

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) (Approved May 2008)

For Flore Village Design Statement (VDS)

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Sustainability Appraisal has been prepared by Flore VDS Group and accompanies the Flore VDS, Supplementary Planning Document.
- 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 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 Flore 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 Flore 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 Flore 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 The village of Flore is situated seven miles west of Northampton and five miles east of Daventry, on the A45 which bisects the village. The River Nene forms the southern boundary of the parish. The population at the 2001 census was 1,221.
- 2.2 The village has prepared a Village Design Statement, which is restricted to the village of Flore and its immediate environs.
- 2.3 The issues in the VDS have been decided by the Flore VDS Group based on the design issues they feel are important.

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 five 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 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 the SPD will be assessed against.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 The next step was to identify and develop the sustainability objectives that will underpin the SPD. The objectives for the 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 are included in the matrix, however some will not be applicable to the SPD. 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.
- 4.5 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 SPD preparation. The results of the appraisal have been recorded using the key developed by Jaquelin Fisher Associate and revised by Environ UK Ltd.
- 4.6 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 the VDS ensures design fits in a sustainable manner; 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

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 the VDS to have negative impacts on designated or qualifying sites/protected species? If so can these be mitigated?	✓	The VDS makes no statement which could have a negative impact on designated and qualifying sites or protected species.
		Will the VDS identify wildlife sites and habitats of value in the village and make recommendations to promote their survival and enhancement?	✓	Wildlife sites and habitats are encouraged. Retention of hedgerows and trees is recommended and identified on the map.
		Will the VDS encourage the development of new wildlife and habitat opportunities? – and in particular provide a net gain in Northamptonshire Biodiversity Action Plan habitats and species?	✓	The creation of open space with indigenous plant species is encouraged in order to encourage wildlife.
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?	?	Preservation of views to open countryside and the retention of footpath links to the river and Nene Valley Way is identified.
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, walking, bus travel and include measures to reduce transport contribution to the degradation of air quality?	✓	The VDS highlights the need to retain the public transport system serving the village. Maintenance of existing footpaths and discouraging additional traffic along side roads is also promoted.

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?	✓	Developers are referred to “Energy and Development S.P.D.”
		Does the VDS promote design for more extreme climatic events, incorporating robust and weather resistant built forms?	?	No guidance given.
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 VDS encourage measures to ensure that water is used more sustainably, e.g. low water use devices, grey water recycling, rainwater collection?	✓	Developers are referred to the Environment Agency document “ A Guide to Developers”
		Are measures in place to maintain and improve the quality of ground and surface water?	✓	The VDS recommends the avoidance of large areas of hardstanding to increase ground water infiltration.
SA6	Ensure that new development is not located within the areas of high (or unacceptable) flood risk	N/A Covered by other local Development Framework Policies	N/A	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 take note of changes in land level in terms of the layout/design of the site?	✓	The VDS recommends that all proposed developments include levels and sections showing relationship with existing structures.
		Does the VDS consider the use of previously developed land and buildings?	✓	General rather than specific guidance.
SA8	To minimise waste, increase the reuse and recycling of waste materials and reduce the volume of waste disposed of to landfill	Does the VDS promote design and layout, which facilitates and promotes reduction, re-use, recovery and recycling of waste?	?	No specific guidance.
		Does the VDS include specific measures to reduce the amount of construction waste produced?	?	The VDS recommends the use and re-use of building materials.
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 Flore's historic, cultural and archaeological assets?	✓	The retention and enhancement of the cultural and historic context of the village is sought with a number of recommendations
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 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 a high quality Green Infrastructure in and around the village?	✓	Important open spaces are identified and protection recommended.
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 VDS recommends the retention and creation of open space and the maintenance of the play area and playing fields.
SA13	To improve community safety, reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime	Does the VDS encourage designs which reduce the potential fear of crime?	?	No recommendations given.
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 Educational policies will not be covered in the VDS.	N/A	N/A

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 Local societies/clubs exist to promote social connections/interaction.	N/A	N/A
		N/A Facilities, services etc. are accessible to everyone at present and future development designs will be subject to Building Regulations requiring disabled access.	N/A	N/A
SA16	To develop a strong culture of enterprise and innovation	N/A see SA17	N/A	N/A
SA17	To create high quality employment opportunities	Does the VDS encourage employment opportunities albeit in a controlled and sustainable manner?	✓	Sustainable development of commercial activity is encouraged.
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?	✓	The VDS aims in all aspects to protect and enhance the built environment and provide facilities and infrastructure.

4. 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 ensure that development has a positive social effect.

Economic

The visual quality of development will ensure that the Flore area retains its attractiveness for employees and businesses to locate to.

Environmental

The VDS will result in a high quality sustainable development. The high landscape and construction design standards will ensure that the development sits comfortably within its landscape setting and will provide opportunities for habitat creation to assist the development in meeting biodiversity objectives.

Development will be monitored in the following way:

- 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 Access and Design Statements;
- The proposals will be monitored on an annual basis as part of the Annual Monitoring Report for Daventry Local Development Framework.

APPENDIX A Responses to Scoping Report

Organisation	Comments Received	Response to Comments
Natural England	None	None required
English Heritage	None	None required
The Environment Agency	No Comments, but highlighted their own publication "A Guide for Developers"	Noted

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</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</p> <p>Insert in to VDS for developers' information</p>