

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) (Approved May 2008) for

Sibbertoft, Northamptonshire: Village Design Statement

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Sustainability Appraisal has been prepared by the Sibbertoft Village Design Statement Working Group and accompanies the Sibbertoft 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 August 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 Sibbertoft 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 Sibbertoft 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 Sibbertoft 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 Sibbertoft is designated a Restricted Infill Village in the Daventry District Local Plan 1997. It lies in the north-west of Northamptonshire and is bounded by the parishes of Naseby, Sulby, Clipston and Marston Trussell in Northamptonshire and the County Boundary with Leicestershire.
- 2.2 The VDS restricts itself to the village of Sibbertoft and its immediate environs.
- 2.3 The issues considered in the VDS have been decided by the SVDSSC, based on the design issues they feel are important to the village. The table that appears later in this document therefore contains N/A against certain SA Objectives, which the SVDSSC feel are either issues irrelevant to a VDS generally, or issues that they do not propose to specifically consider in the VDS.

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.

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

- 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 Sibbertoft 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.

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	Does the VDS identify wildlife sites and habitats of value to the village and make recommendations to ensure that they are protected and enhanced?	✓	Wildlife sites and habitats are encouraged generally and some hedges and trees are identified on the map. Trees and hedgerow retention and management is promoted.
		Will the VDS enhance biodiversity/habitats?	✓	Existing habitats are recommended for retention and the creation of new habitats is encouraged. The Northamptonshire Biodiversity Action Plan is also referred to.
SA2	Provide opportunities for people to increase awareness and appreciation of the ecological resource	Will people's awareness/appreciation of the ecological resource be increased?	?	Specific opportunities are not identified nor is a programme of ecological awareness planned.
SA3	Maintain or enhance air quality across the area and supports a transport network which minimises detrimental impacts on air quality	N/A <i>Not within the remit of the VDS</i>		
SA4	To minimise energy usage and to increase the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources whilst limiting risk to	Does the VDS promote energy minimisation and use of renewable energy?	✓	The use of energy conservation and use of renewables is recommended.

Objective Number	Objective	Criteria	Appraisal Score	Appraisal Comments
	whilst limiting risk to people and properties from the effects of climate change			
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 <i>Not within the remit of the VDS</i>		
SA6	Ensure that new development is not located within the areas of high (or unacceptable) flood risk	Does the VDS highlight potential risk areas?	✓	Potential flood risk is identified.
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	Does the VDS take note of changes in land level in terms of the layout/design of the site?	✓	Yes, guidance is provided.
		Does the VDS optimise land use by providing guidance on the density of development?	✓	Guidance highlights the different plot characters of different development areas. Guidance is general rather than specific.

Objective Number	Objective	Criteria	Appraisal Score	Appraisal Comments
	land and buildings	Does the VDS optimise land use and promote the conservation and land use of buildings of conservation value?	✓	General rather than specific guidance is given.
SA8	To minimise waste, increase the reuse and recycling of waste materials and reduce the volume of waste disposed of to landfill	N/A <i>Not within the remit of the VDS</i>		
SA9	To preserve, enhance and increase awareness of the historic and cultural environmental and archaeological assets	Does the VDS enhance and respect the character and setting of Sibbertofts historic, cultural and archaeological assets?	✓	The retention of cultural, historic and archaeological assets is encouraged.
SA10	To protect and enhance the diversity of natural and built environments of the area	Does the initiative help reinforce the distinctive quality/local context and character of the existing landscape/townscape?	✓	Important local characteristics are identified and retention is encouraged.
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 and provide further areas of high quality Green Infrastructure in and around the village?	✓	Important open spaces are identified and retention is encouraged.

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.	N/A <i>Not within the remit of the VDS</i>		
SA13	To improve community safety, reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime	N/A <i>Not within the remit of the VDS</i>		
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.	N/A <i>Not within the remit of the VDS</i>		
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.	N/A <i>Not within the remit of the VDS</i>		

Objective Number	Objective	Criteria	Appraisal Score	Appraisal Comments
SA16	To develop a strong culture of enterprise and innovation	Does the VDS promote innovative design in its construction?	?	Attention is drawn to “Toward a ‘New Vernacular’” but no specific or general recommendations are made.
SA17	To create high quality employment opportunities	<i>N/A. Not within the remit of the VDS</i>		
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 make provision for the protection of the built environment?	✓	Together the guidelines aim to protect the built environment.
		Does the VDS promote and enhance the built environment?	✓	Together the guidelines aim to promote and enhance the built environment.
		Does the VDS protect or enhance the infrastructure, equipment, and other assets of the village?	✓	Infrastructure and other assets are identified and retention is recommended.

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
The Countryside Agency jointly with English Nature	<p>Believe it to be fairly comprehensive within its remit.</p> <p>SA1 – suggest rewording. Reference to Northamptonshire Biodiversity Action Plan to be added.</p> <p>SA1 – suggest adding a further question on wildlife and habitat opportunities.</p> <p>SA4 – include criteria for sustainable building materials. Reference to “Towards a ‘New Vernacular’” to be added.</p> <p>SA7 – suggest adding a further question on optimising land use etc</p> <p>SA10 – suggest amending question to include “identify”.</p> <p>SA11 – suggest amending question to refer to Green Infrastructure initiatives.</p>	<p>Welcome comment</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>The Environment Agency has 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>