

A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down TR010025

6.3 Environmental Statement Appendices

Appendix 7.1 LVIA Policy

APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)

Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

October 2018





7.1 LVIA Policy

7.1.1 Those policies considered relevant to the LVIA are outlined below.

National Policy Statement for National Networks (NPSNN), December 2014

- 7.1.2 The NPSNN¹ sets out the need for, and Government's policies to deliver, development of nationally significant infrastructure projects (NSIPs) on the national road and rail networks in England and is the primary basis for making decisions on development consent applications for national networks nationally significant infrastructure projects in England.
- 7.1.3 The NPSNN Summary of Need and associated Government vision includes:

"Networks which support the delivery of environmental goals."

- 7.1.4 NPSNN paragraph 2.9 states that broader environment, safety and accessibility goals would also generate requirements for development.
- 7.1.5 NPSNN Section 3 outlines the Governments wider policies including for the environment, and that for development of the roads to be sustainable, development of the national road network needs to be designed to minimise environmental impacts.
- 7.1.6 NPSNN paragraph 3.3 states:

"In delivering new schemes, the Government expects applicants to avoid and mitigate environmental and social impacts in line with the principles set out in the NPPF and the Government's planning guidance. Applicants should also provide evidence that they have considered reasonable opportunities to deliver environmental and social benefits as part of schemes."

7.1.7 NPSNN paragraph 3.4 recognises:

"that some developments will have some adverse local impacts on... landscape/visual amenity, biodiversity, cultural heritage...Therefore, whilst applicants should deliver developments in accordance with Government policy and in an environmentally sensitive way, including considering opportunities to deliver environmental benefits, some adverse local effects of development may remain."

- 7.1.8 The 'Criteria for 'good design' for national network infrastructure includes:
 - "Visual appearance and sustainable infrastructure sensitive to place;

Department for Transport. (2014). *National Policy Statement for National Networks (NPSNN)*. [online]. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/387222/npsnn-print.pdf [Last accessed 2nd May 2018].



- eliminating or substantially mitigating the identified problems by improving operational conditions and simultaneously minimising adverse impacts;
- aesthetically sensitive with good design embedded into proposals; and
- good design in terms of siting and design measures relative to existing landscape and historical character and function, landscape permeability, landform and vegetation."
- 7.1.9 In relation to Climate Change, NPSNN paragraph 4.43 outlines that an application should demonstrate that there are no critical design features which may be seriously affected by climate change.
- 7.1.10 In respect of Biodiversity, NPSNN paragraph 5.23 notes the importance of conservation and enhancement of biodiversity interest. Reference is also made in subsequent paragraphs to *Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services* and the establishment of coherent ecological networks.
- 7.1.11 NPSNN paragraph 5.33 states in respect of biodiversity:
 - "When considering proposals, the Secretary of State should consider whether the applicant has maximised such opportunities in and around developments."
- 7.1.12 In respect of LVIA, NPSNN paragraph 5.144 footnote 102 references GLVIA 3, as well as the need to include reference to any landscape character assessment and associated studies, as a means of assessing landscape impacts relevant to the proposed project and any relevant policies based on these assessments in local development documents in England.
- 7.1.13 In respect of projects being designed to minimise landscape impacts, NPSNN paragraph 5.149 states:
 - "Projects need to be designed carefully, taking account of the potential impact on the landscape. Having regard to siting, operational and other relevant constraints, the aim should be to avoid or minimise harm to the landscape, providing reasonable mitigation where possible and appropriate."
- 7.1.14 NPSNN paragraph 5.150 notes that great weight should be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in nationally designated areas and that assessments should identify any detrimental effect on the environment, the landscape and recreational opportunities, and the extent to which that could be moderated.
- 7.1.15 NPSNN paragraphs 5.154 and 5.155 note that the duty to have regard to the purposes of nationally designated areas also applies when considering applications for projects outside the boundaries of these areas which may have impacts within them; but that:



"The fact that a proposed project will be visible from within a designated area should not in itself be a reason for refusing consent."

7.1.16 Similarly, NPSNN paragraph 5.156 notes that local landscape designations should not be used in themselves as reasons to refuse consent.

7.1.17 NPSNN paragraph 5.157 states:

"In taking decisions, the Secretary of State should consider whether the project has been designed carefully, taking account of environmental effects on the landscape and siting, operational and other relevant constraints, to avoid adverse effects on landscape or to minimise harm to the landscape, including by reasonable mitigation."

7.1.18 NPSNN paragraph 5.158 in relation to Visual Impact notes:

"The Secretary of State will have to judge whether the visual effects on sensitive receptors, such as local residents, and other receptors, such as visitors to the local area, outweigh the benefits of the development."

7.1.19 NPSNN paragraph 5.160 notes:

"Adverse landscape and visual effects may be minimised through appropriate siting of infrastructure, design (including choice of materials), and landscaping schemes, depending on the size and type of proposed project. Materials and designs for infrastructure should always be given careful consideration."

7.1.20 NPSNN paragraph 5.162 notes the importance of Green Infrastructure, stating:

"Green infrastructure can also enable developments to provide positive environmental and economic benefits."

7.1.21 NPSNN paragraph 5.84 states:

"Where the development is subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment, the applicant should assess any likely significant effects on amenity from emissions of...artificial light and describe these in the Environmental Statement."

7.1.22 NPSNN paragraph 5.85 states:

"In particular, the assessment provided by the applicant should describe:

- the type and quantity of emissions;
- aspects of the development which may give rise to emissions during construction, operation and decommissioning;



- premises or locations that may be affected by the emissions;
- effects of the emission on identified premises or locations; and
- measures to be employed in preventing or mitigating the emissions."

7.1.23 NPSNN paragraph 5.86 states:

"NPSNN advises the applicant to consult the relevant local planning authority about the scope and methodology of the assessment."

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), 2018

- 7.1.24 The NPPF² sets out the Government's planning policies for England, but does not contain specific policies for nationally significant infrastructure projects.
- 7.1.25 The environment role of sustainable development is stated as:

"to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy."

7.1.26 NPPF paragraph 118 states:

"Planning policies and decisions should:

- a) Encourage multiple benefits from both urban and rural land, including through mixed use schemes and taking the opportunities to achieve net environmental gains such as development that would enable new habitat creation or improve public access to the countryside…"
- 7.1.27 NPPF paragraph 127, in relation to planning policies and decisions in respect of development:
 - a) "will function well and add to the overall quality of the area, not just for the short term but over the lifetime of the development;
 - b) are visually attractive as a result of good architecture, layout and appropriate and effective landscaping;
 - c) are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting, while not preventing or

² Department for Communities and Local Government. (2018). National Planning Policy Framework. [online]. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf [Last accessed 13th August 2018].



discouraging appropriate innovation or change (such as increased densities);

- establish or maintain a strong sense of place, using the arrangement of streets, spaces, building types and materials to create attractive, welcoming and distinctive places to live, work and visit;
- e) optimise the potential of the site to accommodate and sustain an appropriate amount and mix of development (including green and other public space) and support local facilities and transport networks; and
- f) create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible and which promote health and well-being, with a high standard of amenity for existing and future users; and where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion and resilience."

7.1.28 NPPF para 130 states:

"Permission should be refused for development of poor design that fails to take the opportunities available for improving the character and quality of an area and the way it functions, taking into account any local design standards or style guides in plans or supplementary planning documents. Conversely, where the design of a development accords with clear expectations in plan policies, design should not be used by the decision-maker as a valid reason to object to development. Local planning authorities should also seek to ensure that the quality of approved development is not materially diminished between permission and completion, as a result of changes being made to the permitted scheme (for example through changes to approved details such as the materials used)."

7.1.29 NPPF para 131 states:

"In determining applications, great weight should be given to outstanding or innovative designs which promote high levels of sustainability, or help raise the standard of design more generally in an area, so long as they fit in with the overall form and layout of their surroundings."

7.1.30 NPPF para 170 states:

"Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

- a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);
- b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services including the



- economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;
- c) maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate;
- minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;
- e) preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans; and
- f) remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate."

7.1.31 NPPF para 180 states:

"Planning policies and decisions should also ensure that new development is appropriate for its location taking into account the likely effects (including cumulative effects) of pollution on health, living conditions and the natural environment, as well as the potential sensitivity of the site or the wider area to impacts that could arise from the development. In doing so they should:

- a) mitigate and reduce to a minimum potential adverse impacts resulting from noise from new development – and avoid noise giving rise to significant adverse impacts on health and the quality of life60;
- b) identify and protect tranquil areas which have remained relatively undisturbed by noise and are prized for their recreational and amenity value for this reason; and
- c) limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation."

Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)

7.1.32 Under the heading of Natural Environment³, sub-heading Landscape, paragraph 1, PPG supports the use of landscape character assessment as a tool for understanding the character and local distinctiveness of the landscape and identifying the features that give it a sense of place, as a means to informing, planning and managing change. PPG makes reference to Natural England guidance on landscape character assessment.

³ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. (2016). Planning Practice Guidance: Natural Environment. [online]. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/natural-environment [Last accessed 25th May 2018].



- 7.1.33 Also under the heading of Natural Environment, sub-heading Biodiversity, ecosystems and green infrastructure, paragraph 15, PPG supports positive planning for networks of multi-functional green space, both urban and rural, which deliver a range of benefits for local communities and makes reference to Natural England guidance on Green Infrastructure.
- 7.1.34 Under the heading of Light Pollution, paragraph 1, PPG refers to the risk of artificial lighting undermining enjoyment of the countryside or the night sky and, in paragraph 2, considers potential effects on protected areas of dark skies or intrinsically dark landscapes. NPPG then provides guidance for mitigation-by-design of artificial lighting, including location, timing and extent of lighting.

Wiltshire Council

Wiltshire Local Plan

7.1.35 The WLP consists of the following documents, for which the relevant LVIA matters have been summarised.

Wiltshire Core Strategy⁴ (adopted January 2015)

- 7.1.36 The Core Strategy sets out the strategic vision for delivering sustainable growth over the period up to 2026.
- 7.1.37 Key principles include:

"Protecting and planning for the enhancement of the natural, historic and built environments, including maintaining, enhancing and expanding Wiltshire's network of green infrastructure to support the health and wellbeing of communities."

7.1.38 In relation to the '6 Challenges' for Wiltshire, the Environmental Quality section states:

"The Core Strategy will need to ensure that Wiltshire's high quality built and natural environment is adequately protected, and that opportunities to enhance these significant assets are optimised."

7.1.39 Key outcomes relating to the above include:

"Local biodiversity and wildlife corridors will have been incorporated into new development, maintaining and enhancing this resource for the future;

Wiltshire's network of multi-functional green infrastructure will have been maintained and enhanced to contribute towards achieving the vision set out in the Wiltshire Green Infrastructure Strategy."

7.1.40 Core Policy 6: Stonehenge states:

_

⁴ Wiltshire Council, (2015). *Wiltshire Core Strategy*. [online]. Available at: http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/adopted-local-plan-jan16-low-res.pdf> [Last accessed 2nd May 2018].



"World Heritage Site and its setting will be protected so as to sustain its Outstanding Universal Value in accordance with Core Policy 59.

New visitor facilities will be supported where they:

- return Stonehenge to a more respectful setting befitting its World Heritage Site status;
- ii. include measures to mitigate the negative impacts of the roads;
- iii. introduce a greatly enhanced visitor experience in a high quality visitor centre;
- iv. implement an environmentally sensitive method of managing visitors to and from Stonehenge; and
- v. include a tourist information element, which highlights other attractions and facilities on offer in the surrounding area and raises the profile of Wiltshire."

7.1.41 Core Policy 51: Landscape states:

"Development should protect, conserve and where possible enhance landscape character and must not have a harmful impact upon landscape character, while any negative impacts must be mitigated as far as possible through sensitive design and landscape measures. Proposals should be informed by and sympathetic to the distinctive character areas identified in the relevant Landscape Character Assessment(s) and any other relevant assessments and studies. In particular, proposals will need to demonstrate that the following aspects of landscape character have been conserved and where possible enhanced through sensitive design, landscape mitigation and enhancement measures:

- i. The locally distinctive pattern and species composition of natural features such as trees, hedgerows, woodland, field boundaries, watercourses and waterbodies:
- ii. The locally distinctive character of settlements and their landscape settings;
- iii. The separate identity of settlements and the transition between man-made and natural landscapes at the urban fringe;
- iv. Visually sensitive skylines, soils, geological and topographical features;
- v. Landscape features of cultural, historic and heritage value;



- vi. Important views and visual amenity;
- vii. Tranquillity and the need to protect against intrusion from light pollution, noise, and motion;
- viii. Landscape functions including places to live, work, relax and recreate; and
- ix. Special qualities of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and the New Forest National Park, where great weight will be afforded to conserving and enhancing landscapes and scenic beauty.

Proposals for development within or affecting the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), New Forest National Park (NFNP) or Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site (WHS) shall demonstrate that they have taken account of the objectives, policies and actions set out in the relevant Management Plans for these areas. Proposals for development outside of an AONB that is sufficiently prominent (in terms of its siting or scale) to have an impact on the area's special qualities (as set out in the relevant management plan), must also demonstrate that it would not adversely affect its setting."

- 7.1.42 The supporting text for Policy 51: Landscape also notes that the emerging Wiltshire Landscape Strategy will review the need for Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) in Wiltshire and, if necessary, also clarify their special characteristics and boundaries. In the interim they will continue to be protected under relevant saved local plan policies, and if evidence demonstrates the need for SLAs these policies will be superseded by a Wiltshire-wide policy.
- 7.1.43 Core Policy 52: Green Infrastructure states:

"Development shall make provision for the retention and enhancement of Wiltshire's green infrastructure network, and shall ensure that suitable links to the network are provided and maintained. Where development is permitted developers will be required to:

- i. retain and enhance existing on site green infrastructure;
- ii. make provision for accessible open spaces in accordance with the requirements of the adopted Wiltshire Open Space Standards;
- iii. put measures in place to ensure appropriate long-term management of any green infrastructure directly related to the development;
- iv. provide appropriate contributions towards the delivery of the Wiltshire Green Infrastructure Strategy; and



v. identify and provide opportunities to enhance and improve linkages between the natural and historic landscapes of Wiltshire.

If damage or loss of existing green infrastructure is unavoidable, the creation of new or replacement green infrastructure equal to or above its current value and quality, that maintains the integrity and functionality of the green infrastructure network, will be required.

Proposals for major development should be accompanied by an audit of the existing green infrastructure within and around the site and a statement demonstrating how this will be retained and enhanced through the development process.

Development will not adversely affect the integrity and value of the green infrastructure network, prejudice the delivery of the Wiltshire Green Infrastructure Strategy, or provide inadequate green infrastructure mitigation.

Green infrastructure projects and initiatives that contribute to the delivery of a high quality and highly valued multi-functional green infrastructure network in accordance with the Wiltshire Green Infrastructure Strategy will be supported.

Contributions (financial or other) to support such projects and initiatives will be required where appropriate from developers."

7.1.44 Core Policy 57: Ensuring high quality design and place shaping states;

"A high standard of design is required in all new developments, including extensions, alterations, and changes of use of existing buildings. Development is expected to create a strong sense of place through drawing on the local context and being complementary to the locality. Applications for new development must be accompanied by appropriate information to demonstrate how the proposal will make a positive contribution to the character of Wiltshire through:

- i) enhancing local distinctiveness by responding to the value of the natural and historic environment, relating positively to its landscape setting and the existing pattern of development and responding to local topography by ensuring that important views into, within and out of the site are to be retained and enhanced;
- ii) the retention and enhancement of existing important landscaping and natural features, (e.g. trees, hedges, banks and watercourses), in order to take opportunities to enhance biodiversity, create wildlife and recreational corridors, effectively integrate the development into its setting and to justify and mitigate against any losses that may occur through the development;



- iii) responding positively to the existing townscape and landscape features in terms of building layouts, built form, height, mass, scale, building line, plot size, elevational design, materials, streetscape and rooflines to effectively integrate the building into its setting;
- iv) being sympathetic to and conserving historic buildings and historic landscapes;
- the maximisation of opportunities for sustainable construction techniques, use of renewable energy sources and ensuring buildings and spaces are orientated to gain maximum benefit from sunlight and passive solar energy, in accordance with Core Policy 41 (Sustainable Construction and Low Carbon Energy);
- vi. making efficient use of land whilst taking account of the characteristics of the site and the local context to deliver an appropriate development which relates effectively to the immediate setting and to the wider character of the area;
- vii. having regard to the compatibility of adjoining buildings and uses, the impact on the amenities of existing occupants, and ensuring that appropriate levels of amenity are achievable within the development itself, including the consideration of privacy, overshadowing, vibration, and pollution (e.g. light intrusion, noise, smoke, fumes, effluent, waste or litter);
- viii. incorporating measures to reduce any actual or perceived opportunities for crime or antisocial behaviour on the site and in the surrounding area through the creation of visually attractive frontages that have windows and doors located to assist in the informal surveillance of public and shared areas by occupants of the site;
- ix) ensuring that the public realm, including new roads and other rights of way, are designed to create places of character which are legible, safe and accessible in accordance with Core Policy 66 (Strategic Transport Network);
- x) the sensitive design of advertisements and signage, which are appropriate and sympathetic to their local setting by means of scale, design, lighting and materials:
- xi) taking account of the needs of potential occupants, through planning for diversity and adaptability, and considering how buildings and space will be used in the immediate and long term future;
- xii) the use of high standards of building materials, finishes and landscaping, including the provision of street furniture and the integration of art and design in the public realm:



- xiii) the case of major developments, ensuring they are accompanied by a detailed design statement and masterplan, which is based on an analysis of the local context and assessment of constraints and opportunities of the site and is informed by a development concept, including clearly stated design principles, which will underpin the character of the new place; and
- xiv. meeting the requirements of Core Policy 61 (Transport and New Development)."
- 7.1.45 Core Policy 58: Ensuring the conservation of the historic environment states:

"Development should protect, conserve and where possible enhance the historic environment.

Designated heritage assets and their settings will be conserved, and where appropriate enhanced in a manner appropriate to their significance, including:

- i. nationally significant archaeological remains
- ii. World Heritage Sites within and adjacent to Wiltshire
- iii. buildings and structures of special architectural or historic interest
- iv. the special character or appearance of conservation areas
- v. historic parks and gardens
- vi. important landscapes, including registered battlefields and townscapes.

Distinctive elements of Wiltshire's historic environment, including non-designated heritage assets, which contribute to a sense of local character and identity will be conserved, and where possible enhanced. The potential contribution of these heritage assets towards wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits will also be utilised where this can be delivered in a sensitive and appropriate manner in accordance with Core Policy 57 (Ensuring High Quality Design and Place Shaping).

Heritage assets at risk will be monitored and development proposals that improve their condition will be encouraged. The advice of statutory and local consultees will be sought in consideration of such applications."

7.1.46 Core Policy 59: The Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site and its setting states

"The Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the World Heritage Site will be sustained by:



- i. giving precedence to the protection of the World Heritage Site and its setting;
- ii. development not adversely affecting the World Heritage Site and its attributes of OUV. This includes the physical fabric, character, appearance, setting or views into or out of the World Heritage Site;
- iii. seeking opportunities to support and maintain the positive management of the World Heritage Site through development that delivers improved conservation, presentation and interpretation and reduces the negative impacts of roads, traffic and visitor pressure;
- iv. requiring developments to demonstrate that full account has been taken of their impact upon the World Heritage Site and its setting. Proposals will need to demonstrate that the development will have no individual, cumulative or consequential adverse effect upon the site and its OUV. Consideration of opportunities for enhancing the World Heritage Site and sustaining its OUV should also be demonstrated. This will include proposals for climate change mitigation and renewable energy schemes."

Saved Policies of the Salisbury District Local Plan⁵ (adopted June 2003)

7.1.47 C6: Special Landscape Area states:

"Within the Special Landscape Area, proposals for development in the countryside will be considered having particular regard to the high quality of the landscape. Where proposals which would not have an adverse effect on the quality on the landscape are acceptable, they will be subject to the following criteria;

- (i) the siting and scale of development to be sympathetic with the landscape; and
- (ii) high standards of landscaping and design, using materials which are appropriate to the locality and reflect the character of the area."

7.1.48 C9: Loss of Woodland states:

_

"Using the limited powers available to it (such as imposing Tree Preservation Orders and planning conditions, and commenting on felling licence applications and forestry/woodland grant applications) the Local Planning Authority will seek to prevent the loss of woodland of landscape, historical or nature conservation value and to encourage the planting of indigenous tree species

⁵ Salisbury District Council / Wiltshire Council. (2007). Saved Policies of the Salisbury District Local Plan 2011. [online]. Available at: http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mobile/salisburydistrictlocalplan.htm [Last accessed 25th May 2018].



appropriate to the area. Tree planting proposals which are detrimental to the landscape or nature conservation value of downland or river valley meadows will not be supported."

7.1.49 C18: Development affecting rivers and river valleys states;

"Planning permission will not be given for development which would adversely affect the water quality, amenity, visual quality or public enjoyment of a river or floodplain or its value as a wildlife habitat.

Approval will not be granted for the culverting of watercourses unless there is a demonstrable need for granting an exception.

Bank protection works, which will only be permitted where property or statutory rights of way are threatened, should involve the use of appropriate materials and should protect nature conservation interests."

Neighbourhood Plans

7.1.50 At the time of the assessment, Amesbury, Winterbourne Stoke, Shrewton and Stapleford do not have neighbourhood plans.

If you need help accessing this or any other Highways England information, please call **0300 123 5000** and we will help you.



© Crown copyright 2018.

You may re-use this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence:

visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/ write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This document is also available on our website at www.gov.uk/highways

If you have any enquiries about this document email $\underline{info@a303stonehenge.co.uk}$ or call $0300\ 123\ 5000^*.$

*Calls to 03 numbers cost no more than a national rate call to an 01 or 02 number and must count towards any inclusive minutes in the same way as 01 and 02 calls.

These rules apply to calls from any type of line including mobile, BT, other fixed line or payphone. Calls may be recorded or monitored.

Registered office Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford GU1 4LZ Highways England Company Limited registered in England and Wales number 09346363