

**Wiltshire & Swindon Waste Development Forum**  
**Meeting 4: Potential Waste Sites for Waste Management Facilities Overview**

**Topic Paper 7: Allocation of Future Waste Management Sites: Process Overview, Results & Next Steps**

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**Introduction**

Identifying sites in the Waste Development Documents (WDDs) provides a positive lead for the provision of new waste management facilities and helps create certainty, for both the waste industry and the local community. By identifying sites for waste management facilities, Wiltshire and Swindon can demonstrate in a positive way how the vision and strategy in the Waste Development Framework (WDF) will be implemented in practical terms.

This Topic Paper sets the context for the debate on allocating sites for new waste management facilities in Wiltshire and Swindon. The Paper starts by setting out the Government's planning policy context, which establishes the need for Waste Planning Authorities to allocate sites for waste management facilities. It goes on to explain the site appraisal process and the results of the first stage of this appraisal process.

**Policy Context**

The need to allocate sites for waste management facilities is confirmed by Planning Policy Statement 10 – Planning For Sustainable Waste Management (PPS10), which states that:

*Waste planning authorities should identify in development plan documents sites and areas suitable for new or enhanced waste management facilities for the waste management needs of their areas.*

In searching for sites and areas suitable for new or enhanced waste management facilities, PPS10 goes on to state that:

*waste planning authorities should consider:*

- *opportunities for on-site management of waste where it arises;*
- *a broad range of locations including industrial sites, looking for opportunities to co-locate facilities together and with complementary activities*

**Site Appraisal Process and Methodology**

A public consultation exercise was carried out in March 2005 in which the waste industry and residents of Wiltshire and Swindon were invited to suggest potential new sites for waste management facilities in the Wiltshire and Swindon area. These suggested sites, along with other sites identified by officers as warranting consideration, were subjected to a detailed appraisal of their potential to accommodate waste management facilities.

Every site appraised has been visited and assessed against a range of criteria. These criteria are set out in a Site Appraisals Matrix, which forms **Appendix 1** to this Paper.

The site appraisal process will be ongoing until Autumn 2006, gradually adding more details and consensus to the process and refining the list of sites for inclusion in the draft Waste Development Documents (WDDs).

This may well mean that, although suggested for inclusion at this first stage of the appraisal process, a particular site may eventually be rejected at the later more detailed stages.

The input from the Waste Development Forum on this first stage in the site appraisal process is an important element of the appraisal process.

The site appraisal methodology is set out in greater detail in a circular issued to Forum Members at the Forum meeting held on June 7<sup>th</sup> 2005. This circular, 'Site Appraisal Briefing Note', is available from the Waste Planning Policy team or on-line at [www.adamshendry.co.uk](http://www.adamshendry.co.uk)

## **Consultation**

At the Forum meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2005 Waste Planning Policy officers introduced the objectives, methodology and aspirations of the site appraisal process to be undertaken on the period July 2005 to September 2006. This included circulating copies of the site appraisal objectives, criteria, justifications and approach and inviting Forum members to comment and suggest changes to any aspect of the process they saw fit.

This group consultation process was also extended to include internal colleagues (countryside planning/ transport planning/ minerals planning/ development control planning/ strategic (spatial) planning/ archaeology) and external consultees such as the Environment Agency, English Heritage and English Nature.

By the close of the consultation period four responses had been received and, where possible, relevant changes have been made to the appraisal matrix to take account of these comments.

In particular, amendments have been made to water environment objective indicators (impacts upon public and private water sources), amenity objective indicators (impacts upon existing waste facilities by new developments) and through the addition of two new traffic and transportation objectives (objectives 3 and 7).

## **The Appraisal Results**

During August 2005 officers from Wiltshire County Council visited and appraised the suggested sites in Wiltshire and an Officer of Swindon Borough Council visited and appraised the suggested sites in Swindon Borough. This list of sites comprised the areas allocated in the adopted Waste Local Plan (WLP) (27 in total), sites suggested by residents, organisations and the waste industry, and other sites identified by officers as having potential. In total 99 sites were appraised.

A break down of the appraised sites by District / Borough area is provided in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Sites appraised by Local Authority Area**

<b>District / Borough</b>	<b>Number of Sites Appraised</b>
Kennet District	16
North Wiltshire District	29
Salisbury District	20
Swindon Borough	16
West Wiltshire District	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>99</b>

### **Potential Allocated Sites**

Just over half the sites appraised (55 of the 99 sites) are considered by officers to have the potential to accommodate new waste management facilities. Officers therefore recommend that they be taken forward for more detailed examination. The potential allocations are relatively evenly distributed throughout Wiltshire and Swindon Borough. All the Districts and the Borough have been allocated 8 sites or more. Table 2 below, provides a breakdown of these sites by District / Borough area and by the scale of activity proposed.

‘Strategic Sites’ are those sites identified for large waste management facilities capable of handling waste from a wide area, whereas ‘Local Sites’ are those sites identified as being capable of handling waste at the district, sub-district or neighbourhood level. A detailed breakdown of the potential allocated sites is contained in **Appendix 2** to this Paper.

**Table 2: Sites Allocated by Local Authority Area and by scale of activity**

<b>District / Borough</b>	<b>Number of Sites proposed to be allocated</b>	<b>Strategic Sites</b>	<b>Local Sites</b>
Kennet District	8	0	8
North Wiltshire District	14	9	5
Salisbury District	12	4	8
Swindon Borough	10	5	5
West Wiltshire District	11	5 (6)	6 (5)
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>23 (24)</b>	<b>32 (31)</b>

### *Distribution of the Potential Allocated Sites*

27 sites were allocated as preferred areas for waste facilities in the adopted WLP. The 55 potential sites identified represent more than a two fold increase in the potential Preferred Areas in Wiltshire and Swindon. These sites are spread throughout the Local Authority Areas. North Wiltshire District receives the greatest number of allocations (14), reflecting the absence of many exclusionary development constraints, for example there is only limited AONB coverage in North Wiltshire in comparison with the other Districts / Borough.

Conversely, Kennet receives only 8 allocations, none of which are for strategic sites. This is largely as a consequence of the presence of the North Wessex Downs AONB, which covers the bulk of Kennet District, and the rural, dispersed nature of the settlements in the District. The distribution of these potential allocated sites in Wiltshire and Swindon is shown on the maps provided in **Appendix 2**.

In line with the Government Guidance contained within PPS10 the great majority of the potential allocated sites either lie within industrial estates and business parks in or on the edge of the larger towns or at existing waste management facilities and mineral workings in the Wiltshire and Swindon areas.

#### *Type of Waste Management Facility Proposed*

Table 3 below provides a break down of the facilities proposed at the allocated sites. It can be seen that the great majority of the proposed facilities would provide for the recovery of waste (39 sites are identified as being capable of accommodating recycling facilities and 33 sites are identified as being capable of accommodating waste transfer stations). In comparison, only 5 sites are suggested for landfill.

**Table 3: Type of Waste Management Facility Proposed**

<b>District / Borough</b>	<b>Landfill</b>	<b>EFW</b>	<b>MBT</b>	<b>Strategic Composting</b>	<b>Local Composting</b>	<b>Strategic MRF</b>	<b>Local MRF</b>	<b>HRC</b>	<b>Recycling</b>	<b>WTS</b>
Kennet District	0	0	0	0	1	0	6	1	8	6
North Wiltshire District	3	1	1	5	0	9	3	2	7	5
Salisbury District	0	1	0	1	2	4	5	2	10	8
Swindon Borough	1	1	3	1	0	2	6	3	6	7
West Wiltshire District	1	5	6	6	1	5	3	2	8	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>33</b>

The number of proposed facilities in Table 3 totals more than 55 due to most of the proposed sites being identified for a range of waste management facilities. Not all of these facilities would be implemented, for example in Swindon a requirement has been identified by the Council's Waste Management Section for one additional HRC, whereas three sites

have been identified through the appraisal as being suitable to accommodate this additional HRC.

### **Dropped sites**

Almost half the sites appraised were considered by officers to be unsuitable to accommodate waste facilities. Officers recommend that these sites are not subject to further appraisal and that they be 'dropped' as potential allocations.

A breakdown of the sites that are recommended to be dropped throughout Wiltshire and Swindon Borough is shown in Table 4 below. These sites were dropped for a number of reasons. These reasons included:

- poor access or access through sensitive areas,
- proximity to sensitive land uses, for example, residential areas,
- impacts on water bodies / floodplain / ecology,
- site already developed,
- limited viability of the site,
- conflict with local plan allocations,
- remote location.

A detailed break down of the dropped sites and the reasons for dropping them is contained in **Appendix 3** to this Paper.

**Table 4: Sites Dropped by Local Authority Area**

<b>District / Borough</b>	<b>Number of Sites Dropped</b>
Kennet District	8
North Wiltshire District	11/4*
Salisbury District	8
Swindon Borough	6
West Wiltshire District	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>40/44*</b>

\*4 sites in North Wiltshire require further investigation. These locations comprise quarry sites in the Cotswolds Water Park, which will be reconsidered following further discussions with Wiltshire County Council's Minerals Planning Team.

### **Process to Formal Site Allocation**

The allocation of sites in the WDDs will comprise a 4-stage process, as set out in Table 5 below, culminating in the formal allocation of sites in Autumn 2006. We are at stage 1 of this process.

**Table 5: The Process to Formal Site Allocation**

<b>Part of the process</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Related WDD stage</b>	<b>Type of consultation</b>
Objective and methodology consultation	June 2005	WDD baseline research and draft (issues & options) document preparation	Waste Development Forum; internal partners; statutory agencies
Stage 1: appraisals of all sites	July - August 2005	As above	Statutory consultees/ internal agencies – for detailed data and information
<b>Presentation of Stage 1 results</b>	<b>September – November 2005</b>	<b>As above</b>	<b>Waste Development Forum</b>
Stage 2: Appraisal of Forum suggestions/ consideration of Forum comments	November 2005 – January 2006	As above	Statutory consultees/ internal agencies – for detailed data and information
<b>Reporting of Stages 1 and 2 and recommended options</b>	<b>January 2005</b>	<b>Draft Issues and Options/ Preferred Options document (preparation of)</b>	<b>Waste Development Forum</b>
<i>(Preparation of draft WDD documents and democratic process)</i>	<i>(February – April 2006)</i>	-	<i>(Democratic consultations)</i>
Public consultation on Issues and Options and Preferred Options (including sites)	May – July 2006	Public consultation stage	Statutory public consultation process
Stage 3: appraisal of sites through public consultation	July – September 2006	Preparation of draft WDDs	Statutory consultees/ internal agencies – for detailed data and information
Stage 4: detailed surveys of all required sites	April – September 2006	Preparation of draft WDDs	-
<b>Reporting of Stages 3 and 4 and final recommendations for site options to be included in draft WDDs</b>		<b>Preparation of draft WDDs</b>	-

**What will the next 5 Forum Meetings cover?**

At the forthcoming forum meetings to be held in September and October, a detailed discussion will take place for each of the potential allocated sites in the District / Borough, leading to a detailed assessment from the Forum of the merits and constraints of each site.

Meeting 5	Pilgrim Centre, Swindon	(Swindon Sites)	29 <sup>th</sup> September 2005
Meeting 6	Corn Exchange, Devizes	(Kennet Sites)	4 <sup>th</sup> October 2005
Meeting 7	Salisbury Guildhall	(Salisbury Sites)	6 <sup>th</sup> October 2005
Meeting 8	The Laverton, Westbury	(West Wilts Sites)	11 <sup>th</sup> October 2005
Meeting 9	Calne Town Hall	(North Wilts Sites)	19 <sup>th</sup> October 2005

## **Conclusions**

This is the first stage in an ongoing process in the difficult but necessary task of allocating sites for new waste management facilities in Wiltshire and Swindon. The contribution of the Forum to this first stage and to subsequent stages in the site allocation process will be invaluable, given the local knowledge and range of expertise that forum members can provide. With the full assistance of the forum, a range of appropriate sites can be identified and safeguarded for waste management facilities throughout Wiltshire and Swindon that can meet our future needs.

### **Meeting 4 Forum Discussion Points**

#### *Sign off dropped sites*

As stated earlier in this Paper, a number of the suggested sites are considered by officers to be unsuitable to accommodate waste facilities. Officers recommend that these sites are not subject to further appraisal and that they are 'dropped' as potential allocations. At Meeting 4, forum members are asked to 'sign off' dropped sites, so we can concentrate on discussing the potential allocated sites in the next 5 meetings.

#### *Consider the Site Appraisal Process undertaken so far*

Forum Members are invited to raise any issues or concerns in relation to the site appraisal process undertaken so far.

#### *Potential Sites for Allocation*

The detailed views of Forum Members will be sought on the suggested sites for allocation at Meetings 5 to 9. However, at Meeting 4, forum members are invited to suggest further sites not yet assessed, but which warrant consideration at these forthcoming meetings.