

**Sustainability Appraisal (Approved May 2008) for**  
**Long Buckby, Northamptonshire : Village Design Statement**

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This Sustainability Appraisal has been prepared by the Long Buckby Village Design Statement Working Group and accompanies the Long Buckby Village Design Statement (VDS).
- 1.2 Should you require any further information about it, please contact: Karen Britton, Senior Planning Officer, Daventry District Council, Lodge Road, Daventry, Northamptonshire, NN11 4FP. Tel: 01327 302581 E-mail: [kbritton@daventrydc.gov.uk](mailto:kbritton@daventrydc.gov.uk)
- 1.3 The purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is to promote sustainable development through better integration of sustainability considerations into the preparation and adoption of the VDS. The SA considers the VDS implications, from a social, economic and environmental perspective and against available baseline data and sustainability objectives. A Scoping Report of the SA was prepared in June 2007. This highlighted a suggested Sustainability Framework and objectives, which provided a baseline for further work, in order to prepare the SA (Consultation Draft) and the VDS (Consultation Draft). The Scoping Report was circulated to the three SEA Consultation Bodies (Natural England, English Heritage, and The Environment Agency) as required by legislation. In addition to this statutory requirement and to provide an opportunity at an early stage for a more local input, we also sought views from Long Buckby Parish Council. The responses to the Scoping Report are summarised in Appendix A.
- 1.4 A Sustainability Appraisal (Consultation Draft) (SACD) was then produced to accompany the Long Buckby Village Design Statement (Consultation Draft). Both documents were approved for public consultation at the Council's Planning Committee on 26/9/07 and Strategy Group on 11/10/07. Consultation took place on these documents for a period of 6 weeks until 14/12/08. The consultation was in accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement. The final drafts of both documents returned to Planning Committee on 2/4/08 and Strategy Group on 17/4/08, with the Long Buckby Village Design Statement being Adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 at Full Council on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2008. The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) was approved as an accompanying, but separate document to the Development Brief. The responses to the SACD are contained in Appendix B.

## 2. The Sustainability Appraisal Context

- 2.1 Long Buckby is a large post-industrial parish with a population of some 4,300 people most of whom live in the main village. However the parish also contains two smaller settlements – Buckby Wharf and Murcott – which, together with outlying farms, have a total of some 200 residents. After a long and slow decline as a shoe manufacturing community, Long Buckby grew rapidly during the final 30 years of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century mainly to house commuters attracted by the easy access to the M1, M6 and A14. The village is located midway between Northampton and Rugby and is about ten miles from both towns.
- 2.2 The VDS restricts itself to the Parish of Long Buckby.
- 2.3 The issues considered in the VDS have been decided by the VDS Working Group based on the design issues most important to the village. They meet fully or partially most of the SA objectives.

## 3. Introduction to Sustainability Appraisal

- 3.1 Local planning authorities must now comply with European Union Directive 2001/42/EC. This requires formal strategic environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes, which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. This applies to all local development documents. PPS 12: Local Development Frameworks (2004) also makes this a requirement.
- 3.2 Section 39 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires local development documents to be prepared with a view to them contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. A widely used definition of this was drawn up by the World Commission on Environment and Development (1987) as: “development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.
- 3.3 The Government has set out five principles in ‘Securing the Future : Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy (DEFRA 2005)’. These are:
- |                                       |  |                        |
|---------------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| 1. Living within environmental limits | 2. Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society | 3. Sustainable economy |
| 4. Using sound science responsibly    | 5. Promoting good governance                   |                        |
- 3.4 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a systematic appraisal process intended to appraise the social, environmental and economic effects of planning strategies and policies to ensure that decisions are made in accord with sustainable development.

- 3.5 To assist in ensuring that SA meets the requirements of the SEA Directive, the former Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) prepared 'Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents' (November 2005).

#### **4. The SA Framework and Objectives**

- 4.1 The SA Framework is there to identify sustainability issues and the desirable directions of change whilst the objectives define what SPD will be assessed against. In order to facilitate legibility and ease of understanding and use, the sustainability objectives and criteria have been set out in the form of a matrix. An explanation of the methodology for formulating the Appraisal Framework is presented below.
- 4.2 The SEA topics, as identified in the SEA Directive, form the general basis for the contents of the matrix. These topics include: Biodiversity, Water & Soil, Population & Human Health, Air, Climatic Factors, Material Assets, Social Inclusiveness and Economic Development.
- 4.3 The next step is to identify and develop the sustainability objectives that will underpin the VDS. The objectives for VDS have been developed from work carried out by Jaquelin Fisher Associates Ltd, which has been revised by Environ UK Ltd, who have been working on a joint SEA/SA of the Core Strategy for Daventry District Council, Northampton Borough Council and South Northamptonshire Council. The full list of SEA/SA objectives is included in the matrix, however some objectives will not be applicable to the VDS. Where this is the case N/A has been put into the matrix criteria section with a brief comment in italics. For information, SEA/SA is an iterative process therefore the objectives may change in the future.
- 4.4 Following on from the identification of objectives, a range of associated criteria has been identified to provide further clarity in respect of future development directions as well as to assist in the appraisal process. The criteria provide a more specific elaboration of the individual objectives. They focus specifically on the items, which are of direct relevance to the VDS preparation. The results of the appraisal were recorded using the compatibility key developed by Jaquelin Fisher Associate and revised by Environ UK Ltd.
- 4.5 It should be emphasised that the SA should not aim to repeat work already highlighted through the Local Plan/Local Development Framework. The aim of the SA will be to try and ensure that future Long Buckby development is designed to ensure that it fits into the existing village environment in a sustainable manner; that it has sustainable links with other areas; and that building materials, landscape works etc promote sustainability. .

### Compatibility Key

✓	Compatible
-	Neutral
?	Uncertainty
X	Potential Conflict

### Key to Colour Coding

	Strongly supports achievement of the objective
	Supports achievement of the objective
	No relationship
	Uncertain / Level of support unknown
	Conflicts with the achievement of the objective
	Strongly Conflicts with the achievement of the objective

### SA Framework – Objectives and Criteria

Objective Number	Objective	Criteria	Appraisal Score	Appraisal Comments
SA1	To protect and enhance designated wildlife sites and the qualifying habitats and species and increase biodiversity and variety of habitats within the area	Will the VDS identify wildlife sites and habitats of value in the village and make recommendations to promote their survival and enhancement?	✓	The VDS requires that development should respect existing wildlife habitats.
		Will the VDS encourage the development of new wildlife and habitat opportunities?	✓	The VDS require the creation of new habitats and planting of - mostly native - trees and bushes to accompany new development. Specific species are identified.
		Is there potential for the VDS to have negative impacts on wildlife and habitats? If so can these be mitigated?	✓	There are no specific proposals with negative impacts and ways of mitigating the negative effects of development are advocated. These include the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems.
SA2	Provide opportunities for people to increase awareness and appreciation of the ecological resource	Will the VDS enhance opportunities to appreciate the natural environment in the village and parish?	✓	Emphasis is placed on the protection and enhancement of rights of way to allow easy access to the countryside. The protection of views across the parish and beyond is also required.
		Will the VDS actively encourage an awareness and response to environmental issues?	✓	Developers are encouraged to include enhancement of the environment in their plans and ecologically viable homes are also encouraged.
SA3	Maintain or enhance air quality across the area and supports a transport network which minimises detrimental impacts on air quality	Does the VDS increase opportunities for cycling and walking, and include measures to reduce transport contribution to the degradation of air quality?	✓	The VDS seeks to locate new development within easy walking distance of the centre of the village. It also proposes the developments of rights of way and of walkways and cycleways.

Objective Number	Objective	Criteria	Appraisal Score	Appraisal Comments
SA4	To minimise energy usage and to increase the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources whilst limiting risk to people and properties from the effects of climate change	Does the VDS include measures aimed at promoting reduced energy demand and enhanced energy efficiency and renewable generation in the layout and design of buildings?	?	Not specifically but action on climate change is fully supported and it is accepted in our recommendations that requirements for good design must accommodate buildings of innovative design and ecological merit
SA5	To develop a more sustainable pattern of water supply, whilst managing existing resources and maintaining and improving the quality of ground and surface water	Does the VDS encourage the more sustainable supply and use of water including ensuring that ground and surface water are managed to maximise resources.?	✓	New developments are required to incorporate sustainable drainage systems and development will manage and minimise surface water runoff to prevent flooding.
SA6	Ensure that new development is not located within the areas of high (or unacceptable) flood risk	( Not applicable at the parish level but will be dealt with in other Local development Framework Documents)	N/A	(Two areas of potential flood risk are referred to in the commentary but are not included in the recommendations. However the parish would encourage developers of such sites to discuss their proposals with the Environment Agency)
SA7	To ensure appropriate land use in relation to soil and geology functionality and improve efficiency in	Does the VDS take note of changes in land levels in terms of layout and design of development and maximisation of rural views?	✓	The VDS requires preference to be given to the village's natural hilltop location for any new development. This would protect rural views.

Objective Number	Objective	Criteria	Appraisal Score	Appraisal Comments
	improve efficiency in land use through optimising the use of previously developed land and buildings	Does the VDS consider the use of previously developed land and buildings?	✓	The controlled use of infilling is accepted for new development and the conversion of existing buildings is encouraged, to optimise building and land use.
		Does the VDS encourage good land use by specifying the appropriate density of development?	?	A balance between development and open space is required but specific densities are not advocated.
		Does the VDS promote the conservation and use of buildings of conservation value?	✓	The protection of features of historic, architectural and community significance is specifically supported.
SA8	To minimise waste, increase the reuse and recycling of waste materials and reduce the volume of waste disposed of to landfill	(not applicable at the parish level as the main responsibility lies at the district and county level)	N/A	
SA9	To preserve, enhance and increase awareness of the historic and cultural environmental and archaeological assets	Do the VDS recommendations enhance and respect the character and setting of Long Buckby's historic, cultural and archaeological assets?	✓	It does so specifically and identifies buildings and features which, although they are not in the English Heritage listings, should be afforded some level of protection.
SA10	To protect and enhance the diversity of natural and built environments of the area	Does the VDS help identify and reinforce the distinctive quality, character and context of the existing landscape/townscape?	✓	Within the village distinctive areas are identified and their enhancement encouraged. The hilltop nature of the village is identified as an important feature. The protection of the rural nature of the settlements Wharf and Murcott is strongly supported.

Objective Number	Objective	Criteria	Appraisal Score	Appraisal Comments
		Does the VDS seek to retain the rural nature of the village whilst maintaining a good range of facilities?	✓	The retention and creation of open spaces and their relationship to the surrounding countryside is strongly advocated. The retention of the village as a local service centre is also encouraged.
		Does the VDS encourage housing to suit a range of age groups, household structures and incomes?	✓	The VDS encourages development which reflects the already wide mix of housing available in the village. This in turn reflects the village's wide social and demographic mix.
		Does the VDS seek to avoid large single 'urban-like' developments?	✓	The requirement is that developments must be sympathetic to the scale and design of their surroundings.
SA11	To provide a strategic network of Green Infrastructure across the area	Does the VDS identify existing areas of green space and opportunities to enhance a high quality Green Infrastructure in and around the village?	✓	Existing open spaces which are predominantly green, are identified for protection. Developers are also required to provide new developments with further open spaces and to relate these to the existing spaces and countryside. The potential of the work of the River Nene Regional Park Team will be examined to assess proposals.
SA12	To promote and enhance human health & amenity through access to safe, clean, pleasant environments, facilities and education.	Does the VDS include measures which will improve human health and amenity e.g through providing access to open space, local facilities and education?	✓	The promotion of walkways in the village, cycleways and of the rights of way into the countryside will contribute to this objective.

Objective Number	Objective	Criteria	Appraisal Score	Appraisal Comments
SA13	To improve community safety, reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime	Does the VDS provide guidance to reduce the opportunities for crime and the possible fear of crime?	–	The provision of secure fences and hedges to new developments on the edge of the village gives some encouragement .
		Does the VDS provide guidance on issues regarding road safety and road usage ?	✓	The designs of new developments are required to take into account the speed and flow of traffic.
SA14	To provide adequate educational facilities and opportunities for everyone to acquire appropriate skills and knowledge to support the business base of the area and to play a full part in society.	Does the VDS encourage the protection of existing educational opportunities and facilities in the village?	–	The document promotes an awareness of the village but does not specifically address the question of educational facilities and opportunities.
SA15	To promote and support the development and growth of social capital within the area and to make local facilities, services and amenities readily accessible for everyone including those most in need.	Does the VDS promote and protect opportunities for social interactions?	?	Not specifically but the document seeks to promote the village and its centre as places where people can walk safely and interact.
		Are facilities, services and amenities readily accessible to everyone, including those most in need?	✓	Long Buckby's potential as a local service centre is stressed and the need for it to be attractive and accessible is emphasised.
		Does the VDS foster a culture of belonging and community pride?	✓	The VDS aims to raise awareness of the features which make Long Buckby the community it is and of their value.

Objective Number	Objective	Criteria	Appraisal Score	Appraisal Comments
SA16	To develop a strong culture of enterprise and innovation	Does the VDS encourage appropriate innovative design in construction and land use?	✓	The need to modify some requirements to accommodate innovative developments is acknowledged
SA17	To create high quality employment opportunities	Does the VDS promote employment, particularly by facilitating the growth of small businesses and of people working at home?	✓	Working from home is specifically encouraged and support given to the some diversification of farms into tourism.
SA18	To protect, promote and enhance the built environment, infrastructure, equipment, and other assets to provide the necessary infrastructure and facilities for residents and businesses within the area	Does the VDS protect and enhance the local built environment and infrastructure?	✓	This is the overarching purpose of the VDS

## 5. Prediction of the Effects

### Assessing the sustainability effects

It is necessary to determine any significant effect of the VDS. This includes an assessment of the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects on the geographical area.

The main social, environmental and economic issues identified are as follows:

**Social** - The VDS will help ensure that any development has a positive social effect

**Economic** - In general terms positive economic impact is encouraged and negative impact should be minimised

**Environmental** - The VDS will result in high quality sustainable development that will enhance the visual character of the village and protect habitats and ecological diversity.

### Monitoring -

The VDS will be monitored on an annual basis as part of the Annual Monitoring Report for the Daventry Local Development Framework.

The process of development through planning applications will assist the monitoring of the value and impact of the VDS in practice.

## APPENDIX A Responses to Scoping Report

Organisation	Comments Received	Response to Comments
<p><b>Natural England</b></p>	<p>Countryside Agency's research on "New Vernacular" is of particular relevance when considering sustainable design and construction issues in villages and rural areas.</p> <p>Useful to review the relevant character area extract from the Countryside Agency's (East Midlands Volume 4) Countryside Character Landscape Assessment for area 95 'Northamptonshire Uplands'. Useful to review the Environmental Character assessment work undertaken by Northamptonshire County Council for each villages setting.</p> <p>SA1 - suggest instead of using the phrase 'qualifying habitats and species' that it would be better to use 'and priority habitats and species within the Northamptonshire Biodiversity Action Plan.</p> <p>We support the objectives and criteria questions for SA2 and SA3, SA10</p> <p>SA4 sustainable design and construction are key elements in sustainable development and the consideration of planning applications for new development and for the alteration of existing</p>	<p>This information was viewed during preparation of VDS.</p> <p>This information was viewed during preparation of VDS.</p> <p>The Objectives have been developed by Consultants and act as the SA Objectives for all planning documents in the District. This wording cannot be changed at this stage, however the SEA/SA consultants' work will be reviewed in due course and this point will be fed in to that process to provide further local clarity to this issue.</p> <p>These comments are welcomed</p> <p>The working group fully supports sustainable design and construction. However it</p>

	<p>buildings. These issues should therefore be considered. Energy conservation and the promotion of renewable energy are dimensions of this. We would suggest that the objective SA4, SA10 and SA18 be assessed against the following question – “Does the VDS promote and encourage sustainable design and construction that respects the local landscape character?” In considering this issue the “New Vernacular” research mentioned above is of relevance.</p> <p>SA7 we would suggest 2 additional questions under the criteria – “Does the VDS optimise land use and promote the conservation and use of buildings of conservation value? This would test whether the VDS is optimising land use and promoting the conservation and use of existing buildings, where the conservation merit of the building warrants it.</p> <p>SA11 Green and open spaces are key elements of village design. The existing and future provision of green space and its links to other greenspace outside of the village are all part of the Strategic Green Infrastructure network in this part of Northamptonshire. We therefore support this objective and criteria question. In terms of assessing if green infrastructure provision has been adequately provided for we would expect that this is considered against the studies undertaken across Northamptonshire, led by the River Nene Regional Park team.</p>	<p>feels that it is very much the responsibility of the planning authority to implement across the district at a more strategic level.</p> <p>This proposal has been incorporated</p> <p>Reference to the potential of this work is made in the appraisal comments to SA11</p>
<b>English Heritage</b>	None	N/A
<b>The Environment Agency</b>	<p>Para 3.3 One of the five principals is ‘Using Sound Science Responsibly’. In the view of the Environment Agency this should include the requirement to account for Climate Change when considering development/redevelopment plans. At present the Environment Agency suggests that a 20% climate change allowance should be considered. With the introduction of Planning Policy Statement 25 we understand that this requirement will increase.</p>	<p>We consider climate change to be very important and refer to this in comments on SA4. However we have to await clear guidance at national and local level before parish responses can be anything more than very general.</p>

	<p>SA1 Protect and Enhance Wildlife sites: recommendations for the protection and enhancement of wildlife sites should include the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) on development sites which act to reduce surface water, whilst promoting wildlife and habitat interests.</p> <p>SA5 Sustainable pattern of water supply and maintaining and improving ground and surface water: We would encourage the statement 'Do the Village Design Statement (VDS) guidelines incorporate measures to ensure ground and surface water is managed to maximise resources?' to include a reference to preventing flooding from surface water runoff?</p> <p>SA6 Flood Risk. The Environment Agency would promote early liaison between parties with respect to flood risk as it is a very significant consideration with huge implications. Surface water runoff from new sites, if incorrectly managed, can have a significant affect on other sites. Any move to incorporate the flood risk principles found within the Local Development Framework documents into the VDS would be supported by the Agency.</p> <p>SA7 Appropriate land use: The Agency have a variety of requirements in relation to surface water reduction principles and sets standards for reduction.</p> <p>Under SA1 the criteria to assess whether the VDS will have a negative impact on wildlife and habitats should be included.</p> <p>Green Infrastructure should be promoted at a local and regional level within the context of wider environmental considerations and priorities.</p>	<p>This point is accepted and acknowledged in the appraisal comments.</p> <p>This point is acknowledged and has been incorporated.</p> <p>The appraisal comments note that developers of vulnerable sites will be referred to the Environment Agency</p> <p>This too will require reference to the Environment Agency and is too detailed for parish level involvement</p> <p>This point has been incorporated.</p> <p>Guidance on assessment of green infrastructure is awaited on this from the responsible body RNRP</p>
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	<p>The aim should be to assess whether the VDS should 'provide a net gain in Northamptonshire Biodiversity Action Plan habitats and species'.</p> <p><b><u>Waste</u></b></p> <p>The waste hierarchy - reduce, re-use, recycle should be implemented when developing proposals for the development. Community composting schemes and the necessary waste handling facilities should be developed as part of the essential infrastructure of new neighbourhoods.</p> <p>Waste from construction should be minimised through effective on-site sorting, storage and management of materials and waste, re-use of excavated inert waste, on-site remediation and the use of sustainable construction techniques.</p> <p><b><u>Water Quality/ Sewerage Infrastructure</u></b></p> <p>Anglian Water Services Ltd, should be consulted by the Local Planning Authority and be requested to demonstrate that the sewerage and sewage disposal systems serving the development have sufficient capacity to accommodate the additional flows, generated as a result of the development, without causing pollution or flooding. If there is not capacity in either of the sewers</p>	<p>This is done in SA1</p> <p>The siting of domestic refuse bins on public spaces has been a recent problem and this is an issue which will be raised during consultation to determine whether the VDS should make specific recommendations.</p> <p>We agree that this is a planning authority responsibility but will alert them if local knowledge suggests proposed development could have adverse effects</p>
<p><b>Long Buckby Parish Council</b></p>	<p>No comments.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

**APPENDIX B Responses to Sustainability Appraisal (Consultation Draft)**

Organisation	Comments Received	Response to Comments
<b>Natural England</b>	None	None required
<b>English Heritage</b>	None	None required
<b>Environment Agency</b>	<p>Part of the village of Long Buckby is shown to be within Flood Zone 3 'high probability' as detailed on the Environment Agency's Flood Zone Maps recently issued to your Authority. The Environment Agency recommends, in agreement with Objective number SA6 of the Village Design Statement (VDS), that any proposed development within Flood Zone 3 should be the subject of a Planning Policy Statement 25 (PPS25) compliant Flood Risk Assessment and that the Planning Authority would need to be satisfied that the Sequential Test and where required that the Exception Test has been properly applied and passed.</p> <p>The Environment Agency's standing advice at <a href="http://www.pipernetworking.com/floodrisk">www.pipernetworking.com/floodrisk</a> sets out criteria and requirements for flood risk assessments for new</p>	None required – already referred to in VDS

	<p>proposed developments. The VDS should refer to the West Northants Strategic Flood Risk Assessment in identifying areas at risk of flooding.</p> <p>The Environment Agency has produced its own guidance for sustainable construction in the form of a pack called 'A guide for Developers', available at <a href="http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/developers">www.environment-agency.gov.uk/developers</a></p>	<p>Insert reference to WNSFRA in VDS</p> <p>Insert in to VDS for developers' information</p>
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