

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) (Approved May 2008)

For Whilton Parish Design Statement (PDS)

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Sustainability Appraisal has been prepared by the Whilton PDS Group in line with current Daventry District Council (DDC) guidance and accompanies the Whilton Parish Design Statement (PDS)
- 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 PDS. The SA considers the PDS 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 PDS (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 Whilton 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 Whilton Parish 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 Whilton Parish 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

Whilton parish lies 4 miles east of Daventry and comprises 2 main areas – Whilton village (*limited infill, 82 properties, 6 self contained businesses) and Whilton Locks (*hamlet, 31 properties, 10 businesses run by people from outside the parish). (* as defined in the Daventry District Local Plan 1997). Notable features of the parish are: A5, M1, Grand Union Canal, Birmingham /Euston railway all straddling the Locks area which is a Conservation Area. We also have the sewage works serving the Daventry area in the parish. The Design Statement will seek to identify what makes our parish distinctive and how future growth in the area will not detract from this distinctiveness hence the main aspects will be social, economic, environmental. It is envisaged that all applications for development in the Parish would include a Statement indicating how the development would meet the Design Statement/Sustainability Appraisal requirements.

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 programs which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. This applies to all local development documents. PPS:12 Local Development Framework (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.
- 3.3 The Government has set out 5 principles in Securing the Future Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy (DEFRA 2005) which are:
 - Living within environmental limits
 - Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society
 - Sustainable economy
 - Using sound science responsibly
 - Promoting good governance.

- 3.4 SA is a systematic appraisal process aimed to appraise the social, environmental and economic (SEA) effects of planning strategies and policies to ensure that decisions are made in accordance with sustainable development
- 3.5 To assist in ensuring that the 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. Developing the SA objectives and appraisal framework

- 4.1 The SA context and objectives must be set and a decision made on the scope of the appraisal process. The identification of objectives forms the basis for the appraisal. It provides the starting point that both the SA and sustainability issues are at the heart of and fully integrated into the SPD preparation. 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.
- 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 results will be recorded using the compatibility key developed by Jaquelin Fisher Associates and revised by Environ UK Ltd., which has been adopted by DDC. Some of the SEA/SA objectives included in the matrix are felt not applicable to the PDS. Where this is the case N/A is inserted along with brief comments outlining the reasons for exclusion.

Compatibility key for SA

✓	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	Is there potential for negative impacts on designated or qualifying sites/protected species? If so can these be mitigated?	✓	The Statement encourages wildlife in general and identifies existing sites. We have not identified all sites in the parish but would seek to preserve and enhance where appropriate all sites.
		Will the Statement enhance biodiversity/ habitats? Does the Statement encourage a net gain in Northamptonshire Biodiversity Action Plan Species/Habitats?	✓	The Statement seeks to enhance the biodiversity habitat available in the Parish. The Statement seeks to enhance the biodiversity habitat available in the Parish, which should give a net gain of biodiversity in the parish.
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?	?	The Statement identifies sites, which will increase peoples' awareness of our ecological resources. No programme of ecological awareness is planned at present.
SA3	Maintain or enhance air quality across the area and supports a transport network which minimises detrimental impacts on air quality	Does the Statement increase opportunities for cycling, walking, bus travel and include measures to reduce transport contribution to the degradation of air quality?	-	No The Statement cannot hope to change the contribution that the M1 makes to air quality/pollution

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 Statement include measures aimed at promoting reduced energy demand and enhanced energy efficiency and renewable generation in the layout and design of buildings?	✓	The Statement seeks to promote good energy use by sympathetic use of materials and renewable energy. Potential developers would be required to produce a statement showing how they would achieve current practice for energy efficiency
		Does the Statement promote design for more extreme climatic events, incorporating robust and weather resistant built forms?	✓	Not specifically, we would rely on current good practice
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	Will the Statement incorporate measures to ensure that water is used more sustainably, e.g. low water use devices, rainwater collection?	✓	Not specifically, we would rely on current good practice
		Are measures in place to maintain and improve the quality of ground and surface water?	-	Outside the remit of this PDS

Objective Number	Objective	Criteria	Appraisal Score	Appraisal Comments
SA6	Ensure that new development is not located within the areas of high (or unacceptable) flood risk	Does the Statement identify areas of high flood risk?	✓	There are no perceived areas of high flood risk in the parish
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 Statement take note of changes in land level in terms of the layout/design of the site?	✓	Yes and each development application would be judged in relation to its relationship to the surrounding land
		Does the Statement optimise land use by the density of development?	✓	General guidance is provided
SA8	To minimise waste, increase the reuse and recycling of waste materials and reduce the volume of waste disposed of to landfill	Does the Statement promote design and layout, which facilitates and promotes reduction, re-use, recovery and recycling of waste?	✓	We encourage the objective, but nationally accepted guidelines would be more appropriate than specific ones for our parish
		Does the Statement include specific measures to reduce the amount of construction waste produced?	✓	See above

Objective Number	Objective	Criteria	Appraisal Score	Appraisal Comments
SA9	To preserve, enhance and increase awareness of the historic and cultural environmental and archaeological assets	Does the Statement enhance and respect the character and setting of Whilton's historic, cultural and archaeological assets?	✓	The Statement identifies these assets and seeks to protect them
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?	✓	The Statement clearly identifies the distinctiveness of the area and seeks to reinforce it
SA11	To provide a strategic network of Green Infrastructure across the area	Does the Statement provide high quality Green Infrastructure linked to adjacent green areas?	✓	The Statement identifies green areas linked to public footpaths and seeks to preserve and enhance them.
SA12	To promote and enhance human health & amenity through access to safe, clean, pleasant environments, facilities and education.	Will the Statement include measures which will improve human health and amenity e.g through providing access to open space, local facilities and education?	-	No specific measures are proposed
SA13	To improve community safety, reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime	Does the Statement provide designs and layouts, which reduce opportunities and the potential fear of crime?	-	No large scale development requiring these measures is envisaged

Objective Number	Objective	Criteria	Appraisal Score	Appraisal Comments
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 Statement provide opportunities for education/learning new skills?	-	Not appropriate
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 Statement help create opportunities for social connections/interaction amongst people?	-	N/A
		Are facilities, services and amenities readily accessible to everyone, including those most in need?	✓	There are no 'standard' facilities in the Parish, the Locks has a small grocery store mainly serving the canal trade.
SA16	To develop a strong culture of enterprise and innovation	Does the Statement itself promote innovative design in its construction?	✓	Development areas are identified at the Locks and related businesses are encouraged using buildings sympathetic to the context of the Conservation Area.
SA17	To create high quality employment opportunities	Will the Statement improve employment opportunities?	✓	The Statement identifies employment areas at the Locks and encourages 'home working' within the Parish

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 Statement make provision for the necessary infrastructure and facilities associated with any potential development within the parish	-	The scale of any potential development does not merit any special provision in the Statement

5. Prediction of the effects

Assessing the sustainability effects

It is necessary to determine any significant effects of the PDS. 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 PDS will help ensure that any development has a positive social effect.

Economic

In general terms any negative future economic impact is minimised.

Environmental

The PDS 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 PDS will be monitored in the following way:

- The proposals will be monitored on an annual basis as part of the Annual Monitoring Report for the Daventry Local Development Framework;
- 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	None received	None required
English Heritage	None received	None required
The Environment Agency	None – just to highlight that the EA have prepared a guidance document on sustainable construction	Information noted
Whilton Parish Council	None	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>