

**Bath Western Riverside.
Strategic Environmental Assessment
and Sustainability Appraisal
(SEA/SA)
Scoping Report
May, 2005.**

QM

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1 Introduction

1.1 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

1.1.1 This document forms a scoping report for a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating the requirements for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Bath Western Riverside Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The scoping report is a consultation document for the four statutory consultees with environmental responsibilities in England, along with other relevant stakeholders with a sustainability remit or a local interest.

1.1.2 This document includes technical terminology and abbreviations which are explained in Appendix C.

1.2 LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

1.2.1 The EC Directive on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (Directive 2001/42/EC) (known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive) was transposed in the UK by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (Statutory Instrument No. 1633) applying to plans and programmes with a significant environmental effect. The SEA process is aimed at providing strategic alternatives and concentrates more specifically, although not exclusively, on the environmental issues within sustainability.

1.2.2 A sustainability appraisal of Local Development Documents is a requirement of The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Planning Policy Statement 12 (PPS 12) and is a more objective-led approach and focuses on the environmental, social and economic aspects of sustainable development.

1.2.3 Recent government guidance¹² has recommended that a combined assessment approach integrating SEA and SA is undertaken which will satisfy the requirements of the SEA directive and integrate sustainability issues with a high level of environmental protection on a strategic basis.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

1.2.4 The most widely used and recognised definition of Sustainable Development is that taken from the report 'Our Common Vision' produced by the World Commission On Environment and Development in 1987 (Brundtland Report):

"development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"

1.2.5 The government outlined the United Kingdoms approach to sustainable development in the 'UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy (March 2005). Within this document the government identifies five guiding principles with which the United Kingdoms sustainable development strategy would be developed:

- Living within Environmental Limits
- Ensuring a Strong Healthy and Just Society
- Achieving a Sustainable Economy

¹ Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks Consultation Paper (ODPM, September 2004)

² Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks Interim Note of Frequently Asked Questions (ODPM, April 2005)

- Promoting Good Governance
- Using Sound Science Responsibly

1.2.6 Sustainable development is central to the reformed planning system and the 2004 Act includes a statutory requirement for local planning authorities to undertake their functions with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. To ensure the concept of sustainable development is integrated into Local Development Frameworks (LDFs), government guidance (PPS 12) requires that a combined SEA/SA is undertaken on relevant Local Development Documents, in this case a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

1.3 PURPOSE OF THE SEA/SA OF THE SPD

1.3.1 The purpose of the SA (incorporating a SEA) is to ensure that environmental, social and economic considerations have been integrated into the preparation of the Bath Western Riverside SPD.

1.3.2 The SA will:

- Ensure compliance with the SEA Directive, SEA Regulations and guidance on SEA and SA;
- Review the SPDs relationship with other sectoral plan's, and plans operating at a national, regional and more local level with regard to their policies and programmes;
- Establish the baseline environmental, social and economic characteristics of the area;
- Identify any current environmental constraints, issues and problems;
- Help develop viable options and alternatives; and
- Review the sustainability impacts of the options, and of the preferred SPD option.

1.4 OBJECTIVES OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SPD)

1.4.1 Bath and North East Somerset Council have identified an area of Bath known as Bath Western Riverside (BWR) for urban regeneration. The purposes of the SPD is to provide strategic planning guidance for the development of this site.

1.4.2 It is envisaged that the draft SPD will be released for consultation in July, 2005.

1.4.3 The Council's adopted Vision through the existing Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) is

"To create a vital and viable place which reconnects the urban fabric of Bath in a seamless way to offer a high quality mixed use environment that functions as a working and living quarter of the City, and reinforces its World Heritage status".

1.4.4 The key principles are:

- secure high quality development on key sites, in a world class setting;
- maximise investment and employment;
- minimise traffic and other adverse impacts;
- maximise the use of public transport, cycle and pedestrian access;
- ensure the local community benefits from investment in the area;
- maximise environmental works, particularly along the River Avon;
- ensure regeneration is compatible with and complementary to the existing city centre;



- secure regeneration predominantly within the existing local plan context,
- regional planning guidance and emerging Government guidance on the redevelopment of brownfield sites.

1.4.5 The purpose of the SPD will be to achieve a fully integrated, comprehensive approach in reconnecting Western Riverside with the urban fabric of Bath. A comprehensive approach is required:

- to secure high quality employment generating development of sufficient critical mass
- to support Bath's regional economic role;
- to achieve development and financial viability over the whole regeneration period;
- to deliver the optimum land use balance for the benefit of the community in terms of land use mix and disposition of land uses;
- to deliver the requisite supporting infrastructure and facilities;
- to achieve for the area as a whole high quality urban design which is sympathetic to and respectful of the City's World Heritage status;
- to secure the necessary accessibility, linkages, permeability and transport infrastructure for Western Riverside, which enable it to integrate with the City as a whole; and
- to ensure that appropriate phasing and sequencing of development is secured to enable the regeneration of the area as a whole and not on a piecemeal basis.

1.4.6 The SPD will also adopt the above key principles and these will be refined and developed during the next stages of the SEA/SA process.

1.5 SEA/SA PROCESS AND METHODOLOGY

1.5.1 The SEA/SA process consists of the following stages and is being undertaken in accordance with government guidance issued in 2004 as amended and clarified by the further interim guidance in 2005³. The methodology is as follows:

- Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope
- Stage B: Developing and refining options
- Stage C: Appraising the effects of the plan
- Stage D: Consulting on the plan and the SEA/SA report
- Stage E: Monitoring Implementation of the Plan

1.5.2 For the purposes of this scoping report, Stage A of the methodology has been undertaken which is further divided into six key tasks (see table 1.1 below). Task A5 will be undertaken as part of the forthcoming sustainability workshop, however the remaining five tasks are discussed this report. Task A6 will be undertaken when this report is made available to the statutory consultees and other relevant stakeholders.

Table 1.1: Stage A Key tasks

STAGE A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on
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^{3 3} Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks Consultation Paper (ODPM, September 2004)

³ Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks Interim Note of Frequently Asked Questions (ODPM, April 2005)



the scope
Stage A1: Identifying other relevant plans, programmes, and sustainability objectives
Stage A2: Develop relevant baseline information and define the character of the area
Stage A3: Identifying key Sustainability Issues
Stage A4: Developing the SA framework including objectives, indicators and targets
Stage A5: Testing the plan objectives against the SA framework
Stage A6: Consulting on the scope of the SA

STAGE A1: IDENTIFYING OTHER RELEVANT PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES

1.5.3 The development of the SPD may be influenced by other plans or programmes and by external environmental objectives such as those laid down in policies or legislation. Therefore as part of this baseline review a description of the policy context has been included in order to enable potential synergies to be highlighted and any inconsistencies and constraints to be identified. Copies of the document review are contained within Appendix A.

STAGE A2: DEVELOP RELEVANT BASELINE INFORMATION AND DEFINE THE CHARACTER OF THE AREA

1.5.4 Baseline data has been collected for the criteria required by the SEA Directive and the UK SEA Regulations. The criteria are: landscape and townscape; biodiversity, flora and fauna; air quality; archaeology and cultural heritage; soils and geology; water; population; human health; material assets; and climatic factors. This data has been fed into the sustainability baseline. This scope of this data collection has been expanded to include several additional social and economic topic areas in order to address the full spectrum of sustainability issues.

1.5.5 The review of the baseline data on the current and likely future state of the environment has attempted to establish:

- Information on the current situation and trends where available;
- Detail of any established thresholds or targets and how the current situation relates to these; and
- The location of any particularly sensitive or important elements of the receiving environment affected, including people, resources, species, habitats etc.


STAGE A3: IDENTIFYING KEY SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES

1.5.6 Within the city of Bath and BWR, certain sustainability issues are more significant than others, e.g. high house prices could be a particular socio-economic constraint. These issues will need to be highlighted as areas of concern within the sustainability appraisal. These key sustainability issues were highlighted through the following means:

- Review of relevant regional and local plans and programmes
- Analysing baseline data and trends

1.5.7 The key sustainability issues have been divided into social, environmental and economic and included within section 3.

STAGE A4: DEVELOPING THE SA FRAMEWORK



1.5.8 A sustainability framework to test the performance of the options and the SPD has been developed. This framework is also helping to compare the strategic level plan objectives relating to the scale of growth, the general mix of uses and their general spatial location. It is also helping to develop the more detailed plan objectives which will be prepared for the preferred option.

1.5.9 The starting point for identifying a set of draft objectives specific to the Bath region were those objectives considered in the Sustainability Appraisal of the South West Regional Spatial Strategy. These were then compared to other regional and local documents.

1.5.10 The objectives may be refined further based on consultations with key stakeholders, either as a formal consultation response or as a result of information obtained during the workshop.

STAGE A5: TESTING THE SPD OBJECTIVES AGAINST THE SA FRAMEWORK

1.5.11 In line with the interim advice note produced by the ODPM in April, 2005, this part of the process will be undertaken during stage B following on from consultation on the scoping report.

STAGE A6: CONSULTATION ON THE SCOPE OF THE SA.

1.5.12 This report will be sent to the statutory consultees and other stakeholders with an interest in sustainability issues. This is discussed further in section 1.8.

SCOPE OF THE SEA/SA

1.5.13 It is envisaged that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be undertaken on the masterplan. This SEA/SA assessment is therefore being undertaken at a more strategic level (identifying potential development options) and it may be more appropriate for some sustainability / environmental issues to be considered in the EIA.

1.5.14 Baseline data and the development of the SEA/SA framework has been organised in accordance with the topics required by the SEA Directive and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

1.5.15 These topics are:

- Landscape and townscape;
- Biodiversity, flora and fauna;
- Air quality and Transport
- Archaeology and cultural heritage;
- Soils and geology (including landuse and waste);
- Water (this includes ground water and surface water quality and resources);
- Population;
- Human health;
- Material assets; and
- Climatic factors (this includes GHG emissions, energy, vulnerability e.g. flooding).

1.5.16 The scope of the baseline review has been refined to cover a broader spectrum of sustainability issues which are a reflection of the combined SEA/SA assessment and reflects government guidance on the preparation of sustainability assessments for SPD's.

1.5.17 These criteria cover:

-
- Education and Training;
 - Social inclusion;
 - Access to facilities and services;
 - Sense of security and crime prevention;
 - Skills and Employment (attainment and qualifications, skills pool, access to training etc); (baseline studies are currently being undertaken)
 - Economic Viability (financial viability (costs and benefits), environmental performance, engagement with stakeholders to reduce costs; funding etc); (baseline studies are currently being undertaken)
 - Enterprise and Investment (competitiveness and productivity, business opportunities, business clusters/innovation/networks, utility infrastructure, business support services etc); (baseline studies are currently being undertaken)

1.5.18 The majority of the local economic information has been derived from a local labour force survey.

1.6 THE SCOPING REPORT

1.6.1 The main aims of this scoping report are to:

- Present the methodology behind the development of the SEA/SA Framework and baseline data and the initial findings
- Present the main sustainability issues affecting Bath and appraisal objectives
- To lay out the proposed approach to the remainder of the SEA/SA.

1.6.2 The scoping report will be submitted to the consultation bodies under The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Statutory Instrument 2004 No. 1633) will have 5 weeks within which to respond. The Consultation Bodies are also being asked as part of the consultation on the scoping report to indicate whether in their opinion the SPD is likely to have significant environmental effects, as part of the determination process set out in Regulation 9 of the SEA Regulations. Copies of the report will also be made available to any stakeholders with an interest in the SPD and sustainability issues.

1.6.3 Further and wider consultation with stakeholders will take place when the Environmental/ Sustainability Report is made available along with the SPD.

1.7 THE STUDY AREA

1.7.1 Western Riverside' refers to an area of about 35 hectares west from Green Park Station. The area is about the same size as the centre of Bath. In general terms it is bounded to the north by the A4 Upper Bristol Road, to the south by the A36 Lower Bristol Road, to the east by Midland Bridge Road and to the west by Windsor Bridge Road. The River Avon flows on a predominantly east-west axis through the area. Three vehicular bridges and two pedestrian bridges cross the Avon within the area.

1.7.2 The area comprises a mixture of vacant and occupied land, nearly all of which is in private ownership. The existing land uses include the Waste Transfer Station and Household Waste Recycling Centre, large site compounds of Transco and Wessex Water, commercial and retail uses such as Sainsburys, Homebase, Green Park Station, several car showrooms along the Lower Bristol Road, employment uses such as the MoD Pines Way building, the Bath Press building and Victoria Business Park and residential uses along the Lower and Upper Bristol Road. About a third of the area including several Listed Buildings is within the Bath Conservation Area.

1.7.3 Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) for the site was adopted by the Council in July 2003. This can be found on the Council's website.



1.8 CONSULTATION

1.8.1 The consultation on this scoping report is in accordance with:

- Regulation 25 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004.
- Regulations set out in the Environmental Assessments of plans and programmes Regulations 2004.
- Article 5 (4) of the European Union Directive 2001/42/EEC

1.8.2 The scoping report will be sent to four statutory SEA consultation bodies with environmental responsibilities. These are:

Consultation Body
English Nature
The Heritage Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (English Heritage)
Environment Agency
Countryside Agency

1.8.3 In accordance with the Sustainability Appraisal Draft Guidance 2004, and as outlined in PPS12, other appropriate social and economic consultees will be contacted. These are as follows:

Stakeholder
Bath and North Somerset Council
British Waterways
Local Community Partnership Research Officer-Police Representative
Local Primary Healthcare Trust
Chamber of Commerce
Highways Agency
Joint Strategic Planning and Transportation Unit

1.8.4 The consultation will seek to:

- Seek guidance as to whether the SEA is required for the SPD (As per interim ODPM guidance)
- Ensure that the SA is comprehensive and robust enough to feed into the SPD and support this document during the later stages of full public consultation and examination;
- Advice on the appropriateness of the of the sustainability objectives
- Advise on the appropriateness of the key sustainability issues
- Advise on the comprehensiveness of the baseline data.

1.8.5 The scoping report will be issued to the statutory consultees and other relevant stakeholders along with a covering letter clarifying their input and requirements within the statutory five-week period.

1.8.6 1.8.7 It is proposed that a workshop is held with the Statutory Consultees and other relevant stakeholders to discuss the issues raised in the scoping report during the statutory five week period.



CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

1.8.7 Consultation questions have been asked at each stage of the scoping report. These questions are located at the end of each section and where relevant throughout the document.

1.8.8 PLEASE RETURN ANY COMMENTS ON THE ABOVE QUESTIONS OR ANY OTHER RELEVANT ISSUES WITHIN FIVE WEEKS OF RECEIPT OF THIS REPORT. THE COUNCIL IS ALSO INTERESTED IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION RELATING TO THE OBJECTIVES INDICATORS OR BASELINE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CITY. THE COUNCIL WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF THIS INFORMATION COULD BE SUPPLIED.

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2 Baseline Data and Plan and Policy Review

2.1 POLICY CONTEXT

2.1.1 This section provides a summary of relevant regional and local plans and programmes which could influence the SPD. Key aims, objectives and indicators have been identified from the regional and local plans and these have been incorporated into the SEA/SA framework and used to inform baseline data and the identification of key issues.

2.1.2 International and national policies have not been reviewed as it is assumed that the relevant sustainability objectives within these documents have been incorporated within the regional and local policy. These reviews are an on-going process however and should any further relevant plans or programmes be identified then these will be reviewed and incorporated within the assessment.

2.1.3 A document review proforma has been developed to standardise the information recorded from each policy review. Appendix A contains these policy review documents undertaken.

2.2 REGIONAL POLICY

2.2.1 A number of Regional Policies and Regional Planning Guidance exist that provides a regional framework for the preparation of local authorities development plans. The following strategies and plans that have been development on a regional scale have been reviewed to input into the sustainability appraisal;

Regional Sustainable Communities

2.2.2 Regional Sustainable Communities, developed by the Office of the Deputy Prime minister, sets out the agenda over the next five years to create safer, stronger, more successful places to live and work in the South West. It outlines much of the work that has been done already to create sustainable communities.


2.2.3 This has stemmed from the Governments work on developing sustainable communities. The Government Office in the South West have outlined a number of initiatives within the strategy that will be adopted to generate sustainable communities in which people thrive and prosper, with the homes they require, the security they want, the environment they deserve and the jobs they need.

Regional Planning Guidance (RPG10)

2.2.4 RPG 10, prepared by the Government Office for the South West, provides a regional spatial strategy within which local authority development plans and Local Transport Plans (LTPs) in the South West should be prepared. It sets out a broad development strategy for the period to 2016 and beyond and provides the spatial framework for other strategies and programmes. It sets out a vision for the region which is stated as; "Developing the region, in a sustainable way, as a national and European region of quality and diversity, where the quality of life for residents, the business community and visitors will be maintained and enhanced."

Regional Spatial Strategy

2.2.5 The Regional Spatial Strategy or RSS, is a new kind of plan which will take forward the current regional strategy contained in Regional Planning Guidance RPG10. The RSS will deal with long term development (to 2026) of the whole of the South West region.



2.2.6 The RSS will set a regional framework about 'where things go', what the scale of development should be, and the links between development of the region and broad issues such as healthcare, education and culture. One of the key features of the new plan will be to link overall development with basic infrastructure issues like transport, and to that end the RSS will contain a Regional Transport Strategy.

Regional Spatial Strategy Strategic Sustainability Appraisal (RSS SSA)

2.2.7 The South West Regional Assembly (SWRA) is intending to submit a draft Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) to the Deputy Prime Minister in December 2005. The RSS, is a new kind of plan which will take forward the current regional strategy contained in Regional Planning Guidance RPG10.

2.2.8 The RSS is required to be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 11 (PPS11 Regional Planning), and a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European SEA Directive 2001/42/EC. The SWRA has decided to meet these two requirements within a single assessment referred to as a Strategic Sustainability Assessment (SSA) that will also conform to the recent UK Guidance on SAs of RSSs and Local Development Frameworks.

2.2.9 The SSA process is divided into four stages which follows the development of the RSS. The RSS SSA updates previous work conducted on the scoping stage of the process in order to meet SEA requirements. The document is being used for consultation with the relevant statutory bodies.

2.2.10 This is a key document as the Sustainability Appraisal will provide objectives and indicators appropriate to the region and which can be used as a basis for the assessment of BWR.

Regional Economic Strategy

2.2.11 The Regional Economic Strategy (RES) provides clarity for decision-makers and stakeholders right across the region. It is intended to act an important tool that will help prioritise investment decisions and will help improve working between organisations across the region. In particular, the Strategy provides a basis for learning and for measuring success.

2.2.12 The key principles that underpin the strategy are Sustainable Development and Equality of Opportunity.

Joint West Regional Sustainable Development Framework

2.2.13 The document seeks to provide guidance and a strategic overview to regional and local strategies on how to integrate sustainable development into their policies, plans and projects and encourage better co-ordination of stakeholders. Ultimately the document aims to improve the quality of life for all in the south west.

2.2.14 The framework has fifteen key principles which form the basis of the S|D framework and objectives.

The Regional Strategy for the South West Environment, 2004-2014

2.2.15 A regional strategy for the South West's Environment sets out what is important about our region's environment. It identifies some of the good work already being carried out and to protect and enhance the environment and identifies opportunities for the future. It also highlights some significant threats to the environment; there is still much to be done in order to protect and enhance the environment for the future; integrating the needs of the environment with those of the economy and society. Emphasis on building on the way the SW is working together as a region for the environment. The term 'environment' is used throughout the document to

refer to the range of landscape, historic and built environment, natural resources, nature conservation and the interlinkages between them and with people.

The South West Climate Change Impact Study

2.2.16 The South West Climate Change Impact Study's principal aims are to describe the climate change scenarios projected for the South West in the coming century, identify the likely impacts of such change and suggest appropriate action by various agencies to respond to the challenges and opportunities presented by these impacts.

2.2.17 This work is being coordinated by the South West Climate Change Impacts Partnership (SWCCIP). Its mission is: "to investigate, inform and advise on the impacts of climate change in South West England".

The South West Framework for Regional Employment and Skills (FRESA)

2.2.18 The South West Framework for Employment and Skills Action (FRESA) aims to provide a single plan to identify what needs to happen to create and maintain a healthy labour market in the South West of England.

2.2.19 The framework has been developed to incorporate the vision for the South West of England which is that 'The South West of England will have an economy where the aspirations and skills of the people combine with the quality of the physical and cultural environment to provide a high quality of life and sustainable prosperity for everyone'.

2.2.20 The framework is delivered through the development of strategic objectives which are translated in to an action plan and key activities.

From Rubbish to Resource: The Regional Waste Strategy for the South West 2004 – 2020

2.2.21 The Draft Regional Waste Strategy proposes new ways to manage waste more effectively, and to realise the value of what is being thrown away.

2.2.22 The draft Waste Strategy sets out how the South West can deliver the 'South West Vision for Waste: Minimum Waste, Maximum Benefit'. The vision is for:

- The South West to become a minimum waste region by 2030, with households and businesses maximising opportunities for reuse and recycling.

LOCAL POLICY

2.2.23 The following describes the local plans, policies and strategies that exist for the Bath and North East Somerset Region.

Adopted Local Plan 1997

2.2.24 The Bath Local Plan has been prepared by Bath City Council as a Statutory Local Plan in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as amended by the Planning and Compensation Act 1991. The Plan guides development in the City of Bath up to 2001. It outlines the Council's policies for the use of land and related matters and includes an explanation of how these policies were reached.

2.2.25 Three principal issues form the basis for the Local Plan:-

- The underlying philosophy of conservation, i.e. safeguarding and enhancement of the assets of the City, and the protection of the quality of the environment;
- The growing concern for the effects of new development, traffic congestion, both vehicular and pedestrian, and the consequent introduction of restraint policies, to guide "growth" activity; and
- The inability of the City to grow in physical terms, i.e. the limitations on space.

Bath and North East Somerset Local Plan including minerals and waste polices revised deposit draft Local Plan 2003

2.2.26 The Local Plan covers the period from 1st April 1996 to 31st March 2011. It seeks to improve the area of Bath and North East Somerset's quality of life. It sets out policies for the use of land in the public interest, enabling development whilst protecting the environment.

2.2.27 The overriding objective of the Local Plan is "Balanced Communities", which means seeking to ensure that everyone within the District has a better quality of life. This is to be achieved through the availability of good homes with convenient access to jobs and services within a safe, attractive and accessible environment. Balanced Communities is also about giving people the opportunity to achieve their potential through education, participation and good health.

2.2.28 The Local Plan will help protect and enhance the character of places that are locally valued and identify areas which would benefit from improvement.

Sustainable Development Appraisal for the Bath and North East Somerset Local Plan Revised Deposit Draft 2003'

2.2.29 The planning system was reformed in 2004, replacing Structure and Local Plans with Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks, and making sustainability appraisal, including strategic environmental assessment, mandatory. The Local Plan is one of the last Local Plans being produced under the 'old' system, with a discretionary Sustainable Development Appraisal. The report is a summary of the Sustainable Development Appraisal for the Bath and North East Somerset Local Plan Revised Deposit Draft 2003, Pre-Inquiry Changes August 2004 and Further Pre-Inquiry Changes November 2004.

2.2.30 This document describes the context to Sustainable Development Appraisals, contains a report of the process undertaken, and a summary of the appraisal outcomes.

Bath and North East Somerset Housing Strategy 2002- 2011

2.2.31 The Bath and North East Somerset Housing Strategy outlines the aspirations and needs of the local communities and goes on to set out local priorities and objectives for housing across all tenures in Bath and North East Somerset. The strategy has been developed to incorporate B&NES Councils vision of 'making Bath and North East Somerset a better place to live, work and visit'.

Local Delivery Plan: Improving Health and Modernising Services 2004- 2008

2.2.32 The Local Delivery Plan (LDP) is a strategic framework setting out how partners will work together to improve the health and social care of local people and deliver local services. It is a rolling plan that is updated each year. The LDP is guided by a national set of objectives.

2.2.33 The LDP includes a commentary section detailing the current status of health of people in the area, health care provisions and outlines the current direction of health care provision through a set of targets and priorities, programs, financial resources, and performance arrangements.

2.2.34 These are translated into an Action Plan providing a suite of specific Implementation Plans.

Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy

2.2.35 The Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy sets out the necessary Inspection Strategy of the Bath and North East Somerset Council (B&NES) in identifying contaminated land under the Governments regulatory regime, referred to as the Part IIA regime. The document includes the proposed methodology for inspection of the District, identification of contaminated land and how all information gathered will be handled.

Bath and North East Somerset Racial Equality Scheme 2002- 2007

2.2.36 Bath and North East Somerset Council is committed to tackling discrimination, and has made race equality a priority area for Council work. The Council has gone on to develop a Race Equality Strategy and Action Plan, which will be incorporated into the Race Equality Scheme.

2.2.37 The scheme stems from the implications on public authorities under Section 71 of the Race Relations Act 1976 as amended by the Race Relations Act 2000 to promote race equality.

Schools Organisational Plan (SOP) 2003-2008

2.2.38 The Schools Organisational Plan (SOP) sets the context in which the Local Education Authority (LEA) will plan the supply of sufficient school places for the area and the provision of education appropriate to different pupils' ages, abilities and aptitudes. It provides a basic review of the current demographics and status of schools in the area of Bath and North East Somerset. It describes the extent to which the Authority's plans reflect and give expression to the national education policies for early years, primary and secondary education and post-16 provision. The plan uses this information as a basis to provide a framework up to 2008 on the development for schools in the area detailing the size, education and demographics for the area. .

Community Safety and Drugs Strategy 2005- 08

2.2.39 The Community Safety and Drugs Strategy draws together work conducted within the partnership over the last three years. The strategy provides an overview of the partnerships vision, values and aims and outlines the strategic priorities that need to be addressed. It is a statutory requirement for responsible authorities to work with other local agencies and organisations to develop and implement strategies to tackle crime and disorder and misuse of drugs in their area.

2.2.40 Therefore, the strategy outlines the priorities for action to formulate and implement a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder, specifically including anti-social behaviour and for combating drug misuse.

Bath and North East Somerset Economic Development Strategy


2.2.41 B&NES Council has developed a 10 year economic development strategy that encapsulates the vision 'to develop a thriving, distinctive, forward thinking and sustainable economy for Bath and North East Somerset'.

2.2.42 The strategy has been developed using three overarching themes of Sustainability, Partnership and Inclusion. Through stating the current economic context for the area an action plan is developed and set out in the strategy using four building blocks of Business Development and Growth, Community Regeneration, Skills and Training and Infrastructure and Environment. It highlights the issues and actions developed under these four building blocks to provide a strategy to strive towards the overall vision.

Local Biodiversity Action Plan

2.2.43 Wildthings is a partnership delivering local Biodiversity Action. The Wildthings website provides information about Wildthings and the Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) for Bath and North East Somerset.

- There are seven key themes of the Action Plan:
- Species and Habitats;
- Monitoring Change;
- Council Owned Land;

- 
-
- Tracking Wildlife;
 - Communication;
 - Education.
 - Communication

2.2.44 It is recognised that effort needs to be made to explain the concept of biodiversity action planning and the processes involved. Similarly, it must be well co-ordinated through good communication between partners.

2.2.45 There is a strong tradition of promoting public interest and participation in local wildlife issues, principally through the work of the Local Wildlife Trust and Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre (BRERC). However, until now there has been no specific campaign to raise local awareness about the concept of biodiversity and the process of biodiversity action planning. Also, until relatively recently, little has been done amongst voluntary and statutory agencies concerned with wildlife, to communicate, co-ordinate, and pool knowledge.

2.2.46 This plan focuses upon the latter to ensure that all those actively involved with local biodiversity action are aware of each other, and each other's activities and progress.

Council Owned Land

2.2.47 B&NES Council is committed to the sustainable management of land within its control. This requires appropriate and well informed management both to protect existing biodiversity value and develop biodiversity potential. This action plan sets out to establish and maintain a biologically rich network of Council managed land with particular regard to national, regional and local biodiversity targets.

2.2.48 The authority owns, manages and has responsibility for a wide variety of land, all of which has nature conservation value or potential, e.g. road verges, public parks, open spaces, schools grounds, orchards, woodlands, green lanes, riverbanks and cemeteries. The potential of this land to contribute to national and local biodiversity objectives is not fully known.

2.2.49 The majority of sites are used for specific purposes other than nature conservation, and have well-defined requirements of site management, however, these prime functions are often compatible with the protection and enhancement of local biodiversity, and the Council has a commitment to protect and enhance the biodiversity of such land.

2.2.50 The Council is also encouraged to make provision of green open spaces close to where people live, presenting opportunity to contribute to local biodiversity.

Education

2.2.51 Hands on experience of biodiversity must also be encouraged as a way of improving understanding and empowering people to take their own actions for biodiversity conservation.

2.2.52 As well as formal education, informal education can play an important role by engaging the wider community and increasing awareness. On-going work of non-governmental organisations and voluntary organisations is also important. Issues are:

Monitoring Change

2.2.53 Fourteen of the 29 individual species and habitat action plans for the South West of England are of direct relevance to B&NES and require monitoring, in addition to the specific B&NES species and habitat.

2.2.54 Wildlife projects in the B&NES area, in the past, have been 'stand-alone' projects and not well integrated. At present, baseline information is incomplete with only good data for plants, butterflies and birds.

Species and Habitats

2.2.55 B&NES is an extremely varied area with respect to the diversity of landscapes and includes The Cotswold AONB, the Mendips AONB, and the Bristol, Avon Valleys and Ridges Natural Area. The whole area is characterised by a diverse nature conservation interest, including two internationally important man-made habitats – Chew Valley Lake (Special Protection Area), and the Combe Down Stone Mines (candidate Special Area of Conservation). The B&NES area also contains many species that are highly valued by wildlife conservation bodies and by the general public.

Tracking Wildlife

2.2.56 It is important to understand distribution, extent and quality of biodiversity. Historical and up-to-date information is also required if the aims and objectives of both national and local biodiversity plans are to be achieved.

2.2.57 The Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre (BRERC) collects, manages and makes available detailed information. This data is collated from a number of different sources, is validated and then entered onto a database specially designed to receive wildlife information. The range and coverage of data varies for different species groups.

Better for Everyone: The Community Strategy for Bath and North East Somerset 2004 and beyond

2.2.58 This document is about maintaining and improving the things that make our communities better places to live in (such as clean streets, safe neighbourhoods and a green environment).

2.2.59 The strategy is intended to be a useful document that promotes working together, provides a framework for judging future plans and policies, and allows local communities to see what they can expect from their local public services over the next 10 years.

A Local Air Quality Strategy for Bath and North East Somerset Council

2.2.60 As part of its local air quality management work, Bath & North East Somerset Council (B&NES) has recognised the need to develop a Local Air Quality Strategy to ensure air quality is considered across a range of council activities. Air quality is encompassed within the Council's Performance Plan, which intends to 'make B&NES a better place to live, work and visit' (B&NES, 2000)

2.2.61 The strategy details the current Air Quality Management in the area, wider environmental frameworks and the Local Frameworks for delivering cleaner air.

2.2.62 It is hoped that the document will form the basis of a more comprehensive Local Air Quality Strategy for B&NES, as part of a wider area-based Air Quality Strategy for the former-Avon area, which was due for completion in 2003.

Joint Local Transport Plan (JLTP) 2005

2.2.63 A Local Transport Plan (LTP) is a five-year document setting out the Local Authorities' objectives for improving transport and detailing the ways in which this is to be achieved.

2.2.64 The four councils of Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol City, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire are developing a Local Transport Plan for the period 2006 - 2011 to meet the area's transport needs, increase transport choice and improve access to jobs, education and services for all.

2.2.65 It explains why the councils are working together; what the key transport issues facing the area are; what the priorities for transport in the area are; what has been achieved so far, and; what the council aims to achieve for the future.

City of Bath World Heritage Site Management Plan (2003-2009)

2.2.66 The Management Plan aims to provide a framework to conserve the cultural heritage assets of the World Heritage Site of Bath. The Plan outlines the main issues that challenge the World Heritage Site and addresses them through the following main aims:

- Promote sustainable management of the World Heritage Site;
- Ensure that the unique qualities and outstanding universal values of the World Heritage Site are understood and are sustained in the future;
- Sustain the outstanding universal values of the World Heritage Site whilst maintaining and promoting Bath as a living and working city which benefits from the status of the World Heritage Site;
- Improve physical access and interpretation, encouraging all people to enjoy and understand the World Heritage Site;
- Improve public awareness of and interest and involvement in the heritage of Bath, achieving a common local, national and international ownership of World Heritage Site management.

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 ARE THERE ANY OTHER PLANS OF PROGRAMMES RELEVANT TO THE SPD THAT HAVE NOT BEEN INCLUDED WITHIN THIS REVIEW?

2.3 EXISTING BASELINE CONDITIONS

2.3.1 This section presents a summary of the baseline review which highlights the characterisation of the area, trends, data and issues. Future baseline trends or issues will be identified during the course of the SEA/SA

2.3.2 The main baseline data is contained within Appendix B, whilst the main issues within each of the data areas have been listed below. Baseline data has been collated for each of the following topics as recommended in the guidance:

- Air Quality and Transport
- Landscape and townscape
- Biodiversity, Flora And Fauna
- Water
- Archaeology And Cultural Heritage
- Soils And Geology
- Climatic Factors
- Investment In Business And Private Assets
- Material Assets
- Population
- Human Health
- Social Inclusion
- Access to facilities and services
- Crime And Safety

- Skills and learning

2.3.3 Within these areas, a number of baseline data gaps have been identified. These are:

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- Gap exists on number of schools places available/ establishments
- Number of schools

ACCESS TO FACILITIES AND SERVICES-

- Distance and number of hospitals in locality
- Number of doctors in the locality

ECONOMIC VIABILITY

- Financial Viability (Cost and benefits)

ENTERPRISE AND INVESTMENT

- Competitiveness
- Vat Registrations

2.3.4 The following baseline data has been identified however and is thought to be appropriate to this assessment

AIR QUALITY AND TRANSPORT

2.3.5 The City of Bath has a history of poor air quality, due to emissions from road traffic in conjunction with poor dispersion. The city lies within a basin, which restricts dispersion and results in higher pollutant concentrations. Concentrations of nitrogen dioxide are of particular concern in the area.

2.3.6 Bath & NES Council has declared one Air Quality Management Area (for Nitrogen Dioxide) at London Road. The proposed development site and access roads do not currently lie within an Air Quality Management Area, although the Local Authority have recently re-assessed this area during 2004 and are considering declaration.

2.3.7 Traffic surveys have indicated high traffic levels. Public transport use and cycling and walking are low in comparison to other cities.

WATER

2.3.8 The site lies on both sides of the River Avon which is within an important but under utilised wildlife corridor, which is of low landscape quality.

2.3.9 There are no further surface streams or open water bodies on the site.

2.3.10 Extensive groundwater contamination has been identified on site which is moving away from the river.

2.3.11 Groundwater contamination has also been encountered on the site.

2.3.12 The stretches of the River Avon between central Bath and Swineford (downstream of Kelston) have a River Quality Objective of RE3: 'water of fair quality suitable for high-class fish populations' (EA, 2000).

2.3.13 The site lies just above the floodplain. Information on the Environment Agency website states that the area of bath Western Riverside is one that is unlikely to flood except in extreme conditions. However, the flood maps on the Environment Agency website show that the extent of extreme flood covers the majority of the site and flooding is an issue in other parts of Bath such as at Southgate.

2.3.14 Bath has the only hot springs in Britain. The hot springs are situated within a meander of the River Avon, near Bath Abbey. 250, 000 gallons of water, at a temperature of about 46 C (117°F), flow from the springs each day (McCann et al). Thermal water rises to the centre of the city at the King's Spring, Cross Bath Spring and Hetling spring via a geological fault. Section 33 of the County of Avon Act 1982 confers legal protection on the hot springs. Source: Supplementary Planning Guidance 2003

LANDSCAPE AND TOWNSCAPE

2.3.15 The site is located on the valley floor of the River Avon (which is the main natural feature), within the urban area of Bath lying some 1.5km to the west of the city centre. The underlying geology and associated landscape features and landform underpin the distinctive Avon Valley landscape.

2.3.16 The site lies within close proximity to a number of regional character settings including:

- Hinton Blewett and Newton St Loe Plateau Lands (no 6)
- Avon Valley (No 14)
- Cotswolds Plateaux and Valleys (No 16)

2.3.17 Land use at the BWR site consists of the following:

- Vacant Plots awaiting development,
- River Avon
- Retail and Commercial
- A few public right of way lie within the site, mainly associated with the river.

2.3.18 There are a number of buildings on site some of which are of cultural and historic importance.

2.3.19 There is no designated Public Open Space (POS) on the site.

BIODIVERSITY, FLORA AND FAUNA

2.3.20 There are no international or national ecological designations on the proposed area or within a 2km radius of the site boundary. There are a number of Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) within 2km of the site, although of most relevance is the River Avon (part of) SNCI which bisects the Core Site and St James Cemetery SNCI which adjoins the southern boundary of this site.

2.3.21 The River Avon is considered to be one of the most important habitats on site.

2.3.22 Species surveys have identified the presence of some protected fauna species such as badger, bats, otters and kingfishers. No protected flora have been identified.

2.3.23 Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam has been recorded on site.

ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

2.3.24 Bath is the only complete city in the UK to be inscribed on the UNESCO List of World Heritage Sites.

2.3.25 The City of Bath is designated as a World Heritage Site largely because of the Roman remains, the 18th century spa city, innovative architecture and town planning and the harmonious blending of architecture with landscape. Bath, and the development area, also has a higher than average number of listed buildings on site.

2.3.26 Bath has a particularly important stock of listed buildings. Several listed buildings/ structures reside within the SPD area, the most notable being Greenpark Station and Victoria Bridge.

2.3.27 There is also the possibility of the presence of prehistoric remains on site.

SOILS, GEOLOGY AND WASTE

2.3.28 The historic core of the city of Bath sits upon a clay and gravel promontory of the River Avon. The river valley cuts through the Jurassic Limestone that forms the Cotswolds to the north and downland to the south. The site is confined within the Avon Valley, situated within the floodplain.

2.3.29 The majority of the proposed development area is Brownfield land of which significant soil contamination has been identified.

2.3.30 The quantities of recycled material (particularly rubble) has increased steadily since 1998 and shows a positive future trend. The overall recycling rate has increased from 15.9% in 1998-99 to 28.8% in 2003/04.

2.3.31 Waste disposal has decreased from 23,000 tonnes per annum in 1998/99 to 18,000 tonnes in 2003/04

CLIMATIC FACTORS

2.3.32 Bath currently produces approximately 1% of its energy from renewable sources against an overall target of 11-15%.

2.3.33 There are a lower than average number of trees on the proposed development area.

2.3.34 Wind data from the weather station at Lyneham Airfield has been used in microclimate studies to assess wind conditions surrounding the site of the proposed development at Bath Western Riverside. Over the last five years (2000-2004) the prevailing wind direction is from the southwest quadrant blowing for approx 50% of the year, followed by the northeast quadrant for approx 20% of the year.

2.3.35 The wind speed on the site on the whole is suitable for pedestrian activities

MATERIAL ASSETS

2.3.36 In 2001, there were 71,115 households (97 percent of residents) who lived in households. The remainder of the population lived in communal establishments.

2.3.37 In 1999 a housing survey identified the need for some 1,730 subsidised affordable homes in the district in the period 2000 – 2006. In addition there is a need for 250 low cost market houses.

2.3.38 House prices in the city of Bath are significantly higher than the national average.

2.3.39 There is existing water and sewerage infrastructure on site.

2.3.40 The River Avon is crossed by several bridges in close vicinity of the site.

2.3.41 There are a number of buildings on the site such as historic and listed buildings; warehouse and storage facilities, gas works, and retail facilities.

POPULATION

2.3.42 The resident population of Bath and North East Somerset, as measured in the 2001 Census, was 169,040, of which 49 per cent were male and 51 per cent were female.

2.3.43 Population demographics in the Bath and North East Somerset region do not differ significantly compared to the national average.

HUMAN HEALTH

2.3.44 There are a higher number of residents in Bath and North East Somerset describing their health as good when compared to the national average. In general Bath appears to have a healthy population.

2.3.45 A significantly lower percentage of residents in Bath and North East Somerset have a limiting long-term illness when compared to the national average.

2.3.46 Life expectancy is generally higher and premature death is generally lower in Bath and North East Somerset when compared to the England and Wales average.

2.3.47 Bath and North East Somerset Council have a number of targets for the region to reduce health inequalities.

2.3.48 No health related facilities are present on the BWR site.

SOCIAL INCLUSION

2.3.49 The three wards surrounding the within and surrounding the BWR site have a high degree of social inclusion when compared to other areas in the UK.

ACCESS TO FACILITIES AND SERVICES

CURRENTLY A BASELINE DATA GAP TO BE COMPLETED

CRIME AND SAFETY

2.3.50 Residents of Bath and North East Somerset have a fear of crime despite having lower than average crime figures.

INVESTMENT IN BUSINESS AND PRIVATE ASSETS

2.3.51 There are over 6000 businesses in the Bath and North East Somerset area. Over 93% of these businesses employ less than 25 people, accounting for 35% of the workforce - a higher proportion than for the South West as a whole (32%). Less than 1 % of businesses employ more than 200 people, accounting for around 26% of the workforce - significantly less than the South West average of 32%.

2.3.52 Public Administration and Health represent the biggest source of employment in Bath and North East Somerset.

2.3.53 Approximately 30% of working residents in Bath and North east Somerset work outside the authority area. Similarly there are a high number of residents who travel outside of Bath to work.

2.3.54 Business birth rates in Bath and North East Somerset are amongst the highest in the UK and survival rates are above national average. GDP per person and employment rates are above regional and UK average respectively.

2.3.55 Tourism is a significant source of income for the Bath and North East Somerset economy.

SKILLS AND LEARNING

2.3.56 Of the working age population of Bath and North East Somerset, 32.8% hold an HND Degree and Higher Degree Level qualification or equivalent compared to a GB average of 24.2%.

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q2 IS THE BASELINE DATA APPROPRIATE TO THE SPD?

Q3 IS THERE ANY OTHER RELEVANT BASELINE DATA?

Q4 ARE THERE ANY INACCURACIES OR ANOMALIES IN THE DATA?



3 Summary of Key Issues

3.1 INTRODUCTION

3.1.1 The Directive requires that the environmental problems be identified and analysed in the Environmental/Sustainability Report. This section identifies environmental, social and economic issues that have been identified as part of the baseline review.

3.1.2 Table 3.1 below lists the main issues identified within the baseline review. These issues have been used to generate draft objectives which can feed into the SPD.



SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES	SUPPORTING EVIDENCE	HOW CAN THE SPD ADDRESS THIS
AIR QUALITY AND TRANSPORT		
Road transport is a significant source of airborne pollution in Bath.	2001 Air Quality Report. 2001, Bath & NES Council.	The SPD will need to limit traffic generation due to the redevelopment of the Western Riverside site so as not to contribute to the problem. Good cycling and walking access to the town centre and facilities such as shops, entertainment, leisure, health centres and employment sites, and major transport nodes (such as the railway station and bus interchange) will be required as well as road design / traffic management measures to encourage free-flow traffic conditions. Car parking standards should have regard to existing and potential excellent public transport links. Any bus stops built as part of the development will need to have raised kerbs and shelters as very few have at present (5.2 % have raised kerbs and 17% have a shelter). The SPD should look to encourage a reduced reliance on the private car and enhance public transport system and other transport nodes. The SPD should look to ensure that any proposals for development deliver a high
Results from ozone monitoring show pollution episodes during summer months caused by meteorological conditions.	Emissions Inventory. Bath & NES Council, 2004.	
There are areas in Bath where there are high numbers of vehicles and congestion. Monitoring results show that nitrogen dioxide levels are exceeding the national objectives at roadside locations on busy roads (namely the Upper Bristol Road, Lower Bristol Road, and Windsor Bridge areas).	Bath Western Riverside. Environmental Impact Assessment. Updated Baseline Report. WSPE, March 2005. B&NES Stage 3 Air Quality Review and Assessment 2001.	
Any bus stops built as part of the development will need to have raised kerbs and shelters as very few have at present (5.2 % have raised kerbs and 17% have a shelter).	Community Strategy Indicators Progress Report – January 2005. Bath & NES Council, 2005.	
Studies of modal split carried out in 1999 showed that the majority of trips per 12 hour day were made by car (110,931 trips) with bus (10,310 trips) and park and Ride (1,829 trips).	Feasibility Study of Future Public Transport Options for Bath. Hyder Consulting, 2000.	
•Bath has low levels of cycling due mainly to heavy traffic volumes and the lack of cycle	WSP Development (2004), Bath Western Riverside, Transport Audit Report- Volume 1- Network Audit.	



SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES	SUPPORTING EVIDENCE	HOW CAN THE SPD ADDRESS THIS
networks. One of main cycle networks is the Bath Western Riverside Path which runs adjacent to the site.		<p>quality rapid transport link with a high degree of separation from Newbridge to link to the city centre</p> <p>The SPD should look to encourage cycling by providing access to the BWR cycle path.</p>
WATER		
The River Avon runs through the proposed site. This is of significant importance, although it has a low landscape quality. It is the receptor of urban and agricultural run-off.	Bath Scheme. Wessex Water, 2004. http://www.wessexwater.co.uk/bath/sub_bath.aspx?id=288	Groundwater contamination would have to assessed and remediated according to the risk posed to the proposed end user.
The River Avon has a water quality that has been designated as fair quality.	Bath CSOs projects. Wessex Water,2002. http://www.wessexwater.co.uk/uploadedFiles/bath/txt_chap6.pdf	To work in combination with the Bath Combines Sewer Overflows project to carry out enhancement works on the Newton Brook to improve the visual amenity.
Groundwater contamination has been identified on site and may pose a risk to development.		The SPD should ensure that the water quality of the Avon is maintained and enhanced where possible.
Improvement of the amenity value of the Newton Brook	Bath and North East Somerset Council (2004), Thermal Resource Project, http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/BathNES/councilinformation/Spa	The SPD should consider that a development compliments the need to reduce the possibility of flooding within the River Avon catchment.
A flood risk assessment may be required to assess the risk to the site.		The SPD should recommend that an assessment of any potential impact of a proposed development on groundwater and
Any development within the area must not		



SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES	SUPPORTING EVIDENCE	HOW CAN THE SPD ADDRESS THIS
<p>affect the integrity of Bath's hot springs as they are a valuable natural resource.</p>		<p>the thermal springs must be included within the Environmental Assessment and taken into account in formulation of the remediation plan.</p> <p>The SPD should encourage the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Schemes where possible as well as the use of water conservation measures.</p>
LANDSCAPE AND TOWNSCAPE		
<p>The site lies within an area designated as a World Heritage Site.</p>	<p>Bath Western Riverside. Draft Townscape and Visual Baseline Report (Core Site).</p>	<p>The SPD should outline that any development should compliment the current visual setting and character area and should preserve the listed buildings on site. Any developments should be sensitive to the internally important cityscape.</p> <p>It is important to appreciate that any built form on the site is designed in the knowledge that it can be seen from many different areas and a series of facades and therefore, any development should be sensitive to this.</p> <p>The appropriate amount of public open space should be allocated to adhere to the Six Acre Standard.</p>
<p>The core site lies partly in and adjacent to Bath's Conservation Area and has a number of listed building on site.</p>		
<p>The site lies within close proximity to a number of regional character settings including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Hinton Blewett and Newton St Loe Plateau Lands (No. 6) ■ Avon Valley (No. 14) ■ Cotswolds Plateaux and Valleys (No. 16) 		
<p>A few rights of way lie within the site.</p>		



SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES	SUPPORTING EVIDENCE	HOW CAN THE SPD ADDRESS THIS
No public open space lies within the site.		<p>Developments should consider and not conflict with the regional character settings for the area.</p> <p>The SPD should preserve rights of way.</p> <p>The SPD should recommend that an environmental impact assessment for any proposed development should include a townscape and visual assessment of the redevelopment area having regard to the development plan policies and designations.</p>
BIODIVERSITY, FLORA AND FAUNA		
The River Avon represents a valuable habitat which could be enhanced. The river is an important wildlife corridor, valuable to a number of species running through the centre of Bath.	<p>Reference: Bath Western Riverside: River Avon Habitat and Corridor Survey. Environmental Gain Ltd., 2004</p> <p>Reference: Bath Western Riverside Draft Phase 1 Habitat Survey. WSPE, April 2005.</p>	The SPD needs to ensure that the habitats identified within the site which are important for a range of common species including birds and invertebrates are protected. Ecological enhancement through the development should be considered.
Badgers may be present on the site. The status of badgers should be confirmed through monitoring. If they are present suitable mitigation will be required when the site is redeveloped.	Bath Western Riverside Environmental Impact Assessment. Updated Baseline Report. WSPE, March 2005.	<p>The SPD should address the issue of a severe decline in local nature reserves</p> <p>The SPD should encourage the enhancement of the River Avon and its banks.</p>
Post industrial sites are a LBAP habitat. The importance of this habitat particularly for rare		Ensure that the invasive species infestations



SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES	SUPPORTING EVIDENCE	HOW CAN THE SPD ADDRESS THIS
<p>invertebrates and flora should be given further consideration and mitigated appropriately within the proposals.</p>		<p>are controlled in order to avoid future spread.</p>
<p>The habitats of high ecological value such as the River Avon and mature trees should be incorporated into development plans where possible and protected during development. The loss of these habitats would require justification and mitigation/compensation</p>		
<p>The Community Strategy Indicators progress report (2005) reports a dramatic increase in the number of residents per hectare of local nature reserves (LNR).</p>		
<p>Invasive species (Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam) if found to be present on a site should be removed and their spread controlled.</p>		
ARCHAEOLOGY & CULTURAL HERITAGE		
<p>Development needs to have consideration for the city's status as a world heritage site.</p>	<p>Reference: Bath Western Riverside. Draft Townscape and Visual Baseline Report (Core Site). WSPE, March 2005.</p>	<p>The SPD should recommend a full archaeological assessment at the EIA level due to the potential for archaeological remains.</p>
<p>Listed buildings on and adjacent to the site and therefore there is a need to consider their</p>	<p>Reference: Bath Western Riverside. Geotechnical Test Pitting: Watching Brief</p>	<p>There is a need to consider the fabric and setting of listed buildings on and adjacent to</p>



SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES	SUPPORTING EVIDENCE	HOW CAN THE SPD ADDRESS THIS
fabric and setting.	Report. Wessex Archaeology, 2005.	the site. The design of development within the SPD will need to have consideration for the city's status as a world heritage site and the conservation area in which the site lies.
Possible presence of pre-historic sites due to records in the wider area.		
SOILS, GEOLOGY AND WASTE		
There is extensive contamination near the old gas works, which will require a large proportion of the soil to be remediated, especially in future residential areas.	What Happens to Waste? Bath & North East Somerset Council, 2005. Bath Western Riverside Environmental Impact Assessment. Updated Baseline Report. WSPE, March 2005.	Remediation of contaminated land will have to be undertaken to ensure that the risk to human health will be minimised. The SPD should ensure adequate provision for waste disposal will be needed. These should compliment the aims of waste management and recycling targets set by the Local Authority. Recycling schemes should be encouraged through the SPD.
Any development may lead to increases in waste of either trade or household. Provision will have to be made to dispose of this correctly.		
Recycling rates are increasing in Bath		
CLIMATIC FACTORS		
A low percentage of energy production in Bath comes from renewable sources.		The SPD should encourage the adoption of renewable and efficient energy production. The use of Combined Heat and Power, energy efficient construction and photovoltaic cells should be encouraged.



SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES	SUPPORTING EVIDENCE	HOW CAN THE SPD ADDRESS THIS
		The SPD should ensure that any development proposals take into account the issues of microclimate such as wind and daylight.
MATERIAL ASSETS		
House prices significantly higher than national average	Neighbourhoods. National Statistics, 2001.	The SPD should require an appropriate housing mix including the provision of an element of affordable housing that meets identified housing need in accordance with council policies.
There is a need to provide a substantial amount of affordable housing.	Community Strategy Indicators Progress Report – January 2005. Bath & NES Council, 2005.	
There is water and sewerage supply at the site.		<p>The SPD should use existing water and sewerage infrastructure where possible.</p> <p>The SPD should look to ensure that any proposed development builds water efficiency principles into the design through sustainable construction.</p> <p>The SPD should also increase the housing stock to meet demand.</p>
POPULATION		
Not all 3 years old have access to a good quality, free, early years education place (latest figure is 84.6%).	B&NES Community Safety Audit. 2001/02-2003/04. Bat & NES Council, 2004.	The SPD should aim to maximise job opportunities to local residents whilst encouraging other commuters.
Although lower than the national average,	Neighbourhoods. National Statistics, 2001.	The SPD should consider education provision



SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES	SUPPORTING EVIDENCE	HOW CAN THE SPD ADDRESS THIS
unemployment rates are still an issue in Bath.		and making this available and accessible. These should compliment the local authorities' targets for further education and education provision.
Demographics in the area do not differ considerably with national figures		
Generally the occupants of Bath have a good level of education that is higher than the national average		Any change in demographics should ensure that there are adequate services including school places.
HUMAN HEALTH		
In comparison to national statistics the Bath area has better standard of health when considering the indicators which reflect 'good health'.	Neighbourhoods. National Statistics, 2001. PCT Local Delivery Plan: Improving Health and Modernising Services 2004/2008 Bath and Northeast Somerset Primary Care Trust and bath and Northeast Somerset Council Community Strategy Indicators Progress Report – January 2005. Bath & NES Council, 2005.	The SPD should consider the targets set by the Local Delivery Plan to improve the general health in the area. The SPD should ensure that accessible health provision exists for any new development. Incorporating environments that stimulate a healthy environment should also be considered including access to walkways, cycle paths and facilities for sport and recreation.
Targets exist to decrease the amount of deaths that arise through accidents, cancer, suicide and circulatory diseases.		
SOCIAL INCLUSION		
The area in Bath has a low degree of deprivation in comparison to national figures. This takes into account the seven indicators used to determine social inclusion which forms	Reference: Community Strategy Indicators Progress Report – January 2005. Bath & NES, 2005.	Any development should consider the need to provide access to services and infrastructure to provide for social inclusion



SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES	SUPPORTING EVIDENCE	HOW CAN THE SPD ADDRESS THIS
the Index of Social Deprivation.	Indices of deprivation. Bath & NES Council, 2005.	Development should work towards the aspects of social inclusion inter alia education, skills and services provision, employment and living environment.
INVESTMENT IN BUSINESS AND PRIVATE ASSETS		
A high dependency on employment within the public sector.		Due to the amount of in and out-commuting occurring in Bath, the SPD should be promoting mixed use development, with residential and commercial uses.
Around 30% of working residents in Bath and North East Somerset work outside of the area, ranking fifth amongst the other South West local authorities. Similarly, in-commuters account for nearly one third of the Bath and North East Somerset workforce.		The SPD should ensure a proportion of the development is for commercial use in order to meet demand for premises identified in the city.
Although there are high employment rates within the area it would appear that there are not sufficient job opportunities available to local residents, as there is considerable movement of high occupation workers travelling to other areas for work. It would appear from studies that there is a lack of appropriate skilled jobs in the area. In other cases employees are travelling into the Bath and North East Somerset area for low skilled, low wage jobs.		SPD should encourage incoming businesses to be in a scheme which actively reduces waste.
		SPD should ensure that all incoming businesses to the site have an effective and realistic travel plan.



SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES	SUPPORTING EVIDENCE	HOW CAN THE SPD ADDRESS THIS
Highest demand for premises is for retail/hospitality:		
ACCESS TO SERVICES		
BASELINE DATA GAP		The SPD should ensure that all residents/users of the BWR area have access to an appropriate level of services such as health, education, leisure, public transport etc.etc
CRIME & SAFETY		
People in Bath are worried about violent crime, young people and anti-social behaviour	British Crime Survey (2003/04) http://www.crimestatistics.org.uk/output/Page54.asp Crime and Disorder. Bath & NES Council, 2005.	SPD will need to ensure designs to reduce risk of anti-social behaviour and take into consideration any risk assessment undertaken by the police. As far as possible the SPD should consider the local priorities including alcohol misuses, community confidence, drug misuse, volume crime and young people and crime by considering measures to help to reduce the negative effects of these aspects.
SKILLS AND LEARNING		
		The SPD should require the provision of educational facilities that will be required by the development of the area and that would not



SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES	SUPPORTING EVIDENCE	HOW CAN THE SPD ADDRESS THIS
		already be met.



CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q5 DO YOU AGREE THAT THESE ARE THE KEY ISSUES FOR THE BWR SPD

Q6 SHOULD ANY ISSUES BE ADDED OR REMOVED

3.2 LEVELS OF RISK AND UNCERTAINTY

3.2.1 The SEA/SA for the Bath SPD is an iterative process, whereby the options and development design for the plan are revised to take into account the findings of the SEA/SA. At this early stage there are technical, procedural and other difficulties encountered and assumptions and uncertainties need to be made. Within the work undertaken so far the difficulties and the uncertainty encountered includes:

3.2.2 A number of these uncertainties will be addressed in subsequent stages of the SEA/SA as the preferred masterplan is determined.



4 SEA/SA Objectives Framework and Appraisal Matrix

4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 This section describes the methodology used to develop the draft sustainability objectives and the appraisal matrix. The objectives framework will consist of those sustainability objectives deemed to be of particular importance and relevance to the Bath and North East Somerset region and the BWR area. Each of the objectives within this framework will consist of sub-objectives (criteria), indicators and targets which can be used to guide collection of the baseline data and monitoring information.

4.1.2 The appraisal matrix will be used to assess the performance of the development options and the final chosen option, i.e. the draft SPD. This matrix will group the objectives into the relevant SEA/SA topic areas (material assets, climatic factors etc.etc). These will then be used to assess the objectives.

4.2 SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES METHODOLOGY

4.2.1 Objectives and criteria are used within the SEA/SA to describe, analyse and compare environmental effects. The Strategic Sustainability Assessment of the south west Regional Spatial Strategy was used as the main starting point for a set of draft objectives for the SEA/SA of the BWR SPD. A gap analysis of these objectives was then undertaken with the following documents to identify objective gaps:

- South West Regional Sustainable Development Strategy
- Bath and North East Somerset Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal
- Community Strategy
- Other documents reviewed

4.2.2 Information from the baseline data review and from the policy review were also used to modify the framework. Guidance on the framework was also sought from 'A Draft Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (ODPM, July 2004) and Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks Consultation Paper' (ODPM, September 2004).

4.2.3 Table 4.1 (below) lists the draft sustainability objectives for the Bath Western Riverside site and the draft SPD. The table also highlights which objectives are common to the policies and plans reviewed. It is intended that these objectives will be further refined and expanded with sub-objectives during the workshop.



Table 4.1. The draft Sustainability Objectives for the SEA/SA

	South West Regional Spatial Strategy Strategic Sustainability	South West Regional Sustainable Development Strategy, 2001	B&NES Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal, 2002/2003	Community Strategy "BE: Better for Everyone", 2004	Other local and regional documents reviewed	Link to sustainability issue identified in the baseline
ENVIRONMENTAL						
Minimise consumption of natural resources including minerals	√	√				
Promote efficient and renewable energy sources such as combined heat and power and photovoltaic cells, whilst reducing the adverse environmental impacts of all forms of energy production such as greenhouse gas emissions.	√	√	√		√	
Reduce risk to the community, business and the environment from climate change (including flooding, sea level rise, changes in temperature and precipitation)	√	√	√		√	√
Protect and enhance built heritage and conserve archaeological sites	√	√				√



	South West Regional Spatial Strategy Strategic Sustainability	South West Regional Sustainable Development Strategy, 2001	B&NES Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal, 2002/2003	Community Strategy "BE: Better for Everyone", 2004	Other local and regional documents reviewed	Link to sustainability issue identified in the baseline
Protect sites designated for their conservation, heritage and landscape value						✓
Protect, maintain and enhance wildlife corridors, biodiversity, habitats and species through consultation with BAP partners	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Raise understanding and awareness of biodiversity					✓	
Protect and enhance the urban and rural landscape and promote the efficient use of land.	✓	✓	✓			
Promote more sustainable transport and reduce the need to travel by private car, by improving access to and choices between modes of transport such as public transport, cycling and walking	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Encourage a switch from transporting freight by road to rail or water	✓					
Promote fuel efficient transport systems accessible to all		✓				✓



	South West Regional Spatial Strategy Strategic Sustainability	South West Regional Sustainable Development Strategy, 2001	B&NES Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal, 2002/2003	Community Strategy "BE: Better for Everyone", 2004	Other local and regional documents reviewed	Link to sustainability issue identified in the baseline
Improve air quality by reducing emissions to air		√			√	√
Maintain or reduce noise levels and minimise light pollution	√		√			?
Encourage water efficiency, recycling of water and the use of sustainable urban drainage systems	√		√			
Protect and maintain soil stability and soil groundwater and surface water quality.	√	√				√
Promote the reclamation / remediation and redevelopment of brownfield land and re-use buildings where appropriate.			√		√	√
Promote sustainable design			√			



	South West Regional Spatial Strategy Strategic Sustainability	South West Regional Sustainable Development Strategy, 2001	B&NES Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal, 2002/2003	Community Strategy "BE: Better for Everyone", 2004	Other local and regional documents reviewed	Link to sustainability issue identified in the baseline
Minimise waste production and manage in accordance with the waste hierarchy	✓	✓	✓			?
Promote high quality local food and drink (green purchasing policy?)		✓				
Reconnect farmers and food producers with local communities		✓				
Maintain and increase total areas of open space and improve access to and quality of open space and rights of way.			✓			✓
SOCIAL						
Reduce health inequalities and improve the well-being of the city's population	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Promote healthy lifestyles by providing recreational facilities	✓		✓		✓	



	South West Regional Spatial Strategy Strategic Sustainability	South West Regional Sustainable Development Strategy, 2001	B&NES Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal, 2002/2003	Community Strategy "BE: Better for Everyone", 2004	Other local and regional documents reviewed	Link to sustainability issue identified in the baseline
Provide access to services and facilities that meets peoples' needs, capitalising on ICT	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Reduce risk of anti-social behaviour through consultation with the Police					✓	?
To offer everyone whether they are owner occupiers, first time buyers, social tenants, key workers or people who rent privately the opportunity of a decent home at a price they can afford.	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Promote vibrant, cohesive and safe communities with sense a of place and identity, where local needs are met locally	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Encourage increased access to and participation in cultural activities in the city	✓	✓	✓			
Improve education opportunities and ensure there are sufficient school					✓	



	South West Regional Spatial Strategy Strategic Sustainability	South West Regional Sustainable Development Strategy, 2001	B&NES Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal, 2002/2003	Community Strategy "BE: Better for Everyone", 2004	Other local and regional documents reviewed	Link to sustainability issue identified in the baseline
places to meet local need						
Enhance equality of all sections of society			√	√	√	
ECONOMIC						
Develop the local economy in ways that meet local peoples' needs and skills base and provides employment opportunities.	√		√		√	
Reduce poverty, unemployment, income inequality and low pay	√	√				
Provide access to learning, training, skills and knowledge for all sections of society	√	√	√	√	√	
Increase the circulation of wealth within the region	√	√				
Ensure the necessary infrastructure to support a more sustainable and diverse economy and encourage business growth.		√	√		√	



	South West Regional Spatial Strategy Strategic Sustainability	South West Regional Sustainable Development Strategy, 2001	B&NES Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal, 2002/2003	Community Strategy "BE: Better for Everyone", 2004	Other local and regional documents reviewed	Link to sustainability issue identified in the baseline
Develop greater integration with key economic sectors		√				
Promote sustainable tourism which conserves and enhances the environment, has the support of local communities and encourages visitors throughout the year.		√				
Maintain and/ or enhance the attractiveness, vitality and economic viability of town centres			√			

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q7 ARE THE ABOVE OBJECTIVES SUITABLE FOR THE CITY OF BATH?

Q8 IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO RANK THE OBJECTIVES TO HELP ASSESS TO OPTIONS, CAN YOU PRIORITISE THE OBJECTIVES?

4.3 THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL MATRIX

4.3.1 This section describes the methodology used to develop the draft sustainability objectives and the appraisal matrix. The objectives framework will consist of those sustainability objectives deemed to be of particular importance and relevance to the Bath and North East Somerset region and the BWR area. Each of the objectives within this framework will consist of sub-objectives (criteria), indicators and targets which can be used to guide collection of the baseline data and monitoring information.

4.3.2 The appraisal matrix will be used to assess the performance of the development options and the final chosen option, i.e. the SPD. This matrix will group the objectives into the relevant SEA/SA topic areas (material assets, climatic factors etc. etc). These will then be used to assess the objectives.

4.3.3 The format of the framework is based on Figure 20 of the A Draft Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (ODPM, July 2004). This table has been altered and a separate table will be produced for each assessment.

4.3.4 Significance is assessed based on the consideration of the following factors:

- Magnitude
- Duration, permanence, frequency and reversibility
- Magnitude and spatial extent
- Probability of effect
- Secondary, cumulative, synergistic effects
- Value of environment
- Special characteristics (e.g. strategic importance, vulnerability, rarity)
- Exceed environmental quality standards or limit values
- Recognised status
- Effect on quality of life

4.3.5 Table 4.1 can be used to assess the relative performance of each option using positive, negative or neutral symbols. Next steps and possible mitigation measures are suggested and additional symbols are added in brackets where it is felt that it would be possible to identify mitigation measures in order to improve the performance of the option. It should be noted that some of the objectives may not be feasible due to a lack of baseline data (therefore making monitoring difficult) and other objectives may be developed during the workshop and consultation stage.

4.3.6 These criteria and objectives will be discussed with the stakeholders during the sustainability workshop after which they may be modified as a result of stakeholder feedback. In addition targets and indicators will be developed prior to the assessment on the preferred option. For the purposes of this scoping report, an example of the one of the SEA/SA criterion (Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna) has been completed using relevant ecological draft objectives taken from Table 4.1.



CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q9 DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS ABOUT THE SA FRAMEWORK?

Q10 DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER COMMENTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE?



4.3.7 Table 4.2. The draft SEA/SA Appraisal Matrix.

DRAFT SEA/SA OBJECTIVE	Option 1,2,3,4				
	Performance	Significance	Commentary/ Explanation	Assumptions/ uncertainties	Next steps/ mitigation/ opportunities
SEA/SA TOPIC: Biodiversity, fauna and flora					
Does the draft SPD protect, maintain and enhance wildlife corridors, biodiversity, habitats and species through consultation with BAP partners?					
Does the draft SPD raise understanding and awareness of biodiversity					



5 Consideration of Options and Alternatives

5.1 COMPARISON OF STRATEGIC OPTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES

5.1.1 There are four different development options available for the draft SPD. These options are:

- Option 1: Piecemeal Development in the absence of an overall masterplan (Business as Usual!!).
- Option 2: A high level of employment with local convenience and retail needs only and a low level of residential provision in the context of a comprehensive masterplan.
- Option 3: A high level of residential with appropriately reduced level of employment but a significant retail element in the context of a comprehensive masterplan.
- Option 4: A predominantly residential scheme with no employment with local retail provision only in the context of a comprehensive masterplan.

(Further information is required with regards to how these options were developed)

4.3.8 Each of these options will be appraised using the sustainability appraisal framework to determine its relative sustainability performance. This will be undertaken as part of Stage B and the options are listed here for information only.

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q11 DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS REGARDING THE OPTIONS?



6 The Next Steps

6.1 INTRODUCTION

6.1.1 This section presents the next steps of the SA after submission of the Scoping Report for consultation.

6.2 THE NEXT STAGES OF THE SA

In accordance with the guidance documents⁴, Stage B will consist of the following tasks:

- Testing the draft SPD objectives against the SA Framework
- Appraising issues and options
- Consulting on the SA of emerging options

Stakeholder Workshop:

In addition to the tasks listed above, a stakeholder workshop has been scheduled on 27th May 2005 at which the key sustainability issues emerging from the baseline will be discussed along with the draft SA objectives and the SA appraisal matrix. This workshop will involve the technical team and representatives from key stakeholder groups.

Stage C will consist of the following tasks;

- Predicting the effects of the draft SPD
- Assessing the effects of the draft SPD
- Mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects
- Developing proposals for monitoring
- Preparing the SA report (see section 7 for the proposed structure of the SA Report)

Stage D will consist of the following tasks:

- Consulting on the SEA/SA report alongside the SPD
- Appraising significant changes
- Decision making and providing information

⁴ Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks Consultation Paper (ODPM, September 2004) and Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks Interim Note of Frequently Asked Questions (ODPM, April 2005)

7 Proposed Structure of the SEA/SA Report

7.1 PROPOSED STRUCTURE

7.1.1 The table below suggests a structure for the SEA/SA report in accordance with relevant guidance.

Structure of the SEA/SA Report	Information to include
1. Summary and outcomes	1.1 Non-technical summary 1.2 Statement on the difference the process has made 1.3 How to comment on the report
2. Appraisal Methodology	2.1 Approach adopted to the SA 2.2 When the SA was carried out 2.3 Who carried out the SA 2.4 Who was consulted, when and how
3. Background	3.1 Purpose of the SA and the SA Report 3.2 Plan objectives and outline of contents 3.3 Compliance with the SEA Directive/Regulations
4. Sustainability objectives, baseline and context	4.1 Links to other strategies, plans and programmes and sustainability objectives 4.2 Description of the social, environmental and economic baseline characteristics and the predicted future baseline 4.3 Difficulties in collecting baseline data and limitations of the data 4.4 The SA Framework 4.5 Main sustainability issues and problems identified
5. Draft SPD issues and options	5.1 Main strategic options considered and how they were identified 5.2 Comparison of the sustainability effects of the



	options 5.3 How sustainability issues were considered in choosing the preferred option 5.4 Other options considered and why these were rejected 5.5 Proposed mitigation measures
6. Draft SPD objectives	6.1 significant sustainability effects of the preferred objectives 6.2 How sustainability problems were considered in developing the plan objectives 6.3 Proposed mitigation measures 6.4 Uncertainties and risks
7. Implementation	7.1 Links to other tier of plans and programmes and the project level 7.2 Proposals for monitoring

CONSULTATION QUESTION

Q12 DO YOU FEEL THE STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT IS APPROPRIATE?



Appendix A Document Reviews

[Click here and type Appendix text.]



Appendix B Baseline Data



Appendix C Glossary

Consultation Body: An authority which because of its environmental responsibilities is likely to be concerned by the effects of implementing plans and programmes and must be consulted under the SEA directive. The consultation bodies, designated in the SEA Regulations are the Countryside Agency, English Heritage, and the Environment Agency.

Environmental Report: Document required by the SEA Directive as part of an environmental assessment, which identifies, describes and appraises the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing a plan or programme.

Listed Building: Building of special or architectural interest that is included on a statutory list. A listed building in England is assigned a grade from I, II* or II. Can also include structures other than buildings, such as walls, bridges and telephone boxes.

Local Nature: Area designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 as Reserves (LNR) being of particular importance to nature conservation and where public understanding of nature conservation is encouraged.

Local Plan: Local Plan sets out planning policies and allocations of land for development. It sets out where different types of development, from housing to shops and offices, could be built during the plan period and areas where development will be resisted. It will be replaced by the LDF.

Local Transport Plan (LTP): A statutory document produced by the Council setting out a bid for the programming and funding of transport measures. Annual Progress Reports are produced (APRs).

Nature Conservation: the preservation, management and enhancement of natural plant and animal communities and occasionally modified vegetation, as representative samples of their own kind.

Public Open Space (POS): Land provided in urban or rural areas for public recreation, although not necessarily publicly owned.

Scoping: The process of deciding the scope and level of detail of a sustainability appraisal (SA), including the sustainability effects and options which need to be considered, the assessment methods to be used, and the structure and contents of the SA report.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA): Term used internationally to describe an environmental assessment applied to policies, plans and programmes. In this document SEA is used to refer to the type of environmental assessment required under the SEA directive which assesses the effects of certain plans on the environment.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA): Term used to describe the form of assessment that considers social, environmental and economic effects, which incorporate the requirements of the SEA Directive.



Sustainable Development: Term given to the development that is environmentally responsible; the most common definition is from the Brundtland Commission (1987) – “Development which meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.



Appendix D References

Department for Transport (DfT) (2000) Transport 2010 – The 10 Year Plan. The Stationary Office.

Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) (May 1999) A Better Quality of Life: A strategy for Sustainable Development for the United Kingdom. The Stationary Office

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Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) (2003) Energy White Paper – Our Energy Future – Creating a Low Carbon Economy. The Stationary Office.

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Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) Social Inclusion Unit (2001) A New Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal - National Strategy Action Plan. Crown copyright.

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ODPM (July 2004) A Draft Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive. HMSO

ODPM (September 2004) Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks Consultation Paper. HMSO.

Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks Interim Note of Frequently Asked Questions (ODPM, April 2005)

United Nations (1987) Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development (the Brundtland Report)

United Nations (1992) Earth Summit Agenda 21