

Purbeck District Council Core Strategy 'Route Map' of Alternatives for DGTP

Stage of Core Strategy (and supporting HRA/AA)	Options Considered for DGTP	Other Strategic Alternatives Considered (employment and housing)	SA/SEA undertaken of alternatives	Reasons for choice	Waterman Comments
Issues and Options Leaflet, February 2006. South West Regional Assembly will decide what level of growth Purbeck should accommodate in the period 2006-2026. This will be set out in the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy. Recent discussions have centred on between 105-120 additional houses per annum in Purbeck. [2,100 – 2,400] Core Strategy Background Paper Volume 11: The Habitats Regulations	DGTP is not identified specifically. However, the Site is mapped on page 5 within a potential growth area which encompasses DGTP, Wool and Bovington. Further, the document states in relation to options for employment that 'The redevelopment of vacant or under utilised employment sites and premises in locations well related to the workforce and / or accessible by a range of transport modes should be supported.' However, no specific options in relation to DGTP are considered.	At this stage the Core Strategy options seek to comply with the RSS. Specific sites are not identified, however three spatial options are considered for housing (page 3): • 'The allocation of sites on the edge of the three main settlements [Upton, Wareham and Swanage] for limited development in order to meet local needs and support the vitality and viability of established shops, services and local employment, thereby reducing the need to travel. • A new or extended settlement could be created with a balance of housing, employment and community facilities. • Dispersed growth across towns and selected villages.' Further four options are considered for employment uses: • 'Extend existing employment allocations or established industrial estates. • Incorporate new employment development as part of a mix of uses on large development sites and new or extended settlements. • Encourage the conversion of existing buildings for employment use. • Encourage the retention of established hotel facilities and guest houses, subject to viability.'	Issues and Options Leaflet SA, February 2006 Comparative appraisal of options including housing and employment options.	SA does not state any justification for selection options, however page 5 notes that: 'A particular difficulty was in assessing the location of the settlement, for example "edge of existing settlement", as the name of the settlement itself was not spelled out. A very different result would emerge if comparing, say, Wool with Bere Regis. Therefore the comments are very generalised. A further difficulty was that the possible numbers of dwellings could not be assessed at this stage.' It states in relation to housing options (page 38): 'Dispersed growth is more difficult to plan for a sustainable community, has the potential to increase the need to travel, create more difficulties with access and hence vulnerability to climate change, and, due to smaller developments on scattered sites, it would more difficult to achieve affordable housing.' The SA (page 21) also recognises in relation to employment options, that mixed use allocations help to reduce the need to travel. It goes on to say (at page 38) that: 'All options have the potential to provide more employment with Purbeck. However, not all may be achievable: if there is no large development allocated, then there will be no opportunities for mixed use development within it.'	Whilst the DGTP is within an identified growth area, housing is not specifically considered as an option at DGTP (or surrounding settlements). Page 1 states 'The number of people working outside the district is likely to increase unless housing development is matched by suitable local employment opportunities.' The document goes on to stated that 'New development should, in the first instance, focus upon the redevelopment of previously developed land. High density development and mixed use development should be encouraged in order to make efficient use of land and add vitality.' Therefore it is considered that DGTP as a major brownfield site within an identified growth area should have been considered as a potential option for housing. Further no specific options in relation to employment at DGTP are considered, notwithstanding this it is identified as part of a growth area. It is therefore considered that specific options for major employment allocations should have been considered and this should have included mixed use redevelopment. The Core Strategy is divergent to regional policy because it does not positively plan for the level of housing required by the RSS and did not consider alternative spatial options for the



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					accommodation of this level of housing growth (refer to Matter 1 for further details).
The Preferred Options, September 2006 The draft Regional Spatial Strategy (April 2006) sets an annual average net requirement of 105 dwellings, or total of 2,100 dwellings, for Purbeck District over the period 2006-2026.	The Winfrith Technology Park is referenced in the 2006 Preferred Options report. This highlighted (on page 70) that 'the [Winfrith Technology] Centre fulfils a sub-regional employment role which is accompanied by high levels of in-commuting. However, links between the Technology Centre and the villages of Wool and Bovington are not well established, and both villages therefore experience significantly high levels of out-commuting to employment and training opportunities provided elsewhereand local employment remains an issue'. The 2006 Preferred Options report goes on to state that 'The Council consider that Winfrith Technology Centre presents an opportunity to support and grow knowledge based industries and the linkage between Wool, Bovington and Winfrith will be considered through the preparation of an Area Action Plan. This is likely to assist in determining the scale and nature of any extension [to Wool].' In addition, the report states that 'The District possesses two locally significant employment sites, namely, Winfrith Technology Centre and the Holton Heath Trading Estate. The former is a prestige centre for research and development industries, and is widely acknowledged	Holton Heath Trading Estate as a strategic employment Site. Page 41 of the Preferred Options states the Holton Heath Trading Estate: 'site provides established industrial units, storage and open-air hard standing facilities, and typically houses some of the District's largest companies.' In terms of housing, page 28 sets out the potential number of dwellings for Upton (130), Wareham (244) and Swanage (470). Areas that are excluded are set out as follows on page 29 of the Preferred Options document: 'Residential development on the edge Upton and Bovington have, however, been discounted owing to the fact that they are both within 400m of a heathland site of European nature conservation importance Lytchett Matravers has also been discounted owing to the fact that it is enveloped by the South East Dorset Green Belt, the general extent of which is to be maintained. Corfe Castle lies within the Dorset AONB and its size and landscape sensitivity are unlikely to yield substantive opportunities for further extension.' The Core Strategy includes the following policies: 'PO17 PREFERRED OPTION 17: BROAD LOCATION OF NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT To focus new housing development within the three main towns of Swanage, Upton and Wareham, and limited development within the key villages of Bere Regis, Corfe castle, Lytchett Matravers, Wool and Bovington.' 'PO18 PREFERRED OPTION 18: AREAS OF SEARCH The broad area of search for housing allocations (to be identified in a site specific allocations document at a later date) will be adjacent to the main settlements of Swanage and Wareham, as well as the	The Preferred Options SA, September 2006 Comparative appraisal of options undertaken. No details in reference to specific alternative sites were considered.	Page 7 of the SA provides details of the alternatives considered in the Core Strategy as follows: 'The Core Strategy Preferred Options is the outcome of evidence-gathering and stakeholder engagement, including through the Issues and Options Leaflet. It has also taken the SA of the Issues and Options Leaflet into account. In particular, out of the housing options presented in the Issues and Options Leaflet, the SA advised that dispersed growth was the least sustainable option. It also advised that "business as usual" regarding affordable housing was not a sustainable option. These two options were not taken forward into the Preferred Options document.' The Core Strategy identifies why some areas have been discredited: 'There is considered to be scope for a small scale extension on the edge of the existing built up area of Bere Regis, providing that this supports, and is accompanied by, the development of the existing employment allocation. However, in considering a number of proposals put forward at the Local Plan Inquiry, the Inspector dismissed sites on the basis of their impact upon the landscape character of the area – hence it is anticipated that the scope for extension is likely to be limited to small scale development. This would serve to support the established range of community facilities within the village.' 'The proposal for small scale extensions at Sandford and Holton Heath have also been excluded as Preferred Options as they do not reflect the key aspects of the RSS settlement strategy which seeks to enhance the role and function of market towns, whilst reducing the need to travel and	The Preferred Options failed to consider DGTP as a strategic brownfield site. Housing or a mixed use allocation was not considered for DGTP. As above, it is considered the redevelopment of DGTP as a mixed use allocation on brownfield land should have been considered. Additionally the spatial Objectives include: 'Increase employment opportunities in higher wage sectors through encouraging innovation and business growth in established sectors of the knowledge based economy, combined with appropriate training and up-skilling for the local workforce. DGTP is identified as growth area for knowledge based industries and therefore it is considered that specific options should have been considered for DGTP in relation to employment at this stage. An Area Action Plan was not progressed for Wool, Bovington and DGTP and therefore options and alternatives in relation to the above were not progressed. This represents a lack of proactive planning for employment and specifically DGTP.



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	to have further potential to promote employment uses that maintain its prestigious character.' 'PO31 PREFERRED OPTION 31: Knowledge based economy Retain and support the creation of knowledge-based employment opportunities in the high-tech research and development sectors, in particular, through optimising the potential of the WinfrithTechnology Centre.	larger villages of Bere Regis and Wool.'		increasing self-containment.'	
Development Management Policies Issues and Options, June 2008. Note that in 2008 the RSS Panel Report recommended the Purbeck housing requirement is increased to 5,150 dwellings (Area of Search 7B at Lytchett Minster for 2,750 dwellings and 2,400 dwellings elsewhere in Purbeck)	Page 11 DRAFT BROAD POLICY E: WINFRITH TECHNOLOGY CENTRE, WOOL AND BOVINGTON AREA ACTION PLAN states: "An Area Action Plan for Winfrith Technology Centre, Wool and Bovington will address existing issues and identified areas of change within this geographic area."	No other strategic sites are specifically identified broad spatial policies are included related to Swanage, Wareham, Upton, Key Villages, Smaller Villages and Countryside.	No SA / SEA was undertaken.		AAP was not progressed. As such, proactive planning for the area would have allowed options and alternatives to be considered in more detail.
The Preferred Options Public Consultation, September 2009. 1.1.3-4 The Council has been working towards publication of a Core Strategy since 2005, but uncertainty with the emerging RSS has led to significant delayprogress the Core Strategy and	The 2009 Preferred Options envisaged Winfrith Technology Centre providing a focus for inward investment of economic growth, whilst also catering for local employment needs with 20ha identified in the plan period. Improved linkage to Wool Railway Station was identified as one of a number of issues to be dealt with through an Area Action Plan. Policy E: Employment stated that 'Existing employment areas [including Winfrith	Preferred Option for Development: Distribute development around Swanage, Upton, Wareham and the Key Service Villages of Bere Regis, Lytchett Matravers and Wool Alternative Option A: Concentrate growth on the edge of Wareham Alternative Option B: Focus growth at Swanage Holton Heath and Admiralty Park (together with DGTP) considered the most sustainable locations in accordance with	The Preferred Options Public Consultation, September 2009 Sustainability Appraisal.	SA report states: Preferred Option for Development: Distribute development around Swanage, Upton, Wareham and the Key Service Villages of Bere Regis, Lytchett Matravers and Wool. "This option was put forward as the preferred option as it lessens the impact upon the character and setting of Wareham and Swanage. There are however concerns about the potential for dispersal and it is important that growth in key service villages is supported by adequate facilities and services."	As above. DGTP was not considered as a major brownfield site which could support mixed use redevelopment. Further, it is considered that alternative options for growth should have been considered rather than just discounting the Western Sector strategic allocation. This should have included the above options for DGTP. The sustainability appraisal did not carry out an appropriate level

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consult on the 2,400 dwellings requirement for the rest of Purbeck as set out in the RSS Proposed Changes does not include the proposed Western Sector of 2,750 dwellings. HRA	Technology Centre] will be safeguarded for B1, B2 or B8 uses. New proposals will only be permitted where they do not compromise the activities or integrity of the employment area'.	Policy LD: General Location of Development for employment		Alternative Option A: Concentrate growth on the edge of Wareham. "early indications from the Appropriate Assessment's informal comments showed that development in this area might have a more adverse impact on protected habitats than the Preferred Option (Option 4 below). There are also concerns over the impact upon the character of Wareham and the AONB." Alternative Option B: Focus growth at Swanage. "is problematic due to impact on the character of Swanage itself, on the AONB, and on the A351 south of Wareham. Furthermore, Swanage has insufficient employment sites to support major growth.	of assessment of the potential for growth at Wool, and the DGTP site in particular (refer to Matter 2 for further details). The Core Strategy did not consider alternative spatial options for the accommodation of this level of housing growth when it became apparent that the RSS proposal for major development at Lytchett Minster could not be delivered. The Core Strategy fails to adequately identify, test and evaluate the full range of alternative housing growth options available (refer to Matter 2 for further details).
Where Shall We Build in Purbeck, July 2010.	DGTP is included as an employment site, with most of the proposed development considered to the west of Wool.	North West Area (around Bere Regis) South West Area (around Wool and Bovington) Central Area (around Wareham) North East (around Upton and Lytchett Matravers) South East (around Swanage and Corfe Castle)	No SA / SEA was undertaken.		Option 2 should have included DGTP should have been considered as a potential mixed use allocation.
The Pre- Submission Draft Core Strategy in November 2010. HRA. Purbeck Core Strategy Implications of Additional Growth Scenarios for European Protected Sites, September 2010	The 2010 Pre Submission Draft Core Strategy also promoted DGTP for 20ha of employment uses in accordance with the Regional Workspace Strategy. Policy ELS: Employment Land Supply stated that new employment would be focussed at existing employment sites which included the Dorset Green Technology Park (20ha).	On Page 12 the Pre Submission Draft proposes 'settlement extensions at Upton, Swanage, Wareham, Bere Regis, Bovington and Lytchett MatraversSettlement Extensions that require a change to the South East Dorset Green Belt are considered strategic and must be allocated in the Core Strategy. These are Policeman's Lane, Upton (70 dwellings), Worgret Road, Wareham (200 dwellings) and Huntick Road, Lytchett Matravers (50 dwellings).' Additionally page 28 states: 'Bere Regis, with clear support for the development of 50 dwellings to replace the existing school on a new site nearer the village centre. If this option comes forward, delivery would	Core Strategy Pre-Submission Sustainability Appraisal Oct 2010 Appendix 9: Development Options matrices (based on Spatial Options Background Paper Volume 4 2009) Appendix 10: Sites consulted on in Leaflet consultation June 2010 Nine development options were considered In Planning Purbeck's Future 2009, and three were taken forward, refer to Table 2.6 (and adjacent commentary). Each of the nine options was	The SA report provides a summary of nine main historical spatial options at page 14: 1) Focus development at Upton. Not taken forward for consultation in 2009. At the time, Upton was identified by the RSS as forming part of the SSCT. Development would therefore have been contrary to RSS at the time. 2) Concentrate growth on the edge of Wareham. Taken forward as Alternative Option A in 2009. Not taken forward in 2010. It was later shown by HRA that this option could affect protected sites. 3) Focus growth at Swanage. Taken	As above. Further, the HRA report on additional growth states that: At Wool, considering the scenario of higher growth and an additional 1000 houses, Winfrith Heath and Hethfelton would be likely to see a marked increase in access, especially at Winfrith, which is a rural heath with no infrastructure to support the additional visitor pressure. We cautiously suggest that there could be potential to provide alternative green space to the south of Wool that, with a range of other measures, could be



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		be expected in the period 2012-2016. There is also clear support for housing if the school option is dropped. This support provides a good starting point for further consideration through the Site Allocations Plan that is scheduled for adoption in 2013 with housing delivery expected post 2016.' Most sites will be identified within a Site Allocations Plan.	appraised against the Core Strategy spatial objectives and given an informal SA - The matrices for the alternative options are included in Appendices 12 – 15 of the SA (http://www.dorsetforyou.com/399691). Of the nine development options, of those taken forward in 2010/2011 – Option 4 was amended to remove a site at Wool, however it is still included in the settlement hierarchy. The SA pointed out that "the option would lessen the impact upon the character and setting of Wareham and Swanage and was the best option to avoid impact upon European protected sites. There are however concerns about the potential for dispersal and it is important that growth in Key Service Villages is supported by adequate facilities and services."	forward as Alternative Option B in 2009. Not taken forward in 2010. 4) Distribute development around Swanage, Upton, Wareham and the Key Service Villages of Bere Regis, Lytchett Matravers and Wool. Taken forward as the Preferred Option in 2009. Taken forward in 2010 consultations. 5) Proportionate Development (very similar to the Preferred Option, with a little more development at Wareham). Not taken forward for consultation in 2009. 6) Dispersal to all settlements. Not taken forward for consultation in 2009. Did not conform to RSS at the time. 7) Improve self-sufficiency of Wool (approx 300 additional dwellings at Wool). Not taken forward for consultation in 2009. Did not conform to RSS at the time. 8) Improve self-sufficiency of Bere Regis (approx 450 dwellings at Bere Regis). Not taken forward for consultation in 2009. Did not conform to RSS at the time. 9) Improve self-sufficiency of Lytchett Mat. (approx 400 dwellings at Lytchett Matravers). Not taken forward for consultation in 2009. Did not conform to RSS at the time.	sufficient to provide mitigation. The alternative green space required would need to be considerable and further work is necessary to ensure its effectiveness. Therefore it is considered that options for the growth area as DGTP, Bovington and Wool should have been considered further, including SANGs proposals and housing at DGTP.
The 2011 Changes to the Pre- Submission Draft Core Strategy HRA	The 2011 Changes to the Pre-Submission Draft Core Strategy policy states in Policy ELS: Employment Land Supply, that 'new employment development will be focused at the most sustainable locations in accordance with Policy LD: General Location of Development and existing employment sites that do not fit within the settlement hierarchy such as Holton	 Allocated housing sites are: Upton (Policeman's Lane), 70. Lytchett Matravers (approximately 50 dwellings at Huntick Road). Swanage (200 dwellings plus new employment growth on the existing Prospect Business Park of up to 1.2 hectares to allow local businesses the opportunity to expand). Bere Regis (both of the major landowners at Bere Regis have declared their interest in providing land for a new school as part of an overall strategy for the village that includes a 	The Proposed Changes to the Pre- Submission Draft Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal, Autumn 2011 The alternative additional growth scenarios assessed since the Pre- Submission discussed within the SA are: • Western Sector – 2,750 dwellings at Lytchett Minster, plus park and ride, employment and open space (SANGS); • Wool - ZBV proposals for 400-600	The appraisals, as set out in Appendix 6, highlight that 400-600 dwellings at Wool (see page 47) would likely fail the Habitats Regulations as the mitigation being proposed as part of the site proposal is not considered to be attractive. Therefore without suitable mitigation, the proposal would have significant negative effects on habitats and species. There would also be a potential negative impact on the landscape. These impacts could result in negative effects on tourism, as major draws for tourists are the quality of	As above. The HRA report states: 'As a result of the appropriate assessment work, the assessment team highlighted the following as requiring further work: SANGs provision around Wareham, Swanage and Wool'. Therefore it is considered that the Core Strategy should have undertaken further work on the options for and around Wool including DGTP.



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	Heath. In rural areas, small scale employment use will be encouraged to help rural regeneration and improve the sustainability of communities. The employment land supply will be assessed through Employment Land Review Part 3 and allocated accordingly in a subsequent plan(s). In the interim existing employment sites as set out in the Purbeck Local Plan Final Edition will be carried forward on the Proposals Map.' DGTP is identified in the Local Plan as an existing employment site. The 2011 Draft Core Strategy also discusses potential mixed use allocations for the Dorset Green Site. These include the option of a 400-600 dwelling allocation at Dorset Green and a 400-1000 dwelling, mixed use allocation in Wool. Based on the text of the appraisal, this allocation is also understood to include Dorset Green. These allocations are appraised in the 2011 SA and the 2010 report entitled 'Implications of Additional Growth Scenarios for European Protected Sites'.	 settlement extension of 50 dwellings.) Worgret Road Wareham (realignment of the settlement boundary for the allocation of a mixed-use settlement extension along Worgret Road will include: 200 dwellings of which a minimum of 50% dwellings are 'affordable' for local people; North Street (0.7 hectares of employment land was allocated at North Street through the Purbeck Local Plan Final Edition (2004), but has yet to come forward for development. Further consideration will be given to the provision of new employment land in the Employment Land Review Part 3Site Allocations Plan. The landowner has indicated a desire to bring land forward the North Street site by 2026. It is important that new employment growth supplements housing growth to improve self-sufficiency and overcome the concerns of the Highways Agency of increased commuting from Bere Regis to Poole and Dorchester.) The submission draft Core Strategy identifies there is potential for habitat mitigation of between 400 and 1,000 dwellings at Wool but the Council is unlikely to pursue this option because Wool is not at the appropriate level in the settlement hierarchy set out in Policy LD: Location of Development. 	dwellings plus employment and open space (SANGS); • Wool – 400-1,000 dwellings, employment, open space, park and ride, tourism uses, community facilities and primary school. Refer to Appendix 6: Alternative Additional Growth Scenario Options Alternative Policies are also considered: • HS2100: Housing Supply: Alternative Option - 2,100 dwellings; and • Policy HS5150: Housing Supply: Alternative Option - 2,520-5150 dwellings Refer to Appendix 5: Alternative Policy Options	habitats and the landscape of the District. Other environmental impacts include water and energy consumption and light pollution. It is likely the development would put additional pressure on the road network as people access population centres elsewhere. This lack of containment is assessed as a negative effect. The proposal is a mixed housing/employment development and the housing element is intended to enable employment development of the site. However, being a rural employment site, it is not clear whether there would be demand from inward investment. Therefore, in terms of employment, the proposal is appraised as having a positive impact, rather than a significant positive impact. The appraisal of 400-1,000 dwellings cautiously suggested that mitigation measures could be put in place that would satisfy the Habitats Regulations, but questions still hang over their suitability. Impacts on habitats and landscape could have a negative knockon effect on tourism. Other environmental impacts include water and energy consumption and light pollution. As with the proposal for 400-600 dwellings, it is likely the development would put additional pressure on the road network as people access population centres elsewhere. This lack of containment is assessed as a negative effect. The proposal is a mixed housing/employment development and the housing element is intended to enable employment development of the site. However, being a rural employment site, it is not clear whether there would be demand from inward investment. Therefore, in terms of employment, the proposal is appraised as having a positive impact, rather than a significant positive impact.	The Core Strategy states that this option is not in accordance with the settlement hierarchy, however the Core Strategy does not provide adequate housing allocations to support its proposed housing growth or the 5 year supply, or higher growth scenarios which are considered more in line with required growth. This would indicate that the settlement hierarchy needs to be reconsidered. It is considered that providing housing in close proximity to existing strategic employment sites would be a sustainable spatial option which should be considered further in the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy cannot demonstrate with clear justification why alternative opportunities have been disregarded and the subsequent housing policy and trajectory heavily reliant on settlement extensions in Green Belt locations around the higher order district centres (refer to Matter 1 for further details). Policy LD and ELS should reference DGTP in relation to an employment allocation. No justification is provided for the removal of DGTP from the planning policy. The role of DGTP has been diluted in the Core Strategy and this as a policy option has not been tested, in comparison with other options for the site.