

APPENDIX 1B – SITES OUTSIDE OF SALISBURY DISTRICT

Site	Why protected (Qualifying interest features)	Factors which maintain site integrity
Avon Valley (SPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bewick's Swan • Gadwall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All species are vulnerable to disturbance and predation. The site must therefore be managed to keep these factors within acceptable parameters. • It is important that habitats found on this site support areas for these birds that are suitable for nesting and feeding. • Gadwall is generally associated with inland fresh water feeding on the leaves and stems of aquatic plants • Bewick's swan in winter use either permanent pasture, winter cereals, root crops or flooded meadows close to water, or brackish lagoons at coastal sites. <p>(Source: SW RSS Habitat Regulations Assessment - Final Report – Appendix 3)</p>
Avon Valley (Ramsar)	<p>Ramsar criterion 1: Diverse range of habitats associated with chalk river, including fen, mire, lowland wet grassland and woodland.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 2: Diverse assemblage of wetland flora and fauna including nationally-rare species</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 6:</p>	<p>Wetland habitats and associated fauna</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The river's natural structure and form should be maintained to support a natural flow regime. This includes the avoidance of the constriction of the river or blockage of its floodplain and the maintenance of natural erosion and sedimentation processes. • Riparian areas and the wider catchment need to be managed sensitively to avoid excessive run-off of soil particles and nutrients into the river. • The structure and composition of bankside and aquatic vegetation should be maintained • Increased growth of epiphytic algae and planktonic algae can lead to excessive shading of plants,

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	Over-wintering gadwall.	reduced seed germination, enhanced capture of silt. (Source: SW RSS Habitat Regulations Assessment - Final Report – Appendix 3)
Dorset Heaths (SAC)	<p>North Atlantic wet heaths European dry heaths Depression on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i></p> <p>Annex I – non-primary Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinia caerulea</i>) Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the Caricion <i>Davallianae</i></p> <p>Alkaline fens Old acidophilous oak woods with <i>Quercus robur</i> on sandy plains</p> <p>Annex II – primary Southern Damselfly (<i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i>)</p> <p>Annex II – non-</p>	<p>Maintenance of the extent of designated habitats and suitably characteristic vegetation composition and structure. Control requires regular management to restrict colonisation, such as grazing or patch burning, as well as more intensive control of invasive species such as <i>Rhododendron</i>.</p> <p>Maintenance of water quality is important within each of the designated habitats and air pollution and atmospheric deposition is likely to be an important cause of eutrophication within these habitats.</p> <p>Heaths - Appropriate heathland management is required to maintain the structural diversity including undisturbed bare ground, age structure and vegetation mosaic. Grazing plays an important role in this management. The control of invasive species is required.</p> <p>Maintaining hydrological conditions as wet heaths require wet soils during winter with a dry surface in summer. Also importance of water quality, including lack of eutrophication and maintenance of oligotrophic character. Air pollution and atmospheric deposition is likely to be an important cause of eutrophication.</p> <p>Woodlands – Within woodlands, maintenance of natural processes and structural development is important, including the regeneration potential, presence of features such as dead and decaying wood,</p>

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	<p>primary Great crested newt (<i>Triturus cristatus</i>)</p>	<p>open glades etc, and the control of invasive species. Oligotrophic waters: Maintaining appropriate levels of phosphorus, and water quantity and quality are important factors. Southern Damselfly – important factors include maintenance of wetland habitat quality, including the extent of larval habitat, low nutrient water, water level, vegetation with runnels, and a vegetation mosaic with a low percentage cover of tree and scrub. Great crested newt –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of habitats diversity including unshaded, medium sized ponds, and a variety of terrestrial habitat unrestricted to newt movement, such as woodland, scrub and grassland, fallen branches, and piles of logs and stones to provide suitable resting, foraging and hibernation areas. • Control elimination of fish and invasive / alien aquatic plants may be required. <p>(Source: SW RSS Habitat Regulations Assessment - Final Report – Appendix 3)</p>
Dorset Heathlands (SPA)	Dartford Warbler Nightjar Hen Harrier Merlin	<p>Maintenance of the extent of designated habitats and suitably characteristic vegetation composition and structure. Control requires regular management to restrict colonisation , such as grazing or parch burning, as well as more intensive control of invasive species such as <i>Rhododendron</i>.</p> <p>Maintenance of water quality is important within each of the designated habitats and air pollution and atmospheric deposition is likely to be an important cause of eutrophication within these habitats.</p>

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		<p>Birds – Maintenance of habitat diversity is important to meet varying seasonal usage, Bird communities are highly mobile and exhibit patterns of activity related to habitat successional stages. The most important factors are the maintenance of the current extent and distribution of suitable feeding and roosting habitat, sufficient food availability and levels of disturbance within necessary levels which are especially important for ground nesting birds such as nightjar.</p> <p>(Source: SW RSS Habitat Regulations Assessment - Final Report – Appendix 3)</p>
Dorset Heathlands (Ramsar)	<p>Ramsar criterion 1: Particularly good examples of northern Atlantic wet heaths with cross-leaved heath, acid mire with <i>Rhynchosporian</i>, southern Atlantic wet heaths with Dorset heath and cross-leaved heath.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 2: Supports 1 nationally rare and 13 nationally scarce wetland plant species and at least 28 nationally rare wetland invertebrate species.</p>	<p>This inland wetland contains numerous examples of wet heath (<i>Erica ciliaris</i>, <i>E. tetralix</i>) and acid valley mire, habitats that are restricted to the Atlantic fringe of Europe. These heath wetlands are amongst the best of their type in lowland Britain. The site supports a large assemblage of nationally rare and scarce wetland plant species and invertebrates (28 species). The area is used for nature conservation, tourism, recreation, rough or shifting grazing, mining, and hunting. Ramsar site no. 964. Most recent RIS information: 1999.</p> <p>(Source: SW RSS Habitat Regulations Assessment - Final Report – Appendix 3)</p>

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	<p>Ramsar criterion 3: has a high species richness and high ecological diversity of wetland habitat types in one of the most biologically-rich wetland areas of lowland Britain</p>	
<p>Fontmell and Melbury Downs (SAC)</p>	<p>Annex I – non-primary Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) Annex II – primary Early Gentian (<i>Gentianella anglica</i>)</p>	<p>Grassland – Sward structure and composition provide a valuable indication of habitat quality. Maintaining appropriate grazing or rotational cutting may be used to retain the presence of positive indicator species and prevent domination by rank grasses and scrub though some scrub can be ecologically beneficial Early Gentian – Maintenance of the calcareous bare ground micro-habitats through grazing, which prevents this species being shaded out, by more common species.</p> <p>(Source: SW RSS Habitat Regulations Assessment - Final Report – Appendix 3)</p>
<p>Montissfont Bats (SAC)</p>	<p>Annex I – non-primary – N/A Annex II – primary Barbastelle (<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barbastells are medium-sized bats whose ecological requirements are not fully known but have a clear preference for woodland habitats, the condition of which must be conserved in terms of extent; natural processes and structural development; regeneration potential. • Conservation of habitats in the surrounding landscape for summer foraging • Availability of water

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Mells Valley (SAC)	<p>Annex I – non primary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) • Caves not open to the public <p>Annex II – primary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater horseshoe bat – <i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i> 	<p>Grassland</p> <p>Sward structure and composition provide a valuable indication of habitat quality. Cutting or grazing may be used to maintain these habitats, including control of scrub encroachment.</p> <p>The presence of negative indicator species may indicate problems such as eutrophication, scrub invasion (insufficient control) or over grazing (e.g. by rabbits)</p> <p>Bats</p> <p>Roosts are sensitive to disturbance (internal as well as at the entrances) which would need to be limited to acceptable levels.</p> <p>Suitability of roost internal conditions (temperature, light, ventilation, stability etc) should be maintained. Appropriate management of vegetation at roost entrances is required and there should be no artificial light shining on entrance or associated flightpaths</p> <p>Bats require connectivity of habitat features for commuting and foraging. Active management of the habitats used by bats for these activities may be required. The importance of linear habitat features off site for bat flight line should be recognised.</p> <p>(source: SW RSS Habitat Regulations Assessment - Final Report – Appendix 3)</p>
Mendip Woodlands (SAC)	<p>Annex I – Primary</p> <p><i>Tilio – Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate woodland management is required in particular to maintain natural processes, a diverse woodland structure, tree regeneration potential, a diverse age structure, control invasive species, and

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		support characteristic species and habitat types. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deer management and protection from rabbits or livestock are often important. (Source: SW RSS Habitat Regulations Assessment - Final Report – Appendix 3)