

Sustainability Appraisal (SA)(Approved May 2008) for
Scaldwell, Northamptonshire: Village Design Statement

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Sustainability Appraisal has been prepared by the Scaldwell VDS Group in line with current Daventry District Council (DDC) guidance and accompanies the Scaldwell 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
- 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 May 2006. 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 Scaldwell 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 Scaldwell 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 Scaldwell Village Design Statement being Adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 at Full Council on 15th 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 SA Context

- 2.1 Scaldwell is a rural village of approximately 120 buildings, being mainly residential housing. It is located approximately six miles north of Northampton and one mile north east of Brixworth.
- 2.2 The Village of Scaldwell have decided to prepare a Village Design Statement to assist in any future changes to the village and its environs. The VDS will therefore cover the village of Scaldwell and its immediate area.

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 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 5 principles in Securing the Future Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy (DEFRA 2005) which 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 aimed 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 Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) has 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 SA 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 the Sustainability Appraisal 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 are included in the matrix, however some 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 have 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 will be recorded using the compatibility key developed by Jaquelin Fisher Associate and revised by Environ UK Ltd.
- 4.5 It should be highlighted 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 Scaldwell VDS is designed to ensure that it fits into the Local Plan/Local Development Framework in a sustainable manner; that it has sustainable links with surrounding areas; and that building materials, landscape works etc promote sustainability. Sustainability issues to be considered include cultural and environmental aspects.

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 to the village and make recommendations to ensure their survival and enhancement?	✓	Encourages good practice, such as hedge management and specifically details areas of important wildlife habitat.
		Will the VDS enhance biodiversity/ habitats? Particularly for Biodiversity Action plan habitats and species.	✓	Supports, maintains and improves Biodiversity.
		Will the VDS encourage use of best building practice so as to develop new wildlife and habitat opportunities?	✓	Suggests items such as Bat Bricks and wildlife corridors.
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 and around the village?	✓	Strongly identifies and supports the continuation of footpaths, green spaces, views, historical buildings, walls etc
		Will the VDS actively encourage an awareness and pro-active approach to environmental issues?	✓	Identifies and discusses relevant environmental issues.

Objective Number	Objective	Criteria	Appraisal Score	Appraisal Comments
SA3	Maintain or enhance air quality across the area and supports a transport network which minimises detrimental impacts on air quality	Does the VDS identify any air quality issues and if so include recommendations to minimise or remove the identified degradation of air quality?		N/A
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 consider the future growth of alternative forms of energy conservation and generation and does it specify the acceptable design issues and impacts such methods may have on the village?	✓	Specific discussion of micro generation and the impact on the aesthetic of the village.
		Does the VDS include guidance aimed at promoting reduced energy demand and enhanced energy efficiency and renewable generation in the layout and design of buildings?	✓	As above.

Objective Number	Objective	Criteria	Appraisal Score	Appraisal Comments
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	N/A		
SA6	Ensure that new development is not located within the areas of high (or unacceptable) flood risk	N/A		
SA7	To ensure appropriate land use in relation to soil and geology functionality and improve efficiency in land use through optimising the use of previously developed land and buildings	Does the VDS identify any land use issues arising from known soil and geology functionality, including historical land use issues, e.g. quarrying, backfill etc?	✓	Specifically lists landfill and historical industrial land use with potential issues for future development.
		Does the VDS optimise land use by specifying the appropriate density of development?	✓	Central to the VDS' proposals is the density of building required to maintain the essential character of the village.
		Does the VDS optimise land use and promote the conservation and use of buildings of conservation value?	✓	Identifies and highlights the key areas and buildings of conservation value.

Objective Number	Objective	Criteria	Appraisal Score	Appraisal Comments
SA8	To minimise waste, increase the reuse and recycling of waste materials and reduce the volume of waste disposed of to landfill	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 Scaldwell's historic, cultural and archaeological assets?	✓	Central to the VDS are the historical and cultural assets of the village with guidelines intended to maintain and enhance their character and cultural value.
SA10	To protect and enhance the diversity of natural and built environments of the area	Does the initiative help identify and reinforce the distinctive quality/local context and character of the existing landscape/townscape?	✓	Yes
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 green spaces within the village are of high importance and are discussed and supported in some detail within the VDS.

Objective Number	Objective	Criteria	Appraisal Score	Appraisal Comments
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?	✓	Supports the existing playing fields, sports facilities and general recreational environment for dog walkers, nature lovers, photographers, sports people etc.
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 potential fear of crime?	✓	Specifically provides guidance on lighting.
		Does the VDS provide guidance on issues regarding road safety and road usage so as to enhance community safety whilst ensuring the essential character of the village is not compromised?	✓	Significant guidance on motoring issues such as parking and speeding is included.
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 ensure the protection of existing educational opportunities/facilities in the village?	✓	Lists and supports the existing educational and cultural assets of the village including the Village Hall, Tennis Courts, Playground, mobile library etc.

Objective Number	Objective	Criteria	Appraisal Score	Appraisal Comments
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 help create/protect opportunities for social connections/interaction amongst people?	✓	By supporting the existing cultural, sporting and educational facilities. E.g. the church
		Are facilities, services and amenities readily accessible to everyone, including those most in need?	✓	Historical issues remain but most public buildings in the village now provide access for less able people and this is encouraged in the VDS.
		Does the VDS foster a culture of belonging and community through a knowledge of shared historical context?	✓	Clearly identifies the historical context of the village.
SA16	To develop a strong culture of enterprise and innovation	Does VDS provide guidance to support a culture of enterprise and innovation so as to maintain harmony with the largely residential character of the village?	✓	The VDS encourages enterprise but specifies the limits acceptable within an essentially residential environment.
SA17	To create high quality employment opportunities	Does VDS provide encouragement for high quality employment opportunities while maintaining harmony with the largely residential character of the village?	✓	The VDS encourages high quality employment but specifies the limits acceptable within an essentially residential environment.

Objective Number	Objective	Criteria	Appraisal Score	Appraisal Comments
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, 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 while maintaining the valuable and essential character of the village?	✓	Yes

5. Prediction of the effects

Assessing the sustainability effects

It is necessary to determine any significant effects 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 any negative future economic impact is minimised.

Environmental

The VDS will result in high quality, sustainably designed development, which promotes design standards that will enhance the visual character of the village, whilst ensuring habitat creation and ecological diversity.

The VDS will be monitored in the following way:

- 1.** The proposals will be monitored on an annual basis as part of the Annual Monitoring Report for the Daventry Local Development Framework;
- 2.** The process of the control of development through planning applications, applications for approval of reserved matters and controls on the use of materials secured by planning condition, will assist with monitoring, along with the submission of the Design Statement.

APPENDIX A Responses to Scoping Report

Organisation	Comments Received	Response to Comments
<p>The Countryside Agency jointly with English Nature</p>	<p>Support the VDS.</p> <p>The Countryside Agency's research "New Vernacular" is of particular relevance when considering sustainable design and construction issues in villages and rural areas....</p> <p>In considering Scaldwell's setting in respect of landscape character ...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'</p> <p>Useful to review the Environmental Character assessment work</p>	<p>Welcome comment</p> <p>Information reviewed and is largely in tune with the statements in the VDS. While the VDS supports the aim and overall approach of the "New Vernacular" it is also heavily weighted towards the aesthetics of design as it applies to the village environment. In general therefore, the VDS, while incorporating the bulk of the "New Vernacular" approach would not support its interpretation where it conflicts with the aesthetic design principles in the VDS. For example, the VDS supports use of sustainable traditional materials but does not support extensive glazing, for 'Solar gain', where this would be in conflict with the setting, building style and aesthetic of a location.</p> <p>I Information suggested has been reviewed</p>

	<p>undertaken by Northamptonshire County Council....</p> <p>Para. 3.3 UK Sustainable Development Strategy revised 2005 and “Securing the Future Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy” (DEFRA 2005) is the most up to date document.....</p> <p>SA1 - second criteria, suggest add in Biodiversity Action plan habitats and species.</p> <p>SA4 - in considering these issues the New Vernacular research is of relevance.</p> <p>SA7 – suggest additional question under the criteria – “Does the VDS optimise land use and promote the conservation and use of buildings of conservation value? This would test whether VDS optimising land use/ promoting conservation and use of existing buildings; where the</p>	<p>Information reviewed and is largely in tune with the statements in the VDS. Again, however, the VDS does not support the whole sale incorporation of sustainability guidelines where these would conflict with the character and nature of the location.</p> <p>SA Updated</p> <p>Information suggested has been reviewed</p> <p>Support comment – include in SA</p>
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	<p>conservation merit of the building warranted it.</p> <p>SA10 –suggest criteria question be slightly amended to “ Does the initiative help <u>identify and reinforce....</u>”</p> <p>SA11 –suggest criteria question be slightly altered to “ Does the VDS <u>identify existing areas of green space and opportunities to enhance a high quality Green Infrastructure ...</u>” In terms of assessing if green infrastructure provision has been adequately provided for we would expect that this is considered against the Strategic GI studies undertaken across Northamptonshire, led by the Rive Nene Regional Park team</p>	<p>Support comment – include in SA</p> <p>Support comment – include in SA</p>
English Heritage	None received	None required
The Environment Agency	None received	None required

APPENDIX B Responses to Sustainability Appraisal (Consultation Draft)

Organisation	Comments Received	Response to Comments
Natural England	None	None required
English Heritage	None	None required
Environment Agency	<p>No specific comments regarding any of the objectives or criteria included within the Sustainability Appraisal as submitted, but would request that we be consulted on any individual planning applications which we may have specific environmental concerns.</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 www.environment-agency.gov.uk/developers</p>	<p>None required – already happens through planning process</p> <p>Insert in to VDS for developers' information</p>