

Environmental Report for the  
Strategic Environmental Assessment of the  
North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural  
Beauty Management Plan

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June 2009

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## Executive Summary

Under the SEA Directive the North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan 2009 – 2014 is subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment. This process requires that the key environmental aspects of the North Wessex Downs AONB are identified and a baseline assessment be made of these attributes. The environmental impact of the proposed Management Plan must then be assessed, and indicators for monitoring of the Management Plan must be formulated. The key environmental issues and proposed baseline measures were identified in the SEA Scoping Report published in July 2008. This Environmental Report fulfils the baseline and assessment requirements of the Directive.

The baseline data was gathered for a total of 33 indicators in total across the 15 SEA Objectives. Current trends and relevant comparisons were included where available and appropriate. The full baseline information has been included in Appendix C.

For the environmental assessment the 19 proposed objectives under the 8 Management Plan themes were each individually assessed to measure their impact on the 15 SEA Environmental Objectives, a total of 285 individual assessments. A six point scale of effects was employed, as recommended by Natural England. No negative or uncertain effects were noted, though just over a third of the objectives had neutral effect. The remaining had a positive effect, with just over a fifth scoring 'strongly supports'.

A second assessment was conducted to test the level of positive effects on each of the 15 SEA Objectives by the cumulative effects of the 19 Management Plan Objectives taken together, and to assess whether there were any significant omissions in terms of positive environment effects from the North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan Objectives.

The results show that nine SEA Environmental Objectives each have a score of over the average for the combined positive effects. Two objectives, EO 1 (landscape character) and EO 14 (life and health) each have a score of over 80% for the combined positive results. Objective EO 15 (interrelationships) has a 100% score for the combined positive result. Six objectives each have a score of less than the Average though objective EO 12 (use natural resources) is just below the midpoint. Objective EO 8 (catchment processes) received the lowest score. No SEA Environmental Objectives received negative scores, the balance is made up of neutral effect scores.

A technical review of the data was conducted in order to assess the current quality of the individual indicators and to indicate how effective these are likely to be for the required monitoring purposes. Each of the 33 baseline and monitoring indicators was assessed against a five point scale ranging from 1, ('Fit for purpose') to 5 ('No available data'). The overall assessment of the baseline data is that it is weak. This has already been identified by the Council of Partners and steps are in hand to address the issue.

As there is a significant shortfall of data to support the chosen indicators, there is an urgent need for a data collection and assessment strategy. The opportunity should be taken to reassess the range and focus of the chosen indicators in order to concentrate only on those that will assist with the long term management of the North Wessex Downs AONB.

# 1. Context

## Introduction

- 1.1. The review and refresh of the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan is subject to a process of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). This Environmental Report sets out the findings of the Strategic Environmental Assessment. The SEA followed the requirements of the European Directive 2001/42/EC<sup>1</sup> and The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004<sup>2</sup>. The objective of the SEA Directive is to:  
  
“provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development”. (2001/42/EC Article 1).
- 1.2. Article 2(b) of the Directive defines “environmental assessment” as a procedure comprising:
  - Preparation of an Environmental Report on the likely significant effects of the draft plan or programme
  - Consultation on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying Environmental Report
  - Taking into account the Environmental Report and results of consultation in decision making
  - Provision of information when the plan or programme is adopted and showing how the results of the environmental assessment have been taken into account.
- 1.3. The methodology used for this assessment is based on the SEA of AONB Management Plan guidance published by Natural England in 2007<sup>3</sup>. It has also been informed by the Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive produced by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in 2005<sup>4</sup>.
- 1.4. The Assessment runs alongside the development of the Management Plan and is to ensure that proposed policies are subjected to a strategic level assessment of options and alternative courses of action, in order to avoid or mitigate any adverse effects.

## The SEA process

- 1.5. The SEA process has been developed in parallel with the revision of the North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan. The timetable for the Management Plan review can be found at Appendix A, showing how the SEA process matches that review. The Management Plan Scoping Review was published for consultation in April 2008. Following this consultation the SEA process started in July 2008, using the following stages:
  1. Screening whether plan is likely to have significant effects
  2. Setting the context and objectives, establishing baseline and deciding on the scope
    - Identifying other relevant plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives
    - Collecting baseline information
    - Identifying environmental problems
    - Developing SEA Environmental Objectives
    - Consulting on the scope of SEA
  3. Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects
    - Testing the plan objectives against the SEA objectives
    - Developing strategic alternatives

- Predicting the effects of the plan, including alternatives
  - Mitigating adverse effects
  - Proposing measures to monitor the environmental effects of plan implementation
4. Preparing the Environmental Report
  5. Consulting on the draft plan or programme and the Environmental Report
    - Consulting the public and Consultation bodies on the draft plan and the Environmental Report
    - Assessing significant changes
    - Making decisions and providing information
  5. Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the plan on the environment
    - Developing aims and methods for monitoring
    - Responding to adverse effects
- 1.6. The SEA Scoping Report (Stage 2) was published for consultation in July 2008. This Draft SEA Environmental Report fulfils Stages 3 and 4 of the SEA process. SEA Scoping Report consultation responses were received from two of the Statutory consultees, Natural England and English Heritage. The responses received referred specifically to issues within the Scoping Report. Consultation responses have been considered and used to inform relevant sections of the SEA Environmental Report (this document). In particular, an additional indicator has been added<sup>1</sup>.
- 1.7. In order to guide the scope of the environmental assessment, the SEA Scoping Report was required to examine the Environmental Topics and Key Issues of concern within the North Wessex Downs AONB, along with an assessment of the potential issues and impacts likely to arise. These have been considered in the context of the relevant national, regional and local Policies and Plans which impact upon the environmental quality of the North Wessex Downs. (A list of the relevant Policies and Plans is available in Appendix B).
- 1.8. Twelve key Environmental Topics were identified:
1. Landscape character and land management
  2. Habitats and species
  3. Historic features and landscapes
  4. Geodiversity
  5. Soils
  6. Water quality and levels
  7. Population
  8. Air quality
  9. Climate
  10. Energy
  11. Access, recreation and tourism
  12. Built environment
- 1.9. The key Environmental Issues and Constraints associated with these Topics within the North Wessex Downs AONB were then identified. Table 1 contains a summary of these.

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<sup>1</sup> Under EO6: Use of land, by ALC grade, for new development.

**Table 1: SEA Environmental Topics and key Environmental Issues and Constraints**

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Key Issues or constraints</b>
Landscape character and land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss/lack of management of characteristic features</li> <li>• Land use change (e.g. woodland planting/energy crops/horticulture)</li> <li>• Changes in land ownership</li> <li>• Renewable energy developments</li> <li>• Impact of development (including farm diversification)</li> <li>• Impact of infrastructure (including telecommunications)</li> <li>• Noise and light pollution</li> <li>• Impact of recreation and associated infrastructure</li> </ul>
Habitats & species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impact of climate change</li> <li>• Incomplete data</li> <li>• Market forces v financial incentives</li> <li>• Management issues, including grazing, labour and infrastructure</li> <li>• Need to enhance UK BAP and UK/EU protected species</li> <li>• Fragmentation of habitat</li> <li>• Impact of non-native species</li> <li>• Impact of recreation</li> <li>• Impact of development</li> <li>• Impact of air and water pollution</li> </ul>
Historic features and landscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damage/lack of management</li> <li>• Incomplete data</li> <li>• Recreation pressure</li> <li>• Changes in land use (e.g. energy crops)</li> <li>• Impact of climate change</li> <li>• Impact of development</li> <li>• Impact from cultivation</li> </ul>
Geodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geodiversity Action Plan</li> </ul>
Soils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impacts from cultivation/compaction</li> <li>• Impacts of recreation</li> <li>• impacts of new development</li> <li>• impacts of climate change</li> </ul>
Water quality and levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diffuse and point source pollution</li> <li>• River modification</li> <li>• Catchment and flood management</li> <li>• Extraction</li> <li>• Impacts of recreation</li> <li>• impacts of new development</li> <li>• impacts of climate change</li> </ul>
Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of access to services and facilities</li> <li>• Lack of public transport</li> <li>• Need for opportunities for access to natural green space, particularly in nearby urban centres and urban fringe areas</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impact of aging population on communities and services</li> <li>• Impact of new development and associated light and noise pollution on quality of life</li> <li>• Impact of climate change</li> <li>• Lack of affordable housing</li> <li>• Impact of out commuters on communities, traffic and local services</li> </ul>
Air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Atmospheric pollution</li> </ul>
Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of data</li> <li>• Impact of carbon emissions</li> </ul>
Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impacts of renewable energy developments</li> <li>• Use of non-renewables</li> </ul>
Access, recreation and tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impact on landscape and biodiversity</li> <li>• Impact of/opportunities through development</li> <li>• Conflicts with land management (e.g. grazing)</li> <li>• Pressure on heritage features</li> <li>• Impact on communities</li> <li>• Impact of traffic and other development</li> <li>• Lack of public transport and other facilities</li> <li>• Damage/lack of management</li> <li>• Lack of data/understanding/identity</li> <li>• Needs of emerging Destination Management Organisations</li> </ul>
Built environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of understanding of settlement form, character and local vernacular</li> <li>• Impact of development on settlement character and landscape setting</li> <li>• Damage or decay of listed buildings and conservation areas</li> <li>• Impact of infilling – loss of greenspace</li> <li>• Associated impacts of lighting, noise, pollution</li> <li>• Loss of traditional shops and services</li> <li>• Impact of farm diversification on tradition farmsteads and their landscape setting</li> <li>• Need for provision of green infrastructure as part of new development</li> </ul>

1.10. From this, the SEA Environmental Objectives were developed against which the Management Plan Objectives have been assessed. These objectives have been chosen to represent environmental concerns and are written to reflect the fact that in an environment assessment there is a need to explore whether the Management Plan Objectives, (or their absence), create adverse impacts on the special qualities of the North Wessex Downs AONB identified as Key Environmental Topics.

1.11. The SEA Environmental Objectives are:

- EO 1 To conserve and enhance landscape character and diversity
- EO 2 To conserve and enhance remoteness and tranquillity
- EO 3 To conserve and enhance biodiversity (habitats)
- EO 4 To conserve and enhance the full range of species which are characteristic of the area

- EO 5 To conserve and enhance archaeological, historic and cultural features, sites and landscapes and their setting
- EO 6 To conserve and enhance geo-diversity and soil quality
- EO 7 To safeguard the environmental quality of water resources
- EO 8 To maintain catchment processes and hydrological systems
- EO 9 To safeguard the environmental quality of air
- EO 10 To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and vulnerability to the effects of climate change
- EO 11 To maintain and enhance opportunities for sustainable access to, and enjoyment of the countryside
- EO 12 To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable manner
- EO 13 To maintain and enhance the quality of the built environment
- EO 14 To safeguard quality of life and human health
- EO 15 To avoid significant adverse effects between the above interrelationships

### **Summary of the draft North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan**

1.12. The Management Plan sets out a framework that gives guidance and direction towards achieving the long term (twenty year) Vision for the North Wessex Downs AONB. The Management Plan, and progress towards the Vision, is underpinned by a set of thematic aims. The Management Plan establishes a set of objectives, policies and actions to guide progress towards the Vision within the five year lifespan of the plan. The Management Plan objectives are presented under eight themes developed from the Aims:

- Landscape
- Land management
- Biodiversity
- Historic Environment
- Natural Resources
- Development
- Communities
- Leisure and Tourism

1.13. The Draft Management Plan contains 19 objectives across the thematic chapters. A full list of these objectives is contained in the SEA Assessment Matrix.

1.14. For each of the Management Plan Objectives a set of Policies and Actions has been developed to outline how the Management Plan Objectives will be put into effect over the 5 year lifespan of the plan. The full list of Management Plan Objectives and Action Points are published in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2009-14 Consultation Draft 2009<sup>5</sup>.

## **2. Environmental Baseline Information**

2.1. The SEA Directive requires detailed baseline information to be gathered as part of the assessment process. Information must be gathered on “relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan” and the “environmental characteristics of the areas likely to be significantly affected” (Annex I (b) (c)).

2.2. The baseline data is also required to highlight “any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC (Birds Directive) and 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive)” (Annex I (c)).

2.3. The baseline indicators were selected to represent the Key Environmental Topics defined at the Scoping Report stage and are intended to provide a snapshot of the



current state of the North Wessex Downs AONB along with providing the means for long term monitoring of the environmental impacts of the Management Plan objectives.

- 2.4. The full table of baseline information can be found in Appendix C. It shows the individual indicators that have been selected to monitor change over the period of the Management Plan. Where available, details of trends and relevant comparators are included. Appendix D presents 33 key indicators, grouped under the 15 SEA Environmental Objectives, to bring together groups of individual indicators found in the base-line table.
- 2.5. As far as possible all the data has been taken from original sources and is the most recent data currently available. In many cases it has proved not possible to gather the required information due to a lack of source data, while in other cases the data that does exist does not conform to the North Wessex Downs AONB boundaries. The Council of Partners is aware of this deficiency and is reviewing the situation and will confirm the relevant data set in the coming year. Brief comments have been included in the baseline data table on the source and quality of the data, and where required data is currently unavailable. More detailed discussion of issues of data quality and availability can be found in the Monitoring and Technical Review chapter of this report.

### **3. Environmental Assessment of the North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan**

#### **Assessment methodology**

- 3.1. The Management Plan Objectives were subjected to a systematic two stage assessment against the SEA Environmental Objectives identified in the Scoping Report. For the first stage, each of the Management Plan Objectives (along with each of the policies and actions outlined for the delivery of the particular Objective) was individually assessed against the 15 SEA Environmental Objectives. The assessment of the impact of the individual Objectives on the environment was quantified according to the six point scale recommended by the Natural England guidance.
- 3.2. For the purposes of this SEA the six point scale was as follows:
  - Strongly supports the SEA Environmental Objective
  - Supports the SEA Environmental Objective
  - Is neutral in effect
  - Potentially works against the SEA Environmental Objective
  - Strongly works against the SEA Environmental Objective
  - Effects uncertain
- 3.3. This assessment followed four key steps –
  - i. Defining the likely environmental outcomes arising from the Management Plan.
  - ii. Identifying the Key Environmental Topics and Issues likely to be affected.
  - iii. Identifying the baseline indicators likely to be affected.
  - iv. Subjective qualitative assessments of the Management Plan Objectives on the relevant SEA Environmental Objectives.

There is a weakness in step iii, as the set of baseline indicators is not complete. As a result, greater weight was put on a subjective assessment of the implications of implementing the stated policies and actions for each objective. This assessment identified the effects of the individual objectives within the Management Plan on the environmental issues underlying the SEA Environmental Objectives.

- 3.4. A second stage assessment was applied because AONB Management Plans are presumed to be beneficial to the environment and are unlikely to show negative effects. In order to test for possible omissions from the Management Plan and to examine whether its positive environmental effect is too limited, a second assessment was carried out on the cumulative impacts of all 19 Management Plan Objectives on each of the 15 SEA Environmental Objectives. For this the total impact on each of the SEA Environmental Objectives, taken from the first stage assessment, was summarised and assessed. The results of each Management Plan Objective was combined under their respective themes and the score for each theme under each SEA Environmental Objective was calculated and expressed as a percentage of the total.
- 3.5. The guidance suggests that a third stage test should be applied, namely an assessment as to the projected impact on the environment of not proceeding with the plan or programme. There is a statutory duty to produce the Management Plan and, under Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, it is a legal duty for all relevant authorities to “have regard to” the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB in exercising or performing any functions affecting land in the area. These relevant authorities include all statutory bodies and all tiers of government, including parish councils and holders of public office.
- 3.6. There is a risk that the partners will choose not to adopt the Management Plan as presented. That risk is low, given the process of consultation and partnership deployed in drawing up the plan. A full analysis has not been undertaken because of the low risk and because there are a range of other plans and strategies that support actions in the area (see Appendix B). It would be a significant task to test each of these strategies against the SEA Environmental Objectives. However, should the Management Plan be set aside then there would be a significant gap in the coordination of action, given that that was the underlying purpose of establishing the AONB Partynership.

### Overall assessment results

3.7. The full results for the assessment of each of the individual Management Plan Objectives are shown in the SEA Assessment Matrix found in Appendix E. The assessment matrix of the 19 Management Plan Objectives against the 15 SEA Environmental Objectives shows in total:

- 27% of the entries strongly supporting the SEA Environmental Objective;
- 38.3% supporting the SEA Environmental Objective; and
- 34.7% having a neutral effect.

There were no negative or uncertain effects noted. Overall, just over 65% of the entries were assessed as having a level of positive environmental benefit.

3.8. The results of the secondary assessment are shown in Table 2 below. These show that the cumulative effect of all 19 Management Plan Objectives on the individual SEA Environmental Objectives is broadly positive.

SEA Environmental Objective	Strongly Supportive	Supportive	Combined Supportive	Neutral	Against	Strongly Against	Uncertain
EO 1 landscape character	57.9%	31.6%	89.5%	10.5%	0	0	0
EO 2 remoteness and tranquillity	21.1%	52.6%	73.7%	26.3%	0	0	0

EO 3 biodiversity (habitats)	15.8%	52.6%	68.4%	31.6%	0	0	0
EO 4 full range of species	21.05%	21.05%	42.1%	57.9%	0	0	0
EO 5 historic and cultural	36.8%	42.1%	78.9%	21.1%	0	0	0
EO 6 geo-diversity and soil	15.8%	31.6%	47.4%	52.6%	0	0	0
EO 7 water resources	15.8%	26.3%	42.1%	57.9%	0	0	0
EO 8 catchment processes	5.2%	21.1%	26.3%	73.7%	0	0	0
EO 9 quality of air	10.5%	31.6%	42.1%	57.9%	0	0	0
EO 10 emissions and climate change	26.3%	47.4%	73.7%	26.3%	0	0	0
EO 11 access and enjoyment	31.6%	42.1%	73.7%	26.3%	0	0	0
EO 12 use natural resources	26.3%	31.6%	57.9%	42.1%	0	0	0
EO 13 built environment	42.1%	36.8%	78.9%	21.1%	0	0	0
EO 14 life and health	21.1%	63.1%	84.2%	15.8%	0	0	0
EO 15 interrelationships	57.9%	42.1%	100%	0	0	0	0
		Average =	65.26%				

- 3.9. The Average % point for the combined positive results is 65.26%. The results show that 9 SEA Environmental Objectives each have a score of over the average for the combined positive effects. Two objectives, EO 1 (landscape character) and EO 14 (life and health) each have a score of over 80% for the combined positive results. Objective EO 15 (interrelationships) has a 100% score for the combined positive result.
- 3.10. Six objectives each have a score of less than the Average. Objective EO 12 (use natural resources) narrowly misses the midpoint with a score of 57.9%. Objective EO 8 (catchment processes) received the lowest score (26.3% for combined positive results).
- 3.11. No SEA Environmental Objectives received negative scores, the balance is made up of neutral effect scores.
- 3.12. Table 3 sets out a comparison of the supportive and neutral contributions each Management Theme makes to the achievement of the SEA Environmental Objectives (in total). The Average % point for the combined positive results is 65.65%. There are no negative contributions. The most positive actions are to be found under the Land Management, Landscape and Development Themes and these three are the only themes above the average. The most neutral contribution comes

from the Historic Environment, closely followed by Biodiversity and Natural Resources Themes.

MP Theme	Strongly Supportive	Supportive	Combined Supportive	Neutral	Against	Strongly Against	Uncertain
Landscape	23.3%	53.4%	76.7%	23.3%	0	0	0
Land Management	28.9%	53.3%	82.2%	17.8%	0	0	0
Biodiversity	20%	33.3%	53.3%	46.7%	0	0	0
Historic Environment	31.1%	9%	40.1%	48.9%	0	0	0
Natural Resources	20%	33.3%	53.3%	46.7%	0	0	0
Development	37.8%	37.8%	75.6%	24.4%	0	0	0
Communities	26.7%	33.3%	60%	40%	0	0	0
Leisure & Tourism	16.7%	43.3%	60%	40%	0	0	0
		Average =	62.65%				
<b>Combined Scores</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>38.3%</b>	<b>65.3%</b>	<b>34.7%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## Commentary of the assessment results

### BY ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVE:

#### General

- 3.13. Table 4 sets out the percentage for each SEA Objective of the total score achieved, ranked from the highest to the lowest. If all the objectives had received equal scores then the percentage for each would be 6.6%. Eight of the fifteen objectives received more than this, with EO 15 (interrelationships) receiving the greatest score (11.7%). EO 8 (catchment processes) received the lowest (2%).

Rank	SEA Environmental Objective	% of total SEA Objective score
1	EO 15 interrelationships	11.7
2	EO 1 landscape character	10.4
3	EO 13 built environment	9.2
4a	EO 5 historic and cultural	8.1
4b	EO 11 access and enjoyment	8.1
4c	EO 14 life and health	8.1
5	EO 2 remoteness and tranquillity	7.6

6	EO 10 emissions and climate change	7.2
7	EO 3 biodiversity (habitats)	6.4
8	EO 12 use natural resources	6
9a	EO 4 full range of species	4
9b	EO 6 geo-diversity and soil	4
10a	EO 7 water resources	3.6
10b	EO 9 quality of air	3.6
11	EO 8 catchment processes	2
		100

### **EO 15 interrelationships**

3.14. This objective secured the greatest score. It figured prominently throughout the Management Plan Themes, which is a reflection of the prime purpose of the document; to co-ordinate actions across the area.

### **EO 1 landscape character**

3.15. This objective shows the second highest score (10.4%), reflecting the central role of landscape in a Management Plan for an AONB.

### **EO 13 built environment and EO 5 historic and cultural**

3.16. EO 13 (built environment) came third (9.2%), reflecting the significance given to the planning system in the area. The strength of this objective compliments the score achieved under EO 5 (historic and cultural) (8.1%), as there is some duplication between them.

### **EO 11 access and enjoyment and EO 14 life and health**

3.17. As with EO 5 (historic and culture), these two objectives each scored 8.1%, suggesting a significant contribution across the plan for these objectives.

### **EO 2 remoteness and tranquillity**

3.18. E) 2 (remoteness and tranquillity) scored above the average at 7.6%.

### **EO 10 emissions and climate change**

3.19. With a score of 7.2%, this shows a response to the forces for change identified in the Management Plan. Climate change was highlighted as an issue and this is rightly reflected in the policies and actions.

### **EO 3 biodiversity (habitats)**

3.20. EO 3 (biodiversity) is the first objective to lie below the average, though at 6.4% it is only just below the line. This score is influenced by EO 4 (full range of species), a fairer reflection may be achieved by combining their score. The objectives as drafted are quite narrow but a higher score could have been expected.

### **EO 12 use natural resources**

3.21. A score of 6% is indicative of a topic treated narrowly within the management plan. Some of the actions are shared with EO 7, EO 8 and EO 9 (all of which get low scores).

#### **EO 4 full range of species and EO 6 geo-diversity and soil**

3.22. These objectives each have a score of 4%. They are only addressed in a few of the Management Plan Themes. This is a reflection of their narrow definition and specialist nature combined with the comment above (under EO 3). Therefore the relatively low score is not unexpected.

#### **EO 7 water resources and EO 9 quality of air**

3.23. These objective shows a score of only 3.6%. EO 9 (quality of air) is an ambitious objective to set for a plan with the primary purpose of conserving and enhancing natural beauty. Primary actions to safeguard air will be taken by agencies outside the North Wessex Downs AONB and the score assigned to this objective may be a realistic assessment of what can be expected of a landscape management plan.

3.24. EO 7 water resources may be better combined with EO 8 as discussed in the next paragraph.

#### **EO 8 catchment processes**

3.25. Catchment processes and hydrological systems (EO 8) have the lowest percentage score (2%). They are an important element in the North Wessex Downs and deserve recognition within the Management Plan but it is possible that the actions are picked up under EO 7 (quality of water resources). It may be that there is duplication between these two SEA Environmental Objectives and they could usefully be amalgamated.

#### **BY THEME:**

##### **General**

3.26. Table 5 sets out the percentage for each Management Plan Theme of the total score for SEA Objectives achieved, ranked from the highest to the lowest. If all the objectives had received equal scores then the percentage for each would be 12.5%. Four of the eight themes received more than this, four received less. The Development Theme received the greatest score (21.7%), the Biodiversity Theme secured the least (4.4%).

<b>Rank</b>	<b>MP Theme</b>	<b>% MP Theme score of total for SEA Objectives</b>
1	Development	21.7
2	Communities	16.1
3	Historic Environment	14.9
4	Land Management	12.9
5	Landscape	12
6	Leisure & Tourism	9.2
7	Natural Resources	8.8
8	Biodiversity	4.4

## Development

3.27. This theme scored the highest at 21.7% of the total score. But there were 2 SEA Environmental Objectives to which it made no positive contribution (EO 4 full range of species and EO 8 catchment processes). It was highest in EO 2 (remoteness and tranquillity) at 26.3%; EO 3 (biodiversity) at 31.25%; EO 12 (use natural resources) at 33.3%; and EO 13 (built environment) at 26%. This reflects the importance of the planning system in the management of the AONB. It was joint-highest for EO 5 (historic and cultural) at 30% with Historic Environment; EO 10 (emissions and climate change) at 27.8% with Communities. These scores are not unexpected, given the nature of the theme.

## Communities

3.28. This theme scored 16.1%. Five SEA Environmental Objectives are marked as receiving no impact (EO3 biodiversity; EO 4 full range of species; EO 6 geo-diversity; EO 7 water resources; and EO 8 catchment processes) but this is not unexpected given the nature of the topics. It was highest for EO 9 (air quality) at 44.4% and EO 14 (life and health) at 30%; coming joint-highest for EO 10 (emissions and climate change) at 27.8%, equal with Development. This reflects the links through to actions with local people.

## Historic Environment

3.29. Ranked third, this theme scored 14.9% of the total for the SEA Environmental Objectives. Six objectives are marked as receiving no impact (EO 4 full range of species; EO 6 geo-diversity; EO 7 water resources; EO 8 catchment processes; EO 9 air quality; and EO 10 emissions and climate change). Given the specific nature of these objectives, it is not surprising that they are not picked up under the Historic Environment Theme. The theme scored the highest for EO 1 (landscape character) at 23%; EO 11 access and enjoyment at 25%; and EO 15 interrelationships at 20.7%. It was joint-highest for EO 5 (historic and cultural) with Development at 30%.

## Land management

3.30. This theme scored 12.9%, close to the average, showing that it contributes to all SEA Environmental Objectives. It scored highest for EO 4 (full range of species) at 30% and joint-highest for EO 6 (geo-diversity and soil) at 30% with Natural Resources.

## Landscape

3.31. Landscape scored 12%, just below the average. The theme showed no impact upon three SEA Environmental Objectives (EO 8 catchment processes; EO 9 air quality; and EO 12 use of natural resources). Surprisingly, the theme did not score the highest under any SEA Environmental Objective. This may be because the landscape theme underpins all of the other themes and that the actions are presented under them.

## Leisure and Tourism

3.32. This theme was received 9.2% of the score. Four SEA Environmental Objectives are marked as receiving no impact (EO 6 geo-diversity; EO 7 quality of water resources; EO 8 catchment processes; and EO 12 use natural resources). The theme did not score highest under and SEA Objective.

## Natural Resources

- 3.33. Natural resources scored 8.8% of the score. There were five SEA Objectives upon which it made no impact (EO 1 landscape character; EO 2 remoteness and tranquillity; EO 5 historic and cultural; EO 9 air quality; and EO 13 built environment). With the exception of EO 9, these are unexpected given the nature of the theme. The strength of this theme lies under EO 8 (catchment processes), receiving by far the highest score (60%). It was highest for EO 7 (water resources) at 33.3%. The theme was joint-highest for EO 6 (geo-diversity and soil) at 30% with Land Management.

### **Biodiversity**

- 3.34. Biodiversity only scored 4.4% of the total with no impact recorded for seven of the SEA Environmental Objectives (EO 2 remoteness and tranquillity; EO 5 historic and cultural; EO 9 air quality; EO 11 access and enjoyment; EO 12 use natural resources; EO 13 built environment; and EO 14 life and health). The low score reflects the narrow interpretation of the theme.

### **Considerations of alternatives**

- 3.35. SEA guidance requires that where there are potentially adverse effects arising from the plan or policy, these must be subject to a process of review to establish whether there are viable alternative courses of action that could be taken to remove the threat of any adverse effect on the identified environmental assets of the area.
- 3.36. The assessment has not identified any adverse effects arising from the Management Plan Objectives and so no consideration of alternatives was completed.
- 3.37. Just over a third (34.7%) of the Management Plan Objectives are marked as having a neutral effect upon the SEA Environmental Objectives. This is probably reasonable, given the specific nature of some of the objectives. Thought could be given to combining some of the SEA Environmental Objectives as some areas are very tightly defined so as to exclude some theme area. Enhancing these elements may secure more positive scores. A strengthening of actions in response to climate change, globalisation and social issues should be considered during the consultation stage. This may increase the positive scores for EO 4 (full range of species), EO 6 (geo-diversity and soil), EO 8 (catchment processes) and EO 9 (quality of air).

## **4. Monitoring and Technical Review**

### **Quality of existing baseline data**

- 4.1. The prime purpose of the SEA process is to review the potential impacts of the Management Plan on the key environmental aspects of the North Wessex Downs AONB but there is also a requirement to monitor the implementation of the Management Plan and its impact on the environment over time. The SEA helps set a framework to monitor the effectiveness of the Management Plan policies and activities.
- 4.2. The baseline indicators (see Appendix C) have been selected with this in mind. As well as providing a baseline 'state of the environment' report, they will be developed into an effective set of monitoring data. As far as possible the indicators selected during the SEA Scoping Report stage and amended following consultation have been chosen to represent robust and available data sources that are likely to be available throughout the lifetime of the Management Plan and beyond.
- 4.3. Many of the required data sets are not currently available or are of poor quality. A 5-point quality scale has been used to assess the quality of each indicator (Table 6). It identifies where required data is weak or absent, so providing a framework for future data collection.



		<i>Comment</i>
1	Fit for purpose	
2	Adequate	Some minor improvements desirable
3	Indicative only	Not considered accurate
4	Inadequate	Little relevance to North Wessex Downs AONB
5	Absent	No available data

4.4. Table 7 shows the assessment of each of the indicators against the five point scale:

<b>Objectives</b>		<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Quality Assessment</b>	<b>Comment</b>
EO 1	To conserve and enhance landscape character and diversity	Change in land use and management patterns	2	Range of data available, no trends plotted.
		Change in locally distinctive landscape features (incl. condition)	5	No data currently exists.
		Changes in key strategic views	5	No data currently exists.
EO 2	To conserve and enhance remoteness and tranquillity	Proportion of tranquil areas	5	No data on noise and engineering. No mapping.
		Change in extent of dark night skies	2	Maps for 1993 & 2000 exist
EO 3	To conserve and enhance biodiversity (habitats)	Change in BAP habitats	5	No data presented
		Change in extent and condition of designated wildlife sites	1	
		Change in extent and condition of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland/PAWs	1	
EO 4	To conserve and enhance the full range of species which are characteristic of the area	Changes to populations of priority species and/or associated habitats	5	No data presented, will be held by a third party.
EO 5	To conserve and enhance archaeological, historic and cultural features, sites and landscapes and their setting	% SAMs in favourable condition	2	Numbers not presented but held by a third party.
		% Parks and Gardens at risk	5	No data presented but is held by a third party.
		% Battlefields at risk	5	No data presented but is held by a third party.

				party.
		Condition of historic routeways	5	No data presented
		No. sites/area of historic landscape under ES/CSS agreements	5	No data presented but is held by a third party.
EO 6	To conserve and enhance geo-diversity and soil quality	Change in condition of RIGS or SSSIs with geological importance	5	No data presented. SSSIs included above – needs dissemination, RIGS data may be held by a third party.
		Change in levels of diffuse pollution	5	No data presented
		Use of land, by ALC grade, for new development	5	No data presented
EO 7	To safeguard the environmental quality of water resources	Change in condition/extent of river/catchment SSSI	5	No data presented but will be included in data above – needs dissemination.
		Number of pollution incidents	5	No data presented, will be held by a third party. NWD AONB boundary may be an issue.
		Change in levels of diffuse pollution	5	No data presented
EO 8	To maintain catchment processes and hydrological systems	Annual river flows	5	No data presented, will be held by a third party. NWD AONB boundary may be an issue.
		No. of flood incidents	5	No data presented, will be held by a third party. NWD AONB boundary may be an issue.
		Water licensed for abstraction/uptake of licences	5	No data presented, will be held by a third party. NWD AONB boundary may be an issue.
EO 9	To safeguard the environmental quality of air	Air quality data/pollution incidents	5	No data presented, will be held by a third party. NWD AONB boundary may be an issue.
		Changes to distances travelled to work and to key services	5	No data presented, will be held by a third party.
		Changes to traffic volumes	5	No data presented, will be held by a third

				party.
EO 10	To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and vulnerability to the effects of climate change	Number, type and capacity of renewable energy projects	5	No data presented, will be held by third parties.
		Change in area under biomass/bio-fuel crops	5	No data presented
		Implementation of Green Infrastructure/ecological framework strategies	5	No data presented, may be held by third parties.
EO 11	To maintain and enhance opportunities for sustainable access to, and enjoyment of the countryside	% PRoW in favourable condition	5	No data presented, will be held by third parties.
		Extent and quality of access to natural green space	5	No data presented, may be held by third parties.
EO 12	To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable manner	Number, type and capacity of renewable energy projects	5	No data presented, will be held by third parties.
		% waste recycled	5	No data presented, will be held by third parties but NWD AONB boundary an issue.
EO 13	To maintain and enhance the quality of the built environment	% Listed buildings at risk	5	No data presented, will be held by a third party.
		Housing	5	No data presented and it is not clear what is to be measured.
		% Conservation Areas at risk	5	No data presented, will be held by a third party.
		Number of conservation area appraisal completed or reviewed in the last 5 years	5	No data presented, may be held by a third party.
EO 14	To safeguard quality of life and human health	Size and nature of population	5	No data presented – Census Data available down to Parish level (not a clear match to NWD AONB boundary)
		Proportion of tranquil areas	5	No data on noise and engineering. No mapping.
		Extent and quality of access to natural green space	5	No data presented, may be held by third parties.
		Changes to distances travelled to work and to key services	5	No data presented, will be held by a third party.

EO 15	To avoid significant adverse effects between the above interrelationships			
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**Commentary on baseline data and recommendations for actions to improve data for ongoing monitoring purposes**

- 4.5. Only the first 5 of the 15 Environmental Objectives (EO1-EO5) have indicators where data has been presented. The remaining 10 Environmental Objectives have not yet been populated with data. The Council of Partners is aware of this deficiency and is undertaking a study during the coming year to confirm which indicators can be brought to bear. Many organisations already collect data and there will be opportunities to secure material relevant to the North Wessex Downs.
- 4.6. EO1 (landscape character) – There is a reasonable data set available for land use and land use changes, though no trend data has been presented. No data is presented for changes to the distinctive features or strategic views within the North Wessex Downs. Proposed work on a landscape assessment for the area could help address this shortfall, as could a development of the Historic Landscape Characterisation monitoring programme. Overall, the data set is weak.
- 4.7. EO2 (remoteness and tranquillity) – The data for night skies is strong, made up of a set of night light maps. There is a need to add the surface area of the North Wessex Downs AONB covered by each map to assess changes in light emissions. Other aspects of tranquillity (such as noise and power-lines) have not been presented; and may not be readily available. The highway authorities may have the appropriate modelling tools based upon their traffic data. Other aspects need a desk top study. Overall, the data set is weak.
- 4.8. EO3 (biodiversity) – The data presented for statutory sites is strong. A weakness lies with other sites and habitats. Material may be held by local authority ecologists and the County Wildlife Trusts. Data will be available for BAP habitats. This may vary between counties and there may be a need for additional updated phase 2 surveys so there is consistent data across the AONB. Notwithstanding this short fall, the data is strong enough to monitor effectiveness, assuming that the statutory sites are representative of the area.
- 4.9. EO4 (full range of species) – No data is presented for this objective. Material is held by a range of bodies such as, Biological Records Centres, Wildlife Trusts, Natural England, RSPB and local authorities but species data will vary depending on the sources/records of information available through bodies. The AONB needs to agree a list of priority species relevant to the area which can be monitored easily. Overall, the data set is weak.
- 4.10. EO5 (historic and cultural) – Only limited data is presented, though it is known that English Heritage and the local authorities do hold material needed to support the indicators. The condition of the Scheduled Ancient Monuments is presented but not the number or area of the North Wessex Downs covered. Natural England has data on historic sites under Environmental Stewardship/Countryside Stewardship. There is scope for enhancing the data set by using material from the Historic Landscape Characterisation. This is being considered by the Council of Partners. Overall, the data set is weak but can quickly be strengthened.
- 4.11. For the remaining Environmental Objectives, the work required to secure data has not been completed. The data is not held by the AONB Team and they will need the support of the statutory agencies and key stakeholders if the indicators are to

become meaningful. Much of the data is held by third parties but is readily available. Some effort will be required to fit the data sets to the North Wessex Downs AONB boundary. In many cases, a 'near-fit' (such as parish boundary) will be quite acceptable, provided that this is noted and used consistently over time.

## **Conclusion**

- 4.12. The overall assessment of the baseline data is that it is weak. As there is a significant shortfall of data to support the chosen indicators, there is an urgent need for a data collection and assessment strategy. The opportunity should be taken to reassess the range and focus of the chosen indicators in order to concentrate only on those that will assist with the long term management of the North Wessex Downs AONB.

# APPENDICIES

## Appendix A: Timetable

North Wessex Downs AONB - Management Plan Review Timetable																								
	2008												2009											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Notification to NE of MP review																								
Notification of SEA/SA																								
Review SEA/SA scoping report																								
Review of current Man Plan																								
<b>EXECUTIVE</b> - review report of current Man Plan and SEA																								
<b>COUNCIL OF PARTNERS</b>																								
External consultation on review report																								
External consultation on and amendments to SEA/SA report																								
<b>EXECUTIVE</b> - consider revised SEA and review plan following consultation responses																								
<b>COUNCIL OF PARTNERS</b>																								
Draft SEA/SA assessment report																								
Appropriate Assessment																								
Write draft Plan																								
Write draft SEA/SA environmental report																								
<b>EXECUTIVE</b> - submit final SEA report and draft plan																								
<b>COUNCIL OF PARTNERS</b>																								
Consultation - on draft review and SEA/SA report																								
Schedule of Modifications developed																								
<b>EXECUTIVE</b> - Approval of final reports and consultation																								
<b>COUNCIL OF PARTNERS</b> - Approval of Plan																								
<b>Adoption by Local Authorities</b>																								
Plan to Secretary of State																								
Launch of Plan / Local Auth Seminar																								

## Appendix B: Relevant Legislation, Plans and Programmes

Relevant International, National, Regional and Local Legislation, Plans and Programmes
<b>INTERNATIONAL</b>
<b>Agenda 21</b> (1992) <a href="http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=2742">http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=2742</a>
<b>The Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change</b> (Adopted December 1997)
<b>Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage</b> (adopted by UNESCO in 1972).
<b>EUROPEAN</b>
<b>Convention for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage of Europe</b> (revised) (Valletta, 1992) <a href="http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/conventions/Heritage/valletta_en.asp#TopOfPage">http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/conventions/Heritage/valletta_en.asp#TopOfPage</a>
<b>EC DIRECTIVE 2003/4/EC on public access to environmental information</b> (2003)
<b>The Birds Directive (79/409/EEC)</b> (1979) <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/nature_conservation/eu_nature_legislation/birds_directive/index_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/nature_conservation/eu_nature_legislation/birds_directive/index_en.htm</a>
<b>The Environmental Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)</b> (2002) <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/noise/home.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/noise/home.htm</a>
<b>The European Landscape Convention</b> (entered force March 1 <sup>st</sup> 2004)
<b>The Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)</b> (1992) <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/nature_conservation/eu_nature_legislation/habitats_directive/index_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/nature_conservation/eu_nature_legislation/habitats_directive/index_en.htm</a>
<b>The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (2001/42/EC)</b> (2001) <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/home.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/home.htm</a>
<b>The Waste Framework Directive (75/442/EEC)</b> (October 2000) <a href="http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/consleg/pdf/1975/en_1975L0442_do_001.pdf">http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/consleg/pdf/1975/en_1975L0442_do_001.pdf</a>
<b>The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)</b> (2000) <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index_en.html">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index_en.html</a>
<b>UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters</b> 'The Aarhus Convention' (June 1998)
<b>NATIONAL</b>
<b>LEGISLATION</b>
<b>Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW)</b> Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. (2000) <a href="http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2000/20000037.htm">http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2000/20000037.htm</a>
<b>Heritage Protection Bill (Draft)</b> DCMS (2008) <a href="http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Publications/archive_2008/pub_draftpb.htm?contentid=%7bE1CC8501-8793-4EF9-AD40-0BB73D05A11D">http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Publications/archive_2008/pub_draftpb.htm?contentid=%7bE1CC8501-8793-4EF9-AD40-0BB73D05A11D</a>
<b>Housing Act</b> (2004) <a href="http://www.opsi.gov.uk/ACTS/acts2004/20040034.htm">http://www.opsi.gov.uk/ACTS/acts2004/20040034.htm</a>
<b>Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006</b> , Section 40 which requires that "every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity".
<b>Secure and Sustainable Buildings Act</b> (2004)

<a href="http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2004/20040022.htm">http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2004/20040022.htm</a>
<b>Sustainable Energy Act</b> Department for Trade and Industry (2003) <a href="http://www.opsi.gov.uk/ACTS/acts2003/20030030.htm">http://www.opsi.gov.uk/ACTS/acts2003/20030030.htm</a>
<b>Traffic Management Act</b> (2004) <a href="http://www.opsi.gov.uk/ACTS/acts2004/20040018.htm">http://www.opsi.gov.uk/ACTS/acts2004/20040018.htm</a>
<b>Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended)</b> (1981) <a href="http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-3614">http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-3614</a>
<b>Planning Policy</b>
<b>PPG 13: Transport</b> Department for Communities and Local Government (2001) <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1144014">http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1144014</a>
<b>PPG 14: Development on Unstable Land</b> Department for Communities and Local Government (1990) <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1144025">http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1144025</a>
<b>PPG 15: Planning and the Historic Environment</b> Department for Communities and Local Government (1994) <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1144041">http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1144041</a>
<b>PPG 16: Archaeology and Planning</b> Department for Communities and Local Government (1990) <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1144057">http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1144057</a>
<b>PPG 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation</b> Department for Communities and Local Government (2002) <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1144066">http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1144066</a>
<b>PPG 24: Planning and Noise</b> Department for Communities and Local Government (1994) <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1144098">http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1144098</a>
<b>PPG 5: Simplified Planning Zones</b> Department for Communities and Local Government (1992) <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/embedded_object.asp?id=1143961">http://www.communities.gov.uk/embedded_object.asp?id=1143961</a>
<b>PPG 8: Telecommunications</b> Department for Communities and Local Government (2001) <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1143963">http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1143963</a>
<b>PPS 1: Delivering Sustainable Development</b> Department for Communities and Local Government (2005) (Supplement to PPS1 Planning and Climate Change (December 2007)) <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1143804">http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1143804</a>
<b>PPS 10; Planning for Sustainable Waste Management</b> Department for Communities and Local Government (2005) <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1501865">http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1501865</a>
<b>PPS 11: Regional Spatial Strategies</b> Department for Communities and Local Government (2004) <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1143839">http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1143839</a>
<b>PPS 12: Local Spatial Planning</b> Department for Communities and Local Government (2008) <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/archived/publications/planningandbuilding/pps12ldf">http://www.communities.gov.uk/archived/publications/planningandbuilding/pps12ldf</a>
<b>PPS 22: Renewable Energy</b> Department for Communities and Local Government (2004) <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1143908">http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1143908</a>
<b>PPS 23: Planning and Pollution Control</b> Department for Communities and Local Government (2004) <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1143916">http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1143916</a>
<b>PPS 25: Development and Flood Risk</b> Department for Communities and Local Government (2006) <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/">http://www.communities.gov.uk/</a>
<b>PPS 3: Housing</b> Department for Communities and Local Government (2006) <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1504592">http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1504592</a>
<b>PPS 4: Planning for Prosperity</b> Department for Communities and Local Government (2009) <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/">http://www.communities.gov.uk/</a>
<b>PPS 6: Planning for Town Centres</b> Department for Communities and Local Government (2005) <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1501955">http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1501955</a>
<b>PPS 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation</b> Department for Communities and Local Government (2005) <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1501970">http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1501970</a>
<b>PPS7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas</b> Department for Communities and Local Government (2004) <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1143824">http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1143824</a>



PLANS AND POLICY DOCUMENTS
Basingstoke and Dean Borough Council, <b>Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Landscape and Biodiversity Draft Supplementary Planning Document (2007)</b>
Basingstoke and Dean Borough Council, <b>Borough Rural Strategy</b> <a href="http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/CFACA963-AF81-47D5-86C3-B5A5CBD5A199/0/rural_strategy.pdf">http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/CFACA963-AF81-47D5-86C3-B5A5CBD5A199/0/rural_strategy.pdf</a>
Basingstoke and Dean Borough Council, <b>Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Draft Scoping Report (2007)</b> <a href="http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/539F5E05-4520-4613-9ACF-9C58746B1081/0/12526CoreStrategySAscoping2.pdf">http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/539F5E05-4520-4613-9ACF-9C58746B1081/0/12526CoreStrategySAscoping2.pdf</a>
<b>Berkshire BAPS</b> - <a href="http://www.berksbap.org/">http://www.berksbap.org/</a>
Berkshire County Council, <b>Berkshire Landscape Character Assessment (2003)</b>
Berkshire County Council, <b>Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan</b>
Berkshire County Council, <b>Berkshire Structure Plan</b> - saved policies
Berkshire West PCT, <b>The Health of the Population of Berkshire West 2007</b> <a href="http://www.berkshirewest-pct.nhs.uk/_store/documents/thehealthofthepopulationofberkshirewest2007hna.pdf">http://www.berkshirewest-pct.nhs.uk/_store/documents/thehealthofthepopulationofberkshirewest2007hna.pdf</a>
Culture South West, <b>South West Culture Strategy - In search of chunky Dunsters (2000)</b> <a href="http://www.culturesouthwest.org.uk/downloads">www.culturesouthwest.org.uk/downloads</a>
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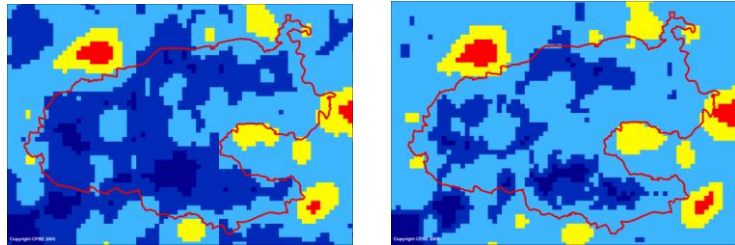
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## Appendix C: Baseline Environmental Data

Key to quality of data assessed against a five point scale		
		Comment
1	Fit for purpose	
2	Adequate	Some minor improvements desirable
3	Indicative only	Not considered accurate
4	Inadequate	Little relevance to North Wessex Downs AONB
5	Absent	No available data

Resource	Baseline data	Key trends	Quality	Key Facts - Data Source		
Landscape						
Landscape character	Land use cover	Data from the Land Cover Map 2000.  The data is a survey carried out in 2000. No North Wessex Downs AONB-wide survey has been completed since.	2	Description	Area (km2)	
				Unassigned	134	
				Broadleaved/mixed Woodland	20,515	
				Coniferous Woodland	3,424	
				Cereals	46,560	
				Horticulture/non- cereal	39,155	
				Not annual crop (ley, set-a-side)	256	
				Improved grassland	45,299	
				Setaside grass	2,341	
				Rough grass	809	
				Calcareous grass	6,603	
				Acid grass	42	
				Dwarf shrub heath	86	
				Open shrub heath	85	

Resource	Baseline data	Key trends	Quality	Key Facts - Data Source										
				<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Fen, marsh, swamp</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Water</td> <td>241</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Inland bare ground</td> <td>5,750</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Suburban/ rural development</td> <td>4,302</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Continuous urban</td> <td>1,341</td> </tr> </table> <p>Source: Land Cover Map 2000</p>	Fen, marsh, swamp	4	Water	241	Inland bare ground	5,750	Suburban/ rural development	4,302	Continuous urban	1,341
Fen, marsh, swamp	4													
Water	241													
Inland bare ground	5,750													
Suburban/ rural development	4,302													
Continuous urban	1,341													
	Change c.f underlying character (CQC et al)		5											
	Current extent and character of distinctive landscape features		5	No data currently exists. Need to address this as part of the State of North Wessex Downs Report										
	Key ridgelines and views		5	No data currently exists. Need to address this as part of the State of North Wessex Downs Report										
	Tranquillity/dark night skies (including air traffic data?)	Reduction in dark skies area. A partial measure, % change not calculated, no data on tranquillity mapping (noise and engineering elements).	2	 <p>Dark night skies image – 1993    Dark night skies image - 2000</p>										



Resource	Baseline data	Key trends	Quality	Key Facts - Data Source
	Extent and distribution of woodland types	13.5% of North Wessex Downs AONB is woodland, which is 23310Ha.	2	<p><b>Figure 2. Woodland Composition for Each Landscape Character Type</b></p> <p>Source: Woodland Strategy 2005 from the Inventory of Forest Types (Forestry Commission), Ancient Woodland (Natural England) WGS and Mastermap.</p>
	Extent of woodland under management	44% of woodland managed	2	Source: Woodland Strategy 2005
	Extent of Woodland eligible for WGS	Roughly 84% of the NIWT woodland area is eligible for support through WGS. In 1999 approximately 11% was covered by an agreement; in 2003 the	2	Source: CQC Analysis for the AONBs of England. D. Cheshire & R Haines-Young. January 2009

Resource	Baseline data	Key trends	Quality	Key Facts - Data Source
		equivalent figure was 14%. The proportions for Ancient Woodland Sites for these periods were 16% and 16% respectively. Before 1999 new planting through WGS was approved for an area equivalent to 3% of the woodland area; the equivalent figure for 2003 was 3%.		
Land management	Area under agri-environment schemes	Countryside Stewardship Agreement Boundaries – 576km <sup>2</sup> Environmental Stewardship Holding - 737 km <sup>2</sup>	2	Source: Defra 2008

Resource	Baseline data	Key trends	Quality	Key Facts - Data Source										
	Farm type	Since 1990 the data shows little change in the numbers of farms engaged in cereals, general cropping, pigs and poultry and horticulture. There has been 53% decline in the number of dairy farms and a 41% decline in mixed farms. There has been 34% increase in grazing livestock. The increase in farms classed as Other has risen steeply as in 2000 small units were recorded as other.	1		Farm type - Cereals	Farm type - General Cropping	Farm type - Mixed	Farm type - Dairy	Farm type - Grazing Livestock (LFA)	Farm type - Grazing Livestock (lowland)	Farm type - Pigs and Poultry *	Farm type - Horticulture	Farm type - Other	Grand Total
				1990	331	36	137	86	0	145	48	35	193	1011
				1995	313	36	149	78	0	154	40	26	177	973
				2000	334	26	122	50	0	168	54	27	342	1123
				2001	325	21	112	53	0	179	70	30	411	1201
				2002	328	21	106	52	0	197	68	29	473	1274
				2003	338	17	104	51	0	195	62	26	501	1294
				2007	356	27	82	41	0	219	57	35	667	1484
				Source: Defra Agricultural Census										
	Cattle and sheep numbers	2003 to 2007 number of cattle has fallen by 16% and sheep by 8.5%.	2 No targets	No.	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007					
				Cattle	46523	45964	42588	39203	39982					
				Sheep	114334	110421	106468	108767	105318					
				Source: Defra Agricultural Census										

Resource	Baseline data	Key trends	Quality	Key Facts - Data Source		
Biodiversity						
Habitats	Extent and nature of UK BAP habitats					
	Designated sites – number, extent, condition	Decline of 4.8% in number of sites in target condition from 2003-2008. Target condition is sites in favourable and unfavourable condition improving. National target of 95% of sites to be in favourable or improving condition by 2010	1		Percentage of SSSI in target condition	
				1 <sup>st</sup> April 2003	63.5%	
				1 <sup>st</sup> April 2004	57.6%	
				1 <sup>st</sup> April 2005	60.4%	
				1 <sup>st</sup> April 2006	55.0%	
				1 <sup>st</sup> April 2007	56.0%	
				1 <sup>st</sup> April 2008	58.7%	
				© Natural England 2008		
	Ancient Semi-natural woodland/PAWS	37.1% (8646 hectares) of the total woodland in the North Wessex Downs AONB is Ancient Semi Natural Woodland	1	Woodland Strategy, North Wessex Downs AONB, 2005		
	Habitat potential maps					
Species	Presence of UK BAP priority species					
Historic environment						
Historic features	WHS		1	WHS Avebury Management Plan has its own monitoring criteria which include aspects of landscape, land management, tourism and biodiversity.		
	SAM's – number and condition		2		Stable	Declining
				Hampshire	64%	36%

Resource	Baseline data	Key trends	Quality	Key Facts - Data Source												
				<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Oxfordshire</td> <td>77%</td> <td>23%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>West Berkshire</td> <td>76%%</td> <td>24%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wiltshire</td> <td>NA</td> <td>NA</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Average</td> <td>72%</td> <td>28%</td> </tr> </table>	Oxfordshire	77%	23%	West Berkshire	76%%	24%	Wiltshire	NA	NA	Average	72%	28%
Oxfordshire	77%	23%														
West Berkshire	76%%	24%														
Wiltshire	NA	NA														
Average	72%	28%														
	Listed buildings at risk		5	© English Heritage 2008												
	Condition of historic routeways		5													
Historic landscapes	No. sites/area of historic landscape under ES/CSS agreements		5													
	Registered Parks and Gardens	There are at present 15 registered parks and gardens within the North Wessex Downs AONB.	5	No data was available on their condition. © English Heritage												
	Battlefield sites	There is 1 registered battlefields in North Wessex Downs AONB.	5	No data was available on its condition. © English Heritage												
<b>Geodiversity/soils</b>																
<b>Geodiversity</b>																
	RIGS sites, number, extent and condition		5													
	SSSI with geological importance, number, extent and condition		5													
Soils	Soil classification		5													
	Soil erosion risk areas		5													

Resource	Baseline data	Key trends	Quality	Key Facts - Data Source
	Data on diffuse pollution		5	
Water				
Water quality				
	Extent/condition of SSSI Rivers/Catchments		5	
	Reported pollution incidents (to EA)		5	
	NVZs			
	Catchment sensitive land			
Water levels	Annual river flow data.		5	
	No of flood incidents		5	
	Water licensed for abstraction/uptake of licences		5	
Population				
Population				
	Population no	93,709	2 No target	Census of population 2001, National Statistics, table KS02 – Age Structure
	Population within 10km of boundary	Approx 1million	2 No target	Source: Evidence for Leader Bid, Terra Consult 2007.
	Population density	0.54 people per km <sup>2</sup>	1	
	Age structure			
	Health index			
	Housing			
Air				
Air quality				
	Air quality		5	

Resource	Baseline data	Key trends	Quality	Key Facts - Data Source
	(NETCEN)			
	No of pollution incidents		5	
	Changes to travel to work & travel to services distances		5	
	Changes to traffic volumes		5	
Climate				
Climate				
	Average annual precipitation			
	Average temperatures			
	Area of land under biomass crops			
	Implementation of Green Infrastructure / ecological framework strategies			
Energy	Number, type and capacity of renewable energy projects			
	Change in area under biomass/bio-fuel crops			
	% waste recycled			
Access and recreation				
Access				
	% PRow in favourable condition			

Resource	Baseline data	Key trends	Quality	Key Facts - Data Source
	National Trails, Cycle routes and long distance trails			
	Extent of open access land			
	Forestry Commission land			
	Extent of access to natural green space			
Recreation/ Tourism	Day visits			
	Visitor spend			
Built environment				
Built environment				
	Conservation areas			Local authority records
	Listed buildings at risk			English Heritage and Local Authorities



## Appendix D: SEA Environmental Objectives and Indicators

<b>SEA Environmental Objectives and Indicators</b>			
<b>Objectives</b>		<b>Indicators</b>	
EO 1	To conserve and enhance landscape character and diversity	i 1	Change in land use and management patterns
		i 2	Change in locally distinctive landscape features (incl. condition)
		i 3	Changes in key strategic views
EO 2	To conserve and enhance remoteness and tranquillity	i 4	Proportion of tranquil areas
		i 5	Change in extent of dark night skies
EO 3	To conserve and enhance biodiversity (habitats)	i 6	Change in BAP habitats
		i 7	Change in extent and condition of designated wildlife sites
		i 8	Change in extent and condition of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland/PAWs
EO 4	To conserve and enhance the full range of species which are characteristic of the area	i 9	Changes to populations of priority species and/or associated habitats
EO 5	To conserve and enhance archaeological, historic and cultural features, sites and landscapes and their setting	i 10	% SAMs in favourable condition
		i 11	Number of archaeological sites/buildings at risk
		i 12	Condition of historic routeways
		i 13	No. sites/area of historic landscape under ES/CSS agreements
EO 6	To conserve and enhance geo-diversity and soil quality	i 14	Change in condition of RIGS or SSSIs with geological importance
		i 15	Change in levels of diffuse pollution
		i 16	Use of land, by ALC grade, for new development

EO 7	To safeguard the environmental quality of water resources	i 17	Change in condition/extent of river/catchment SSSI
		i 18	Number of pollution incidents
		i 15	Change in levels of diffuse pollution
EO 8	To maintain catchment processes and hydrological systems	i 19	Annual river flows
		i 20	No. of flood incidents
		i 21	Water licensed for abstraction/uptake of licences
EO 9	To safeguard the environmental quality of air	i 22	Air quality data/pollution incidents
		i 23	Changes to distances travelled to work and to key services
		i 24	Changes to traffic volumes
EO 10	To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and vulnerability to the effects of climate change	i 25	Number, type and capacity of renewable energy projects
		i 26	Change in area under biomass/bio-fuel crops
		i 27	Implementation of Green Infrastructure/ecological framework strategies
EO 11	To maintain and enhance opportunities for sustainable access to, and enjoyment of the countryside	i 28	% PRoW in favourable condition
		i 29	Extent and quality of access to natural green space
EO 12	To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable manner	i 25	Number, type and capacity of renewable energy projects
		i 30	% waste recycled
EO 13	To maintain and enhance the quality of the built environment	i 31	Listed buildings at risk
		i 32	Housing
EO 14	To safeguard quality of life and human health	i 33	Size and nature of population
		i 4	Proportion of tranquil areas
		i 29	Extent and quality of access to natural green space
		i 23	Changes to distances travelled to work and to key services
EO 15	To avoid significant adverse effects between the above interrelationships		

## Appendix E: SEA Assessment Matrix

The assessment matrix provides the mechanism to measure the assumed impact of each of the 19 Management Plan Objectives against the 15 SEA Environmental Objectives.

Key to SEA Environmental Objectives		Key to 6 point scoring system		value
<b>EO 1</b>	To conserve and enhance landscape character and diversity	Strongly supports SEA Objective	++	2
<b>EO 2</b>	To conserve and enhance remoteness and tranquillity	Supports SEA Objective	+	1
<b>EO 3</b>	To conserve and enhance biodiversity (habitats)	Neutral in effect	0	0
<b>EO 4</b>	To conserve and enhance the full range of species which are characteristic of the area	Potentially works against SEA Objective	-	-1
<b>EO 5</b>	To conserve and enhance archaeological, historic and cultural features, sites and landscapes and their setting	Strongly works against SEA Objective	--	-2
<b>EO 6</b>	To conserve and enhance geo-diversity and soil quality	Effects uncertain	?	x
<b>EO 7</b>	To safeguard the environmental quality of water resources			
<b>EO 8</b>	To maintain catchment processes and hydrological systems			
<b>EO 9</b>	To safeguard the environmental quality of air			
<b>EO 10</b>	To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and vulnerability to the effects of climate change			
<b>EO 11</b>	To maintain and enhance opportunities for sustainable access to, and enjoyment of the countryside			
<b>EO 12</b>	To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable manner			
<b>EO 13</b>	To maintain and enhance the quality of the built environment			
<b>EO 14</b>	To safeguard quality of life and human health			
<b>EO 15</b>	To avoid significant adverse effects between the above interrelationships			

Theme	Management Plan Objective	SEA Objective	EO1	EO2	EO3	EO4	EO5	EO6	EO7	EO8	EO9	EO10	EO11	EO12	EO13	EO14	EO15	% MP Theme score of total SEA Objectives
LANDSCAPE	1. To maintain and enhance the distinctive landscape character of the North Wessex Downs.		++	++	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	++	+	++	
		2. To raise the profile of the North Wessex Downs AONB.	++	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	+	+	++
	→30	4	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	2	1	0	3	2	4	
	%→	13.3	13.3	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	0	0	6.7	3.3	0	10	6.7	13.2	
	%↓	15.4	21	12.5	20	10	20	22.2	0	0	11.1	5	0	13	10	13.8		
LAND MANAGEMENT	3. To encourage initiatives that facilitate sustainable land management.		++	+	++	++	++	++	++	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	+	

Theme	Management Plan Objective	SEA Objective	EO1	EO2	EO3	EO4	EO5	EO6	EO7	EO8	EO9	EO10	EO11	EO12	EO13	EO14	EO15	% MP Theme
	4. To encourage diverse and viable agriculture, forestry, horseracing and other land based enterprises that support the delivery of a wide range of public benefits, including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the conservation and enhancement of the area's special qualities and features;</li> <li>the provision of access opportunities; and</li> <li>support for local markets.</li> </ul>		++	0	++	++	+	++	+	0	+	++	+	++	+	+	++	
	5. To create a diverse rural skills base to support traditional and emerging land based enterprises that enhance the special qualities and features of the North Wessex Downs.		+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	
		→32	3	1	3	3	2	3	1	1	1	2	2	3	2	2	3	12.9
		%→	9.4	3.15	9.4	9.4	6.2	9.4	3.15	3.15	3.15	6.2	6.2	9.4	6.2	6.2	9.4	
		%↓	11.5	5.3	18.75	30	10	30	11.1	20	11.1	11.1	10	20	8.7	10	10.3	
<b>BIODIVERSITY</b>	6. To ensure that the characteristic habitats and species of the North Wessex Downs are conserved and enhanced.		+	0	++	++	0	+	++	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	

Theme	Management Plan Objective	SEA Objective	EO1	EO2	EO3	EO4	EO5	EO6	EO7	EO8	EO9	EO10	EO11	EO12	EO13	EO14	EO15	% MP Theme
		→11	1	0	2	2	0	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	4.4
		%→	9.1	0	18.2	18.2	0	9.1	18.2	9.1	0	9.1	0	0	0	0	9.1	
		%↓	3.8	0	12.5	20	0	10	22.2	20	0	5.6	0	0	0	0	3.4	
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT	7. To enhance the protection, management and setting of the archaeological and historic features, sites and landscapes that characterise the North Wessex Downs.		++	+	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	++	+	++	
	8. To promote an increased level of awareness, use and enjoyment of the historic and cultural fabric of the North Wessex Downs.		++	+	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	++	+	++	
	9. To realise the potential value of the Historic Environment data.		++	+	+	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	++	+	++	
		→37	6	3	1	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	6	3	6	14.9
		%→	16.2	8.1	2.7	0	16.2	0	0	0	0	0	13.6	2.7	16.2	8.1	16.2	
		%↓	23	15.8	6.25	0	30	0	0	0	0	0	25	6.7	26	15	20.7	
	NATURAL RESOURCES	10. To conserve and improve the quality and depth of soils in the North Wessex Downs.		0	0	+	0	0	++	+	+	0	+	0	++	0	0	+
11. To ensure that the water environment, including fisheries, is managed			0	0	+	++	0	+	++	++	0	0	+	++	0	+	+	

Theme	Management Plan Objective	SEA Objective	EO1	EO2	EO3	EO4	EO5	EO6	EO7	EO8	EO9	EO10	EO11	EO12	EO13	EO14	EO15	% MP Theme
	sustainably.																	
		→22	0	0	2	2	0	3	3	3	0	1	1	4	0	1	2	8.8
		%→	0	0	9.1	9.1	0	13.6	13.6	13.6	0	4.55	4.55	18.25	0	4.55	9.1	
		%↓	0	0	12.5	20	0	30	33.3	60	0	5.6	5	26.7	0	5	6.9	
DEVELOPMENT	12. To encourage appropriate development that meets the economic and housing needs of the AONB and surrounding communities.		++	+	+	0	++	0	0	0	+	++	+	+	++	+	++	
	13. To ensure that the formulation and implementation of planning policies across the North Wessex Downs takes full account of the purposes of designation and the character and quality of the AONB and its setting.		++	++	+	0	++	0	+	0	+	+	++	++	++	+	++	
	14. To promote a sustainable rural economy.		+	+	+	0	++	+	0	0	+	++	0	++	++	++	+	
		→54	5	5	5	0	6	1	1	0	3	5	3	5	6	4	5	21.7
		%→	9.3	9.3	9.3	0	11	1.8	1.8	0	5.6	9.3	5.6	9.3	11	7.4	9.3	
		%↓	19.2	26.3	31.25	0	30	10	11.1	0	33.3	27.8	15	33.3	26	20	17.2	

Theme	Management Plan Objective	SEA Objective	EO1	EO2	EO3	EO4	EO5	EO6	EO7	EO8	EO9	EO10	EO11	EO12	EO13	EO14	EO15	% MP Theme
COMMUNITIES	15. To enable vibrant communities to develop sustainably in the North Wessex Downs by stimulating economic prosperity and local culture.		+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	++	++	+	+	++	++	+	
	16. To encourage an enhanced sense of ownership and respect for the distinctive character of the North Wessex Downs amongst local people		+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	++	+	
	17. To provide transport that is more sustainable and meets the needs of residents and visitors of the North Wessex Downs.		++	++	0	0	+	0	0	0	++	++	++	0	+	++	++	
		→40	4	4	0	0	3	0	0	0	4	5	4	2	4	6	4	16.1
		%→	10	10	0	0	7.5	0	0	0	10	12.5	10	5	10	15	10	
		%↓	15.4	21	0	0	15	0	0	0	44.4	27.8	20	13.3	17.4	30	13.8	
LEISURE & TOURISM	18. To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to access and enjoy the special qualities of the North Wessex Downs while minimising the impacts of visitors.		++	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	++	0	+	+	++	
	19. To promote a recreation and tourism sector that is well managed,		+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	++	0	+	+	++	



Theme	Management Plan Objective ⬇	SEA Objective ⬇	EO1	EO2	EO3	EO4	EO5	EO6	EO7	EO8	EO9	EO10	EO11	EO12	EO13	EO14	EO15	% MP Theme score of
	sustainable and adding value to the local economy whilst respecting the special qualities of the North Wessex Downs.																	
		→23	3	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	2	4	0	2	2	4	9.2
		%→	13	8.7	4.3	4.3	4.3	0	0	0	4.3	8.7	17.5	0	8.7	8.7	17.5	
		%↓	11.5	10.5	6.25	10	5	0	0	0	11.1	11.1	20	0	8.7	10	13.8	
<b>Total score for SEA Objectives 249↑</b>			26	19	16	10	20	10	9	5	9	18	20	15	23	20	29	
<b>% of total SEA Objective score per SEA Objective→</b>			10.5	7.6	6.4	4	8	4	3.6	2	3.6	7.2	8	6	9.2	8	11.7	

## References

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<sup>1</sup> European Directive 2001/42/EC “on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment”, known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment or SEA Directive.

<sup>2</sup> The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (Statutory Instrument 2004 No.1633)

<sup>3</sup> Guidance to English AONB Partnerships and Boards on Strategic Environmental Assessment of AONB Management Plans, Natural England April 2007

<sup>4</sup> A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister: London, ISBN 1851127887 September 2005

<sup>5</sup> North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2009-14 Consultation Draft, Council of Partners, March 2009