

West Lavington Neighbourhood Plan



Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report February 2015

West
Lavington
Parish
Council

Our Place: Our Plan
A Plan for West Lavington and Littleton Panell

West Lavington Neighbourhood Plan 2017-2026

*Our Place: Our Plan
A Plan for West Lavington and Littleton Panell*

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report February 2015

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This document was originally produced in May 2014 and was updated incorporating subsequent statutory consultee comments in June 2014 and revised again with regard to Appendix C in February 2015

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CONTENTS

- 1 INTRODUCTION.....2
- 2 METHODOLOGY8
- 3 POLICY CONTEXT AND REVIEW OF OTHER RELEVANT PLANS / PROGRAMMES (TASK A1)12
- 4 BASELINE INFORMATION (TASK A2)18
- 5 IDENTIFYING KEY SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES / ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS (TASK A3)71
- 6 DEVELOPING SA/SEA OBJECTIVES (TASK A4)76
- 7 CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS (TASK A5).....81
- 8 NEXT STEPS.....82

APPENDICES

- Appendix A - Neighbourhood Planning and Environmental Assessment Linked Processes
- Appendix B - Plans, Programmes and Policies Summary
- Appendix C - Draft Template for Site Appraisals (updated to February 2015)
- Appendix D - Statutory Consultee Comments (June 2014)

TABLES

Table 1: Scoping Report Structure

Table 2: Five Stages of SA/SEA

Table 3: SA/SEA Themes

Table 4: Average Domestic Electricity Usage

Table 5: Average Non-Domestic Electricity Usage

Table 6: Average Domestic Gas Usage

Table 7: Average Non-Domestic Gas Usage

Table 8: Per Capita Local CO₂ Emission Estimates (2005 -11)

Table 9: General Population and Housing Data

Table 10: Traffic Counts West Lavington

Table 11: Key Issues and Environmental Problems in the Neighbourhood Plan Area

Table 12: Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

FIGURES

Figure 1: West Lavington Neighbourhood Area

Figure 2: Employment Sector

Figure 3: Soil Profile

Figure 4: Agricultural Land Classification

Figure 5: Geology

Figure 6: Heritage Assets in the Villages

Figure 7: Heritage Assets in the Southern Part of the Plan Area

Figure 8: Aerial photograph of Hooper's Field

Figure 9: Aerial photograph of the Greenfield

Figure 10: Accident locations over the period April 2008 to April 2013

1 INTRODUCTION

Background

- 1.1 Impact Planning Services Ltd has been commissioned to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating the requirements of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)) to consider the environmental, social and economic effects of the emerging West Lavington Neighbourhood Plan (WLNP).

'Basic Conditions'

- 1.2 Neighbourhood Plans must meet 'basic conditions' as set out in paragraph 8(1)(a)(2) of Schedule 4b to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011).
- 1.3 Those basic conditions require that Neighbourhood Plans:
- 1) Have regard to national policy and guidance from the Secretary of State
 - 2) Have special regard to the desirability of preserving any listed building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest that it possesses
 - 3) Have special regard to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of any conservation area
 - 4) Contribute to achieving sustainable development
 - 5) Are in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area or any part of that area
 - 6) Do not breach, and are otherwise compatible with, EC obligations (including the SEA Directive of 2001/42/EC).

In addition Neighbourhood Plans also need to comply with Regulation 32 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 which, by reference to Schedule 2 to those Regulations, requires that local development plans are "...not likely to have a significant effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitat and Species Regulations 2010) or a European off-shore marine site (as defined in the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations 2007 (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects))"

- 1.4 The West Lavington Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan as defined in the Localism Act 2011.

- 1.5 The West Lavington Parish Neighbourhood Area (approx. 2,395 hectares), confirmed by notice dated 17th July 2013, is the Parish of West Lavington and incorporates the two villages of West Lavington and Littleton Panell. West Lavington Parish Council is the 'relevant body' for the purposes of paragraph 61G(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended. **Figure 1** below defines the Neighbourhood Area.

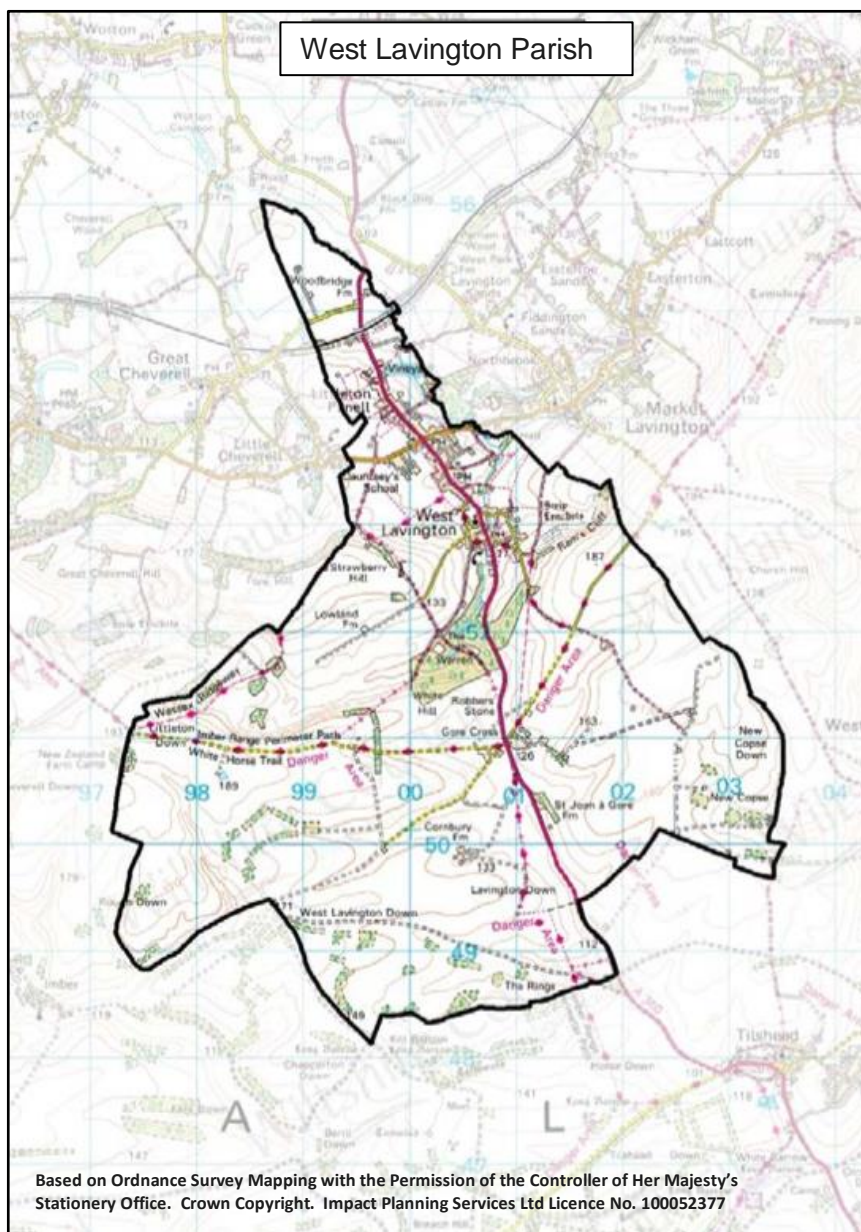


Figure 1: West Lavington Neighbourhood Area

- 1.6 The West Lavington Neighbourhood Plan is in the early stages of production and the early issues and options will be the subject of consultation during early 2014, at the same time as this Report is consulted upon.

- 1.7 The emerging Plan will cover the entire Plan Area and will address the key themes of development; economy; community facilities; transport; and the environment.
- 1.8 The Neighbourhood Plan will be consistent with the strategic policies in the development plan, namely the saved policies of the Kennet Local Plan 2011 (adopted June 2004) and the Wiltshire Core Strategy (once adopted).

Sustainability Appraisal (SA)

- 1.9 Sustainability Appraisal looks beyond the environmental effects of a Neighbourhood Plan to include consideration of social and economic effects.
- 1.10 SA incorporates the requirements of SEA.
- 1.11 Since the WLNP must reflect the strategic policies of the development plan, it follows that this scoping report should closely follow the Wiltshire Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (April 2010)¹. Other SA documents that post-date the above report are also relevant.
- 1.12 SA is a legal requirement for development plan documents but is not mandatory for Neighbourhood Plans.
- 1.13 Sustainability Appraisal is a systematic process that can be carried out during the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan, and its role is to promote sustainable development by assessing the extent to which the emerging plan will help to achieve 'relevant environmental, economic and social objectives'.
- 1.14 The process is an opportunity to consider options for the Neighbourhood Plan to deliver improvements in environmental, social and economic conditions, as well as a means of identifying and mitigating any potential adverse effects that the Neighbourhood Plan might otherwise have. By doing so it can help make sure that the proposals in the Neighbourhood Plan are the most appropriate given the reasonable alternatives²

¹ Wiltshire Core Strategy Examination Library [online] available at: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningpolicy/wiltshirecorestrategy/submissionofwiltshirecorestrategy/corestrategydocuments.htm?directory=Sustainability%20Appraisal%20and%20Habitat%20Regulation%20Assessment> (accessed 15/12/13)

² National Planning Practice Guidance "Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal" [online] available at: <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk> (accessed 13/12/13)

1.15 SEA of plans and programmes may become necessary in the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans. The background to SEA is set out in EC Directive 2001/42/EC³ (The 'SEA Directive').

1.16 The Directive is transposed into UK law by virtue of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004⁴ (the 'SEA Regulations').

1.17 The SEA Directive requires:

- The environmental assessment of all plans and programmes where the member states determine that they are likely to have significant environmental effects (Article 3)
- Environmental assessment to be carried out during the assessment of the plan and before its adoption and submission to the legislative procedure (Article 4)
- That an environmental report shall be prepared in which the likely significant effects on the environment of the plan, and reasonable alternatives, are identified, described and evaluated (Article 5)
- That the environmental report takes into account information, and is prepared at a level of detail which is appropriate to the hierarchical level of the plan in order to avoid duplication of environmental assessment (Article 5)
- That the draft plan or programme and the environmental report shall be consulted on with nationally designated authorities with specific environmental responsibilities (in this case Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency) and the public (article 6)
- The environmental report shall be taken into account during the preparation of the plan and before its adoption or submission (Article 8)
- Member states shall monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the approved plan or programme (Article 10)

1.18 The SEA Regulations confirm these requirements, including advising that when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the environmental report, the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies, (Environment Agency, Natural England and English Heritage) and that those consultation bodies must respond within five weeks beginning with the date on which they receive the invitation to engage in the consultation (Regulation 12).

³ Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment [online] available at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32001L0042:EN:NOT> (accessed 18/01/14)

⁴ UK Government (2004) The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 [online] available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2004/1633/contents/made> (accessed 18/01/14)

- 1.19 Schedule 1 to the Regulations contains the criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment.
- 1.20 Schedule 2 describes what information is required in the environmental report.
- 1.21 The content of the Report is intended to be focused on a number of 'themes'.
- 1.22 These themes are described in the Wiltshire Council document Environmental Assessment of Neighbourhood Plans⁵ (February 2013). That document explains that the Wiltshire Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (April 2010) identified 13 sustainability themes. Discussions with Wiltshire Council have confirmed that those themes are likely to be suitable for the West Lavington Neighbourhood Plan SA Scoping Report:
- Biodiversity
 - Water resources and flood risk
 - Climatic factors
 - Landscapes
 - Healthy communities
 - Education and skills
 - Economy and enterprise
 - Land and soil resources
 - Air quality and environmental pollution
 - Historic environment
 - Population and housing
 - Inclusive communities
 - Transport
- 1.23 The above include the SEA requirements set out in Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations.

Purpose

- 1.24 This Scoping Report is intended to accompany the consultation on the draft WLNP. It will review guidance and policy, identify baseline information, highlight key sustainability issues and establish SEA/SA objectives.

⁵ Wiltshire Council (2013) Environmental Assessment of Neighbourhood Plans [online] available at: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningpolicy/neighbourhoodplanning/nppadviceandsupport.htm> (accessed 18/01/14)

- 1.25 This stage in the SA process is to establish the issues which are affecting the Neighbourhood Plan area or which are likely to affect the Neighbourhood Plan area over the plan period.
- 1.26 By identifying these key issues it is then possible to establish a series of priorities or SA objectives which, together, can be used to remedy or improve the situation in respect of any particular issue.

Site Options

- 1.27 Discussions with the Wiltshire Council have indicated that it would be helpful to have a series of criteria against which individual sites can be assessed, in addition to the SA objectives and identified issues. This exercise will inform an objective appraisal of site options following the initial SA scoping exercise, and will assist in the assessment of alternatives and their associated effects.

2 METHODOLOGY

Report Structure

- 2.1 The report will broadly follow the five tasks set out in the Department of Environment Practical Guide to the SEA Directive (2005), addressing the following matters (**Table 1**):

Table 1: Scoping Report Structure

<p>Chapter 1 – Introduction (this section): describes the purpose of the Scoping Report, the background to SA/SEA requirements, the Neighbourhood Plan description, the purposes behind the development of a Neighbourhood Plan and the aims of the Scoping Report.</p> <p>Chapter 2 – Methodology: sets out the tasks involved in compiling the Scoping Report.</p> <p>Chapter 3 – Policy Context and Review of Other Relevant Plans (Guide Task A1): a review of relevant documents including identification of key objectives/requirements/conclusions to be taken into consideration in the Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>Chapter 4 – Presenting the Baseline Information (Task A2): a review of key baseline data which will inform the 13 appraisal themes (which include those addressed in the SEA Directive).</p> <p>Chapter 5 – Presenting and Describing the Key Sustainability Issues (Task A3): a review of the key issues and environmental problems that tie back into the baseline data collecting under Task A2.</p> <p>Chapter 6 – SEA Objectives (Task A4): this section of the report will draw out a series of objectives by sustainability theme. These will be closely aligned with the Wiltshire Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report Objectives and will be accompanied by a series of decision aiding questions to test the sustainability of the Neighbourhood Plan policies/proposals/alternative options.</p> <p>Chapter 7 – Consultation Requirements (Task A5): will describe the consultation requirements and set out details of any consultations undertaken.</p> <p>Chapter 8 – Next Steps: will explain the next steps in the Sustainability Appraisal and Neighbourhood Plan processes including the testing of alternative options.</p>

SA/SEA Scoping Exercise: Main Stages

- 2.2 The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) publication 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' (September 2005) provides detailed guidance on the SA/SEA process.
- 2.3 The stages break down into 5 main stages A - E, although scoping is primarily concerned with stage A. A diagram showing how this stage fits into the wider environmental assessment of Neighbourhood Plans is contained at **Appendix A** to this report.
- 2.4 For the sake of completeness, the five key stages of the SA/SEA process are set out below in **Table 2**. These five stages will be followed in subsequent stages of the SA/SEA process in order to ensure that the process is robust.

Table 2: Five Stages of SA/SEA

Stage A – Scoping the Issues

- Task A1 – identifying relevant policy plans and programmes and environmental protection objectives
- Task A2 – collecting baseline information
- Task A3 – identifying key issues and environmental problems in your area
- Task A4 - developing SA/SEA objectives
- Task A5 – consultation on the scope of the SA./SEA

Stage B - Assessing the Effects of Your Neighbourhood Plan and Alternative Options

- Task B1 – testing your Neighbourhood Plan objectives against the SEA objectives
- Task B2 – developing and refining your Neighbourhood Plan alternative options
- Task B3 – predicting the significant effects of the Neighbourhood Plan including alternatives
- Task B4 – evaluation the significant effects of the Neighbourhood Plan including alternatives
- Task B5 – considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial affects
- Task B6 – proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Neighbourhood Plan

Stage C - Preparing an Environmental Report

- Compile information from stage B into an environmental report
- Present the assessment of alternative options and explain why any not taken forward
- Show how mitigation measures have been considered for adverse effects
- Include details of monitoring effects
- Consult on environmental report

Stage D - Consulting on the Draft Neighbourhood Plan and Environmental Report and Submitting them to Wiltshire Council

- Formally consult on draft NP and environmental report
- Consider consultation responses and make any amendments to NP where necessary
- Assess any significant effects
- Finalise and submit revised NP and environmental report to Wiltshire Council for further consultation

Stage E - Monitoring the Significant Effects of Your Neighbourhood Plan

3 POLICY CONTEXT AND REVIEW OF OTHER RELEVANT PLANS / PROGRAMMES (TASK A1)

- 3.1 Wiltshire Council notes (Environmental Assessment of Neighbourhood Plans February 2013, page 8) that:

“Wiltshire Council has already 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 Wiltshire Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. This work does not need to be carried out again. However if some of these documents are also relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan you can include this information in your Scoping Report if you feel it adds value.”

- 3.2 The West Lavington Neighbourhood Plan area is affected by a number of plans, policies and programmes. Detailed reviews are contained at **Appendix B**, however they are summarised in brief below:

- 3.3 **Wiltshire Core Strategy Pre-submission Document: Hearing Session Tracked Changes Version (Core Doc. Ref. ‘Exam 34A’) (2013)** - This document has been produced in order to provide a spatial planning framework for the Council area over the period up to 2026. It carries through the key findings of the Wiltshire Community Plan 2011-2026. It sets out policies and proposals to guide and facilitate sustainable development in the Plan area. It contains a number of Community Area Strategies as well as policies dealing with the strategic objectives necessary to deliver a thriving economy, address climate change, provide access to decent affordable housing, build resilient communities, protect and enhance the natural, historic and built environment and to ensure that essential infrastructure is in place to support communities.

- 3.4 **South Wiltshire Core Strategy (2012)** - The South Wiltshire Core Strategy sets out planning policies designed to ensure that settlements remain viable, resilient and healthy over the 20 year period of the plan in the area known as South Wiltshire. It sets out the spatial planning framework for the long term development of this part of Wiltshire and forms a core part of the development plan. South Wiltshire directly abuts the WLNP immediately on its southern boundary and is therefore relevant to the WLNP.

- 3.5 **Kennet Local Plan 2011** - The former Kennet District Council adopted the Kennet Local Plan 2011 in June 2004. It remains a part of the development plan until the point at which it is replaced by the Wiltshire Core Strategy. A number of policies were saved by the Secretary of State on 26th September 2007. The text associated with the saved policies of the Local Plan confirms that sustainability is at the heart of the Local Plan. Many issues have been addressed in the Local

Plan through development control policies and policies to protect those aspects of Kennet that are valued and cherished. A number of environmental aims are set out and the Council's cross cutting themes. Other themes include social inclusion, community safety, sustaining rural communities, community health and sustainable development.

- 3.6 **The State of the Environment Swindon and Wiltshire 2013** - Second report for Wiltshire and Swindon describing the way the environment works as an eco-system, highlighting those aspects of people's lives that are dependent upon the services the environment provides, e.g. food, water, clean air, landscape and wildlife. It also highlights gaps in the knowledge base.
- 3.7 **The Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment (2005)** - This document describes the different landscape character areas within the County of Wiltshire. It talks about their physical influences, bio-diversity, historic environment, settlement and built character and then goes on to evaluate landscape features of significance, the forces of change, the general condition and strength of character of the landscape as well as its sensitivities and core management objectives.
- 3.8 **Kennet Landscape Conservation Strategy (2005)** - The Kennet Landscape Conservation Strategy provides detailed information about the landscape enhancement priorities for each of the different character areas in Kennet.
- 3.9 **Kennet Landscape Character Assessment (1999)** - This document provides an explanation of the methodology employed in assessing the character of the landscape in the Kennet area and then goes on to deal with individual character areas, describing the landscape and characteristics as well as opportunities for enhancement measures associated with new development. As with the 2005 Conservation Strategy, the Parish of West Lavington and Littleton Panell is divided between the Bristol Avon Clay Vale (character area 10), the Vale of Pewsey (character area 9) and the Salisbury Plain (character area 5). The enhancement priority and key issues are largely the same as those identified in the 2005 Kennet Landscape Conservation Strategy and the 2005 Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment.
- 3.10 **The Wiltshire Biodiversity Action Plan (2008)** - The Wiltshire Biodiversity Action Plan is a tool which summarises and directs the activities of statutory, private and third sector organisations delivering biodiversity activity in Wiltshire, to create a coherent plan of action which can be delivered through a partnership of organisations working together. It also acts as a vital reporting tool to help monitor key habitats and species.
- 3.11 **The Air Quality Strategy for Wiltshire 2011-2015** - This is a high level document to inform policy and direction across a range of council services with the aim to improve air quality.
- 3.12 The report describes the main aim as being "*Wiltshire Council working collaboratively will seek to*

maintain the good air quality in the county and strive to deliver improvements in areas where air quality fails national objectives in order to protect public health and the environment"

- 3.13 The Strategy identifies key issues and from those establishes a series of objectives to enable improvements in air quality to be achieved.
- 3.14 **Local Climate Impacts Profile (2010)** - The Local Climate Impacts Profile (LCLIP) is an established method of assessing the current vulnerabilities of local authorities. The LCLIP contributes to achieving Level 1 of National Indicator 188 – Adapting to Climate Change; and supports the comprehensive risk assessment required for Level 2. The LCLIP process examined the period between Jan 2003 and Mar 2010 for media stories of severe weather events affecting council services:
- Service delivery
 - Reputation
 - Financial state
- 3.15 **The Water for Life and Livelihoods, River Basin Management Plan for the Severn River Basin (2009)** - The plan identifies the pressures facing the water environment in the Severn river basin and sets out actions to address them. The plan has been prepared under the Water Framework Directive.
- 3.16 **Kennet Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) (2008)** - This document is intended to provide an overview of flood risk from all sources within the Kennet District administrative area, which includes West Lavington Parish.
- 3.17 **Visit Wiltshire Business Plan 2012- 2015** - This plan describes how Visit Wiltshire will work over the plan period in partnership with strategy and industry partners to grow inbound visits and visitor spend, to win market share and to stimulate economic growth for Wiltshire. Its stated intention is to help grow the value of Wiltshire's visitor economy by establishing destination performance benchmarks and impact evaluation to measure the extent of that performance. It intends to grow jobs in the visitor economy by 3,000 over the plan period.
- 3.18 **Wiltshire Workspace and Employment Land Review (2011)** - The study seeks to provide a clear indication as to whether or not sufficient employment land has been allocated in Wiltshire's Draft Core Strategy to provide a secure foundation for the local economy going forward.
- 3.19 **Wiltshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment** - The 2011 Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) was intended to be the first study of its type carried out across the unitary authority of Wiltshire. It identifies three main housing market areas, the south, the west and the east. Within that there are other distinct sub-market areas including Salisbury Plain, Salisbury City, Outer Swindon and Devizes and Calne. The Parish of West Lavington straddles two housing

market areas (West and East) and the southern part lies within the Salisbury Plain sub-area. The data and demographics are presents and analysed. A detailed review of the current housing market and an assessment of housing needs is undertaken with particular reference to certain minority household groups. An analysis is undertaken of the difference between rural and urban housing requirements and an assessment of the affordability of housing in Wiltshire is presented. The assessment goes on to make recommendations for policy matters and monitoring.

- 3.20 **Wiltshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2026** - This is Wiltshire's third Local Transport Plan (LTP3). It has been developed to achieve environmental and financial sustainability. Its primary purpose is to inform the implementation of national policies at a local level. It doesn't contain details about specific schemes but it sets out a long term transport strategy, a shorter term implementation plan and number of supporting strategies.
- 3.21 **The Joint Strategic Assessment for Devizes Community Area 2011** - This report has been prepared by the Wiltshire Public Services Board and Corporate Leadership Team at Wiltshire Council and it identifies strategic issues for the Devizes Community Area over the three years from the date of publication.
- 3.22 **The Wiltshire Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2 2011-2016** - The Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) is intended to support the Wiltshire Core Strategy and to help inform and underpin other planning policy documents. The IDP identifies funding sources for infrastructure such as Section 106 Agreements and the Community Infrastructure Levy and sets out the funding gaps which justify the need to introduce the CIL in Wiltshire to off-set the cost of delivering infrastructure.
- 3.23 **Wiltshire Green Infrastructure Strategy Update (January 2012)** - The Wiltshire Green Infrastructure Strategy is intended to provide a long-term vision and strategic framework for the delivery of a planned high-quality multi-functional network of green infrastructure across Wiltshire. The strategy is intended to define the existing green infrastructure network, set out a vision and objectives for green infrastructure, and identify green priorities for maintenance, enhancement and expansion of the network. The strategy identifies priorities for green infrastructure in each community area, and setting out an implementation plan of action for each of the strategic priorities.
- 3.24 **West Lavington and Littleton Panell Conservation Area Statement (2003)** - This document seeks to identify and record those special qualities of West Lavington and Littleton Panell that make up their architectural and historic character. The purpose is to provide a sound basis for local plan policies and development decisions, as well as for the formulation of proposals for the preservation and enhancement of the character or appearance of the area.
- 3.25 The statement is a review of the West Lavington and Littleton Panell Conservation Area. It

identifies distinctive features with the intention that the characteristics of the area will be protected and enhanced for the benefits of current and future generations.

- 3.26 **West Lavington and Littleton Panell Village Design Statement** - This document was adopted by Kennet District Council in 2004 as supplementary planning guidance.
- 3.27 The design statement picks up on a range of matters of concern to the local communities including the siting of the settlements, building forms and the materials used in construction of new buildings and structures.
- 3.28 It then goes on to consider schools, traffic issues, footpath, the location and value of the open spaces in and on the edge of the settlements, local employment and future development options.
- 3.29 **Salisbury Plain Army Basing Programme Planning Context Report (Consultation Draft Phase 3 report)** - The Army Basing Programme announced on 5th March 2013 is based on the new Army 2020 plan outlined in July 2012. Two key principles guided the Review: that the armoured infantry brigades should be centred round a single location, and the Army should retain a UK-wide presence. The report identifies various deliverables including the provision of up to 1400 additional new houses for military personnel and their dependants. It is intended to inform the forthcoming masterplan for Salisbury Plain.
- 3.30 **Impact of the Military on the Agricultural Sector in Wiltshire** - The report assesses the direct and indirect impacts of military activity on agriculture. It describes the effect that MOD ownership has had in terms of the beneficial effects for biodiversity and landscape, and how archaeological assets have generally been preserved. These attributes act as a constraint to military activities. Other direct effects include farm diversification enterprises such as horse livery, bed and breakfast and letting of buildings for non-agricultural uses. Forestry is primarily managed to provide suitable military training areas and for conservation purposes with timber production of lesser importance.
- 3.31 Finally it describes the associated indirect effects, which include problems of labour supply, litter, gates left open, fly tipping, vandalism, theft and worrying of livestock by dogs.
- 3.32 A detailed review of relevant plans, assessments, statements and strategies has been undertaken in order to inform the SA Scoping Report. Of particular relevance, the policies of the development plan and the emerging Wiltshire Core Strategy have been examined.
- 3.33 These, together with the West Lavington and Littleton Panell Design Statement and Conservation Area Statement, are some of the key documents. However, all of the documents reviewed are important in helping to provide an understanding of the sustainability background and in particular the environmental factors which will influence the West Lavington Neighbourhood Plan.

3.34 As a result of this exercise, a number of issues have been identified which will be of significance in the context of developing the Neighbourhood Plan strategy and options. In particular, a number of issues are strongly represented:

- Landscape conservation and the setting of the two villages
- Introduction of traditional landscaping features (e.g. hedgerows, use of native species in planting etc)
- Bio-diversity conservation
- Protection and enhancement of heritage assets
- Traffic, parking and highway safety issues
- The importance of suitable transport alternatives to the private motor car
- The need to deliver balanced communities (housing, employment and social and community infrastructure)
- Sustainable use of resources and sustainable construction strategies
- Careful management of water both in construction, during operation, through management of surface water (SUDS) and in relation to flooding potential (ground water, surface water and river flooding).

3.35 These issues will necessarily form the backdrop to the next stage of this Scoping Report, the assessment of baseline conditions.

4 BASELINE INFORMATION (TASK A2)

4.1 This scoping report adopts the 13 sustainability themes in the Wiltshire Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report document. **Table 3** below (adapted from table 2.1 of the Wiltshire Council Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report April 2010) sets out the sustainability themes and indicates how they relate to, and incorporate, the topics listed in the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations:

Table 3: SA/SEA Themes

Topics listed in SEA Regulations	'Themes' Included in the West Lavington SA /SEA
Biodiversity	1. Biodiversity (incorporating fauna and flora)
Fauna	
Flora	
Water	2. Water resources and flood risk
Climatic factors	3. Climatic factors
Landscape	4. Landscape
	5. Healthy communities
	6. Education and skills
	7. Economy and enterprise
Soil	8. Land and soil resources
Air	9. Air quality and environmental pollution
Material assets	(Discussed under other topic headings)
Cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage	10. Historic environment
Population	11. Population and housing
	12. Inclusive communities
	13. Transport

4.2 The following section of this report sets out the baseline information for each of these themes in turn.

4.1A Biodiversity - Existing Baseline

- 4.3 **European Designations** - In the vicinity of the West Lavington Neighbourhood Plan area the key European designations of interest are the Salisbury Plain Special Area of Conservation (SACs are designated under the 'Habitats Directive' – EU Directive 92/43/EEC) and Special Protection Area (SPAs are designated under the 'Birds Directive' – EU Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds).
- 4.4 These designated areas comprise approximately 21,000 hectares of land of which approximately 690 hectares lies within the West Lavington Neighbourhood Area in the southern and south eastern parts of the Area.
- 4.5 At the closest points the SAC/SPA lies approximately 1.4 kilometres to the south east of the nearest part of West Lavington. The majority of the protected area lies approximately 3 kilometres to the south of the village.
- 4.6 Salisbury Plain is designated a SAC because it is regarded as being the best remaining example in the UK of lowland juniper scrub on chalk, juxtaposed with extensive semi-natural dry grassland and chalk heath. Salisbury Plain is believed to be the largest surviving semi-natural dry grassland within the EU and therefore the most important site for this habitat in the UK. Individual species that are a primary reason for selecting the site as an SAC include the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly.
- 4.7 Salisbury Plain is designated as a SPA due to the presence of a number of scarce bird species (Hen Harrier, Eurasian Hobby, Common Quail and Stone Curlew).
- 4.8 **National Designations** - At the level below European designated sites, there are two key biodiversity designations. National Nature Reserves (NNRs) are declared by Natural England under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 and the Wildlife and Country Act 1981. Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), originally notified under the National Parks and Access to Countryside Act 1949, have been re-notified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The Parish of West Lavington contains no NNRs but does contain two SSSIs: Salisbury Plain SSSI occupying largely the same areas as the SPA/SAC in the southern part of the Plan Area; and a portion of Great Cheverell Hill SSSI in the very western part of the Plan Area.
- 4.9 Great Cheverell Hill SSSI is 33 hectares in area, notified most recently in 1985, and designated because it is an area of botanically rich chalk grassland on the northern edge of Salisbury Plain. With over 40 plant species per square metre in some areas. The site supports 3 nationally restricted plant species and several uncommon butterflies.
- 4.10 Its general condition is recorded (as at 1st March 2014) as being 69% favourable and 31%

unfavourable recovering⁶

- 4.11 Salisbury Plan SSSI is 19,690 hectares in area, notified most recently in 1993. It supports the largest known expanse of unimproved chalk downland in north west Europe, and represents 41% of Britain's remaining area of this habitat. 12,933 ha. chalk downland remains which supports 13 species of nationally rare and scarce plants, 67 species of rare and scarce invertebrates and a site of international importance for birds.
- 4.12 Its general condition is recorded (as at 1st March 2014) as being 14% favourable and 86% unfavourable recovering⁷
- 4.13 **Local Designations** - Beneath the national designations there are local designations of relevance within the Plan Area. Local National Reserves (LNRs) can be designated by local authorities under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (after consultation with Natural England). There are no LNRs located with the Plan Area.
- 4.14 At a more informal level, there are also a range of Wildlife Trust sites and County Wildlife Sites which have no statutory protection as such (although species and habitats within them may be protected). Within the Plan Area lie a series of County Wildlife Sites located towards the southern end of the Parish on the north edge of the Imber Ridge perimeter path, the Warren (a wooded area just south of West Lavington) and Rams Cliff to the east of West Lavington. An area of woodland (Manor House Woods) just to the east of the A360/B3098 junction is also identified as a County Wildlife Site. It lies almost entirely outside the Plan Area although a tiny part in the north west corner of the site lies just inside the eastern boundary.
- 4.15 **Biodiversity Action Plan Habitats** - The Wiltshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) 2008 identifies a range of 'priority habitats' within the Neighbourhood Plan Area.
- 4.16 The main BAP priority habitats within the Plan Area are as follows :
- 1) Lowland Calcareous Grassland – a large area, largely the same as the Salisbury Plain SSSI/SAC/SPA in the south and south eastern part of the Neighbourhood Plan Area.
 - 2) Deciduous Woodland – there are a number of areas of deciduous woodland BAP priority habitat in the Neighbourhood Plan area, particular focused around the Warren to the south of West Lavington and in pockets of woodland on West Lavington Down in the southern part of the Plan Area, New Copse in the south east of the Plan Area, assorted pockets of woodland

⁶ The citation and general condition can be seen on the Natural England website:

http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/special/sssi/sssi_details.cfm?sssi_id=1003547

⁷ The citation and general condition can be seen on the Natural England website:

http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/special/sssi/sssi_details.cfm?sssi_id=1006531

to the north and south of the Imber Range Perimeter Path, as well as other pockets of land on the north edge of Strawberry Hill, in the centre of West Lavington and Littleton Panell (either side of the A360), and in small pockets on the railway cutting towards the northern end of the Plan Area.

- 3) Wood Pasture and Parkland – there are pockets of wood pasture and parkland BAP priority habitat primarily focused on the Warren, but also in Manor House Woods to the north of Lavington Lane (B3098), a very small part of which lies just inside the eastern boundary of the Plan Area.
- 4) Traditional Orchard – there are two traditional orchards identified within the Plan Area, one to the north of Duck Street and east of Church Street in the rear garden of a property, and a second at Park Farm just to the north of Russell Mill Lane.

4.17 **Ancient Woodland** - There are also two areas of ancient and semi-natural woodland (planted and original), both of which are just beyond the eastern edge of the Plan Area at the eastern end of Russell Mill Lane (Manor House Woods).

4.18 **Woodland Grant Schemes** - There are various areas of Woodland Grant Scheme woodland, including an area of 'English Woodland grant scheme' in the Warren, 'Woodland Grant Scheme 2' to the north of the Warren and two areas of 'Woodland Grant Scheme 3' on the far eastern boundary of the Plan Area.

4.19 **Environmental Stewardship Scheme** - Much of the land in the Plan Area is managed under the Environmental Stewardship arrangements (which are divided into 'entry level', 'organic entry level' and 'higher level' stewardship). These offer funding to farmers and other land managers in England where they deliver effective environmental management of their land. The land towards the southern end of the Plan Area is predominantly 'entry level' plus 'higher level' stewardship, or 'organic entry level' plus 'higher level' stewardship. A substantial land area, up to 50% of the Parish of West Lavington, and a significant portion of the land under these schemes towards the southern end of the Plan Area, is owned by the Ministry of Defence (MOD). These are occupied under agricultural tenancies by farmers surrounding Salisbury Plain although there are various land management agreements and requirements which are in place for these different farmers, and the scheduling under Schedule 1 and Schedule 3⁸ has a significant bearing on the options

⁸ The ADAS report "Impact of the Military on the Agricultural Sector in Wiltshire" (May 2008) notes (main findings section 2.1) that "*The land on Salisbury Plain is let on two types of agricultural tenancy, Schedule 1 which is let as ordinary agricultural succession tenancies and Schedule 3 which is let on an annual basis. The constraints placed on farming are much more severe on the Schedule 3 land than the Schedule 1 land. Where the requirements of the military constrain the way farmers can use the land, this is reflected in lower rents.*"

elected by farmers occupying this land.

- 4.20 Pockets of land to the west and east of West Lavington and Littleton Panell, and extending up to the northern end of the Plan Area, are covered by 'entry level' stewardship schemes whilst there are one or two areas to the west of Littleton Panell that are covered by 'organic entry level' stewardship schemes.

4.1B Biodiversity - Future Baseline

- 4.21 With increased development pressures biodiversity, including fauna, flora and habitats, may become increasingly affected through loss of habitat, the impact of domestic animals (cats & dogs), intensification of farming, recreational pressure, climate change and indirect impacts such as the effect of air pollution on sensitive habitats like woodlands.
- 4.22 Equally, new development provides the opportunity to make significant improvements to the biodiversity of an area through habitat enhancement, 'off-setting' (where new habitat is created, often away from the site, but targeted to deliver a particular outcome such as the creation of new wetland). The Environmental Stewardship Schemes and other similar improvements in agricultural / land management practice may contribute significantly to the biodiversity of the Plan Area in future.
- 4.23 Of critical importance, the planned growth expected to occur at the garrisons in the vicinity of Salisbury Plain as many thousands of troops are relocated to the area (part of the Army Basing Plan - bringing troops back from Germany) will inevitably have an impact on the protected sites, habitats and species that are located on and adjacent to Salisbury Plain. This impact will take the form of both additional recreational pressures and intensified training demands on the land.
- 4.24 The High Level Stewardship Scheme lasts for ten years. The Organic Entry Level Scheme and the Entry Level Scheme last for five years. These have now closed as of 2013. Therefore, they will run out in 2023 and 2018 respectively at the latest. They are therefore time limited and cannot be relied upon in the future for continued land management to significantly promote biodiversity. Additionally, the New Environmental Land Management Scheme (NELMS) being worked up by DEFRA may not be as well funded as the Environmental Stewardship Schemes were. It is therefore unclear whether, when the existing environmental schemes come to an end, they will be rolled forward into new environmental schemes.

4.2A Water Resources Including Flood Risk - Existing Baseline

- 4.25 **Watercourses** - The Neighbourhood Plan Area adjoins a main river known as North Brook which flows in a westerly direction, just to the north of Lavington School and the village of Market Lavington. On the eastern edge of the Plan Area it joins another watercourse which flows in a northerly direction through West Lavington and Littleton Panell. There the watercourse (a tributary of the Semington Brook) continues to flow in a northerly direction, forming the north eastern boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan Area up to a point on the A360 just north of the railway line where it cross under the road heading in a north westerly direction at a place called Woodbridge Bridge. From that point onwards it continues in a north westerly direction towards the village of Worton. Both the Semington Brook and North Brook are tributaries of the Bristol Avon.
- 4.26 The are naturally occurring springs within the Plan Area. These are typically found on the steep slopes towards the northern edge of the Salisbury Plan mass (eg at Ramscliff and the Warren).
- 4.27 **Flood Risk** - Parts of the Plan Area are identified on the Environment Agency's Flood Map as being at risk of flooding (Flood Zones 2 and 3 - as defined in the National Planning Practice Guidance - NPPG (which replaced the Technical Guide to the National Planning Policy Framework on 6 March 2014⁹)). The tributary of the Semington Brook appears to have its source in the south western part of the Plan Area, on White Hill / The Warren, collecting water from the surrounding catchment. It flows in an easterly direction initially, before flowing along the western side of the A360 into West Lavington in a northerly direction.
- 4.28 Along the initial path of its course, there are several man-made lakes / ponds in the Warren which act to retain water during peak flows. Further along its course, there are several parts of the village which are more liable to flooding and in particular land east of Church Street and in the vicinity of Duck Street. Here the land is identified as lying within Flood Zone 3. The floodplain for the Brook widens out towards the east of Littleton Panell although it is largely contained (other than in the vicinity of Park Farm on Russell Mill Lane) within open pasture. In the far northern part of the Plan Area the floodplain is largely contained within a wide corridor where most of the land is classed as being within Flood Zone 3. There are a number of former mills within the Plan Area. These have the potential (where still operational or capable of being made operational again) of utilisation for renewable energy generation and water flow management.
- 4.29 Parts of the eastern edge of West Lavington and the northern parts of the Plan Area are located in areas when flood warnings are issued according to the Environment Agency's on-line mapping resource. Local experience suggests that run-off from the surrounding hills into the 'urban' part of

⁹ National Planning Practice Guidance "Flood Risk and Coastal Change" [online] available at: <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk> (accessed 24/03/14)

the Plan Area is already causing problems for existing infrastructure.

- 4.30 **Water Supply** - Water supply in the area is provided by Wessex Water. The majority of water supplied by Wessex is sourced from groundwater.
- 4.31 The southern part of the Plan Area on West Lavington Down lies within a Groundwater Source Protection Zone catchment (Zone 3) for the Christchurch Avon which flows south. Gore Cross is the watershed between the Bristol Avon catchment flowing to the north and the Christchurch Avon catchment flowing to the south.
- 4.32 Much of the southern part of the Plan Area also sits on top of a major aquifer of high ground water vulnerability (technically two aquifers - one serving the Bristol Avon which flows north; and the other serving the Christchurch Avon which flows south). The core of West Lavington and Littleton Panell villages lie over a major aquifer of intermediate vulnerability, whilst other parts of the Neighbourhood Plan Area lie over minor aquifers of intermediate and low vulnerability.
- 4.33 **Nitrate Vulnerability** - The entire Neighbourhood Plan Area is identified as being in a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone, an area at risk of agricultural phosphates and an area at risk of agricultural sediment. These designations confer protection through regulation of the use of nitrates and phosphates etc.
- 4.34 The southern two thirds of the Plan Area is designated as a Groundwater Nitrate Vulnerable Zone.
- 4.35 **River Quality** - The current ecological quality of the tributary to the Semington Brook that runs through West Lavington and Littleton Panell is recorded as being of 'moderate' ecological quality (the nearest assessment point is at Littleton Mill according to the Environment Agency mapping data and the status is correct at the time of writing)..
- 4.36 The Brook is not subject to a regime of assessment for current chemical quality.

4.2B Water Resources Including Flood Risk - Future Baseline

- 4.37 The future relationship between climate change, precipitation levels and river levels/flooding is unclear. However it is possible that climate change will have an effect on average river levels and/or frequency of flood events, making the likelihood of floods occurring more common, and the extent of flooded land greater. Within the Plan Area, the relatively small catchment area for the tributary to the Semington Brook (due to proximity of the settled parts of the Plan Area to the source) suggests that the effects of flood events may be more limited than further downstream.
- 4.38 In the absence of the Neighbourhood Plan, any new development at West Lavington and Littleton

Panell is likely to lead to a reduction in the available permeable ground surface and this may lead to an increase in run-off unless appropriate sustainable drainage solutions are incorporated into the new developments. Since there are already issues with run-off from the surrounding hills, any new development would be likely to exacerbate existing capacity issues.

- 4.39 It is likely that the Semington Brook will remain at a moderate ecological quality, certainly in the period up to 2015, although improvements in agricultural practices, groundwater protection and other measures to improve the general quality of water courses may lead to overall improvements in the medium to long term.

4.3A Climatic Factors - Existing Baseline

- 4.40 **Energy Consumption** - The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) provide data on average domestic and non-domestic electricity and gas usage over the period 2005-2011 by Local Authority area. **Tables 4-7** below show the trends in energy usage and recent performance in Wiltshire.
- 4.41 The average domestic electric usage was 4,780 KWh/consumer in Wiltshire in 2011, some 590 higher than the Great Britain mean of 4,190 KWh/consumer.
- 4.42 Average non-domestic electricity usage was 55 MWh/consumer, 20 less than the Great Britain mean of 75 MWh/consumer.
- 4.43 Domestic gas usage in 2011 was 13,450 KWh/consumer, 690 less than the Great Britain mean of 14,140 KWh/consumer.
- 4.44 Average non-domestic gas usage in 2011 was 68 MWh/consumer, 60 less than the Great Britain mean of 728 MWh/consumer.

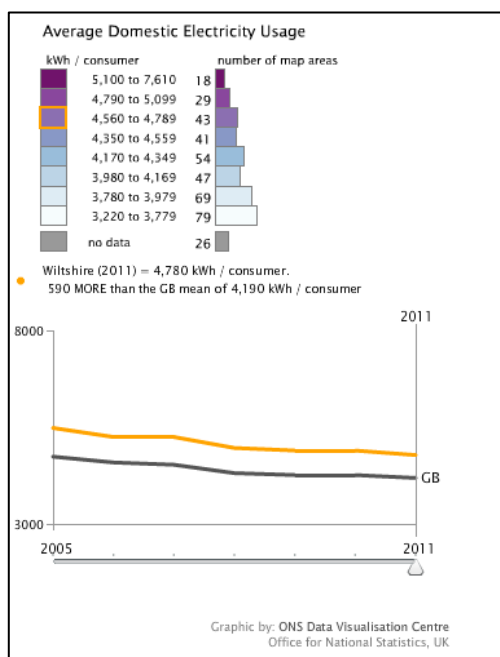


Table 4

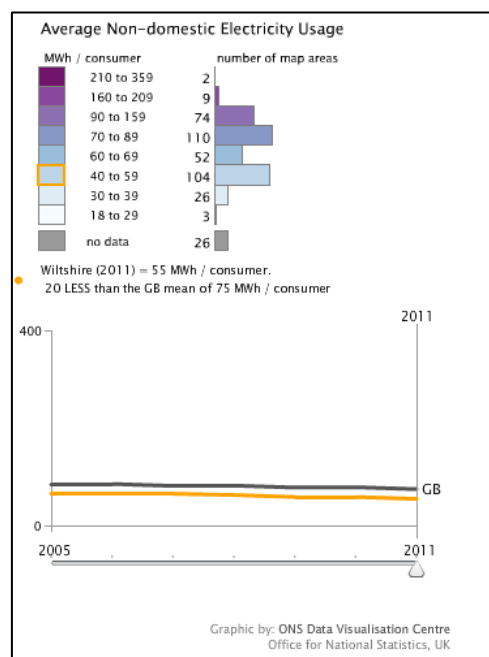


Table 5

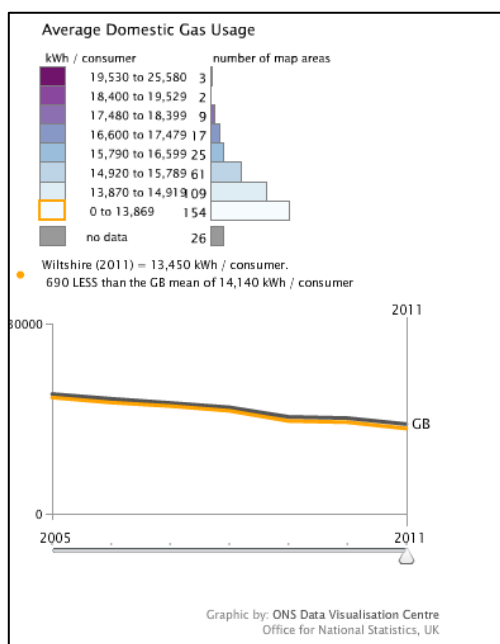


Table 6

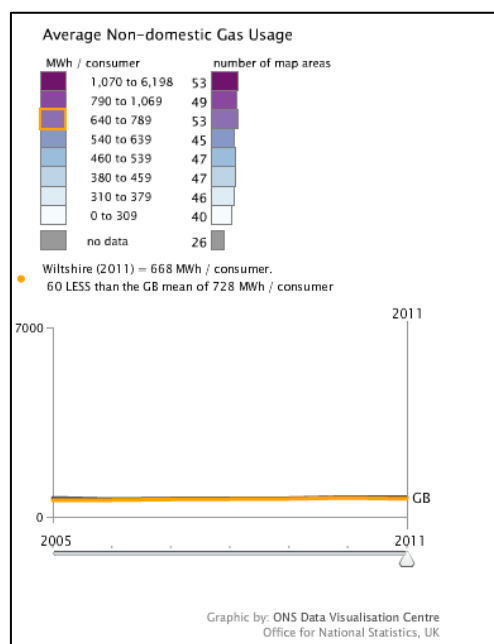


Table 7

4.45 It should be noted that there is no mains gas supply to the Plan Area itself, and therefore the data for gas usage in Wiltshire generally, is of limited value in relation to West Lavington and Littleton Panell. The primary sources of domestic and non-domestic heating energy within the Plan Area itself are through oil, LPG and electricity.

4.46 **Carbon Emissions** - Planning Practice Guidance for Renewable and Low Carbon Energy was published by the DCLG in July 2013¹⁰. It was replaced by the NPPG on 6th March 2014. Both documents contain similar guidance on renewable and low carbon energy. The NPPG advises planning authorities to think about the range of technologies that could be accommodated and the policies needed to encourage their development in the right places. They are also urged to have regard to the legal commitments given by the UK to greenhouse gas reduction and increased demands for energy from renewable sources. The NPPG states that policies should be designed to maximise renewable and local carbon energy development.

4.47 Wiltshire Council is intending to develop a low carbon transition plan which will focus on a number of factors including carbon reduction, influencing policy, engagement with local community groups wishing to take action and the low carbon economy. At the time of writing this document has not been published.

¹⁰ National Planning Practice Guidance “Renewable and Low Carbon Energy” [online] available at: <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk> (accessed 24/03/14)

4.48 Data released by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) on 11th July 2013¹¹ confirmed the 2011 carbon dioxide emissions and revised estimates for the years 2005-2010 for Local Authority regions. Wiltshire was found to have reduced per capita CO₂ emissions from 4 tonnes of CO₂ per person in 2005 to 2.3 tonnes in 2011 (industrial and commercial); from 2.8 tonnes in 2005 to 2.2 tonnes in 2011 (domestic); and from 3.2 tonnes in 2005 to 2.7 tonnes in 2011 (road transport) - **See Table 8.**

Table 8: Per Capita Local CO₂ Emission Estimates (2005 -11)

	Year	Industry and Commercial	Domestic	Road Transport	Total
Wiltshire	2005	4.0	2.8	3.2	10.1
	2011	2.3	2.2	2.7	7.3
South West	2005	3.0	2.6	2.4	8.2
	2011	2.1	2.1	2.2	6.5
England	2005	3.7	2.5	2.3	8.5
	2011	2.7	2.0	1.9	6.7

4.49 This compares well in the context of industrial and commercial CO₂ emissions, but overall Wiltshire is still emitting more CO₂ per capita than the South West region or England.

4.50 **Renewable Energy** - Current data on regional renewable statistics provided by ReStats (the Renewable Energy Statistics Database) for the year 2012/13 (published December 2013) shows that in the South West region (including Wiltshire) installed capacity for sites generating electricity from renewable sources was 665.8 megawatts energy generation (MWe). This compares to the England total capacity of 8,168.6 MWe.

4.51 Local data for the deployment of renewable energy generating capacity within the Plan Area is not available.

4.52 This represents an increase from 520.6 MWe installed capacity for all renewable sources in 2011 (31st December 2011), and compares further with 117.9 MW installed capacity as at 31st

¹¹ DECC (2013) Local and Regional CO₂ Emissions Estimates for 2005-2011[online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-emissions-estimates> (accessed 18/01/14)

December 2003¹².

- 4.53 **Temperature Change** - The South West Observatory records that annual average daily means temperatures in the South West increased by 1.37 degrees centigrade between 1961 and 2006. Between 1961 and 2006 precipitation in the South West increased by 28.6% in the autumn and decreased by 8.8% in the summer¹³.

4.3B Climatic Factors - Future Baseline

- 4.54 The Wiltshire Climate Change Adaptation Plan Level 1 Report April 2010 quotes the UK Climate Projections (UKCP09) (funded by DeFRA and based on projections by the Met Office).
- 4.55 The report explains that annual mean temperatures in Wiltshire, under a medium emissions scenario, are likely to increase by between 2.2 and 2.9 degrees centigrade by the 2050s.
- 4.56 Precipitation is expected to stay roughly the same under the same scenario, but with a decrease in summer mean precipitation by between 10% and 28% and an increase in winter mean precipitation by between 9% and 22% (Wiltshire Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan Level 1 Report 2010)¹⁴.
- 4.57 Overall, these changes may lead to drier, hotter summers and warmer, wetter winters.
- 4.58 Following recent trends, it is likely that in the absence of the Neighbourhood Plan per capita CO₂ emissions will continue to decrease as less reliance is placed on CO₂ generating activities (eg, non-renewable energy consumption and combustion engine power transportation modes).
- 4.59 Furthermore it is likely, based on past trends, that the installed capacity of site generating electricity from renewable sources is likely to increase albeit this may tail off once the Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC) targets for the share of energy from renewable sources are achieved (in 2020 or thereafter).
- 4.60 Unless mains gas is supplied to the Plan Area it is likely that alternative solutions for domestic and non-domestic heating fuel will continue to be adopted, primarily focussing on oil, LPG and

¹² Department of Energy and Climate Change (2012) Regional data [on-line] available at: <https://restats.decc.gov.uk/cms/historic-regional-statistics/> (accessed 18/01/14)

¹³ South West Observatory Climate Change data [on-line] available at: <http://www.swenvo.org.uk/themes/atmosphere/climate-change/> (accessed 18/01/14)

¹⁴ Wiltshire Council (2010) Wiltshire Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan Level 1 Report [online] Available at: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityandliving/countryside/sustainability/climatechangeadaptation.htm> (accessed 18/01/14)

electricity, but with greater use of renewable sources where they are feasible.

- 4.61 The most practical application for community based renewable energy schemes is likely to be small scale biomass projects in areas of high density housing immediately adjacent to each other. There is likely to be very limited scope for any further renewable energy developments on a community basis outside of this.
- 4.62 Domestic renewable technologies that may be deployed more regularly in future, in the absence of the Plan, include solar PV, solar thermal, biomass heating, ground and air source heat pumps.

4.4A Landscapes - Existing Baseline

- 4.63 A number of landscape studies covering the neighbourhood area and identified in Chapter 3 / Appendix B of this report have been carried out in the last fifteen years¹⁵.
- 4.64 **Landscape Character** -The consistent theme in all of these studies and assessments is that the landscape is divided into what are generally referred to as Landscape 'Character Areas' (LCAs) or landscape 'zones' (depending on whether it is an assessment (character area) or a strategy (zone)). All three studies are consistent in dividing the Neighbourhood Plan area into three distinctively different LCAs. The first is referred to variously as the Rolling Clay Lowland LCA or the Bristol Avon Clay Vale. This occupies the far northern part of the Neighbourhood Plan Area, predominantly that land lying north of the railway line. The second LCA is referred to variously as the Greensand Vale or the Vale of Pewsey. The third LCA is also referred to variously as the High Chalk Plain or Salisbury Plain LCA.
- 4.65 Some LCAs are subdivided further; the Rolling Clay Lowland LCA / Bristol Avon Clay Vale is divided into several sub-areas with the Plan Area falling largely into the Trowbridge Rolling Clay Lowland LCA. Similarly the High Chalk Plain/Salisbury Plain LCA is divided into three sub-areas with that part of the Neighbourhood Plan area falling within this LCA being referred to as the Salisbury Plain West LCA.
- 4.66 The Clay Vale / Rolling Clay Lowland LCA occupies the far northern part of the Plan Area largely to the north of the railway line. The Vale of Pewsey / Greensand Vale LCA occupies the central part of the Plan Area from the railway line to the southern edge of West Lavington. The Salisbury Plain / High Chalk Plain LCA occupies the remainder of the Plan Area from the southern edge of West Lavington to the southern edge of the Plan Area. The characteristics of each of the landscape areas is set out in the relevant sections of the 2005 Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment and they are reproduced below:¹⁶

¹⁵ The Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment 2005; the Kennet Landscape Conservation Strategy May 2005; and the Kennet Landscape Character Assessment 1999.

¹⁶ Land Use Consultants on behalf of Wiltshire County Council (2005) Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment.

LANDSCAPE TYPE 15 / GREENSAND VALE / VALE OF PEWSEY

- Underlain by Upper Greensand with a series of low undulating foothills of Lower Chalk flanking the vale sides.
- Broad, low lying, level vale, becoming gently undulating as it narrows to the east.
- Contained and enclosed by the dramatic escarpments of chalk upland to either side.
- Varied land cover with pasture along tributaries and arable in medium to large fields enclosed by hedgerows.
- Chalk foothills in arable land use with very open large scale fields.
- Weak hedgerow structure with few hedgerow trees and boundaries replaced by fencing.
- Threaded by numerous minor streams draining to the headwaters of the River Avon,
- lined by riparian vegetation with strips of alder and willow and some important wetland habitats - meadow, marsh and wet woodland.
- A settled landscape with compact small towns, clustered villages, hamlets and many dispersed residential and farm buildings.
- Built form includes soft red brick and flint, often used in decorative styles, limestone, sarsen, cob and timber frame, with roofs of thatch or clay tile.

LANDSCAPE TYPE 11 / ROLLING CLAY LOWLAND / BRISTOL AVON CLAY VALE

- Gently rolling lowland based on Clay.
- Mixed arable and pastoral land use with pasture concentrated around the water courses.
- Variable field pattern with network of full hedgerows and mature hedgerow trees.
- Presence of streams marked by lines of willows and crossed by modest bridges.
- Woodland blocks including some ancient woodland and wet woodland of high ecological value plus scattered mature trees.
- Small number of meadows of neutral and unimproved grassland.
- Scattered settlement of towns, small villages and farmsteads, many using vernacular materials of brick, half timber, stone, tiles and thatch.
- Roads largely minor and rural with a few trunk roads and sections of motorway.
- Views vary from semi-enclosed by intact hedgerows, riparian vegetation and woodland blocks to more open with views to the rising scarps of the chalk uplands.

LANDSCAPE TYPE 3 / HIGH CHALK PLAIN / SALISBURY PLAIN

- Very large scale and open, exposed landscape.
- Rolling plateau land form with panoramic views over the surrounding lowlands creating a sense of elevation.
- Large regular arable fields are bounded mainly by ditches or fences with occasional hedgerows.
- Steep and incised slopes down to the surrounding river valleys.
- Extensive areas of chalk grassland and scrub occur on the northern and central parts of the area under military ownership with arable farmland around the periphery.
- Copses and woodland belts, at various stages of growth occur throughout the area with sinuous older plantations contrasting with more recent tree planting in geometrical blocks.
- Proliferation of military signage and posts along the numerous tracks that cross the area.
- Rich ecology particularly the numerous extensive and intact areas of chalk grassland.
- Archaeological remains and sites of historic importance, particularly the Neolithic monuments of Stonehenge and Old Sarum.
- Settlement limited to a scattering of small villages and military installations including camps and abandoned or specially constructed villages used by the army for training operations.

4.67 Although much of the Neighbourhood Plan Area originally formed part of a much larger Special Landscape Area protected through the adopted Kennet Local Plan, the relevant policy was not saved by the Secretary of State in 2007 and consequently this designation is of historic interest only.

4.68 **Tranquillity, Intrusion and Light Pollution** - The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) has produced a series of mapping resources dealing with tranquillity (2001), intrusion (2007) and light pollution (2000). Further details are set out in the following section on Air Quality and Environmental Pollution. They reveal that the Plan Area lies adjacent to, but outside, a relatively dark sky area (Salisbury Plain - dark due to the un-settled nature of the area as a result of the MOD activities). The villages themselves are located within an area identified as being 'brighter' with between 50 -150 units of measurement on a scale of 0-255.

4.69 The Plan Area lies on the edge of an area of relatively low visual and noise intrusion but again (because of the nature of the built-up part of the Neighbourhood Plan Area) the built parts are

within an area disturbed by noise and intrusion (focused on the main road corridors through the Plan Area).

- 4.70 In tranquillity terms, since the Plan Area is located on the edge of Salisbury Plain it benefits from this adjacent area of tranquillity. Salisbury Plain is identified as one of the most tranquil areas in the South West region, and although the southern part of the Plan Area benefits from this tranquillity, there are live firing ranges within this area that impact upon general tranquillity. Furthermore low-flying aircraft have been identified as a source of disturbance in some parts of the Plan Area.
- 4.71 The 'settled' parts of the Neighbourhood Plan Area are less tranquil according to the CPRE's Tranquillity Map.
- 4.72 **The MOD and Salisbury Plain** - As alluded to elsewhere in this report, the management of the large area of land in the southern part of the Plan Area and extending beyond to the south for a considerable distance as a military training area with live firing ranges has been crucial in maintaining the unique qualities of the Salisbury Plain landscape.
- 4.73 Consequently it benefits from a range of diverse and rare habitats and species of flora and fauna. It is the largest remaining area of chalk grassland in North West Europe. The use of the area for military training and live firing has led to the protection of the grassland landscape and prevention of it being converted to farmland as has happened elsewhere in the country.
- 4.74 There is generally good public access to the Plain other than on the live firing ranges (e.g. Imber) or in other locations where occasional manoeuvres lead to the restriction of public access. The charter for Defence Estates states that '*There is a presumption in favour of public access to the rural estate although operational, safety and conservation interests necessarily restrict unlimited access.*¹⁷'
- 4.75 Within the southern part of the Plan Area parts of the MOD estate are cultivated for arable crops whilst other areas (predominantly the firing ranges) are left to grassland. There are also areas of grazing land.

4.4B Landscapes - Future Baseline

- 4.76 In the absence of this Neighbourhood Plan even incremental development and change will result in changes to the landscape, some of which will be negative. Encroachment into the countryside

¹⁷ ADAS (May 2008) 'Impact of the Military on the Agricultural Sector in Wiltshire' [online] available at: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/impact-of-military-on-agricultural-sector-in-wilts.pdf (accessed 27/03/14)

may be regarded as detrimental; however development can also bring about improvements to the character and quality of landscapes through better interpretation and revealing of key features, active management and the benefits that off-setting can deliver by creating habitats and managed landscape areas for the benefit of biodiversity.

- 4.77 Inevitably light pollution will increase as development occurs unless alternative means are found to illuminate new developments, or greater restrictions are placed on external and internal illumination. Tranquillity will continue to be an issue as will visual and noise intrusion because development and traffic both have the ability to impact adversely on the tranquillity of landscapes and the quiet enjoyment of the countryside.
- 4.78 The effects on the landscape of the Army Basing Programme ¹⁸ - the relocation of 4,300 service personnel plus their families (7,700 people total) to the Salisbury Plain area are difficult to predict but they may lead to greater demands on the Salisbury Plain area (including land within the Plan Area) for training purposes. This may lead to changes in farmed land / grassland proportions within the southern part of the Plan Area.
- 4.79 Additionally, the general recreational pressures on Salisbury Plain may increase as a result of the physical increase in people living in the area. The masterplan proposes that most of the incoming personnel will be accommodated at the existing bases to the eastern end of the Plain, avoiding the firing ranges and ecologically designated areas. However recreational pressures will undoubtedly extend into the centre of the Plain, reducing the overall tranquillity of the area and this could impact on the Parish of West Lavington.

¹⁸ MOD / DIO (2014) Army Basing Programme and Salisbury Plain Masterplan [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/salisbury-plain-training-area-master-plan-army-basing-programme/> (accessed 28/03/14)

4.5A Healthy Communities - Existing Baseline

- 4.80 **Life Expectancy** - The Wiltshire Joint Strategic Assessment for Health and Wellbeing 2012-13¹⁹ (published 2012) provides data on life expectancy in Wiltshire based on data over the period 2002-2010. Generally males in Wiltshire perform well with average life expectancy rising from 78.5 years in 2002/4 to a high point of 79.6 years in 2008/10. This is marginally above the South West average life expectancy and a full year above the average life expectancy in England.
- 4.81 For females average life expectancy in Wiltshire has risen from just over 82 years in 2002/4 to 83.7 years in 2008/10. This is approximately 0.25 years higher than the South West average and over a year higher than the England average.
- 4.82 The two biggest causes of death in Wiltshire are diseases of the circulatory system and cancers in both males and females, with those two causes accounting for over 60% of all deaths in males and 56% of all deaths in females (data taken from ONS vital statistics table 3, 2010)²⁰.
- 4.83 These figures are reflected in the Office for National Statistics data for the Parish of West Lavington²¹.
- 4.84 **Health** - Over 88% of the population of the Parish of West Lavington are in very good, or good health as at March 2011, compared to 81.4% in England.
- 4.85 At the other end of the scale, 3.2% of all residents in the Parish are described as being in bad health or very bad health as compared to 4.05% in Wiltshire and 5.49% in England.
- 4.86 The West Lavington Village Hall/Community Hub survey (January 2013) has evidenced the extent of existing community facilities available to the local population to help encourage healthy lifestyles. These include playing fields, two playgrounds for varying age groups, an extensive network of rights of way and active volunteering for their upkeep, alongside access to Salisbury Plain.
- 4.87 The survey responses indicate that the Doctor's surgery considers it can cope with an increase in patient numbers caused by new development, and by an aging population demographic. It has already opened a specialist dementia clinic.
- 4.88 **Care** - Approximately 3% of all residents in West Lavington Parish provide between 20-50+ hours

¹⁹ Various (2012) Wiltshire Joint Strategic Assessment for Health and Wellbeing 2012-13 [online] available at: <http://www.intelligencenetwork.org.uk/health/jsa-health-and-wellbeing/> (accessed 20/01/14)

²⁰ Quoted in the Wiltshire Joint Strategic Assessment for Health and Wellbeing 2012-13

²¹ ONS (2013) Neighbourhood Statistics [online] available at:

<http://www.neighbourhoodstatistics.gov.uk/desemintation> (accessed 24/01/14)

unpaid care a week. This compares to the England average of 3.73%.

- 4.89 Just over 13% of residents of the Plan Area find that their day-to-day activities are limited either a little or a lot due to long-term health problems or disabilities as compared to an England average of 17.64%.
- 4.90 **Obesity** - At a county level, obesity levels in Wiltshire are relatively stable and are generally below South West region and England rates. Over one in five reception year children and nearly one in three year 6 children are overweight or obese. Less than ¼ of children eat the recommended 5 portions a day of fruit or vegetables²². This compares with the England average number of school pupils eating 5 portions of fruit or vegetables a day of 19% or just under one in five.
- 4.91 **Children's Fitness** - Wiltshire Council's 2011 Health Related Behaviour survey²³ shows that 92% of primary school pupils have a bicycle but only 7% cycled to school on the morning of the survey. 48% of primary school pupils walked to school and 42% came by car.

4.5B Healthy Communities - Future Baseline

- 4.92 In the absence of the Neighbourhood Plan life expectancy is likely to increase and the population generally is likely to age, with a higher proportion of people living longer in future.
- 4.93 Any additional house-building is likely to lead to localised increases in populations in the two villages. Advances in medical practice may have a positive impact on life expectancy and mortality rates, whereas other aspects of life (poor diet, lack of exercise etc) may lead to further problems of obesity and cardiovascular disease, particularly in the younger and middle aged sections of the population.

²² Devizes Community Area Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2012/13 (page 26).

²³ Wiltshire Council (2012) Wiltshire Health Related Behaviour Survey 2011, Healthy Schools Wiltshire.

4.6A Education and Skills - Existing Baseline

- 4.94 **Economic Activity** - Data from the Office for National Statistics²⁴ indicates that 73.9% of the working age population (aged 16-74) in Wiltshire is economically active. This compares with only 57.54% of all people aged 16-74 within the West Lavington Neighbourhood Plan Area.
- 4.95 The England figures, in contrast, are 69.7%. The low figures for the Plan Area are explained, not by a high level of unemployment (which is low in the Parish at only 1.23%), but by a significant proportion of the local population either in full time education, looking after their family and/or home or having retired.
- 4.96 **Qualifications** - The proportion of people in the Neighbourhood Plan Area with no qualifications at all is relatively low at 16.4% (but see 4.12A below), signalling a higher than average proportion of the local population who are qualified (the equivalent figures for those with no qualifications in Wiltshire are 18.6% and in England as a whole, 22.5%)²⁵
- 4.97 This pattern is repeated at higher levels of qualification, with only 11.14% of students obtaining level 1 qualification as their highest level of qualification in the Plan Area, as compared to 14% in Wiltshire and 13.3% in England. This is lower than the Wiltshire and England figures but is explained by a greater proportion of people in the Plan Area having higher level qualifications.
- 4.98 Those obtaining a maximum level 2 qualification are 21.7% in West Lavington Neighbourhood Plan area, as compared to 17.2% in Wiltshire and 15.2% in England.
- 4.99 Those obtaining level 3 is again higher than the national and local authority average with 15.8% in the Neighbourhood Plan area, compared to 12.7% in Wiltshire and 12.4% in England. Those obtaining level 4 qualification or above (equivalent to Degrees, Higher Degrees, NVQ Levels 4-5, HNCs, RSA Higher Diplomas, BTEC Higher Level and Professional Qualifications - for example nursing, teaching, accountancy etc.) are 27.6% in the Plan Area as compared to the Wiltshire average of 29.5% and the England average of 27.4%.
- 4.100 The percentage of people obtaining five O-Level passes/CSE Grades 1/GCSEs Grades A-C and at least one A Level/2-3 AS Levels/CSEs, Higher Degrees etc are found to be significantly higher than the England average. In the West Lavington Neighbourhood Plan area the figure is 47.7%, as compared to 40.2% in Wiltshire and 34.4% in England. The same is true for those with 2 or more A Levels. Professionally qualified²⁶ persons (e.g. teachers, nurses, accountants etc.)

²⁴ ONS 2011 Census: Economic and Activity, Local Authorities in the United Kingdom (Table KS601UK)

²⁵ 2011 Census: Qualifications and Students, Local Authorities in the United Kingdom (Table KS501UK) and Neighbourhood Area statistics; Qualifications and Students (Table KS501EW).

²⁶ Neighbourhood Area statistics; Qualifications gained (Table QA502EW) and Neighbourhood Area statistics: Qualifications and students (TableKS501EW)

comprise 16.75% in the Neighbourhood Plan area, compared to 16.99% in Wiltshire and 14.13% in England.

4.101 **'NEETS'** - The Devizes Joint Strategic Assessment for the community area²⁷ records a limited number of 16-18 year olds not engaged in education, employment or training (NEETS). This figure has increased slightly from 2010 (35) to 2011 (38). They account for 5.3% of the total NEET young people in Wiltshire.

4.102 **Schools in the Locality** - School inspection results confirm that at the time of the last inspections the following outcomes were achieved:

- Lavington Pre-School was rated by Ofsted as 'Outstanding' at the last inspection in January 2012
- Dauntsey Aided Primary School was rated by Ofsted as 'Good' at the last inspection in January 2012;
- Dauntsey's School was rated 'Excellent' by the Independent Schools Inspectorate when last inspected in October 2012.
- Lavington secondary school in Market Lavington was rated by Ofsted as 'Requires improvement' when it was last inspected in September 2012.

4.103 The January 2012 Ofsted report provides the following description of Lavington Pre-School. It *"...was registered in 2001 for no more than 26 children aged from two years to under five years. It is managed by a voluntary committee and is a registered charity. It operates from its own purpose built building, opened in September 2010, in the grounds of Dauntsey Aided Primary School in the village of West Lavington, Wiltshire. Children come from the village itself and the surrounding rural area."* Indeed local research indicates that some 60% of the School's intake come from outside the School catchment due to its popularity.

4.104 The prospectus for Dauntsey Academy Primary School (prior to September 2013 known as Dauntsey Aided Primary School) noted that the Aided status of the school had been maintained through the historical links with Dauntsey's School. They were one of only two schools in Wiltshire to be secularly Aided. The school moved to the current site in September 2000 and was joined by Lavington Pre-school in September 2002. The school currently has approximately 180 children on roll, aged from 4 to 11 years. At 11 years the majority of the children move on to Lavington School in Market Lavington.

²⁷ Joint Strategic Assessment for Devizes Community Area (2011) [online] available at: <http://www.intelligencenetwork.org.uk/local-area-profiles/> (accessed 24/01/14)

- 4.105 The independent inspection report following the October 2012 inspection at Dauntsey's School confirms that the school is "*.....co-educational with a large number of pupils who board..... The age range of the school is eleven to eighteen. There are 766 pupils on the school roll; 425 boys and 341 girls. There are 289 boarders: 146 boys and 143 girls. There are 505 pupils altogether in the main part of the school and 261 in the sixth form.*"
- 4.106 The latest inspection report for Lavington School confirms that it "*.....is a converter academy, established in January 2011 from a maintained school in the control of Wiltshire local authority. When it was last inspected in 2008, the overall effectiveness of the predecessor school, which was also called Lavington School, was judged to be outstanding. The school has mathematics and computing specialist status. The school is smaller than the average-sized secondary school.*" It has between 600-700 students.

4.6B Education and Skills - Future Baseline

- 4.107 The data tends to suggest that the local population of the Plan Area enjoys a high level of economic activity compared to Wiltshire and England more generally. Unemployment is low although there is a higher proportion of economically inactive than elsewhere and this may reflect the rural nature of the Neighbourhood Plan Area and the fact that it attracts families and those of retirement age. It is likely that this mix will continue in future.
- 4.108 The educational attainment levels are high in the Plan Area and, in the absence of the Neighbourhood Plan, will be likely to continue and improve the performance of those aged 16 or over achieving level 4 qualifications or above as the good performance of those with qualifications at levels 1-3 propagates through the next few years.
- 4.109 Dauntsey Academy Primary School is intending to add an additional classroom to take in a further 30 children.
- 4.110 The Neighbourhood Plan area benefits from an above average level of people with qualifications achieved at school or college. This may in part be a function of the demography and social stratification in the Plan Area but may also be a function of the quality of teaching in the local schools. If this level of achievement continues it is likely that performance at level 3²⁸ and levels 4+ will continue to improve compared to Wiltshire and England. This may also lead to positive effects in terms of economic activity and the general economic wellbeing of the Plan Area.
- 4.111 With the upturn in the economy anticipated to strengthen from 2014 onwards, this is likely to

²⁸ 2+ A Levels/VCEs, 4+ AS Levels, Higher Certificate, Progression/Advanced Diploma/Welsh Baccalaureate/Advanced Diploma Level 3

stimulate additional employment opportunities as companies expand and new companies start up and this may lead to additional apprenticeships and/or training and/or employment opportunities which may have a beneficial effect on NEETs.

4.7A Economy and Enterprise - Existing Baseline

4.112 **Key Employment Areas** - Within the Devizes Community Area the Wiltshire Work Space and Employment Land Review²⁹ confirms that within the Devizes community area the key employment areas are centred on Devizes itself (Banda Trading Estate, Folly Road, Hopton Industrial Estate, Hopton Park, Le Marchant Barracks, Mill Road, Nurstead Industrial Estate and the Police Headquarters).

4.113 **Rental Levels** - Average industrial and warehousing rental levels are mid-range at approximately £5 per square foot (the range in the Council area being £4-£6 per square foot). The average office space rentals in the community area are £8.50 per square foot, again approximately mid-range, the range being from £5.50 - £12.00 per square foot³⁰.

4.114 **Main Employers** - Within the Plan Area, local surveys undertaken by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group confirm the main employers are:

- Dauntsey's School, employing approximately 340 staff (90 full time academic and 30 part time; 90 full time Bursarial staff and 39 part time)
- Dauntsey Academy Primary School – 27 people
- Various retail units (2 public houses and 2 shops)
- Care homes (The Haven and Dauntsey House) – 37 staff in total
- Wentrow Media – 45 people (in Littleton Panell)
- A'Beckett's Vineyard – variable
- NHS Surgery – approximately 10 staff (part-time/full-time)

4.115 Although there are a small number of employers in the Plan Area, this is better than comparable communities. Indeed, the stability offered by the larger employers (especially the Dauntsey's School) provides a strong economic benefit to the community in the Plan Area.

4.116 **Employment Sectors** - The ONS Neighbourhood Statistics for industry sector (see **Figure 2**)

²⁹ Wiltshire Council (2011) Wiltshire Workspace and Employment Land Review, Final report – Roger Tym and Partners [online] Available at: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningpolicy/planningpolicyevidencebase.htm> (accessed 24/01/14)

³⁰ Wiltshire Council (2011) Wiltshire Workspace and Employment Land Review, Final report – Roger Tym and Partners [online] Available at: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningpolicy/planningpolicyevidencebase.htm> (accessed 24/01/14)

present the data at a level which covers an area slightly larger than the Neighbourhood Plan Area (based on the Lavingtons and Earlstoke Ward (population 2,823)). The data confirms that the three sectors which employ most working age (16-74) people within the Ward area are education (15%), public administration and defence ; compulsory social security (12%) and wholesale and retail trades; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (13%). These figures are interesting in that education is approximately 5% higher than the average for Wiltshire and England. In the case of public administration and defence, compulsory social security the sector employs approximately twice as many people of working age in the Lavingtons and Earlstoke Ward and in Wiltshire generally (12%) compared to in England (just under 6%) and the wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles category (13%) is somewhat less than the Wiltshire and England average which are 15% & 16% of all working age population respectively:

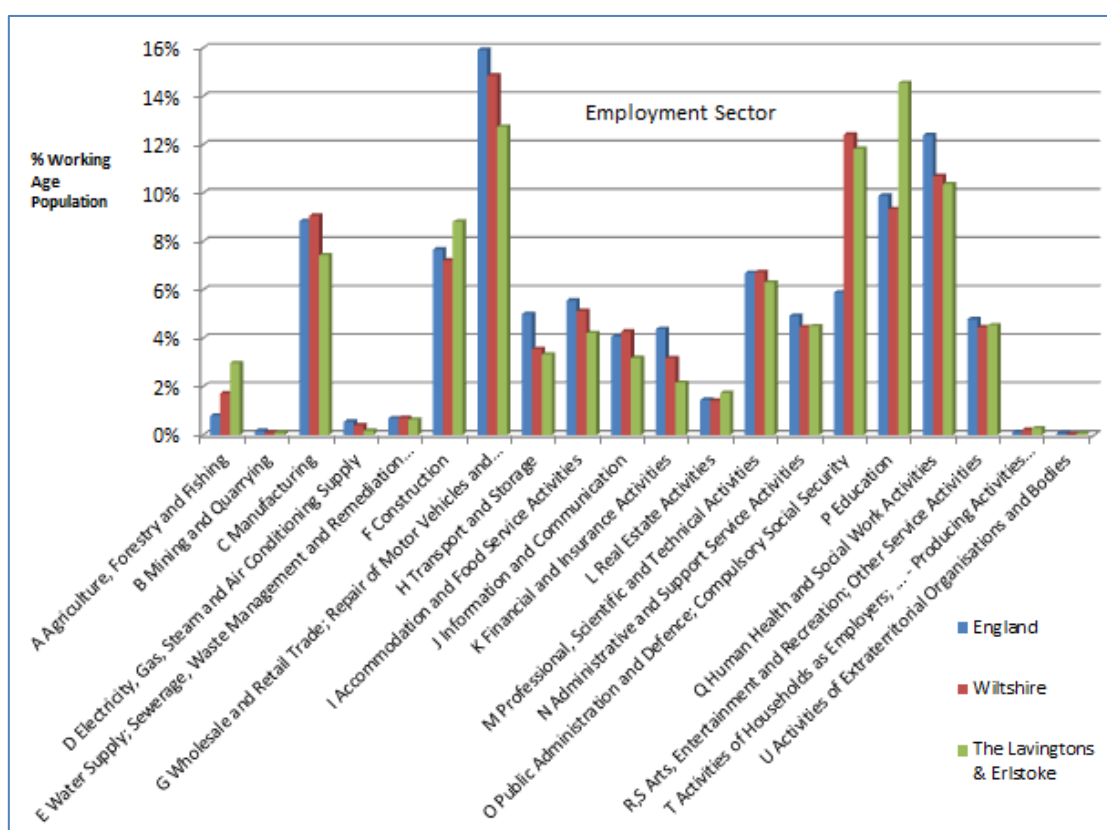


Figure 2: Employment Sector

4.117 **Occupation Category** - Turning to the category of occupation, the data³¹ reveals that the Neighbourhood Plan area has a higher than average percentage of working age (16-74) people

³¹ ONS Neighbourhood statistics: Occupation 2011 (Table KS608EW) [online] available at: <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadDatasetList.do?a=5&b=11130377&c=west+lavington&d=16&g=6475496&i=1001x1003&m=0&r=1&s=1391041527572&enc=1&domainId=9> (accessed 24/01/14)

employed as Managers, Directors and Senior Officials (15.02% as compared to 12.4% for Wiltshire and 10.9% for England). Similarly it has a higher than average proportion of professionals (19.31% as opposed to 16.7% in Wiltshire and 17.5% in England).

4.118 It has a lower than average proportion of associated professional and technical occupations at only 9.08% (Wiltshire has 14.6% and England 12.8%). Other categories of occupation are broadly the same in terms of proportions as Wiltshire and England – particularly admin and secretarial occupations, skilled trades, caring, leisure and other service occupations, sales and customer services and process plant and machinery operatives. Elementary occupations (typically street vendors, domestic help, cleaners, caretakers, window cleaners, messengers etc) account for a slightly higher percentage of residents aged 16-74 in employment in the Neighbourhood Plan Area, at 11.72%. The Wiltshire equivalent is 10.1%, the South West region is 11% and the England proportion is 11.1%.

4.119 **Broadband** - The Wiltshire Online scheme is due to roll through the parish beginning in October 2014 with site surveys. Together with an upturn in the economy this new infrastructure should provide the base for improvement, especially in home working.

4.7B Economy and Enterprise - Future Baseline

4.120 Planning policy in the emerging Core Strategy is influenced by the Wiltshire Workspace and Employment Land Review recommendations³². It suggests that planning policy should consider the whole economy rather than focusing on just employment uses, particularly in rural areas. It recommends that the Council should be permissive in allowing employment development up to a certain threshold in rural areas and should particularly favour development of rural sites for employment purposes offering flexible terms (paragraph 5.51 – 5.52).

4.121 In the absence of the Neighbourhood Plan, and with improvements in flexibility of working patterns, it is likely that home-working will increase particularly where employees are not required to work in a certain geographical location and can be connected via the internet. This suggests that good quality broadband connection will be critical to sustaining increased home-working and without it is less likely to occur, or to be only a minor factor.

4.122 The core strategy makes provision for 9.9 hectares of new employment land within the Devizes community area with the two main sites being located at Devizes (land between the A361 and Horton Road, and Nurstead Road). This will undoubtedly broaden the range of employment opportunities in the community area which will be of benefit to the Plan Area.

³² See above

- 4.123 It is likely that the current employment sector split and the occupation profile of residents in the Plan Area will continue, although it may be influenced by the take-up in as yet undeveloped employment sites within the community area, as well as the nature of those emerging employment opportunities.
- 4.124 Additional manufacturing and traditional forms of employment may lead to an increase in opportunities for those kinds of employment sector jobs. Additional local employment opportunities in the Parish would have a beneficial effect in reducing out-commuting to the local employment such as Devizes and Trowbridge. This in turn would help to sustain local retail activities and community facilities in the Parish area.

4.8A Land and Soil Resources - Existing Baseline

4.125 **Soil Resources** - The soil profile in the Plan Area reflects the fact that it covers three different LCAs, representing the transition from valley in the north to high ground to the south. Current soil mapping describes the soil in the Plan Area (see **Figure 3** below).

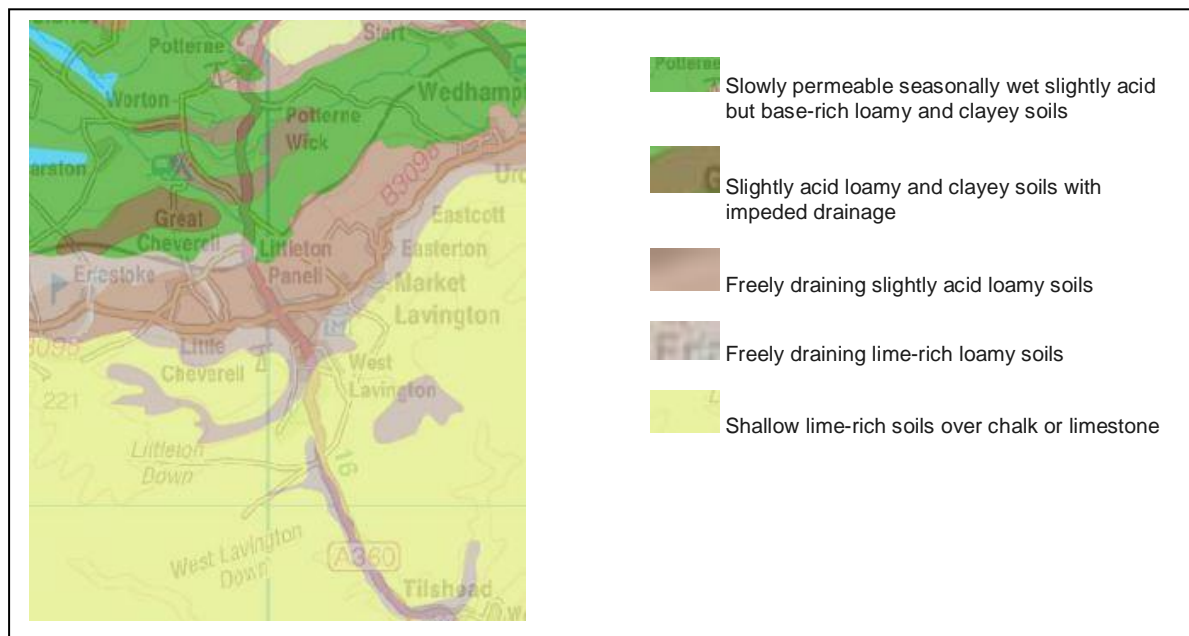


Figure 3: Soil Profile³³

4.126 In the far south the soil is shallow and lime-rich lying over chalk or limestone. This soil is generally free draining, loamy and typically provides land cover for arable or grassland. It tends to support herb-rich downland and limestone pastures as well as beech hangers and other lime-rich woodlands.

4.127 A narrow strip of freely draining lime-rich loamy soil runs through the centre of West Lavington. This tends to underlie arable land and supports habitats for herb-rich, chalk and limestone pastures and lime-rich deciduous woodlands.

4.128 Further to the north is a band of freely draining slightly acid loamy soil. This underlies the northern part of West Lavington and Littleton Panell. It has a relatively low fertility and generally supports arable and grassland. The habitat that tend to be supported on this soil are neutral and acid pasture and deciduous woodlands.

4.129 To the north lies a narrow band of free draining lime-rich loamy soil again, and beyond that on the northern edge of Littleton Panell, a large area of slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid

³³ Clancfield University National Soil Resources Institute online mapping [online] available at: <https://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/> (accessed 25 January 2014).

but base-rich loamy and clayey soil. This is characterised by impeded drainage, it has moderate fertility, it tends to support grassland and arable as well as some woodland, and the habitats it supports are typically seasonable wet pastures and woodlands,

- 4.130 Finally to the very north of the Neighbourhood Plan area lies a small pocket of slightly acid loamy and clayey soil with impeded drainage. It has a moderate to high fertility and supports a wide range of habitats including pastures and woodlands.
- 4.131 **Agricultural Land** - Turning to agricultural land classification grading, the majority of the high ground to the south of the Parish forming part of Salisbury Plain is classified as 'other land primarily in non-agricultural use' (see **Figure 4** below). There are one or two small pockets of grade 3 and 2 agricultural land just to the south of the Gore Cross area. To the north of Gore Cross there are areas of grade 3 agricultural land to the southwest of Lavington, to the west in the area of Fore Hill, and to the east in the area of Rams Cliff. The remainder of the land to the east and west of West Lavington and to the south east and west of West Lavington is predominantly grade 2 agricultural land. There are pockets of grade 1 agricultural land immediately to the west of Littleton Panell in the pastures just beyond the built-up part of the settlement and pockets of grade 2 immediately to the east of Littleton Panell, again in the open land immediately to the east of the build-up parts of the village.
- 4.132 The parcels of land immediately south of the railway line are grade 3, as is the remainder of the agricultural land forming the northern part of the Parish with a very narrow strip of poor quality agricultural land running along the course of the Brook in the northern part of the Plan Area.
- 4.133 Although a large part of Salisbury Plain within the Plan Area is shown as '*other land primarily in non-agricultural use*' and coloured orange in Figure 4, this is nevertheless used in part as agricultural land and is occupied under Schedule 1 and Schedule 3 Tenancies and Licences granted by the MOD.

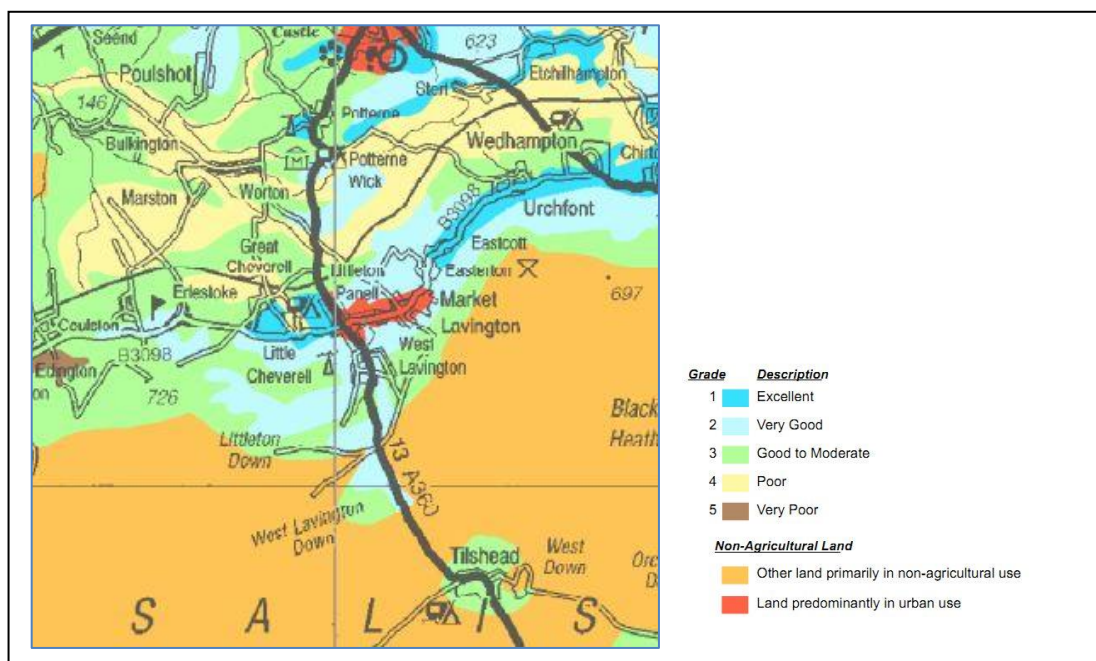


Figure 4: Agricultural Land Classification³⁴

4.134 **Topography** - The topography of the Plan Area includes relatively high ground to the south (up to 200 metres Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), falling away to areas of relatively low ground particularly in the northern part of the Plan Area where ground levels are approximately 60-80 metres AOD).

4.135 **Geology** - The underlying geology is similarly reflective of the soils and topography (see **Figure 5** below). Upper, Middle and Lower Chalk form the high ground to the south, Greensand and Gault run through the centre of the Plan Area and underlying the village of West Lavington and Littleton Panell, and Portland beds and Alluvium and Valley Gravels are found in the far northern part of the Plan Area.

³⁴ Natural England, Agricultural Land Classification Map SW Regions ALC006 [online] available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/144017> (accessed 24/01/14)

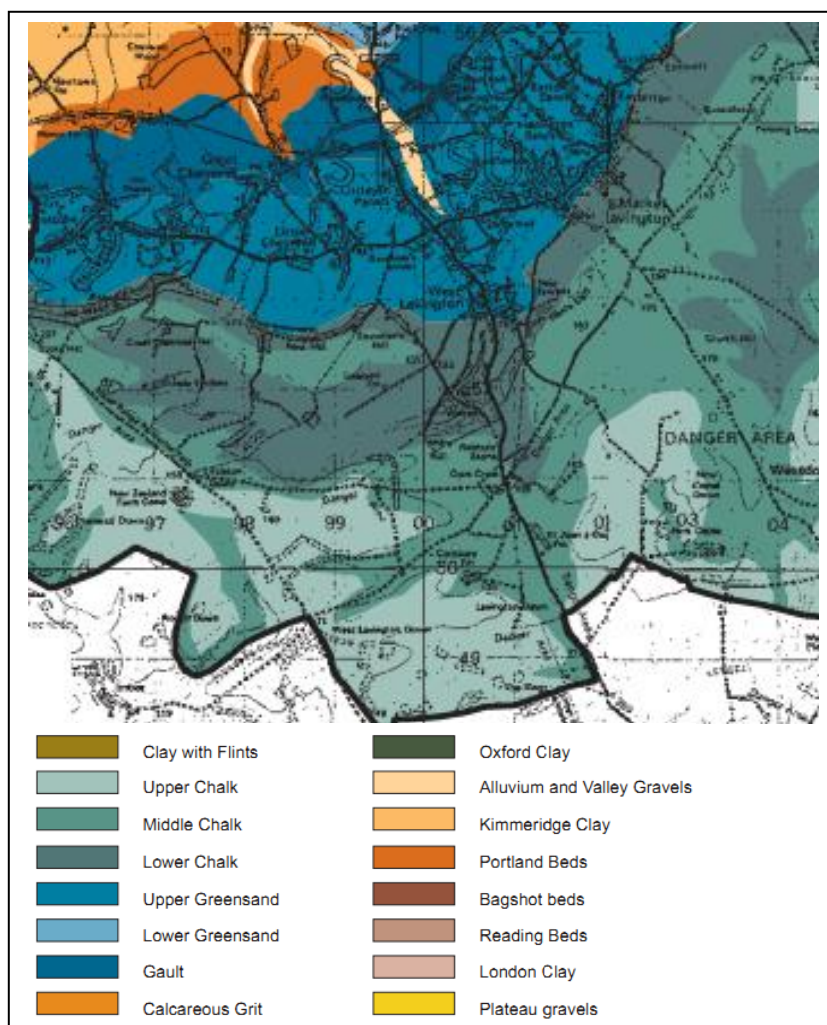


Figure 5: Geology³⁵

4.136 **Previously Developed Land** - The South West Observatory Local Profile for Wiltshire³⁶ confirms that in the period 2007-2010 the percentage of new dwellings built on previously developed land in Wiltshire was 51%. This is lower than the proportion for the South West (66%) or England (77%) and represents a decrease from 57% over the period 2003-2006.

4.137 **Development Density** - In 2007-2010 the density of new dwellings built per hectare (dph) in Wiltshire was 32 (as compared to 38 dph in the South West and 43 dph in England on average). This represented an increase from 28dph in the period 2003-2006.

³⁵ From Figure 1 of Atlantic Consultants, Kennet Landscape Character Assessment Part 1 (1998) [online] available at: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningpolicy/planningpolicyevidencebase/planningpolicyevidencebaseeast.htm> (accessed 24/01/14)

³⁶ South West Observatory Local Profiles Wiltshire 2012 [online] available at: <http://www.swo.org.uk/local-hyphenprofiles/wiltshire/#.UuPsiRFDDc> (accessed on 25th January 2014)

- 4.138 **Waste Collection / Disposal** - The latest figures for waste collection for Wiltshire³⁷ record total waste collection and recycling rates. In the statistical period 2012-2013 (published November 2013) Wiltshire Council collected 243,999 tonnes of municipal waste, a decrease from the previous year's collection figures of 246,655 tonnes. Of that, 214,947 tonnes were household waste (down from 260,605 tonnes in 2011/12).
- 4.139 46% of household waste was sent for re-use, recycling or composting, an increase of 3% from the previous year's figures of 43%. 33% of municipal waste was sent to landfill in 2012/13, a decrease from the previous year's figures of 37%. Wiltshire generated 447 kilos of household waste per person on average in the year 2011/12, a decrease from the previous year's figures of 465 kilos of household waste per person.
- 4.140 The trend of landfilling municipal waste in Wiltshire has dropped from a high point of 79% in 2003/4 to 60% in 2006/7, 47% in 2009/10 and 38% in 2010/11. Recycling rates have increased from 21% in 2003/4 to 40.5% in 2008/9. The former Kennet District (which includes the Neighbourhood Plan Area) had the highest recycling rate in 2011/12 of 46.5%. This compares with the South West region's recycling rate of 45.8% and the England rate of 41.8% (dry recycling and composting as a % of household waste)³⁸. However within the Plan Area there are no recycling sites available to the public. The nearest are located 8 miles away in Devizes.
- 4.141 **Mineral Resources** - The Neighbourhood Plan area does not contain any Mineral Resource Zones (as defined in the adopted Minerals Core Strategy June 2009) although the nearest area is the South and West of Calne Mineral Resources Zone which is also a Mineral Safeguarding Area. This is located just to the north of the Neighbourhood Plan Area and to the west of Devizes.

4.8B Land and Soil Resources - Future Baseline

- 4.142 Unplanned growth on the edge of the settlements of West Lavington and Littleton Panell may lead to loss of best and most versatile agricultural land and other land benefitting from good quality soils.
- 4.143 In the absence of the Neighbourhood Plan, incentives to improve recycling rates are likely to reduce the need for minerals and other raw materials and to increase recycling rates whilst at the same time reducing the amount of waste that is sent to landfill.

³⁷ Statistical Data Set ENV18: Local Authority Collected Annual Results Tables [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/env18-local-authority-collected-waste-annual-results-tables> (accessed on 25th January 2014)

³⁸ Wiltshire Intelligence Network [online] available at: <http://www.intelligenenetwork.org.uk/environment/waste-and-pollution/> (accessed 25th January 2014)

4.9A Air Quality and Environmental Pollution - Existing Baseline

- 4.144 **Air Quality** - According to the Air Quality Strategy for Wiltshire³⁹, air quality in Wiltshire is 'very good' (page 13). The report notes that this is unsurprising given the rural nature of much of the land within the authority's boundaries. Those areas that are of concern are localised and nitrogen dioxide monitoring in the Wiltshire area reports generally good results with many locations meeting standards. However, there are some areas where levels are below standard and Devizes to the north of the WLNP Area is one location in particular where failures have been recorded in the 2010-2011 year. Consequently an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) was declared for the Devizes area. Details are set out in the Air Quality Strategy. The initial AQMA in the centre of Devizes was significantly extended in 2012 as result of further investigations. An air quality action plan is intended to be developed for the Devizes AQMA in due course.
- 4.145 **Light Pollution** - As previously noted in the Landscape Baseline section, light pollution is also a matter of some concern in parts of South West region⁴⁰. In the Wiltshire area, Salisbury Plain is a location of particularly dark skies and the West Lavington Neighbourhood Plan Area, being located on the northern edge of Salisbury Plain, benefits from that to an extent, although skies are brighter in the northern part of the Neighbourhood Plan Area.
- 4.146 **Tranquillity** - Salisbury Plain is identified as one of the most tranquil areas in the South West region, and although the southern part of the Plan Area benefits from this tranquillity, the 'settled' parts of the Neighbourhood Plan Area are less tranquil according to the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England Tranquillity Map (2007)⁴¹. Of note however, there are live firing ranges within the southern parts of the Plan Area that impact upon general tranquillity, and incidences of low-flying aircraft which give rise to disturbance to amenity on occasion.
- 4.147 **Contamination** - There are no significant areas of known contamination in the Neighbourhood Plan Area. However areas of potential contamination due to former / current uses may include the scrap metal yard at the old railway station in Littleton Panell, and the former car sales site in High Street, West Lavington. Guidance on the management of contaminated land and other environmental pollutants are provided on the Wiltshire Council Environmental Health webpages.

³⁹ Wiltshire Council (2011) Air Quality Strategy for Wiltshire 2011-15 [online] available at: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityandliving/publicprotection/pollutionandnoise/airandwaterpollution/airquality.htm> (accessed 24/01/14)

⁴⁰ CPRE Night Light in the South West (2000) [on-line] available at: <http://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/countryside/dark-skies> (accessed 24/01/14)

⁴¹ CPRE (2007) Tranquillity Map [on-line] available at: www.cpre.org.uk/resources/countryside/tranquil-places?start=20 (accessed 24/01/14)

They deal with air quality, contaminated land, noise and amenity and obtrusive light⁴².

4.9B Air Quality and Environmental Pollution - Future Baseline

- 4.148 In the absence of the Neighbourhood Plan it is likely that additional development in the Devizes Community Area will lead to increased incidence of pollution as a result of the additional vehicle movements that any development is likely to generate. The growth planned in the Devizes community area is significant and it appears likely that it may increase as a result of the Core Strategy Inspector's interim comments to Wiltshire Council (core document 'Exam75' dated 2 December 2013⁴³) about increasing the total quantum of housing to be delivered in the Core Strategy Area over the Plan period.
- 4.149 Additional development, unless accompanied by proportionate growth in public transport, cycleway and footway improvements, is likely to result in further erosion of air quality.
- 4.150 New development brings with it lighting, noise and other pollutants which may further erode the tranquillity of the Neighbourhood Plan Area unless carefully controlled, through the use of controls in development plans⁴⁴. Salisbury Plain will continue to be used by the Army for live firing and other manoeuvres which will have a general effect on the tranquillity of the area. Redevelopment of previously developed land may lead to the risk of pollutants entering the environment. Therefore careful management of the decontamination of affected sites will be critical.

⁴² Wiltshire Council webpage [online] available at:
<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityandliving/publicprotection/ehplanningconsultations.htm>
(accessed 24/01/14)

⁴³ Wiltshire Council Examination webpages [online] available at:
<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningpolicy/wiltshirecorestrategy/wiltshirecorestrategyexamination.htm> (accessed 24/01/14)

⁴⁴ See for example: Institute of Lighting Professionals (2011) Guidance Notes for the Reduction of Obtrusive Light GN01:2011 [online] available at:
<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityandliving/publicprotection/ehplanningconsultations.htm>
(accessed 26/01/14)

4.10A Historic Environment - Existing Baseline

4.151 **Heritage Assets** - There are approximately 50 Grade II Listed Buildings, one Grade II* Listed Building (Dial House) and one Grade I Listed Building (the Church of All Saints) in the Neighbourhood Plan Area (see **Figures 6 and 7** below). In addition, there are a number of Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) within or immediately adjoining the Plan Area, as follows:

- Field system on West Lavington Down (SAM listing entry ID 1009976)
- Field system and settlement north of Chapperton Down (SAM listing entry ID 1010018)
- Boundary feature 700m south west of the Plantation, West Lavington Down (SAM list entry ID 1010096)
- Strip lynchet system east of Three Corner Firs (SAM list entry ID 1017862)

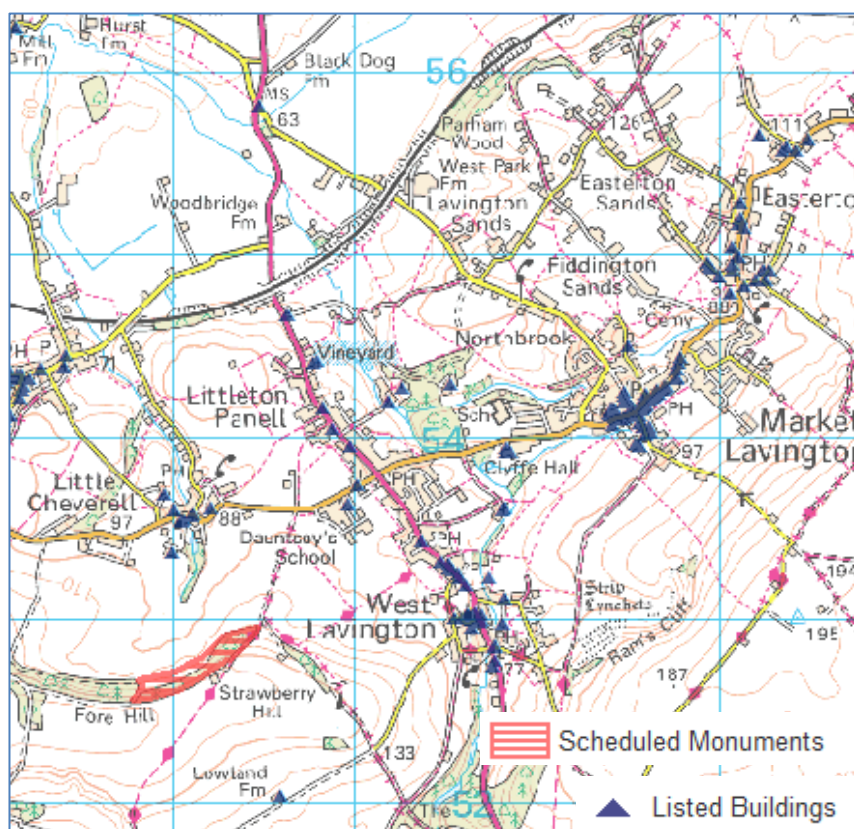


Figure 6: Heritage Assets in the Villages⁴⁵

⁴⁵ Mapping sourced from English Heritage, National Heritage List for England [online] available at: <http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/mapsearch.aspx> (accessed 24/01/14)

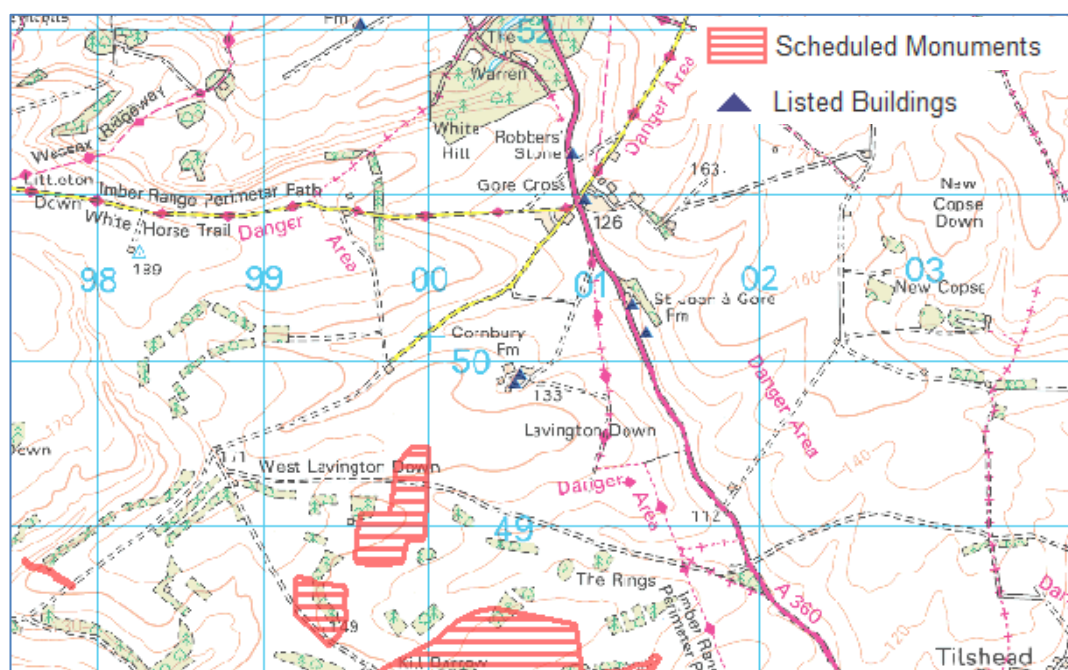


Figure 7: Heritage Assets in the Southern Part of the Plan Area⁴⁶

4.152 **Archaeology** - Excavation reports⁴⁷ have confirmed that the most substantial evidence of medieval occupation has been recorded to the south west of Rutts Lane where a number of ditches, pits and post holes containing pottery dated to the 12th and 13th century has been identified. To the east of Stibb Hill a significant quantity of similar pottery was also identified.

4.153 West Lavington is believed to have contracted in the 14th century but expanded again subsequently. Evidence for the early occupation of the medieval parts of the village is still visible in aerial photographs (see **Figures 8 and 9**).

⁴⁶ Mapping sourced from English Heritage, National Heritage List for England [online] available at: <http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/mapsearch.aspx> (accessed 24/01/14)

⁴⁷ Context One Archaeological Services Excavation in West Lavington, reported in 'Excavation, Fieldwork and the PAS in Wiltshire' (2009), page 287



Figure 8: Aerial photograph of Hooper's Field (source: Wiltshire Police Air Support Unit/Quentin Goggs, 2003)



Figure 9: Aerial photograph of the Greenfield (source: Wiltshire Police Air Support Unit/Quentin Goggs, 2003)

4.154 **Conservation Area** - The central part of West Lavington and Littleton Panel is also the subject of a statutory Conservation Area designation. The Conservation Area was originally designated

in 1975 and minor boundary changes were brought into effect in 1989.

4.155 The Conservation Area Statement⁴⁸ records the origins of the two villages. It notes that the Domesday Book records two water mills at Littleton in 1086. In 1253 the King gave William Paynel seisin of Littleton until the early 14th century when it was conveyed to Lord Hastings of Abergavenney.

4.156 There are records of part of the village of West Lavington having been abandoned after a major fire in 1689.

4.157 The core part of the 17th century village grew up around springs at the foot of the hill in the area of Rutts Lane, Stibb Hill and Duck Street in the south east, and All Saints Road, Church Lane and White Street in the north west.

4.158 West Lavington became known as West Lavington in the early 1600s to distinguish it from East Lavington (now known as Market Lavington).

4.159 A number of green spaces are identified as contributing to the character of the Conservation Area in the Conservation Area statement:

- The meadow to the north of Little House, fronting onto the High Street
- The grounds and avenue east of Dauntsey's School
- The green at the junction of Sandfields and High Street
- The garden of Wyneshore House
- The grounds of West Lavington Manor House
- The churchyard of All Saints Parish Church
- The small green in front of Dial House at The Rutts Lane junction

4.160 The Conservation Area is characterised by a number of attractive Listed Buildings as well as more modern development.

4.161 The Conservation Area character in the High Street is linear, with more modern buildings infilling gaps and set behind the main frontage which is of earlier origins.

⁴⁸ Available at: www.westlavington.info/resources/ConservationAreaStatement.pdf (accessed 24/01/14)

- 4.162 All Saints Parish Church dates back to at least the 12th century with later additions (13th, 14th and 15th century). It was reworked in 1847 by T H Wyatt. It is constructed of greensand rubble and squared stone with limestone ashlar to the chancel. There are a number of listed monuments in the churchyard (all Grade II Listed), while the Church itself is Grade I Listed.
- 4.163 Typical building materials in the Conservation Area include chalk, flint, greensand stone and render / plaster / washes. Red brick is also used in a number of places.
- 4.164 Several areas of potential change are identified in the Conservation Area Statement and these are set out in further detail in the review of plans policies and proposals at Appendix B.
- 4.165 **Salisbury Plain Heritage** - Within the limits of Salisbury Plain an aerial survey report was undertaken in the mid-1990s and reported by English Heritage in 2000⁴⁹. These aerial records were considered to be “unique in the country”. The report states:

“The evidence for settlement [on Salisbury Plain] however has largely been restricted to the major hill forts such as Battlebury, Scratchbury or Casterley Camp and the Romano British villages like Chisenbury Warren, Knook or Charlton Down. Very little is known about simple enclosed settlements perhaps representing small farmsteads. The results of this project have changed this; of the 1,447 new sites, 198 were recorded as enclosures, the most common site interpretation after field boundary and ditch”.

- 4.166 Significant remains of field systems were also identified, as well as a number of potential Neolithic sites. Bronze Age, Iron Age and Romano British remains / sites were also mapped as well as medieval archaeology. In addition to those identified above, a number of features of archaeological importance are known to exist within the southern part of the Neighbourhood Plan Area on Salisbury Plain.
- 4.167 **Heritage at Risk** - English Heritage produces a Heritage At Risk Register every year. The current register⁵⁰ dealing with the South West region does not identify any Listed Buildings, SAMs or other heritage assets considered to be at risk within the Plan Area.

4.10B Historic Environment - Future Baseline

- 4.168 In the absence of the Neighbourhood Plan, all development in the future has the potential to harm

⁴⁹ English Heritage: Salisbury Plain Training Area, a report for the National Mapping Programme by Simon Crutchley (2000) [online] available at: <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/research/landscapes-and-areas/national-mapping-programme/salisbury-plain-nmp/> (accessed 24/01/14)

⁵⁰ English Heritage, Heritage At Risk Register (2013) [online] available at: <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/har-2013-local-summaries/> (accessed 24/01/14)

the significance of the heritage assets in the Neighbourhood Plan Area. Sensitively designed development may not lead to harm to the significance of heritage assets, and will be determined in the context of current planning policies and in particular the National Planning Policy Framework (or its successor) and the policies in the development plan.

- 4.169 Further development will undoubtedly reveal additional archaeological remains as a result of on-site field investigations. This will add further to the knowledge base and contribute to a greater understanding of the heritage and history of the Neighbourhood Plan Area.

4.11A Population and Housing - Existing Baseline

- 4.170 **Population** - In 2001 the total population of the Parish of West Lavington was 1281 of which 1030 people lived in 442 households which occupied 473 dwellings. The remaining 251 people lived in communal establishments (about 90% being Dauntsey's School) (See **Table 9** below).
- 4.171 By 2011 the population had risen to 1502, but an even larger proportion, 351, lived in communal establishments. The household population had risen by 121 people to 1151, derived from an increase in households to 497 and dwellings up to 518.
- 4.172 There has been an increase in the numbers of those of retirement age (29 over the decade). This is more modest than might have been expected. By contrast, the overall growth of dwellings (45) and households (55) in the period has been greater than may have been anticipated from casual observation of development in the area.

Factor	2001	2011	Change +/-
Total Population	1281	1502	+221
Population in Communal Households	251	351	+100
Population in Households	1030	1151	+121
Total Population Aged Under 15	252	344	+92
Total Population Aged 16 to 64	797	897	+100
Total Population Aged 65+	232	261	+29
Total Dwellings	473	518	+45
Of Which Multiple or Mobile	29	43	+14
Total Households	442	497	+55
Tenure Owner-Occupied	292	304	+12
Tenure Social Rented	84	91	+7
Private Rented & Other Tenure	66	102	+32

Table 9: General Population and Housing Data⁵¹

- 4.173 **Density** - The density of persons per hectare is exceptionally low compared to Wiltshire and England generally. At 0.36 persons per hectare (the Neighbourhood Plan Area is approximately 2,395 hectares) this is less than half the average density in Wiltshire which is itself a low density local authority area⁵². Wiltshire has a density of 1.4 persons per hectare whereas the average for the South west is 2.2 persons per hectare, and the average for England is 4.1 persons per hectare.
- 4.174 **Ethnicity** - The ethnicity figures are broadly similar to those in the South West region with 88.7%

⁵¹ ONS Neighbourhood Statistics Dataset Ten Year Households 2011 (table QS405EW)

⁵² ONS Neighbourhood Statistics Datasets Usual Resident Population (KS101EW)

of the population being classed as White British (in Wiltshire the figure is 93.4%, while in England 79.8%)⁵³. The other categories of any significance are 3.4% White Other and 4.7% Chinese. See 4.12A below for additional details.

4.175 **Cohabitation** - West Lavington Parish has a slightly higher percentage of persons living as a couple (either married or in a registered same sex civil partnership) than in the Region or England, at 55.4% (the figure for Wiltshire is 53.9%, and the figure for England is 45.9%)⁵⁴.

4.176 **Dwelling Stock** - The majority of the dwelling stock is in single household accommodation of detached, semi-detached or terraced houses with only a small number of multiple dwellings (mainly for older people) or mobile homes. The predominant tenure is owner occupied with a significant number of social housing units, primarily from previous local authority property. Growth in the “other rented” sector over the period has been appreciable.

4.177 44.8% of people in West Lavington live in a detached house, significantly higher than the England average of 24.3% and somewhat higher than the Wiltshire average of 37.2%. There are correspondingly lower figures for terraced properties (14.5% as opposed to 21.7% in Wiltshire and 25.7% in England) and apartments (4.7% as opposed to 7.5% in Wiltshire and 15.9% in England)⁵⁵.

4.178 This is typical of a rural location where space is at less of a premium.

4.179 **House Price Data** - Demand for property is generally high and prices have reflected this falling only to a limited degree during the recent recession. Many houses are sold quite quickly (though those affected by the main road tend to be on the market significantly longer) since the village is generally perceived as an attractive place to live with good access, shops, pubs, bus routes and a selection of schools with a good reputation.

4.180 House price data from retail websites (Rightmove⁵⁶ and Mouse Price⁵⁷) indicate that West Lavington has an overall average sale value per dwelling of £203,268 based on the last 12 months data, slightly less than Market Lavington which has an average of £216,903.

4.181 In the past year house prices in West Lavington were 4% lower than the year before, and 24% lower than in 2008 when they averaged £265,882.

4.182 Data for a slightly larger area of the SN10 district postcode (which includes Devizes) suggests

⁵³ ONS Neighbourhood Statistics Datasets Ethnic Group (KS201EW)

⁵⁴ ONS Neighbourhood Statistics Datasets Living Arrangements (KS104EW)

⁵⁵ ONS Neighbourhood Statistics Dataset Accommodation Type - People (QS401EW)

⁵⁶ Rightmove House Price data [online] available at: <http://www.rightmove.co.uk> (accessed 25/01/14)

⁵⁷ Mouseprice House Price data [online] available at: <http://www.mouseprice.com/area-guide/average-values/sn10> (accessed 25/01/14)

that average current values are slightly below national values for properties (one bedroom units averaging £126,400 as opposed to a national average of £153,400)

- 4.183 Two bedroom properties are approximately £10,000 below the national average whereas three bedroom properties are approximately £14,000 above the national average (at £211,100, compared to £197,400). Four bedroom properties are approximately £30,000 below the national average at £322,100, whereas five plus bedroom properties are significantly below the national average, being £485,100 as compared to £608,100.
- 4.184 **Overcrowding** - Houses in the West Lavington Plan Area are generally not overcrowded. 99.1% of people usually resident in the Plan Area live in households where there is up to 1 person per room with only 0.6% being in households where there is more than 1 person per room (numbers do not sum to 100% due to rounding). In Wiltshire 2.1% of people live in households where there is more than 1 person per room, whereas in England the total is 4.7% of all people living in households with more than 1 person per room⁵⁸.
- 4.185 **Affordable Housing Proportion** - Although there are no figures for the affordable housing built in West Lavington as a proportion of all houses built, the figures in the Wiltshire Core Strategy Consultation January 2012 Topic Paper No.2 on Housing indicate that between 2003/4 and 2008/9 Wiltshire's delivery of affordable housing averaged 24% of all new dwellings, whilst within that period the East Wiltshire area (which includes the former Kennet District and the Neighbourhood Plan Area) delivered approximately 30% (paragraph 6.7.5 Topic Paper No.2).
- 4.186 **Council and Private Rents** - Average weekly council rents in Wiltshire for the last year when full data was available (2010/11) indicates that council tenants were paying £73.40 per week in Wiltshire (compared to £62.96 in the South West and £67.83 in England).
- 4.187 Average private rents for the last recorded quarter 2013 Q1 indicate that in Wiltshire they total £705 per month mean rent across all properties in Wiltshire (compared to £667 a month in the South West and £724 a month in England).
- 4.188 **Affordability** - The affordability ratio for the last full year (2011) i.e. the ratio of the multiple of the average income in the area to the average house price in the area, is recorded as being 8.12 in Wiltshire, 7.6 in the South West and 6.69 in England⁵⁹ indicating that houses prices are less affordable in Wiltshire than the average in the region as a whole.
- 4.189 **Recent Developments** - Most recent development has been small scale, on infill plots or of

⁵⁸ ONS Neighbourhood Area Statistics Dataset Persons Per Room (Table QS410EW)

⁵⁹ Average House Price to income ratios, weekly council rents and mean private rents obtained from Shelter Housing Databank website using DCLG statistics [online] available at: http://england.shelter.org.uk/professional_resources/housing-databank (accessed 25/01/14)

replacement dwellings. One significant site involving the development of a farmyard area has yielded eleven houses but this is exceptional in recent years. Recent development has been at the higher end of the market and there is perceived to be a shortage of new houses for young families or for the elderly to downsize and remain in the village.

4.11B Population and Housing - Future Baseline

- 4.190 In the absence of the Neighbourhood Plan the population is expected to continue to increase with additional house building in the area. Whilst it is not possible to say by how much, the total change in population between 2001 and 2011 was approximately +17%. That may not be representative of the next ten years; however a steady increase in population is likely to occur through small scale developments within the Neighbourhood Plan Area.
- 4.191 The emerging Wiltshire Core Strategy anticipates delivering 10,000 new affordable homes in the life of the plan period 2011 – 2026 and within the remainder of the Devizes Community Area, of a total of 420 houses to be built over that period, up to 168 additional affordable housing units might be completed outside Devizes within the Devizes Community Area based on the 40% net requirement for affordable housing on sites of 5 or more dwellings as set out in Core Policy 43 at the emerging Core Strategy.
- 4.192 The residual requirement (taking account of sites with planning permission or built out since the start of the plan period) is in the order of approximately 205 dwellings for the remainder of the Devizes Community Area. This is subject to confirmation of the overall housing figures for Wiltshire and the Devizes Community Area, following the publication of the examination Inspector's conclusions on the soundness of the Core Strategy later in 2014.
- 4.193 There may be limited additional housing demand in West Lavington and Littleton Panell as a result of the Army Basing Programme of relocation of troops to the Salisbury Plain area. However this additional need is being met largely within the existing bases at the eastern end of Salisbury Plain, outside the Parish of West Lavington.

4.12A Inclusive Communities - Existing Baseline

4.194 **Deprivation Indices** - Deprivation indices are produced by the Government (through the Department of Communities and Local Government) in order to target resources appropriately. They are referred to as “the English Indices of Deprivation 2010”. These indices update earlier indices produced in 2004 and subsequently in 2007. They comprise weighted topics including:

- Income deprivation
- Employment deprivation
- Health deprivation and disability
- Education, skills and training deprivation
- Barriers to housing and services
- Crime
- Living environment deprivation

4.195 Between 2007 and 2010 the only slight improvements in deprivation in Wiltshire as a whole were in two sub-topics (income deprivation affecting children and income deprivation affecting older people). In all other respects and against the indices identified above, deprivation increased over the 3 year period.

4.196 The Neighbourhood Area statistics produced by the Office for National Statistics assess households by deprivation ‘dimensions’. Whilst these are not the full multiple deprivation indices, they are nevertheless useful as general indicators. Table QS119EW (from the 2011 census) records four dimensions of deprivation:

- Employment
- Education
- Health and disability
- Housing

4.197 The data for the West Lavington Plan Area indicates that those households deprived in three or more dimensions amount to 2.6% as opposed to 3.2% in Wiltshire and 5.7% in England as a whole.

4.198 Households not in any dimension of deprivation stand at 53.5% in West Lavington, 49.8% in Wiltshire and 42.5% in England.

4.199 The equivalent data for the Lavingtons ward from the 2001 Census⁶⁰ contained in Table UV67 records the number of households deprived in three or more dimensions as amounting to 3.4% as opposed to 5.2% in Wiltshire and 9.8% in England. This shows an improvement in tackling deprivation at all levels between 2001 and 2011.

4.200 Households not in any dimension of deprivation in 2001 stood at 39.8% in the Lavingtons ward, 36.6% in Wiltshire and 30.9% in England.

4.201 The Church Urban Fund also produced deprivation indices⁶¹. These draw reference from a wider series of datasets at Output Area, Lower Super Output Area and Ward level from 2010 - 2012 and other data from the 1999-2003 period. For the Parish of Bishops (West) Lavington All Saints in the Salisbury Diocese the indices record the following:

- 8% of children are in poverty in this Church Parish
- 7% of pensions are on low income in this Church Parish
- 4% of households are in working age poverty in this Church Parish
- Life expectancy for boys at birth is 73 years and for girls at 77 years
- 19% of working age adults in the Church Parish have no qualifications (but see also S.4.6A above)
- 18% of households in the Church Parish live in social housing
- Lone parents families represent 22% of all families with children in the Church Parish
- 11% of the population of the Church Parish are not White British (but see also 4.11A above)
- 17% of the population of the Church Parish are aged 65 and over

4.202 **Place Survey Findings** - The Neighbourhood Plan Area benefits from a strong sense of community. According to the Place Survey 'What Matters to You Survey 2011' carried out by

⁶⁰ ONS Neighbourhood Statistics Dataset Households by Selected Household Characteristics (Table UV67)

⁶¹ Church Urban Fund, Deprivation Data [online] available at: <http://www.cuf.org.uk/parish/340528> (accessed 27/03/14)

Wiltshire Council in December 2011⁶², 90% were satisfied with the local area as a place to live; 79% felt strongly they belonged to the area; and 83% said that people from different backgrounds get on well together in the local area.

4.203 25.1% of adults over the age of 16 living in West Lavington participated in sport 3 or more times a week compared with the national average of 21.7%.

4.204 However, in Wiltshire, the percentage of respondents who volunteer regularly, is only 28%, down from 32% recorded in the 'Household' survey in 2009. On the other hand, the percentage of those agreeing in 2012 that they can influence decisions that affect their local area is 41%, which represents an improvement from the 2009 figure of 34%.

4.205 **Safety of Local Community** - As a place to live, Wiltshire is one of the safest areas in the country.

4.206 In the 'What Matters to You' survey, the percentage of people who feel safe has increased. During the day 98% of respondents feel safe, a 3% rise from 2009. After dark, 82% of respondents feel safe, a marked increase from 67% in 2009. In the County, there has been extensive work to reduce violence. In the period 2010-11 there has been a 22% reduction.

4.207 Anti-social behaviour has continued to fall in the last year with the period April to August 2012 seeing a reduction of 22% compared to the same period in 2011. However, 19% of respondents to the survey felt more action was needed to reduce such behaviour, while 14% felt that people being drunk or rowdy in public places was a serious issue and 12% felt intimidated by groups hanging around streets. 12% felt that people using or dealing in drugs was a big or fairly big problem⁶³.

4.208 In the Plan Area, incidents of crime are low (approximately 10 incidents every one / two months) and relatively minor in nature. They have included sporadic spates of burglaries from sheds and cars and from the shop, anti-social behaviour, traffic speeding registered by the Community Speedwatch team etc. These incidents are reported by the police to the Parish Council which raises awareness of trends through the Parish magazine.

4.209 **Community Issues** - The Parish Neighbourhood Plan survey of community organisations conducted in 2012 identified a number of issues for the community:

- the inadequacy of the Village Hall for holding meetings and functions, in terms of its catering, heating, lighting and acoustic facilities together with a need for general refurbishment

⁶² Wiltshire Council, What Matters to You Survey 2011 (April 2012) [online] available at: <http://www.intelligenenetwork.org.uk/consultation/> (accessed 26/01/14)

⁶³ Wiltshire Council, What Matters to You Survey 2011 (April 2012) [online] available at: <http://www.intelligenenetwork.org.uk/consultation/> (accessed 27/03/14)

- change in/loss of good/adequate bus services
- declining membership
- lack of new (and younger) volunteers to help run local organisations and
- a call generally for younger residents of the community (including families) to come forward, give their support and/or join in community life.

4.210 The Parish survey of residents in 2013 with regard to the Village Hall facilities showed strong and widespread support for major improvements to the hall while providing a clearly defined aspiration to see a modern attractive centre with a range of facilities that could be used for a wide range of community activities.

4.211 More generally the local community benefits from approximately 16 local organisations, catering for most age groups, a sports field, two playgrounds, a youth club in its own building, retail facilities, and two pubs.

4.212 These will be important considerations in the development of the Neighbourhood Plan for West Lavington and Littleton Panell.

4.12B Inclusive Communities - Future Baseline

4.213 At present the Parish is not especially deprived having regard to the data for Wiltshire and England as a whole. Community cohesion is critical however and in the absence of a Neighbourhood Plan, ad-hoc development which proceeds in a relatively unplanned way is likely to be more harmful to the community as there will be a risk that a reactive rather than proactive approach to managing future development will lead to less benefit to the community and potentially more problems with cohesion, traffic congestion, demand on resources and facilities etc.

4.214 It is possible that with the climb out recession from 2014 onwards some of the multiple deprivation indices will improve by the time of the next survey, irrespective of whether the Neighbourhood Plan proceeds or not, simply as a result of the expansion of the local economy, job creation and income inflation. Whether it manages to keep pace with general inflation, including mortgage interest rate increases, remains to be seen.

4.13A Transport - Existing Baseline

4.215 **Roads and Traffic** - The village is crossed by two significant routes, the A360 running north-south and the B3098 running east-west. These two routes cross at West Lavington Crossroads. Counts of vehicles taken in 2011, there being no significant change detected in counts since, are set out in **Table 10** below:

Route/Time	8-9 am peak hour	5-6 pm	7am-8pm off peak
A360 Northbound	138 vehicles	275	> 100
A360 Southbound	210 (peak 7-8 am)	123	> 70
B3098 Westbound	117	100	> 40
B3098 Eastbound	85	123	> 40

Table 10: Traffic Counts West Lavington

4.216 Approximately 6% of the vehicles on the A360 and 4.5% on the B3098 were HGVs. These figures are lower than for the majority of other A and B roads monitored by Wiltshire Council.

4.217 Other issues identified in local surveys to inform the Neighbourhood Plan have highlighted issues with West Lavington Crossroads, high vehicles, Church Street, speeding through the villages and parking.

4.218 Long distance traffic on the B3098 is less significant but evidently occurs to some degree. Congestion occurs on both the A360 and the B3098 at peak hours at the cross roads and on the A360 at the narrow section past the Church. HGVs are particularly problematic at this point and on the B3098 in both directions. High vehicles that cannot pass under the low railway bridge are also a problem.

4.219 **Parking** - There is mixed opinion in local discussions as to whether on-street parking on the A360 is an effective traffic calming measure or an impediment to traffic flow. The availability of on-street parking at the Costcutters shop is an important contributor to the viability of that business. At some points on the High Street in Littleton Panell, residents have no other option but to park on the main road. Parking in Sandfield can be problematic when children are being delivered to or collected from the Primary School and the Pre-School.

4.220 **Accident Data** - There have been eight accidents causing injury within the parish boundaries in the last 5 years (see **Figure 10** below). Of those only one injury was serious. The accident concerned was under the railway bridge, since fitted with traffic lights.



Figure 10: Accident locations 2008-13 (source: Wiltshire Police, July 2013)

4.221 **Speeding** - Community Speedwatch data from 2012 shows only 1.04% of drivers travelling in the high 30smph and only 0.33% of drivers exceeding 40mph.

4.222 A metro count survey was carried out in Littleton Panell by Wiltshire Council between 22 and 30 January 2014 when a total of 26,980 vehicles were checked (just under 3,400 per day). The 85th percentile was 34.9 mph.

4.223 **Travel to Work Data** - The 2011 census data reveals the method of travel to work. West Lavington Neighbourhood Plan Area has a lower than average percentage for those driving in a car or van at 38.6% as opposed to 45.6% for Wiltshire and 41.4% for the South West region. Only the England average of 36.9% is lower. This may be explained by the large number of persons living in communal establishments who are not in employment.

4.224 **Vehicle Availability** - The statistics for car and van availability⁶⁴ reveals that West Lavington Neighbourhood Plan Area has a consistently higher proportion of households with a larger number of cars or vans than elsewhere in the region or in England generally. The percentage of households owning 3 or more cars is significantly higher in the Plan Area than elsewhere, average 15.5% of all households, whereas the Wiltshire figure is 11% and the England figure is 7.4%.

4.225 This suggests either a higher degree of disposable income generally, or limited accessibility to

⁶⁴ ONS Neighbourhood Area Statistics car or van availability (Table QA416EW)

services and facilities by public transport thus requiring a higher level of car or van ownership.

4.226 **Rights of Way** - The Parish of West Lavington is well served with footpaths, bridleways and byways. They criss-cross through the settlements and connect the settlements with the surrounding countryside and the adjoining villages of Little Cheverell and Market Lavington.

4.227 The footpaths and bridleways also provide access towards to the southern part of the Parish up onto Salisbury Plain.

4.228 **Public Transport Connections** - There are varied public transport connections serving Littleton Panell and West Lavington with bus stops on the West Lavington crossroads at the junction of the B3098 and A360 as well as bus stops further south on the A360 opposite the Bridge Inn and opposite Hooks Court. Various buses alight at those stops including the 55 Devizes to Warminster, the X72 Fairsaver between Easterton, Devizes, Melksham and Bath, and the 87 between Trowbridge, Westbury and Devizes.

4.229 The nearest train stations are located at Pewsey, Chippenham, Westbury and Trowbridge. These provide onward connections to the wider South West railway network.

4.13B Transport - Future Baseline

4.230 The Wiltshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2026 ('LTP3')⁶⁵ identifies a series of goals as follows:

- Support economic growth
- Reduce carbon emissions
- Contribute to better safety, security and health
- Promote equality of opportunity
- Improve quality of life and promote healthy natural environment

4.231 Within these goals there are lower order strategic transport objectives including providing a choice of sustainable transport modes, reducing the effects of traffic on peoples quality of life, minimising travel delays, enhancing Wiltshire public realm and street scene, improving safety for road users, reducing the impact of traffic speeds in towns and villages, and reducing the level of air pollutant

⁶⁵ Wiltshire Council - Wiltshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2026 (2011) [online] available at: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/howthecouncilworks/plansstrategiespolicies/transportpoliciesandstrategies/localtransportplan3.htm> (accessed 26/01/14)

and climate change omissions from transport to name but a few.

4.232 Overarching all of these is the need to support planned growth in Wiltshire to ensure that all new developments adequately provide for their sustainable transport requirements and mitigate their impacts. Without the Neighbourhood Plan in place these ambitious objectives and goals will no doubt deliver some improvements to the Wiltshire Unitary Authority area as well as the Devizes Community Area. It is unclear to what degree this will have a direct impact on West Lavington however.

4.233 Future growth that does not provide the commensurate level of sustainable transport infrastructure (including both facilities and support of public transport services) will lead to a greater degree of imbalance and potentially adverse effects on highway safety, congestion, air pollution and connectivity, leading to greater isolation for the more rural communities in Wiltshire.

5 IDENTIFYING KEY SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES / ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS (TASK A3)

- 5.1 The Plan Policy and Proposal Review at Task A1, together with the review of baseline information at Task A2, have flagged up a number of issues/environmental problems which the Neighbourhood Plan may be able to mitigate or completely address.
- 5.2 **Table 11** below sets out the issues that arise from the baseline and policy/plan/proposal review together with details of the source of the issues/problems identified.

Table 11: Key Issues and Environmental Problems in the Neighbourhood Plan Area

Sustainability 'Theme'	Issue / Problem	Source
1. Biodiversity	Both SSSIs have a significant proportion of land which is classed as 'unfavourable recovering', in particular the Salisbury Plain SSSI.	Natural England SSSI citations
	BAP Habitats will require on-going management and enhancement.	Wiltshire Biodiversity Action Plan 2008
	The impact of the planned relocation of the military to the areas around Salisbury Plain and the attendant impacts (recreational and operational) on the protected habitats within the Plan Area and particularly on Salisbury Plain as a result.	Army Basing Programme documents.
2. Water resources and flood risk	Flood risk in parts of the Neighbourhood Plan Area. Additional development may exacerbate this. Further investigation of storm and foul water systems required to address run-off from surrounding hills and Salisbury Plain.	Environment Agency flood mapping; Wessex Water and Wiltshire Highways data
	Development may impact adversely on groundwater and river quality.	Environment Agency data.
3. Climatic factors	CO ₂ emissions are higher per capita in the Plan Area than in the SW Region or England.	Department of Energy and Climate Change data

Sustainability 'Theme'	Issue / Problem	Source
	Changes to precipitation rates and rising mean temperatures.	South West Observatory records
	Additional development and transportation associated with that development may lead to higher emissions of greenhouse gasses	Department of Energy and Climate Change data
	In the absence of mains gas it is likely that alternative solutions for domestic and non-domestic heating fuel will continue to be adopted, primarily focussing on oil, LPG and electricity, but with greater use of renewable sources where they are feasible.	Community supplied.
4. Landscape	The character of the significant areas of open grassland on Salisbury Plain in the southern part of the Plan Area would be likely to be adversely affected by additional development in that locality.	Various landscape studies.
	Loss of tranquillity and additional light and noise pollution all have the potential to impact on the character of the Plan Area as a result of poorly planned development.	CPRE mapping; Various landscape studies.
	The characteristics of the different landscape character areas (mosaics of woodland, rural agricultural quality, pasture, valley settlements, riverine habitats, hedgerows etc) will be adversely affected by insensitively designed / located development.	Landscape studies; planning register; development plan policies.
	The impact of the planned relocation of the military to the areas around Salisbury Plain and the attendant impacts (operational) on the landscape areas and tranquillity within the Plan Area.	Army Basing Programme documents.
5. Healthy communities	Increasing fitness and tackling obesity in the general population, and children in particular, is critical. This may manifest itself in providing additional facilities / recreation resources.	Devizes Community Area Joint Strategic Needs Assessment; Wiltshire Council Health Related Behaviour surveys
	Life expectancy is on the increase and the Plan Area will continue to have a higher life expectancy than in the SW Region or England. This will place additional pressure on community and health resources.	Wiltshire Joint Strategic Assessment for Health & Wellbeing and ONS Neighbourhood Statistics

Sustainability 'Theme'	Issue / Problem	Source
6. Education and skills	The lower than normal proportion of economically active people could become be an issue if it leads to a greater demand on local resources.	ONS 2011 Census Local Authority data and Neighbourhood Area Statistics
	The number of NEETs is increasing. This will need to be tackled locally and at Local Authority level.	Devizes Community Area Joint Strategic Assessment
	Opportunities should be pursued which seek to improve levels of educational attainment for those resident in the Plan Area.	ONS 2011 Census and Neighbourhood Area Statistics
7. Economy and enterprise	The local economy in the Plan Area is dependent on a small number of employers. The expansion of the local employment base should be facilitated through the Neighbourhood Plan.	Local Neighbourhood Surveys
	Commercial rents are towards the upper end of the range in the Council area.	Wiltshire Workspace and Employment Land Review
	Employment sectors are relatively diverse but with concentrations in education, retail and public administration. Further diversification would be a benefit.	ONS Neighbourhood statistics
	Poor broadband speeds will undermine the ability of businesses to locate in the Plan Area.	Local research
8. Land and soil resources	Additional development on the best and most versatile agricultural land will lead to a loss of this valuable resource.	Natural England Land Classification Map SW Region
	Low levels of reuse of previously developed land are experience in the Plan Area. Opportunities should be sought to redress this.	SW Observatory Local Profiles Wiltshire 2012
	Opportunities to continue to increase the rates of recycling and reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfill should be exploited.	UK Government - Local Authority Collected Waste Statistical Dataset

Sustainability 'Theme'	Issue / Problem	Source
9. Air quality and environmental pollution	Additional development may lead to negative impacts on air quality if not managed sustainably.	Air Quality Strategy for Wiltshire 2011-15; LTP3 (2011-26)
	Loss of tranquillity and additional light and noise pollution, as a result of additional development, all have the potential to impact on the amenity of the Plan Area. Impact of existing noise on new development.	CPRE mapping; Guidance Notes for the Reduction of Obtrusive Light GN01:2011 (Institute of Lighting Professionals)
	Contaminated land could, if not managed properly, lead to secondary impacts on soil and water quality in the Plan Area.	Wiltshire Council Environmental Health data; Environment Agency data.
10. Historic environment	Insensitive development has led to harm to the significance of heritage assets (in particular the character of the conservation area and the setting of listed buildings) in the Plan Area.	Conservation Area Statement for West Lavington and Littleton Panell
	The extent of medieval settlement remains in the Plan Area is largely unknown. Additional development should take opportunities to fully explore that aspect of local heritage before development proceeds.	Local research; English Heritage resources.
	The number, variety, extent and importance of heritage assets on Salisbury Plain is potentially significant. This part of the Plan Area is unlikely to be suitable for further development.	English Heritage Salisbury Plain Training Area Report.
	Limited opportunities exist for the public to interpret / explore the heritage of the Plan Area.	Local research; English Heritage resources
11. Population and housing	Population has grown at a relatively slow rate in recent years. More rapid growth in future, over a short period of time, could lead to pressure on local services and facilities (eg schools, medical facilities etc)	ONS Neighbourhood Statistics
	The Plan Area is affected by unique factors such as Dauntsey's and the care homes (accounting for over 20% total population). This skews the figures on housing demand and supply.	ONS Neighbourhood Statistics

West Lavington Neighbourhood Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

Sustainability 'Theme'	Issue / Problem	Source
	There is a perceived shortage of new houses for young families or for the elderly.	Local surveys
	The proportion of detached houses is significantly higher than in the rest of the SW Region or England, and the proportion of small units significantly lower.	ONS Neighbourhood Statistics Dataset Accommodation Type - People (QS401EW)
	Affordability in the Plan Area is poor compared to the SW Region and England generally.	Shelter Housing Databank website(using DCLG statistics)
12. Inclusive communities	Deprivation has increased in Wiltshire between 2007 and 2010 but this is not necessarily reflected at the Parish level. There are nevertheless households in deprivation in the Parish, and moving those households out of deprivation is critical.	English Indices of Deprivation 2010
	Regular volunteering in Wiltshire has fallen since 2009.	Wiltshire 'What Matters to You' Survey 2011
	Some local services and community facilities including the Village Hall could be improved.	Local surveys
13. Transport	Additional development may lead to localised impacts in terms of further congestion / out-commuting, reduction in air quality, speeding and parking problems in the villages.	LTP3 (2011-26); local research
	Speeding occurs in the village.	Community Speedwatch and Metro count surveys
	Local bus services are not as good as they could be. The lack of a stop on the railway line contributes to higher usage of private motor vehicles.	Local surveys

6 DEVELOPING SA/SEA OBJECTIVES (TASK A4)

- 6.1 The previous tasks A1 to A3 have identified information which can be used to develop a sustainability framework, referred to as Sustainability Appraisal Objectives.
- 6.2 SA Objectives play a key role in focussing in on the key sustainability issues arising from the scoping process. They will be used in the later stages of the SA process to assess the environmental and wider effects of the WLNP and to compare the effects of alternative options as the Plan progresses.
- 6.3 These objectives are to be distinguished from other objectives which may form part of the Neighbourhood Plan (which will establish the purposes of the Plan), or which may arise as a requirement of policy, legislation etc.
- 6.4 The approach adopted by the Wiltshire Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal is relevant to this Scoping Report and has therefore been adapted and is set out in **Table 12** overleaf.
- 6.5 The table sets out questions which are intended to assist in determining whether the alternative / policy / option will help achieve the objective.

West Lavington Neighbourhood Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

Table 12: Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

Sustainability Theme	Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Decision Aiding Questions Will the policy / alternative....
1. Biodiversity	Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geological features and avoid irreversible losses.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protect and enhance priority habitats and species? 2. Protect and enhance international, national and locally designated biodiversity sites? 3. Avoid habitat fragmentation? 4. Ensure all new developments protect and enhance local biodiversity? 5. Contribute to the achievement of objectives and targets within local BAPs? 6. Maintain the existing extent of ancient woodland sites? 7. Minimise operational / recreational pressures on the protected assets
2. Water resources and flood risk	Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Take into account predicted future impacts of climate change, including water scarcity issues? 2. Encourage sustainable and efficient management of water resources? 3. Ensure that essential water infrastructure is co-ordinated with all new development? 5. Seek the installation of water saving measures such as rainwater harvesting and water metering? 6. Consider the need for adequate provision of surface water and foul drainage? 7. Promote provision of pollution prevention measures? 8. Protect, and where possible, improve surface, ground and drinking water quality?
	Protect people and property from the risk of flooding.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minimise the risk of flooding to people and property (new and existing development)? 2. Take into account the predicted future impacts of climate change in the location and design of development, ensuring that development can adapt to any future flood risk scenarios? 3. Protect and enhance the natural function of floodplains? 4. Ensure the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) in appropriate circumstances?
3. Climatic factors	Minimise our impacts on climate change and reduce our vulnerability to future climate change effects.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minimise emissions of greenhouse gases and ozone depleting substances? 2. Minimise the likely impacts of future development on climate change through appropriate adaptation? 3. Promote energy efficiency in buildings and new development? 4. Minimise contributions to climate change through sustainable building practices? 5. Contribute to reducing emissions associated with the transport sector?
4. Landscape	Conserve and enhance the character and quality of West Lavington NP's rural and urban landscapes, maintaining and strengthening local	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protect and enhance the landscape character and scenic quality of the countryside within and adjoining the Plan Area? 2. Conserve and enhance areas with landscape designations and take account of their management objectives? 3. Maintain and enhance the character and distinctiveness of settlements? 4. Deliver good quality design that reflects local character?

West Lavington Neighbourhood Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

Sustainability Theme	Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Decision Aiding Questions Will the policy / alternative....
	distinctiveness and sense of place.	5. Protect and enhance natural landscapes within the villages, including recreational open space and strategic green corridors? 6. Protect rights of way, open space and common land? 7. Avoid loss of tranquillity? 8. Avoid development which results in additional noise and light pollution? 9. Improve the quality and quantity of access to the wider countryside for recreation?
5. Healthy communities	Provide a safe and healthy environment in which to live.	1. Provide for high quality, accessible healthcare facilities? 2. Promote design of buildings and spaces to reduce obesity? 3. Encourage healthy lifestyles and reduce health inequalities? 4. Promote regular participation in sports /exercise/leisure opportunities? 5. Protect local rural communities and rural ways of life? 6. Mitigate the effects of an ageing population on community and health resources?
6. Education and skills	Raise educational attainment and provide opportunities for people to improve their workplace skills	1. Support high quality educational facilities, including their expansion? 2. Improve the skills and qualifications of those residing within the Plan Area? 3. Support community enterprises and the voluntary sector? 4. Support the creation of flexible jobs to meet the changing needs of the population? 5. Ensure that the demand on local resources from those not economically active is addressed? 6. Assist in tackling the increasing number of NEETs?
7. Economy and enterprise	Encourage a vibrant and diversified local economy and provide for long-term sustainable economic growth.	1. Support the rural economy and farm diversification? 2. Recognise the importance of the social and natural environment to the local economy? 3. Promote sustainable tourism and cultural opportunities? 4. Support diversification of businesses throughout the Plan Area? 5. Encourage the use of home-working where appropriate?
	Ensure adequate provision of employment land and diverse employment opportunities to meet the needs of local businesses and a changing workforce.	1. Provide good quality employment opportunities in the Plan Area? 2. Assist businesses in finding appropriate land and premises to locate / expand? 3. Protect and enhance the vitality and viability of existing employment areas? 4. Provide a variety of employment land to meet all needs? 5. Provide employment land in areas that are easily accessible by sustainable transport? 6. Recognise the importance of energy efficient employment and mixed-use proposals?
8. Land and soil resources	Ensure efficient and effective use of land and the use of suitably located previously developed land and buildings.	1. Protect the best and most versatile agricultural land? 3. Protect and enhance soil quality? 4. Maximise reuse of Previously Developed Land where possible/appropriate? 5. Encourage remediation of contaminated land? 6. Maximise efficient use of land within the village centres?

Our Place: Our Plan - A Plan for West Lavington and Littleton Panell

West Lavington Neighbourhood Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

Sustainability Theme	Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Decision Aiding Questions Will the policy / alternative....
		7. Avoid the loss of natural floodplain?
	Promote sustainable waste management solutions that encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce the amount of waste produced? 2. Ensure the design and layout of new development supports sustainable waste management? 3. Provide a framework in which communities take more responsibility for their own waste?
9. Air quality and environmental pollution	Improve air quality and minimise all sources of environmental pollution	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain and improve local air quality? 2. Minimise and, where possible, improve on unacceptable levels of noise, light pollution, odour and vibration? 3. Minimise all forms of contamination to soils? 4. Mitigate the impacts on air quality from new development / road transport? 5. Avoid loss of tranquillity?
10. Historic environment	Protect, maintain and enhance the historic environment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conserve and enhance features and areas of historical and cultural value, including Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Scheduled Ancient Monuments? 2. Ensure appropriate archaeological assessment is undertaken prior to new development occurring? 3. Promote sensitive re-use of historical buildings and buildings of significant local interest, where appropriate? 4. Improve and broaden access to, and understanding of, local heritage and historic sites? 5. Maintain and enhance the character and distinctiveness of settlements through high quality and appropriate design? 6. Promote heritage based sustainable tourism and regeneration?
11. Population and housing	Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide an adequate supply of affordable housing in the Plan Area? 2. Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes to meet the needs of all residents in the Plan Area? 3. Ensure adequate provision of land to meet housing needs? 4. Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people's needs? 5. Ensure that best use is made of the existing housing stock? 6. Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities?
12. Inclusive	Reduce poverty and deprivation and promote more inclusive and self-contained communities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maximise opportunities for all members of society? 2. Maintain or enhance the quality of life of existing local residents? 3. Tackle the causes of poverty and deprivation? 4. Minimise fuel poverty?

West Lavington Neighbourhood Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

Sustainability Theme	Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Decision Aiding Questions Will the policy / alternative....
communities	Improve equality of access to, and engagement in local, high-quality community services and facilities.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve the availability and accessibility of key local facilities? 2. Promote the development / improvement of a community facilities? 3. Encourage active involvement of local people in community activities, including volunteering?
13. Transport	Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable transport choices	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote mixed-use developments that reduce the need to travel and reliance on the private car? 2. Increase uptake of sustainable travel choices i.e. public transport, walking and cycling? 3. Promote car-share schemes and home or other forms of remote working? 4. Reduce traffic volumes? 5. Avoid placing further pressure on local parking? 6. Help improve availability of local public transport choices?
	Improve road safety, reduce accidents and help reduce traffic speeds	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Help to keep traffic speeds low? 2. Enhance road safety / reduce accidents?

7 CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS (TASK A5)

- 7.1 It is a statutory requirement of the SEA Directive that this Scoping Report be consulted on with the Nationally Designated Authorities with specific environmental responsibility (Article 6 of SEA Directive).
- 7.2 In the UK that means consulting with Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency.
- 7.3 It is important that a number of other groups are also consulted on the Report, including the residents of West Lavington and Littleton Panell, local businesses, local organisations, community groups and others within an interest in the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- 7.4 The Scoping Report should be consulted on as early as possible in the Neighbourhood Plan process, and it is important that the general public understand the roles of the different documents (i.e. the Issues for the Plan and the Scoping Report).
- 7.5 The consultation exercise on the Scoping Report is required to be undertaken for a minimum 5 week period.
- 7.6 The documents should be made available, ideally on-line, but also in paper format at appropriate location(s). The opportunity should be available for all parties to respond in the most convenient way (including by email; letter etc).

8 NEXT STEPS

- 8.1 The figure at **Appendix A** makes clear how important the SA/SEA process is to the development of a Neighbourhood Plan.
- 8.2 Having undertaken the SA/SEA scoping exercise (Stage A) the next stage of the process will be to assimilate the comments from statutory and other consultees on the Scoping Report and the public consultation on the early stages of the Neighbourhood Plan in order for the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to develop a set of 'reasonable alternatives' which will then need to be subject to a SA (Stage B). A draft template for the appraisal of alternative site options is set out at **Appendix C**.
- 8.3 Reasonable alternatives can include alternative policies which set out different ways of tackling a particular issue, and may include alternative site options where specific sites are being considered as part of the Neighbourhood Plan process.
- 8.4 This assessment of alternatives is important in informing the draft Neighbourhood Plan which will be prepared in light of the responses to the public consultation exercise on the Scoping Report, the emerging Plan and the consideration of alternative options.
- 8.5 Once a draft Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared it will be subject to a further SA resulting in the production of a SA Report (Stage C) which will be submitted for public consultation (Stage D) at the same time as the draft Neighbourhood Plan.
- 8.6 The SA Report will present the information compiled during the Stages A and B part of the process, i.e. the assessment of alternatives and options.
- 8.7 The report must include a review of the work undertaken up to that point, including details of the assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan policies and alternatives. It must also make provision for potential monitoring indicators and establish a programme for doing so.
- 8.8 It must also be accompanied by a non-technical summary which should be brief, summarising the background to the main SA report.
- 8.9 Consideration of the consultation responses should be undertaken following the statutory consultation period and, where necessary, amendments made to the Neighbourhood Plan. Any significant changes will need to be assessed.
- 8.10 The final stage is to finalise and submit the revised Neighbourhood Plan and Environmental Report to Wiltshire Council for a further period of consultation (also Stage D) whereupon Wiltshire Council will then publicise the documents on the Council website for a minimum 6 week period

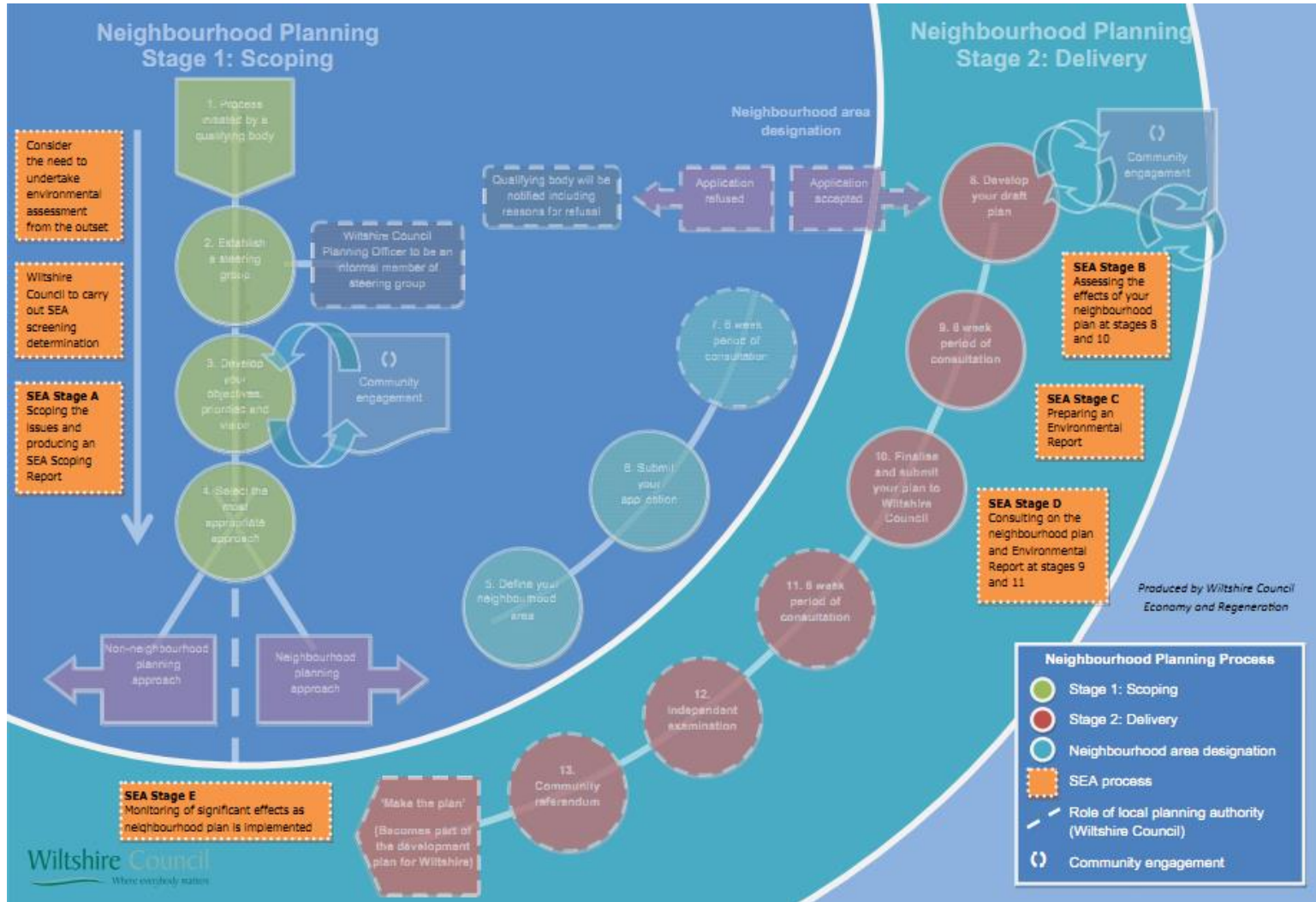
and arrange for independent examination. They will collect representations made during the formal consultation period and those representations will be passed on to the independent examiner.

- 8.11 Following the examination of the Plan, it will be finalised and will then undergo a referendum. Following the referendum, provided the Plan is to be adopted, a summary Sustainability Appraisal Statement will need to be prepared outlining how the consultation responses were taken into account (both of the Neighbourhood Plan and the SA Report); how the findings of the SA/SEA were taken into account during the Plan's development; and what changes were made to the Neighbourhood Plan as a result of the SA/SEA, including the reasons for choosing the final approach adopted in the Plan, in light of other options considered.
- 8.12 Finally, measures should be developed for monitoring of the significant effects of the Neighbourhood Plan (Stage E). Previously proposed indicators will be confirmed and a programme of monitoring will be undertaken.
- 8.13 The monitoring programme should include such criteria that will enable the relevant authority to respond to any adverse effects through remedial action where appropriate.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT LINKED PROCESSES



(Figure taken from 'Environmental Assessment of Neighbourhood Plans', Wiltshire Council March 2013 (p. 6))

APPENDIX B

PLANS, PROGRAMMES & POLICIES SUMMARY

Plan/Programme/legislation	Wiltshire Core Strategy Pre-submission Document: Hearing Session Tracked Changes Version (Core Doc. Ref. 'Exam 34A')
Author	Wiltshire Council
Date	November 2013
Summary of document	<p>This document has been produced in order to provide a spatial planning framework for the Council area over the period up to 2026. It carries through the key findings of the Wiltshire Community Plan 2011-2026. It sets out policies and proposals to guide and facilitate sustainable development in the Plan area. It contains a number of Community Area Strategies as well as policies dealing with the strategic objectives necessary to deliver a thriving economy, address climate change, provide access to decent affordable housing, build resilient communities, protect and enhance the natural, historic and built environment and to ensure that essential infrastructure is in place to support communities.</p>
Key objectives/requirements/conclusions to be taken into consideration in Neighbourhood Plan	<p>A number of aspects of the core strategy are relevant to the WLNP.</p> <p>In particular Core Policy 12, which provides a spatial strategy for the Devizes Community Area, is key. It defines West Lavington/Little Panell as a 'large village'. It confirms that 420 houses will be provided in the community area outside Devizes in the period 2006-2026. Land for residential development in the Devizes community area may consist of a range of sites in accordance with Core Policy 2, whilst the strategy for development is set out in Core Policy 1. Non-strategic sites will, where required, be identified, through either a Neighbourhood Plan or a Site Allocation Development Plan Document.</p> <p>Key issues for the Devizes community area include (paragraph 5.65):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic congestion in Devizes • Air quality in Devizes • The need for a railway station to serve the community area • Proposal to reduce the rate of development in Devizes in order to allow local infrastructure to be improved first • Developer contributions should help deliver infrastructure necessary in the town • Cultural heritage in Devizes is important • Devizes is becoming less competitive as a retail centre • Providing for a range of employment growth in Devizes will help diversify the offer in town • Loss of green space within the town would undermine the character of Devizes • All development within the community area will need to conserve the designated landscape of the North Wessex Downs ANOB and its setting and where possible enhance its local distinctive characteristics • Development associated with the Kennet and Avon Canal will need to protect and enhance its wildlife, landscape and recreational attributes <p>Core Policy 1 – settlement strategy - defines 'large villages' (including West Lavington / Littleton Panell) as settlements with a limited range of employment, services and facilities. Development in large villages will be limited to that needed to help meet the housing needs of the settlement and improve employment opportunities, services and facilities.</p> <p>Core Policy 2 – delivery strategy - the core strategy must make provision for at least 178 hectares of new employment land and at least 37,000 homes in the period between 2006-2026. Within the Devizes community area the total is 1,730 dwellings for Devizes market town and 420 dwellings for the remainder of the community area.</p>

Core Policy 3 – infrastructure requirements - all new development is to provide necessary on-site and off-site infrastructure.

Core Policy 39 – tourist development – outside the principal settlements and market towns tourist and visitor facilities should be located in or close to local service centres or large and small villages and where practicable be located in existing or replacement buildings. Exceptionally they may be supported beyond such locations subject to compliance with detailed criteria.

Core Policy 40 – hotels etc. - new hotels, bed and breakfast etc will be supported within large and small villages where the proposals are of an appropriate scale and character.

Core Policy 41 – sustainable construction - seeks to incorporate sustainable construction and low carbon energy measures into new development and retro-fitting of existing buildings.

Core Policy 43 – affordable housing – requires at least 40% net affordable housing on sites of 5 or more dwellings or a commuted sum. On sites of 4 or less dwellings a financial contribution will be sought. Tenure will be negotiated on a site by site basis to reflect the nature of the development and local needs.

Core Policy 44 – rural exception sites – encourages affordable housing rural exceptions schemes in all settlements defined as local service centres or large and small villages.

Core Policy 45 – meeting housing needs - requires housing type, mix and size to reflect that of the demonstrable needs of the community within which the site is located.

Core Policy 46 – meeting the needs of Wiltshire's vulnerable and older people - requires provision of new housing to meet the specific needs of vulnerable and older people including building to lifetime homes standards and the provision of specialist accommodation.

Core Policy 47 – meeting the needs of gypsies and travellers - requires a number of permanent and transit pitches as well as plots for travelling show people to be provided in the period 2011-2021.

Core Policy 48 – supporting rural life - seeks to control rural worker residential development, including access to services and infrastructure, conversion and the use of redundant rural buildings and community ownership of local services, facilities and new shops in rural areas.

Core Policy 49 – protection of services and community facilities - seeks to protect services and facilities in the communities in which they are located.

Core Policy 50 – biodiversity and geodiversity - requires that development proposals demonstrate how they protect features of nature conservation and geological value in their designs and for developments to incorporate measures to avoid and reduce disturbance of sensitive wildlife species and habitats. Development affecting Natura 2000 sites are required to provide avoidance measures in accordance with strategic plans and guidance identified in the core strategy. All development is required to seek opportunities to enhance biodiversity.

Core Policy 51 – landscape – development proposals are required to protect, conserve and when possible enhance landscape character.

Core Policy 52 – green infrastructure – development proposals are required to make provision for the retention, enhancement and maintenance of Wiltshire's green infrastructure network.

Core Policy 55 – air quality – development proposals which by virtue of their nature, scale and location may exacerbate existing areas of poor air quality will need to demonstrate that

measures can be taken to mitigate emission levels to protect public health, environmental quality and amenity.

Core Policy 56 – contaminated land – proposals that are likely to be on or adjacent to land which may have been subject to contamination must demonstrate that measures can be taken to mitigate the impacts.

Core Policy 57 – ensuring high quality design and place shaping - establishes detailed high standards of design for all new developments intended to help create a strong sense of place and making a positive contribution to the character of Wiltshire.

Core Policy 58 – ensuring the conservation of the historic environment - development should protect, conserve and where possible further enhance the historic environment.

Core Policy 60 – sustainable transport – explains that the Council will use its planning and transport powers to help reduce the need to travel particularly by private car in order to encourage sustainable safe and efficient movement of people and goods within and through Wiltshire.

Core Policy 61 – transport and redevelopment – new development should be located and designed to reduce the need to travel especially by private car and to encourage the use of sustainable transport alternatives.

Core Policy 62 – development impact on the transport network – development should provide appropriate mitigation measures to off-set any adverse impacts on the transport network.

Core Policy 63 – transport strategies – strategies will be developed for urban areas and rural areas in the plan subject to local circumstances. These strategies will have full regard to the potential impacts upon Natura 2000 networks when assessing transport options.

Core Policy 64 – demand management – demand management measures will be promoted to reduce reliance on the car and encourage sustainable transport alternatives including car parking management, traffic management measures, charging measures and smarter choices measures.

Core Policy 67 – flood risk – development proposed in flood zones 2 & 3 as identified in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment will need to comply with relevant tests to demonstrate accordance with national policy and establish best practice. All new developments should include measures to reduce the rate of rainwater run-off and improve infiltration to soil and ground.

Core Policy 68 – water resources – development should not prejudice the delivery of the actions and targets of the relevant river basin or catchment management plan. Non-residential development will be required to incorporate water efficiency measures. Development proposals within a source protection zone, safeguarded zone or water protection zone must assess any risk to groundwater resources and quality and demonstrate that these will be protected throughout the construction and operational phases of the development.

How objectives and/or requirements might be considered in your Neighbourhood Plan

It is important that the WLNP policy proposals and options reflect policy set out in the emerging Wiltshire Core Strategy. Failure to accord with this document could result in an examination recommendation not to proceed to a referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan. Consequently it is critical that the over-arching policies in the emerging development plan are used to guide policy proposals and options in the WLNP.

Plan/Programme/legislation	South Wiltshire Core Strategy
Author	Wiltshire Council
Date	February 2012
Summary of document	<p>The South Wiltshire Core Strategy sets out planning policies designed to ensure that settlements remain viable, resilient and healthy over the 20 year period of the plan in the area known as South Wiltshire. It sets out the spatial planning framework for the long term development of this part of Wiltshire and forms a core part of the development plan. South Wiltshire directly abuts the WLNP immediately on its southern boundary and is therefore relevant to the WLNP.</p>
Key objectives/requirements/conclusions to be taken into consideration in Neighbourhood Plan	<p>The key objectives seek to address a range of issues including the strategy of managed growth, identifying pressures leading to local housing needs, including the delivery of 9,900 houses over the plan period, and the addressing of an acute shortfall of affordable housing. It also seeks to plan for populations living longer as well as the additional requirements placed on the Plan area by a growing population. It seeks to retain an adequate workforce to secure long term economic prosperity of the area as well as meeting regeneration needs. It seeks to identify land to provide for about 10,400 jobs/20 hectares of employment land up to 2026 and to take proactive measures to safeguard existing employment land. It seeks to maintain and develop the rural economy, to identify barriers which prevent tourism making a bigger contribution, and to resolve problems in the arts, entertainments, culture and retail sectors. Finally it seeks to address pressures on Wiltshire's high quality natural and built heritage environments whilst ensuring that South Wiltshire is a healthy, safe place to live, one which rises to the challenge of climate change and one which tackles infrastructure barriers to delivering growth.</p> <p>Core Policy 1 - settlement strategy - deals with the settlement strategy and distribution of growth, identifying a requirement to deliver at least 9,900 dwellings and 10,400 jobs over the plan period to 2026. Within the area immediately to the south of West Lavington lies the Amesbury Community Area. In that area growth within Amesbury is planned to be approximately 2,100 houses whilst the rest of the community area is expected to deliver at least 295 house and 17 hectares of employment land. This is a significant proportion of the total requirement of additional employment land.</p> <p>Core Policy 2 – strategic allocations - identifies a range of large scale housing and employment allocations that are expected to be delivered over the planned period.</p> <p>Core Policy 3 – meeting local needs for affordable housing - sets a 40% (net) affordable housing requirement on sites of 15 dwellings or more; 25% (net) affordable housing requirement on sites of 5-14 dwellings; and on sites of 4 dwellings or less it seeks a financial contribution towards affordable housing. Tenure will be negotiated on a site-by-site basis.</p> <p>Core Policy 4 – gypsy and travel provision - this requires 5 plots to meet the needs of travelling show people and 18 residential and 5 transit gypsy and traveller pitches in the Plan area over the Plan period.</p> <p>Core Policy 5 – employment land – establishes the detailed requirements for proposals for new employment land.</p> <p>Core Policy 11 – meeting housing needs in the Amesbury Community Area - establishes detailed requirements for the community area itself.</p> <p>Core Policy 12 – deals with proposals for future development at Porton Down Science Campus; whilst Core Policy 13 deals with proposals for new visitor facilities at Stonehenge.</p>

Detailed requirements (many of which mirror those in the Wiltshire Core Strategy) are set out in Core Policies 18 (lifetime home standards), 19 (water efficiency and the River Avon SAC), 20 (pollution and phosphate levels in the water environment), 21 (protection of services and amenity facilities), 22 (green infrastructure and habitat networks) and 23 (hotels, B&Bs, guest houses and conferences facilities).
How objectives and/or requirements might be considered in your Neighbourhood Plan
It is important that the WLNP policy proposals and alternatives have regard to policy set out in the South Wiltshire Core Strategy.

Plan/Programme/legislation	Kennet Local Plan 2011
Author	The former Kennet District Council
Date	June 2004
Summary of document	The former Kennet District Council adopted the Kennet Local Plan 2011 in June 2004. It remains a part of the development plan until the point at which it is replaced by the Wiltshire Core Strategy. A number of policies were saved by the Secretary of State on 26 th September 2007. The text associated with the saved policies of the Local Plan confirms that sustainability is at the heart of the Local Plan. Many issues have been addressed in the Local Plan through development control policies and policies to protect those aspects of Kennet that are valued and cherished. A number of environmental aims are set out and the Council's cross cutting themes. Other themes include social inclusion, community safety, sustaining rural communities, community health and sustainable development.
Key objectives/requirements/conclusions to be taken into consideration in Neighbourhood Plan	<p>The plan contains development control policies. A number of those policies are saved and are therefore relevant to the WLNP as follows:</p> <p>Policy DP1 – development & design – establishes a requirement for a high standard of design and sets out detailed considerations to be taken into account.</p> <p>Policy HC1 – strategic housing provision – seeks to provide for the construction of about 7,000 houses in the Plan period 1991 – 2011 and to concentrate development in the 3 main settlements of Devizes, Marlborough and Tidworth with modest levels of growth in Pewsey, Ludgershall and Market Lavington. Elsewhere limited additional housing will only be permitted within villages that have a range of facilities.</p> <p>Policy HC5 – net housing density – within the limits of development in the settlements of Devizes, Marlborough, Market Lavington, Tidworth, Ludgershall and Pewsey the net density of residential development on large sites shall be at least 30 dwellings per hectare.</p> <p>Policy HC6 – efficient use of land – within the defined limits of development for each village listed in Table H4 (which includes West Lavington/Little Panell) residential development should make sufficient use of previously developed land. Planning permission will not be granted for development with does not do so and which does not reflect the character of the area.</p> <p>Policy HC7 – housing layout – sets out residential development layout criteria.</p> <p>Policy HC22 – villages with a range of facilities – within the villages listed in Table H4 limited additional housing consisting of infilling, replacing dwellings, re-use of existing buildings and</p>

redevelopment of existing buildings or small groups of houses will be granted permission within the defined limits of development provided it is in harmony with the village in terms of its scale and character.

Policy HC25 – replacement of existing dwellings – in the countryside the replacement of a dwelling which has not been abandoned will be permitted subject to satisfying various criteria in the policy.

Policy HC26 – housing in the countryside – outside the limits of development for the villages listed in table H4 new residential development will only be permitted where it satisfies a limited range of criteria.

Policy HC28 – affordable homes target – the Council will seek an appropriate element of affordable housing on allocated sites; on any site in a named settlement subject to meeting various criteria; on any housing site in a rural area; through the application of exceptions policies in rural areas and; through the acquisition of existing vacant property/infill/conversion schemes/redevelopment of housing.

Policy HC20 – definition of affordable housing – defines affordable housing to include subsidised housing and low-cost market housing.

Policy HC30/HC31/HC32 – these policies deal with affordable housing on large sites, the integration of affordable housing within developments, and affordable housing contributions in rural areas, respectively.

Policy HC34/HC35 – recreation provision on housing sites – these policies deal with recreation provision on large housing sites and small sites respectively.

Policy HC37 – demand for education – requires contributions towards improving existing school infrastructure where evidence demonstrates this is necessary.

Policy HC42 – additional social and community needs – establishes a requirement to satisfy social and community needs including seeking additional provision where appropriate.

Policy HC45 – gypsy sites – establishes a requirement for providing additional gypsy sites.

Policy ED1 – Strategic employment allocations – establishes a requirement to allocate an additional 10.86 hectares of land for new employment development during the Plan period.

Policy ED7 – protected strategic employment sites – establishes criteria for protecting important employment sites.

Policy ED8 – employment development on unallocated sites – permits such proposals provided the site lies within a main settlement and there is easy access to public transport etc; and provided the proposals do not conflict with other policies in the Plan.

Policy ED9 & ED10 deal respectively with proposals for rural employment development and employment development within or on the edge of the villages listed in table H4, indicating that such uses will be appropriate provided they are within defined use classes and do not lead to harm to residential amenity.

Policy ED12 – protecting employment and tourism uses within villages – seeks to establish a requirement to protect such uses within the villages listed within table H4 provided the site curtilage is greater than 0.1 hectares. It confirms that proposals to change the use of such sites to non-employment uses will only be permitted where key criteria are met.

Policy ED13 – applies the same principles to proposals to redevelop employment sites on the edge of village listed in table H4, with restrictions on the way changes of use will be dealt with.

Policy ED16 – farm shops – confirms that the introduction of retail use on a farm will be permitted provided it meets various defined criteria.

Policy ED28 – additional shopping facilities in rural areas – confirms that proposals for additional shopping facilities or personal services will be permitted within the defined limits of development of the villages listed in table H4 subject to meeting key criteria.

Policy ED29 – retention of social and community uses – outside the limits of development of Devizes, Marlborough and Tidworth existing buildings either currently used or last used for social and community uses will be retained wherever possible with permission being granted for their change of use only where key criteria are met.

Policy AT1 – transport appraisal process – establishes a series of requirements that development proposals should address including minimising travel, provision of alternative access arrangements, incorporation of secure cycle parking / bus stops etc and provision of off-site highway or public transport improvements, including parking and bicycle spaces.

Policy AT9 – motor vehicle parking standards – establishes a requirement to provide for parking in accordance with the adopted standards.

Policy AT10 – developer contributions – explains that contributions will be sought in order to deliver infrastructure improvements including bus priority measures, safety measures, pedestrians, cycle facilities and bus stopping facilities.

Policy NR3 – local sites – confirms that development likely to have an adverse effect on local ecological or geological/geomorphological sites, habitats or species will not be permitted unless the benefits of the development clearly outweighs any harm.

Policy NR4 – nature conservation outside designated sites – confirms that proposals for development which would adversely affect features of local ecological importance will be only permitted where provision is made for the protection of the habitat within the development site or, where this is impossible, that a replacement habitat is provided.

Policies NR6 & NR7 – countryside protection - the policies seek to protect the countryside by restricting development to those locations within the limits of development unless the development is demonstrated to be of benefit either to the rural economy and the wellbeing of the local area or it is permitted by other policies in the Local Plan. Protection of the landscape where development is acceptable is paramount (Policy NR7).

Policy NR19 – renewable energy proposals – supports proposals to generate renewable energy from wind turbines and biomass.

Policy HH1 – protection of archaeological remains – seeks to resist development which would have an adverse impact on archaeological remains.

Policy HH10 – areas of minimum change – confirms that within those areas permission will not be granted for development which would materially damage the area.

Policy TR17 – existing sport and outdoor recreation sites – redevelopment of existing facilities within the limits of the development of town or villages will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that various criteria have been met.

Policy TR20 – protection of allotments – development that results in the loss of allotments or land last used as allotments will not be permitted unless replacement allotments are provided.

How objectives and/or requirements might be considered in your Neighbourhood Plan	
It is important that the WLNP policy proposals and alternatives accord with policy in the development plan, including the saved policies in the Kennet Local Plan. Failure to accord with those policies and proposals could result in an examination recommendation not to proceed to a referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan. Consequently it is critical that these over-arching policies in the development plan are used to guide policies and proposals in the WLNP.	

Plan/Programme/legislation	The State of the Environment Swindon and Wiltshire 2013
Authors	Wiltshire Wildlife Trust on behalf of Link 2 nature
Date	2013
Summary of document	Second report for Wiltshire and Swindon describing the way the environment works as an eco-system, highlighting those aspects of people's lives that are dependent upon the services the environment provides, e.g. food, water, clean air, landscape and wildlife. It also highlights gaps in the knowledge base.
Key objectives/requirements/conclusions to be taken into consideration in Neighbourhood Plan	
The report identifies a number of gaps in the current evidence and understanding of the Wiltshire and Swindon environment including detailed mapping of land uses, habitats and connectivity, the impact of agri-environment schemes, more detailed information on local wildlife, carbon capture, the impact of atmospheric pollution, soil quality, pollination, waste management, local food production levels, levels of harvesting and fruit and woodland produce, wild meat and fish, the extent and quality of existing green space, the level of impact of human consumption of energy and materials and current and future impacts of climate change on wildlife and eco-systems.	
How objectives and/or requirements might be considered in your Neighbourhood Plan	
It is important that local wildlife habits, protected species and eco-systems are understood and, where appropriate, that their on-going protection and habitat management is provided for through the sustainable development initiatives in the Neighbourhood Plan which will need to manage the relationship between new development and important wildlife sites habitats, protected species and eco-systems.	

Plan/Programme/legislation	The Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment
Author	Land Use Consultants
Date	December 2005
Summary of document	This document describes the different landscape character areas within the County of Wiltshire. It talks about their physical influences, bio-diversity, historic environment, settlement and built character and then goes on to evaluate landscape features of significance, the forces of change, the general condition and strength of character of the landscape as well as its sensitivities and core management objectives.
Key objectives/requirements/conclusions to be taken into consideration in Neighbourhood Plan	

West Lavington and Littleton Panell lie within 3 distinct landscape character areas. The high chalk plain (LCA3), the greensand vale (LCA15A) and the rolling clay lowland (LCA11).

The strategy for each is set out. For LCA3 the management strategy is to conserve the open and isolated character of the plain, grassland and sites of historic interest; and to preserve the remoteness and isolation with sparse settlement and road networks and limited visual development. For LCA15 the strategy seeks to conserve and improve the rural agricultural character of the vale, maintaining the pattern of discrete small villages set within a quiet rural landscape and with particular reference to protecting the pattern of hedgerows, streams, waterside pasture, wet meadows, woodlands and historic features in the area. It notes there are opportunities to create new riparian woodlands, hedgerow planting and restoration of waterside pasture. The strategy within LCA11 is to conserve the peaceful rural landscape with its hedgerow network, rich riparian vegetation, remnant meadows, ancient woodlands and patterns of small villages and scattered farmsteads. It seeks to strengthen its character through measures to minimise the urbanising influence of large towns, new settlements, transport routes and to improve the woodlands and farmlands by encouraging management to retain or enhance their biodiversity and historic character.

How objectives and/or requirements might be considered in your Neighbourhood Plan

These are important factors to take into consideration in planning how new development in West Lavington and Littleton Panell can be assimilated into the surrounding landscape. Landscape character and natural and historic features are critically important both from a conservation perspective but also from the perspective of providing a setting for these villages.

Plan/Programme/legislation	Kennet Landscape Conservation Strategy
Author	Kennet District Council
Date	May 2005
Summary of document	The Kennet Landscape Conservation Strategy provides detailed information about the landscape enhancement priorities for each of the different character areas in Kennet.
Key objectives/requirements/conclusions to be taken into consideration in Neighbourhood Plan	The strategy confirms that the landscape within the West Lavington and Littleton Panell area falls into the same three landscape zones as identified in the Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment. These are named slightly differently but comprise Salisbury Plain (Zone 5), The Vale of Pewsey (Zone 9) and the Bristol Avon Clay Vale (Zone 10). For each zone the strategy seeks to identify a range of enhancement priorities which are broadly consistent with those identified in the Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment.
How objectives and/or requirements might be considered in your Neighbourhood Plan	These are important factors to take into consideration in planning how new development in West Lavington and Littleton Panell can be assimilated into the surrounding landscape. Landscape character and natural and historic features are critically important both from a conservation perspective but also from the perspective of providing a setting for these villages.

Plan/Programme/legislation	Kennet Landscape Character Assessment
Author	Atlantic Consultants on behalf of Kennet District Council
Date	1999
Summary of document	This document provides an explanation of the methodology employed in assessing the character of the landscape in the Kennet area and then goes on to deal with individual character areas, describing the landscape and characteristics as well as opportunities for enhancement measures associated with new development. As with the 2005 Conservation Strategy, the Parish of West Lavington and Littleton Panell is divided between the Bristol Avon Clay Vale (character area 10), the Vale of Pewsey (character area 9) and the Salisbury Plain (character area 5). The enhancement priority and key issues are largely the same as those identified in the 2005 Kennet Landscape Conservation Strategy and the 2005 Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment.
Key objectives/requirements/conclusions to be taken into consideration in Neighbourhood Plan	The strategy confirms that the landscape within the West Lavington and Littleton Panell areas falls into the same three landscape zones as identified in the Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment. These are named slightly differently but comprise Salisbury Plain (Zone 5), The Vale of Pewsey (Zone 9) and the Bristol Avon Clay Vale (Zone 10). For each zone the strategy seeks to identify a range of enhancement priorities which are broadly consistent with those identified in the Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment.
How objectives and/or requirements might be considered in your Neighbourhood Plan	These are important factors to take into consideration in planning how new development in West Lavington and Littleton Panell can be assimilated into the surrounding landscape. Landscape character and natural and historic features are critically important both from a conservation perspective but also from the perspective of providing a setting for these villages.

Plan/Programme/legislation	The Wiltshire Biodiversity Action Plan
Author	The Wiltshire Wildlife Trust
Date	2008
Summary of document	The Wiltshire Biodiversity Action Plan is a tool which summarises and directs the activities of statutory, private and third sector organisations delivering biodiversity activity in Wiltshire, to create a coherent plan of action which can be delivered through a partnership of organisations working together. It also acts as a vital reporting tool to help monitor key habitats and species.
Key objectives/requirements/conclusions to be taken into consideration in Neighbourhood Plan	This revised Wiltshire Biodiversity Action Plan establishes Habitat Action Plans for: Woodland; Wood-pasture, Parkland and Ancient Trees; Hedgerows; Calcareous Grassland; Neutral Grassland; Traditional Orchards; Farmland Habitats; Built Environment; Standing Open Water; and Rivers, Streams and associated habitats.

<p>These are regarded as being the most significant of the UK priority habitats within the county. In addition a Bats Species Action Plan forms part of the overall Plan.</p>
<p>How objectives and/or requirements might be considered in your Neighbourhood Plan</p>
<p>The action plans will be critical in understanding which parts of the Neighbourhood Plan Area are of importance in BAP terms and consequently in identifying key issues to be addressed in the formulation of the Neighbourhood Plan policies and options.</p>

Plan/Programme/legislation	The Air Quality Strategy for Wiltshire 2011-2015
Author	Wiltshire Council
Date	2011
Summary of document	
<p>This is a high level document to inform policy and direction across a range of council services with the aim to improve air quality.</p> <p>The report describes the main aim as being <i>“Wiltshire Council working collaboratively will seek to maintain the good air quality in the county and strive to deliver improvements in areas where air quality fails national objectives in order to protect public health and the environment”</i></p> <p>The Strategy identifies key issues and from those establishes a series of objectives to enable improvements in air quality to be achieved.</p>	
<p>Key objectives/requirements/conclusions to be taken into consideration in Neighbourhood Plan</p>	
<p>The key objectives include: securing improvements to existing Air Quality Management Areas; implementing a prioritisation system to manage and schedule proposed improvements to existing air quality management areas; implementing a prioritisation system to manage the investigation of new sites; maintaining or improving air quality in areas currently meeting the statutory standard; introducing other measures to improve efficiency, provide high quality information on air quality etc; and supporting planned economic growth, sustainable transport alternatives and reductions in climate change emissions.</p>	
<p>How objectives and/or requirements might be considered in your Neighbourhood Plan</p>	
<p>These objectives correspond with many of the Scoping Report objectives including measures such as encouraging sustainable transport alternatives. Where appropriate these will be incorporated into the NP when considering options for the Plan.</p>	

Plan/Programme/legislation	Local Climate Impacts Profile
Author	Wiltshire Council in Partnership with Student Force for Sustainability and SW Regional Improvement and Efficiency Programme
Date	June 2010
Summary of document	
<p>The Local Climate Impacts Profile (LCLIP) is an established method of assessing the current vulnerabilities of local authorities. The LCLIP contributes to achieving Level 1 of National Indicator 188 – Adapting to Climate Change; and supports the comprehensive risk</p>	

<p>assessment required for Level 2. The LCLIP process examined the period between Jan 2003 and Mar 2010 for media stories of severe weather events affecting council services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service delivery • Reputation • Financial state
<p>Key objectives/requirements/conclusions to be taken into consideration in Neighbourhood Plan</p>
<p>The report makes recommendations about business continuity plans and sharing of information to raise awareness of extreme weather events etc.</p>
<p>How objectives and/or requirements might be considered in your Neighbourhood Plan</p>
<p>Building in adaptation to climate change will be a key part of the delivery of the NP. There will be opportunities to ensure that adaptation to climate change is identified in the NP either in stand-alone policies or as criteria within more general policies.</p>

Plan/Programme/legislation	The Water for Life and Livelihoods, River Basin Management Plan for the Severn River Basin District
Author	The Environment Agency
Date	December 2009
Summary of document	
<p>The plan identifies the pressures facing the water environment in the Severn river basin and sets out actions to address them. The plan has been prepared under the Water Framework Directive.</p>	
<p>Key objectives/requirements/conclusions to be taken into consideration in Neighbourhood Plan</p>	
<p>By 2015 17% of surface waters (rivers, lakes, estuaries) in the river basin district are going to improve for at least one biochemical or physical element measured as part of an assessment of status according to the Water Framework Directive. This includes the improvement of over 1,860 kilometres of river in relation to fish, phosphate, specific pollutants and other elements.</p> <p>34% of surface waters will be at 'good' or 'better' ecological status/potential and 65% of ground water bodies will be at 'good' status by 2015.</p> <p>At least 38% of assessed surface waters will be at 'good' or 'better' biological status by 2015.</p>	
<p>How objectives and/or requirements might be considered in your Neighbourhood Plan</p>	
<p>It is important that the WLNP is developed in such a way as to ensure that policies and proposals not only prevent deterioration in the status of aquatic eco-systems but also protect and improve the conditions where possible. They should aim to facilitate the achievement of the river basin targets and to facilitate the Environment Agency in meeting the requirements of the Water Framework Directive for protected areas. They should ensure that development promotes the sustainable use of water and conserves habitats and species that depend directly on water. They should also facilitate progressively reducing or phasing out the release of pollutants and reducing the pollution of groundwater. Finally, they should assist in contributing towards mitigating the effects of floods and droughts.</p>	

Plan/Programme/legislation	Kennet Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)
Author	Scott Wilson
Date	April 2008
Summary of document	This document is intended to provide an overview of flood risk from all sources within the Kennet District administrative area, which includes West Lavington Parish.
Key objectives/requirements/conclusions to be taken into consideration in Neighbourhood Plan	
<p>The objectives of the Level 1 SFRA are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide an assessment of the impact of all potential sources of flooding in accordance with PPS25 including an assessment of any future impacts associated with climate change; to provide the information needed to apply the sequential test for identification of land suitable for development in line with the principles of PPS25 • To allow Kennet District to assess flood risk for specific development on proposal sites by setting out the requirements for specific FRAs • To enable planning policies to be identified to minimise and manage flood risk • To provide specific advice regarding sustainable drainage systems (SuDS). <p>The flood sources assessed included fluvial, groundwater, overland flow, sewers and artificial sources.</p>	
How objectives and/or requirements might be considered in your Neighbourhood Plan	
<p>Since the report concludes that flooding within the District has been mainly fluvial (and to a lesser extent groundwater and overland flow flooding) it is important that the Neighbourhood Plan is developed so that the policies and proposals are consistent with the findings of this Level 1 Strategic Floor Risk Assessment and with national policy and guidance in the National Planning Policy Framework and the accompanying Technical Note which deals with flood risk. This means ensuring that policies and proposals do not directly or indirectly lead to development or land being at greater risk of flooding without appropriate application of the sequential and exceptions tests where necessary.</p>	

Plan/Programme/legislation	Visit Wiltshire Business Plan 2012- 2015
Author	Visit Wiltshire
Date	2012
Summary of document	This plan describes how Visit Wiltshire will work over the plan period in partnership with strategy and industry partners to grow inbound visits and visitor spend, to win market share and to stimulate economic growth for Wiltshire. Its stated intention is to help grow the value of Wiltshire's visitor economy by establishing destination performance benchmarks and impact evaluation to measure the extent of that performance. It intends to grow jobs in the visitor economy by 3,000 over the plan period.

<p>Key objectives/requirements/conclusions to be taken into consideration in Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>The aims of the business plan are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generate additional visits and spend, sustaining existing and creating new jobs • Inspire the target audience to visit, stay and explore Wiltshire • Raise the profile of Wiltshire, its tourism assets and member businesses by increasing the value of PR coverage • Work in partnership with stakeholders, members and partner organisations • Gain market share moving towards matching England's 5% annual growth target • Create and distribute inspirational content • Generate additional funding • Improve visitor experiences, ensuring the product quality and infrastructure are developed sustainably to meet the needs of the target visitors • Introduce and evolve research and evaluation impact methodologies
<p>How objectives and/or requirements might be considered in your Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>Tourism is an important part of Wiltshire's economy and the role that tourism can play in the economy even at a local level can be significant. Opportunities to enhance the visitor attraction to the area should be considered where appropriate through positively worded policies and encouragement of proposals which will underpin the tourism industry locally.</p>

Plan/Programme/legislation	Wiltshire Workspace and Employment Land Review
Authors	Roger Tym and Partners
Date	December 2011
Summary of document	
<p>The study seeks to provide a clear indication as to whether or not sufficient employment land has been allocated in Wiltshire's Draft Core Strategy to provide a secure foundation for the local economy going forward.</p>	
<p>Key objectives/requirements/conclusions to be taken into consideration in Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>The report concludes that Wiltshire has more than enough employment land allocated but that viability factors are prohibiting development. In the absence of grant assistance the report recommends the Council look at the more innovative forms of intervention if it wishes to bring forward development itself. Those forms of intervention might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outright disposal of assets • Investment of assets in a joint venture vehicle with the private sector • Community infrastructure levy <p>It goes on to recommend that in order to prevent employment land being lost too easily to other uses because of higher land values, the Council could consider more stringent criteria to apply to proposals seeking planning permission for the redevelopment of employment sites. It also suggests that planning policy could benefit the local economy by being more flexible in its approach to allocating employment land. It suggests a positive policy permitting development for expansion purposes unless there are good reasons not to.</p>	
<p>How objectives and/or requirements might be considered in your Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>Employment is as important to rural and small communities as it is to much larger settlements. Protecting employment land is critical in order to prevent out-commuting to other places of</p>	

work. A sustainable settlement is one where people are able to both live and work and therefore the WLNP could benefit from the recognition of this relationship between employment and housing land supply and the benefits that it can bring in terms of the reduction in use of the private motor vehicle as well as helping to provide a sustained and healthy, well-balanced community.

Plan/Programme/legislation	Wiltshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment
Author	Fordham Research and RS Drummond-Hay
Date	December 2011
Summary of document	<p>The 2011 Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) was intended to be the first study of its type carried out across the unitary authority of Wiltshire. It identifies three main housing market areas, the south, the west and the east. Within that there are other distinct sub-market areas including Salisbury Plain, Salisbury City, Outer Swindon and Devizes and Calne. The Parish of West Lavington straddles two housing market areas (West and East) and the southern part lies within the Salisbury Plain sub-area. The data and demographics are presents and analysed. A detailed review of the current housing market and an assessment of housing needs is undertaken with particular reference to certain minority household groups. An analysis is undertaken of the difference between rural and urban housing requirements and an assessment of the affordability of housing in Wiltshire is presented. The assessment goes on to make recommendations for policy matters and monitoring.</p>
Key objectives/requirements/conclusions to be taken into consideration in Neighbourhood Plan	<p>Although the report indicates that the Parish of West Lavington straddles the boundary between two housing market areas, for the purposes of the assessment, Table 10.1 confirms that the Devizes community area lies entirely in the East housing market area.</p> <p>The assessment recognises that there is a need for approximately 3,860 new houses per annum in Wiltshire. 22% of all households contain a member with a support need, whilst 3% of all households are wholly made up of older people. Wiltshire has a high rural population, indeed 2/3rd of all households live in rural areas. This triggers an important policy issue - the need to ensure that a greater degree of affordable housing is provided in rural areas.</p> <p>An average of at least 1,000 new affordable homes is required every year over the next 15 years and the assessment recommends a split of total housing built, along the lines of 55% market housing and 45% affordable housing.</p>
How objectives and/or requirements might be considered in your Neighbourhood Plan	<p>Provision of appropriate levels of affordable housing is critical not only in seeking to deliver core strategy requirements but also to assist in providing a better mix and balance of residential accommodation in Wiltshire and in particular in the rural areas. It will be important for the WLNP to develop policies and proposals which do not run counter to the key objectives and policy implications identified in this assessment.</p>

Plan/Programme/legislation	Wiltshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2026
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Author	Wiltshire Council
Date	March 2011
Summary of document	
<p>This is Wiltshire's third Local Transport Plan (LTP3). It has been developed to achieve environmental and financial sustainability. Its primary purpose is to inform the implementation of national policies at a local level. It doesn't contain details about specific schemes but it sets out a long term transport strategy, a shorter term implementation plan and number of supporting strategies.</p>	
Key objectives/requirements/conclusions to be taken into consideration in Neighbourhood Plan	
<p>There are a number of goals identified which sit beneath the government's five national transport goals. These national goals are grouped as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support economic growth • Reduce carbon emissions • Contribute to better safety, security and health • Promote equality and opportunity • Improve quality of life and a healthy natural environment 	
How objectives and/or requirements might be considered in your Neighbourhood Plan	
<p>A series of eighteen strategic transport objectives are identified which are all applicable to some degree in the formulation of lower order planning documents, including the WLNP. It would be important to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan reflects and where necessary picks up on these objectives in the formulation of policies and proposals and in the consideration of options (including site options).</p>	

Plan/Programme/legislation	The Joint Strategic Assessment for Devizes Community Area 2011
Author	Wiltshire Assembly Public Services Board
Date	April 2011
Summary of document	
<p>This report has been prepared by the Wiltshire Public Services Board and Corporate Leadership Team at Wiltshire Council and it identifies strategic issues for the Devizes Community Area over the three years from the date of publication.</p>	
Key objectives/requirements/conclusions to be taken into consideration in Neighbourhood Plan	
<p>The assessment identifies a series of issues which, it explains, will be used to inform strategies and plans including the Community Area planning process. The issues are grouped into themes but can be summarised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background – aging population, life expectancy, inequality in life expectancy and vulnerable families. • Health and well-being – tackling major causes of mortality, encouraging beneficial lifestyle choices, improving children's health, preventing unintentional injuries. • Economy – employment profile, claimant count, income deprivation, employment deprivation • Children and young people - child poverty, childhood obesity, KS2 L4+ in both English and Maths, KS4 5 A+-C including English and Maths, young people not in employment, education or training, accidental/non-accidental injuries 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community safety –criminal damage including deliberate fires, road safety, violence (domestic and night time economy related), substance misuse, integrated offender management • Housing - affordable housing, homelessness, rural housing needs, making best use of existing stock, fuel poverty, military. • Transport – changes to car parking charges, worsening air quality, road and pavement, lack of cycle network • Environment – biodiversity and the natural environment, energy consumption, waste management, water quality and availability. • Resilient communities – out of work benefits, effects of multiple deprivation, community cohesion and social capital, rural facilities • Wiltshire Core Strategy – housing delivery, economic development, traffic and congestion generation, infrastructure and service requirements
<p>How objectives and/or requirements might be considered in your Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>As the introduction to the Assessment notes, the purpose of the study was to inform planning documents and decisions in the Community Area. The issues identified are grouped in themes which are in many cases compatible (directly or indirectly) with the themes in this Sustainability Assessment Scoping Report. They are therefore directly comparable and will be important to take on board in shaping policies and proposals for WLNP.</p>

Plan/Programme/legislation	The Wiltshire Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2 2011 - 2016
Author	Wiltshire Council
Date	September 2013
Summary of document	<p>The Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IPD) is intended to support the Wiltshire Core Strategy and to help inform and underpin other planning policy documents. The IDP identifies funding sources for infrastructure such as Section 106 Agreements and the Community Infrastructure Levy and sets out the funding gaps which justify the need to introduce the CIL in Wiltshire to off-set the cost of delivering infrastructure.</p>
Key objectives/requirements/conclusions to be taken into consideration in Neighbourhood Plan	
<p>The Infrastructure Delivery Plan seeks to identify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essential and place shaping infrastructure needs and costs • When and where the infrastructure is needed or will be delivered • Who will deliver and maintain the infrastructure • How the infrastructure will be funded • Risks to infrastructure delivery and contingency plans • The plans and strategies of infrastructure providers. <p>Within the Devizes community area there is a range of infrastructure requirements including the need to delivery an 80-bed care home at Horton Road in Devizes, a new 60-bed extra care housing scheme and a new primary care super surgery to take all 3 existing 3 GP practices and improvements to smaller village practices.</p> <p>Furthermore there are additional essential infrastructure requirements including extensions to Devizes and/or Lavington Schools, extensions of existing primary schools in the villages, and extension of existing primary schools in Devizes. There are a number of transport infrastructure</p>	

requirements including funding of walking, cycling, public transport, travel planning, demand management and highways measures, all to be delivered in the period 2011-2026.

There are green infrastructure requirements including the need to fund a new skate park and BMX track, improvements to the Kennet and Avon Canal, London Road, and Coach Road sections, pollution monitoring station, air quality modelling and strategic mitigation and community action plan implementation measures.

Finally, there are requirements to refurbish the library including PCs, book stock, on-line facilities, decoration and furniture as well as the strategic placement of specialist resources for the emergency services in a single location (i.e; co-location).

How objectives and/or requirements might be considered in your Neighbourhood Plan

These infrastructure requirements are crucial to ensure that the impact of development, as a result of the additional housing and employment growth, is fully mitigated. This will be secured through planning documents and the development management process. Neighbourhood Plans play an important role in guiding the location and form of development and will “unlock” development which will then be liable to charging for funding of infrastructure either through the community infrastructure levy or Section 106 payments. It is important that these infrastructure requirements are noted and where appropriate relevant provisions addressed in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Plan/Programme/legislation	Wiltshire Green Infrastructure Strategy Update (January 2012)
Author	Wiltshire Council
Date	January 2012
Summary of document	<p>The Wiltshire Green Infrastructure Strategy is intended to provide a long-term vision and strategic framework for the delivery of a planned high-quality multi functional network of green infrastructure across Wiltshire. The strategy is intended to define the existing green infrastructure network, set out a vision and objectives for green infrastructure, and identify green priorities for maintenance, enhancement and expansion of the network. The strategy identifies priorities for green infrastructure in each community area, and setting out an implementation plan of action for each of the strategic priorities.</p>
Key objectives/requirements/conclusions to be taken into consideration in Neighbourhood Plan	
<p>The objectives are identified in the Green Infrastructure Strategy Update as being grouped under the following key headings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and well-being • Links and connectivity • Economic growth and development • Water management • Eco-system services • Healthy natural environment • Education and understanding • Climate change • Long term management • Working in partnership • Funding 	

How objectives and/or requirements might be considered in your Neighbourhood Plan
<p>Taking account of the over-arching objectives a number of issues are relevant to planning at a Neighbourhood level. It will be important to ensure that these matters are picked up (many of which are compatible with the Sustainability Assessment scoping report themes) in order to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan delivers green infrastructure objectives where appropriate.</p>

Plan/Programme/legislation	West Lavington and Littleton Panell Conservation Area Statement
Author	Kennet District Council
Date	January 2003
Summary of document	<p>This document seeks to identify and record those special qualities of West Lavington and Littleton Panell that make up their architectural and historic character. The purpose is to provide a sound basis for local plan policies and development decisions, as well as for the formulation of proposals for the preservation and enhancement of the character or appearance of the area.</p> <p>The statement is a review of the West Lavington and Littleton Panell Conservation Area. It identifies distinctive features with the intention that the characteristics of the area will be protected and enhanced for the benefits of current and future generations.</p>
Key objectives/requirements/conclusions to be taken into consideration in Neighbourhood Plan	
<p>The statement identifies a number of issues of concern including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speeding traffic through the High Streets of both villages • Maintenance of the Semington Brook • Overhead telephone and electricity cables and poles • Dauntsey's School astroturf and flood lighting • The engineered brick retaining wall adjoining the former garage buildings • The importance of the Post Office and Village Stores to village life <p>The statement goes on to note there are areas of potential change including the farmyards behind Littleton House, the used car forecourt, the former garage premises and the backland area within Littleton Panell. There are a number of enhancements suggested including removing particularly prominent poles and overhead wires, reducing the impact of the brick retaining wall adjacent to the junction with Sandfield in the High Street, removing fencing in that locality, the use of native hedgerow species instead of evergreen cupressus, more consistent use of red bricks or greensand stone for new development, and use of other traditional local materials.</p>	
How objectives and/or requirements might be considered in your Neighbourhood Plan	
<p>The issues highlighted in the Conservation Area statement are all matters that can be addressed locally through carefully worded policies dealing with design, materials, parking and general highway management matters, new development and the location of future housing or employment development. Local landscaping and use of locally sourced materials are all matters that can be covered by appropriate worded planning policies or proposals. They are matters that may need to be given further consideration in the development of the WLNP.</p>	

Plan/Programme/legislation	West Lavington and Littleton Panell Village Design Statement
Authors	Residents of West Lavington and Littleton Panell
Date	Adopted 16th September 2004
Summary of document	<p>This document was adopted by Kennet District Council in 2004 as supplementary planning guidance.</p> <p>The design statement picks up on a range of matters of concern to the local communities including the siting of the settlements, building forms and the materials used in construction of new buildings and structures.</p> <p>It then goes on to consider schools, traffic issues, footpath, the location and value of the open spaces in and on the edge of the settlements, local employment and future development options.</p>
Key objectives/requirements/conclusions to be taken into consideration in Neighbourhood Plan	<p>Grouped under a number of headings, the statement sets out a number of requirements as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building forms and materials – buildings should be built to achieve a sympathetic relationship with other buildings, avoiding bungalows where possible. Semi-detached and terraced houses appear better if the external treatment is the same and is finished in traditional brick or render. New buildings on the High Street and in other locations should have particular regard to building line as well as form and materials. The use of free stone in modern walls is to be encouraged. Reconstituted stone or imitation Ashlar is generally unsuitable as is stone cladding on brick. Repointing of old brick needs to be done carefully and professionally using lime mortar in preference to cement mortar. Paint should always be in good condition. Older brick tends to be more attractive unpainted whereas new brick can often benefit from being painted. Extensions should generally match the original style. For future housing estates introducing strong guidelines could be considered. Thatched roofs should be treasured for their historic and aesthetic value. New thatched houses would be welcomed. Flat roofs should generally be avoided whilst replacement glazing in UPVC which closely resembles the original form should be encouraged. Concrete posts and wire fencing should generally be avoided where possible. Services to old and new properties should be put underground wherever possible. • Schools – the setting of the avenue and the main building at Dauntsey's should be maintained. The large playing fields also form an important visual amenity particularly from Strawberry Hill. New buildings should be confined within the existing campus of Dauntsey's and not exceed the ambient height of the existing buildings. Large buildings are not appropriate along Cheverell Road. New planting would be of benefit as would shading of external lighting. The retention of both the primary school and

pre-school on the same site is vital to the maintenance of the village community. The Dauntsey's Aided Primary School site would greatly benefit from planting of some more mature trees especially along the boundary with the village playing field.

- Traffic – greater effort needs to be made by the Highway Authorities to encourage heavy traffic to use the recommend route (the A342 & A345). The A360 between Devizes and the A303 should be reclassified as a B road. The most attractive solution for both villagers and drivers is a by-pass for West Lavington and Littleton Panell. Improved warning signs need to be placed at both ends of the section of road descending from Salisbury Plain. Visibility is sufficiently good for a priority system to be installed opposite the bridge in favour of southbound traffic. Pedestrian access to the Church should be improved from the north side. Parking outside the village shop should remain as it acts as an effective traffic safety measure. The Dauntsey's one-way system should remain during the day time. Improvements to the staggered crossroads at the B3098 should be considered, a mini-roundabout may be capable of being accommodated. Speed restrictions should be applied on all unrestricted roads towards Little Cheverell and the B3098 is wholly unsuitable for heavy traffic and would benefit from suitable signage to discourage HGV's. The B3098 road to Market Lavington needs improvements to the pedestrian facilities. Other junctions would benefit from improvements and the 30 mph limit should be extended to the north side of the railway bridge. Finally, sight lines could be improved by re-alignment of the road north of the bridge to allow clear visibility. This could be combined with the traffic priority arrangement which would slow traffic down as it enters the village.
- Footpaths – the footpaths and byways are an important aspect of village life and they must continue to be properly maintained and open for use at all times. Restriction on the use of byways by 4 x 4 vehicles is vital for the benefit of walkers and horse riders.
- Open spaces – a number of open spaces contribute significant to the character and visual amenity of the two villages and must be protected from development or alteration of character.
- Economy and employment – it is important that the villages retain a balanced mix of residents to ensure a continuing intake of children to the two schools (Dauntsey's Aided Primary School and Lavington Comprehensive School). The shops offer an amenity of immense value to the community and their long-term survival should be positively supported. The Post Office is also essential to many villagers particularly the elderly and should be similarly supported. There will be support in the villages for the re-opening of a station at Littleton Panell or at Lydeaway.
- Farming – deep ploughing is inappropriate in areas of former ancient settlement. The maintenance of trees, hedges and woodland is important to the setting of the villages.
- Future development – to retain the village structure and ambience the community is concerned that no development should take place outside the present limits of development as defied in the Kennet Local Plan. The construction of starter homes should be encouraged on the few remaining building plots within the village envelope. It is also important that a good mix of housing is encouraged.

How objectives and/or requirements might be considered in your Neighbourhood Plan

It is important that these objectives are taken into account and reflected in the development of policies, plans and options for the WLNP. Where objectives are incompatible with current community requirements the reason for the differences needs to be clearly explained and justified. Irrespective of that, this will be an important reference source in the development of the West Lavington Neighbourhood Plan.

Plan/Programme/legislation	Salisbury Plain Army Basing Programme Planning Context Report (Consultation Draft Phase 3 report)
Authors	DIO Ops Projects
Date	19 February 2014
Summary of document	<p>The Army Basing Programme announced on 5th March 2013 is based on the new Army 2020 plan outlined in July 2012. Two key principles guided the Review: that the armoured infantry brigades should be centred round a single location, and the Army should retain a UK-wide presence. The report identifies various deliverables including the provision of up to 1400 additional new houses for military personnel and their dependants. It is intended to inform the forthcoming masterplan for Salisbury Plain.</p> <p>This report sets out the findings of the additional accommodation site search exercise. The long list of sites identified in previous stages has been assessed to rule out heavily constrained sites. The remaining sites were evaluated against a set of weighted criteria to assess their suitability for new housing.</p> <p>The report also includes chapters on military base development, training requirement, transport and heritage matters.</p> <p>Following completion of the Planning Context Report, Assessment Studies and the Outline Environmental Appraisal, a Masterplan will be produced capturing all proposed developments related to the Army Basing Programme in the Salisbury Plain area. The final Masterplan will show the selected Service Families Accommodation sites.</p>
Key objectives/requirements/conclusions to be taken into consideration in Neighbourhood Plan	<p>The report recommends a number of sites at the bases at Bulford, Larkhill, Perham Down & Ludgershall and Tidworth.</p> <p>The report recognises that the proposals for rebasing in and around the Salisbury Plain Training Area raise a number of issues regarding the local socio-economic infrastructure. The report includes a preliminary socio economic assessment which examines the demand for key social and economic infrastructure.</p>
How objectives and/or requirements might be considered in your Neighbourhood Plan	<p>The findings of the report will be important in understanding the spatial planning implications of the Salisbury Plain Army Basing Programme Planning and masterplan for the Neighbourhood Plan area.</p>

Plan/Programme/legislation	Impact of the Military on the Agricultural Sector in Wiltshire
Authors	ADAS
Date	May 2008
Summary of document	<p>The report assesses the direct and indirect impacts of military activity on agriculture.</p> <p>It describes the effect that MOD ownership has had in terms of the beneficial effects for biodiversity and landscape, and how archaeological assets have generally been preserved. These attributes act as a constraint to military activities.</p> <p>The land on Salisbury Plain is let on two types of agricultural tenancy, Schedule 1 which is let as ordinary agricultural succession tenancies and Schedule 3 which is let on an annual basis. The constraints placed on farming are much more severe on the Schedule 3 land than the Schedule 1 land. Where the requirements of the military constrain the way farmers can use the land, this is reflected in lower rents.</p> <p>The changes to the Common Agricultural Policy (the Single Payment Scheme) and the introduction of Environmental Stewardship have generally brought financial benefits to the tenants on Salisbury Plain.</p> <p>The presumption in favour of public access is described. Opportunities to gain access to the area are described.</p> <p>Other direct effects include farm diversification enterprises such as horse livery, bed and breakfast and letting of buildings for non-agricultural uses. Forestry is primarily managed to provide suitable military training areas and for conservation purposes with timber production of lesser importance.</p> <p>Indirect effects include problems of labour supply, litter, gates left open, fly tipping, vandalism, theft and worrying of livestock by dogs.</p>
Key objectives/requirements/conclusions to be taken into consideration in Neighbourhood Plan	<p>The report concludes that the concentration of military personnel in Wiltshire gives good opportunities for sustainable rural development. Sustainability is an important objective of central and local government and as this becomes a more important objective for MOD and its agencies and for Wiltshire County Council there are areas for sustainable development that have good potential.</p> <p>There are opportunities for testing and piloting sustainable development through activities which foster military civilian integration in Wiltshire. Examples here are local purchasing of food for use in military establishments, anaerobic digesters for farm organic waste and food waste and the composting of green waste and food waste. A scoping study to prioritise the sustainable development opportunities with the best.</p>

How objectives and/or requirements might be considered in your Neighbourhood Plan
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<p>It is important that these objectives are taken into account and reflected in the development of policies, plans and options for the WLNP. Where objectives are incompatible with current community requirements the reason for the differences needs to be clearly explained and justified. Irrespective of that, this will be an important reference source in the development of the West Lavington Neighbourhood Plan.</p>

APPENDIX C

DRAFT TEMPLATE FOR SITE APPRAISALS

Appendix C - Draft Site Options Assessment Criteria

Following scoping of the SA, the subsequent stage of the sustainability appraisal process involves the consideration of reasonable alternatives.

Those alternatives may include alternative policies / amounts of development and sites. This Appendix is only concerned with the assessment of alternative sites.

In order to undertake a robust comparative assessment of a number of different sites it will be necessary to establish a series of criteria based upon the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives in Table 12 above.

Wiltshire Council has indicated its preference is to see a 'traffic light' approach being adopted as this has worked effectively elsewhere. This would be based on a 'Red' 'Amber' 'Green' (RAG) scoring system. The table below provides an initial draft of the assessment criteria for comment, as part of the wider consultation on the SA Scoping Report. Should alternative or additional criteria be preferred it would assist if they can be conveyed to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group in response to the invitation to consult.

The final balance and use of these criteria will depend on a practical test of their effectiveness, sensitivity in assisting the assessment process, and the relative importance of the individual issues where it can be shown that there is some evidence of widespread public opinion, such as the need to preserve countryside views and the character of the villages.

N.B. The version of the assessment table below was agreed by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group on 9th February 2015 and post-dates the version issued in the draft May 2014 Scoping Report:

1 PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION CRITERIA (Assess sites against these criteria first; if relevant criteria are met, delete sites at this stage)			
Sustainability Appraisal Objective	No.	Assessment Criteria	RAG Scoring Approach
Protect people and property from the risk of flooding.	6	Is >50% site at risk of flooding (from surface water flooding and according to EA flood zoning)?	Yes – delete No (0-20%); (21-40%); (41-50%) NB state %
	7		
Conserve and enhance the character and quality of West Lavington NP's rural and urban landscapes, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place.	13	Is the site physically attached to the settlement?	Yes; No - delete
Ensure efficient and effective use of land and the use of suitably located previously developed land and buildings.	22	Is >50% site affected by topographic constraints (e.g. steeply sloping land; poor ground conditions etc)?	Yes – delete No (0-20%); (21-40%); (41-50%) NB state %
Reduce the need to travel, promote more sustainable transport	38	Can the site be accessed practicably?	Existing highway access; Short new access route required; No - delete

choices and improve road safety, reduce accidents and help reduce traffic speeds	39	Will the site affect wider area road safety?	Improve; No change; Slightly worsen (0-50%,but capable of mitigation); Greatly worsen - delete
2 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION CRITERIA			
Sustainability Appraisal Objective	No.	Assessment Criteria	RAG Scoring Approach
Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geological features and avoid irreversible losses.	1	Distance to Salisbury Plain SAC / SPA	2-5km; 1-2km; up to 1km
	2	Distance to Great Cheverell Hill and Salisbury Plain SSSIs	1-2km; 500m to 1km; 0-500m
	3	Distance to Local Nature Reserves / County Wildlife Sites / Wiltshire Wildlife Trust sites	1-2km; 500m to 1km; 0-500m
	4	Distance to Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitat	1-2km; 500m to 1km; 0-500m
Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner.	5	Distance to river / groundwater source protection zone / major aquifer	1-2km; 500m to 1km; 0-500m
Ensure efficient and effective use of land and the use of suitably located previously developed land and buildings.	21	Is site likely to be Previously Developed Land? (N.B. based on visual inspection)	Yes; Partial; No
Improve air quality and minimise all sources of environmental pollution	24	Distance to B3098 crossroads (walking)	0-400m; 400m-800m; 800m plus
	25	Distance from railway / main road (noise)	150m+; 50-150m; 0-50m;
	26	Proximity to Salisbury Plain (light)	2km-5km; 500m-2km; 0-500m
	27	Is site likely to be contaminated? (N.B. based on visual inspection)	No; Partially; Yes
3 DISTANCE TO FACILITIES CRITERIA			
Sustainability Appraisal Objective	No.	Original Assessment Criteria	RAG Scoring Approach
Minimise our impacts on climate change and reduce our vulnerability to future climate change effects.	8	Distance to public transport stop (bus)	0-400m; 400m-800m; 800m plus
	9	Distance to village shop	0-400m; 400m-800m; 800m plus
	10	Distance to primary school	0-400m; 400m-800m; 800m plus
Reduce poverty and deprivation and promote more inclusive and self-contained communities	32	Distance to GP surgery	0-400m; 400m-800m; 800m plus
Improve equality of access to, and engagement in local, high-quality community services and facilities.	34	Distance to public house	0-400m; 400m-800m; 800m plus
	35	Distance to village hall	0-400m; 400m-800m; 800m plus
	36	Distance to public open space	0-400m; 400m-800m; 800m plus

Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable transport choices	37	Distance to nearest cycle route / public right of way	0-400m; 400m-800m; 800m plus
4 LANDSCAPE AND VIEWS CRITERIA			
Sustainability Appraisal Objective	No.	Original Assessment Criteria	RAG Scoring Approach
Conserve and enhance the character and quality of West Lavington NP's rural and urban landscapes, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place.	12	Would removal of hedgerows or other landscape features be necessary?	No; Partial; Yes
	14	Would development affect views to/from surrounding countryside?	No; Partial; Yes
	15	Would development fit into existing urban form?	Yes; Partial; No
	16	Would development involve the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land (grades 1, 2 and 3a)?	No; Partial; Yes
5 VILLAGE CHARACTER AND HERITAGE CRITERIA			
Sustainability Appraisal Objective	No.	Original Assessment Criteria	RAG Scoring Approach
Protect, maintain and enhance the historic environment	28	Within Conservation Area / Listed Building curtilage or setting	101m+; <100m; Within
	29	Within curtilage of archaeological heritage asset (SAMs and non-protected sites) or setting	101m+; <100m; Within
	29A	Impact on setting of statutorily protected heritage assets not assessed elsewhere (LBs; SAMs etc)	No impact; limited impact; significant impact
	29B	Impact on setting of non-statutory heritage assets not assessed elsewhere (buildings of local importance etc)	No impact; limited impact; significant impact
Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures	31	Capable of delivering appropriate mix	Yes; Partially; No
6 CRITERIA FOR SUBSEQUENT CONSIDERATION AT SITE SPECIFIC PROPOSAL STAGE			
Sustainability Appraisal Objective	No.	Original Assessment Criteria	RAG Scoring Approach
Minimise our impacts on climate change and reduce our vulnerability to future climate change effects.	11	Will the site deliver additional renewable energy generating capacity (whether for domestic or commercial purposes)?	Yes; Partial; No

Ensure adequate provision of employment land and diverse employment opportunities to meet the needs of local businesses and a changing workforce.	20	Will the site deliver mixed use development?	Yes; Partial; No
Promote sustainable waste management solutions that encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste.	23	Will recycled materials be used during construction?	Yes; Partial; No
Reduce poverty and deprivation and promote more inclusive and self-contained communities	33	Will the site deliver improvements to the quality of life for residents (existing / future)?	Yes; Partial; No

APPENDIX D

STATUTORY CONSULTEE COMMENTS

ENGLISH HERITAGE

Dear Mr Baxter

Thank you for inviting our comments on your Neighbourhood Plan SEA/SA Scoping Report. My apologies that this response is a little overdue.

We are pleased to note that the Plan area's distinctive historic environment has been recognised and valued, and the issues associated with it identified. We are happy with the list of Sustainability Objectives set out in Table 12 in response to this agenda.

The key points I would make relate to the Appraisals Framework and the Site Options Assessment Criteria.

Often overlooked but of importance will be the assessment of the potential impact of proposals on the setting of all heritage assets, including the integrity of the settlement of West Lavington itself. Often only the direct impacts of development are considered but not the indirect ones. You may find useful The Setting of Heritage assets (EH, 2010). www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/setting-heritage-assets/

Could I also mention the importance of ensuring the consideration of all heritage assets whether designated or not - an important feature of national historic environment policy in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Many archaeological features and buildings of local importance are important and shouldn't be overlooked. The historic environment record at the Council will be of particular interest in this respect and may highlight certain unknown and interesting historic features, as will the English Heritage website and specific neighbourhood plan making guidance. www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/get-involved/improving-your-neighbourhood/planning-opportunities/

The traffic light approach for evaluating options against sustainability criteria is unfortunately unlikely to be refined enough in isolation as each heritage asset has its significance determined individually. Evaluating the acceptability of site proposals upon the significance of heritage assets therefore depends on more than just the distance between them. Even then, it is also not clear, from an evidential point of view, how the distances in question have been deemed appropriate.

I hope these brief observations are of use.

Good luck in the preparation of the Plan. I'm sure you will ensure the historic environment will benefit from the actions you progress.

Kind regards

David Stuart

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www.english-heritage.org.uk

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

Dear Mr Baxter

Thank you for sending the Environment Agency the SEA/SA Scoping Report for the West Lavington Neighbourhood Plan. We acknowledge receipt of this plan, as you request.

We will provide comments on this in due course, but please contact me if you have any queries in the meantime.

Regards

Kath

Katherine Burt
Sustainable Places - Planning Specialist
Wessex Area, South West Region
Environment Agency

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NATURAL ENGLAND

No response

Consultation invitation as sent 2 June 2014

Dear ,

I am advised by Wiltshire Council that you are your organisation's point of contact for formal submission of our SEA/SA Scoping Report, by way of statutory consultation for 6 weeks within the Neighbourhood Planning process. It remains marked 'draft' until after responses have been considered.

Our Report has been prepared by Impact Planning Services Ltd, and approved for submission by the Steering Group of the West Lavington Parish Neighbourhood Area, and its lead body the Parish Council. To find out more about our process and plans please see our webpage on <http://www.westlavington.info/planning.html>

I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt for audit purposes. If you do have any queries please do not hesitate to make contact,

Kind regards,

Clerk etc.

West Lavington Neighbourhood Plan 2017-2026

Our Place: Our Plan
A Plan for West Lavington and Littleton Panell

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

February 2015

West Lavington Neighbourhood Plan is led by a Steering Group made up of local volunteers and Parish Councillors supported by West Lavington Parish Council

www.westlavington.org.uk/planning/

West Lavington Parish Council



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Our Place: Our Plan - A Plan for West Lavington and Littleton Panell