton has links to the Fordingbridge and Ringwood shopping areas within the New Forest area, and there are environmental pathways / connections between the two plan areas that will need to be considered when planning for change.	

<b>Plan or Programme</b>	Wiltshire & Swindon Minerals Core Strategy and Minerals Site Allocations Local Plan
<b>Author and Date</b>	Wiltshire Council, 2009 (Site Allocations 2013)
<b>Key Objectives / Requirements</b>	
<p>The Core Strategy manages the availability, extraction and use of primary, secondary and recycled mineral resources whilst protecting the interests of local communities and the wider environment. The overall spatial pattern of aggregates quarrying in the area is characterised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Cotswold Water Park / Upper Thames Valley – a major concentration of sharp sand and gravel workings and the predominant aggregate production zone in the Plan area</li> <li>■ Calne / Compton Bassett Area – dominated by two sites currently producing soft sands</li> </ul> <p>The strategy recognises the requirement to reconcile the need for local building stones to retain local identity and distinctiveness with the need to protect the environment from the costs of winning and working these materials.</p> <p>The Site Allocations Local Plan following detailed site and environmental assessments sets out 7 strategic sites to deliver an estimated yield of 10.86 million tonnes in the period up to 2026. The plan recognises that there are few appropriate sites for the extraction of sand and gravel in the Plan area, and as such sets out the justification for a departure from the government's</p>	

prescribed position to a local forecast figure of 1.2 million tonnes per annum.

#### Implications for the NP

A Minerals Resource Zone runs through the NP area, though there are no minerals site allocations in the NP area. The site allocation in the South East of Salisbury Area is Brickworth Quarry, which is east of the NP area.

Plan or Programme	Wiltshire & Swindon Waste Core Strategy and Waste Site Allocations Local Plan
Author and Date	Wiltshire Council, 2009 (Site Allocations 2013)
Key Objectives / Requirements	
<p>The Core Strategy sets out the strategic planning policy framework for waste management over a plan period of 20 years. The strategy indicates the need to deliver an additional:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 54,000 tonnes per year of Treatment capacity for Municipal waste management for Wiltshire and Swindon</li> <li>■ Three Household Recycling Centres, Material Recovery Facility, and a Composting Facility for the management of Wiltshire's Municipal waste</li> <li>■ Suitable Municipal waste management facilities in Swindon to achieve the target of 50% recycling and to meet the objectives of the Municipal strategy</li> <li>■ 915,870 cubic metres of void space capacity for management of industrial and commercial waste</li> <li>■ 250,000 tonnes per year of Treatment capacity for industrial and commercial waste management</li> <li>■ 150,000 tonnes per year of recycling capacity for industrial and commercial waste management</li> <li>■ 950,000 cubic metres of void space capacity for the management of inert waste; and</li> <li>■ 90,000 tonnes per year of transfer capacity for the management of inert waste</li> </ul> <p>The strategy has four strategic objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Involving the community</li> <li>■ The need for waste management facilities</li> <li>■ The environment</li> <li>■ The Waste Hierarchy</li> </ul> <p>The Site Allocations Local Plan presents a framework of 35 strategic and local scale sites offering a range of potential waste uses to flexibly meet the capacity requirements of Wiltshire and Swindon up to 2026. The plan is divided into sections for North Wiltshire, West Wiltshire, East Wiltshire, South Wiltshire and Swindon.</p>	
Implications for the NP	
<p>There are no waste site allocations in the NP area, the closest waste site allocation is to the east of the NP area at Brickworth Quarry in Whiteparish.</p>	

Plan or Programme	South Wiltshire Core Strategy (to be superseded by the Wiltshire Core Strategy)
Author and Date	Wiltshire Council, 2012
Key Objectives / Requirements	
<p>The strategy is soon to be replaced by the overarching Wiltshire Core Strategy currently in examination. The South Wiltshire Core Strategy sets out a spatial strategy and planning policies over a plan period of 20 years. The spatial strategy is applied to the areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Salisbury</li> <li>■ Wilton Community Area</li> <li>■ Amesbury Community Area</li> <li>■ Southern Wiltshire Community Area</li> <li>■ Mere Community Area; and</li> <li>■ Tisbury Community Area</li> </ul>	
Implications for the NP	
<p>Though the NP should review the objectives of this Plan, it is soon to be superseded by the Wiltshire Core Strategy, and as such more weight should be applied to the emerging document.</p>	

Plan or Programme	Wiltshire Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2 2011 – 2016
Author and Date	Wiltshire Council, 2013
Key Objectives / Requirements	
<p>The plan sets out the specific infrastructure requirements of new development planned for by the Core Strategy, it identifies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Essential and place-shaping infrastructure needs and costs</li> <li>■ When and where the infrastructure is needed or will be delivered</li> <li>■ Who will deliver and maintain the infrastructure</li> <li>■ How the infrastructure will be funded</li> <li>■ Risks to infrastructure delivery and contingency plans</li> <li>■ The plans and strategies of infrastructure providers, and</li> <li>■ Funding gaps</li> </ul>	
Implications for the NP	
<p>The Plan identifies the following essential infrastructure priorities for the Southern Wiltshire Community Area; an extension of Downton Primary School to accommodate an additional 37 pupil places; an extension of existing primary schools in the villages to provide an additional 53 pupil places; and an extension of Trafalgar Secondary School. There is a further place-shaping priority of an expansion of library bookstock and other facilities e.g. PCs, IT, decoration and furniture.</p>	