

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) (Approved May 2008)

For Norton Village Design Statement

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Sustainability Appraisal has been prepared by Norton VDS Group and accompanies the Norton Village Design Statement.
- 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 Norton Parish Council. The responses to the Scoping Report are summarised in Appendix A.
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- 1.4 A Sustainability Appraisal (Consultation Draft) (SACD) was then produced to accompany the Norton 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 Norton 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.
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2. The SA Context

- 2.1 Norton Parish is situated to the east-northeast of Daventry and is part of Daventry District. The parish comprises of 3,110

acres extending from Borough Hill in the west to the Watling Street in the east, extending beyond the Watling Street to Whilton village.

- 2.2 Norton Village lies a little over 2 miles east-northeast from Daventry Town centre and has some 123 houses of varying sizes and designs within its boundaries. Norton is a Restricted Infill Village in the Local Plan. Some buildings within the village date back to the 17th century and there is a good mix of large, medium and smallish dwellings, all with their own character. The Church dates back to medieval times.
- 2.3 The Parish itself is rural and farmland - both arable and pastoral. Many ancient hedgerows remain and there are fields which still bear the signs of ridge and furrow.

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 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 “not applicable” has been put into the matrix criteria section. 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 or Local Development Framework. The aim of the SA will be to try and ensure that Norton Village Design Statement is designed to ensure that it fits into the rest of the process in a sustainable manner; that it has sustainable links with off site areas; and that building materials, landscape works etc promote sustainability. Sustainability issues to be considered include social, environmental and economic 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	Is there potential for negative impacts on designated or qualifying sites/protected species? If so can these be mitigated?	✓	Potentially through any development, but VDS promotes habitat/species protection etc
SA2	Provide opportunities for people to increase awareness and appreciation of the ecological resource	Will the Village Design Statement enhance biodiversity/habitats?	✓	Guideline requires that landscape is managed, protected and enhanced, both at the micro level (trees) and at the macro level (buildings in open countryside.
SA3	Maintain or enhance air quality across the area and supports a transport network which minimises detrimental impacts on air quality	Will people's awareness/ appreciation of the ecological resource be increased?	✓	Through VDS information
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 Village Design Statement increase opportunities for cycling, walking, bus travel and include measures to reduce transport contribution to the degradation of air quality?	✓	VDS promotes in particular recreational routes
		Does the Village Design Statement include measures aimed at promoting reduced energy demand and enhanced energy efficiency and renewable generation in the layout and design of buildings?	✓	Highlights replacement windows and dwellings not to over-power neighbours.

Objective Number	Objective	Criteria	Appraisal Score	Appraisal Comments
		Does the Village Design Statement promote design for more extreme climatic events, incorporating robust and weather resistant built forms?	Not applicable	Not applicable
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 Village Design Statement incorporate measures to ensure that water is used more sustainability, eg. low water use devices, grey water recycling, rainwater collection?	✓	Supports innovation.
		Are measures in place to maintain and improve the quality of ground and surface water?	Not applicable	Existing drainage adequate to needs.
SA6	Ensure that new development is not located within the areas of high (or unacceptable) flood risk	Not applicable	Not applicable	Existing village is not sited on a flood plain. Run off from fields is not a problem at present.
SA7	To ensure appropriate land use in relation to soil and geology functionality and improve efficiency in land use through optimising the	Does the Village Design Statement take note of changes in land level in terms of the layout/designs of the site?	✓	Overpowering considered

Objective Number	Objective	Criteria	Appraisal Score	Appraisal Comments
	use of previously developed land and buildings	Does the Village Design Statement optimise land use by the density of development?	✓	Yes
SA8	To minimise waste, increase the reuse and recycling of waste materials and reduce the volume of waste disposed of to landfill	Does the Village Design Statement promote design and layout, which facilitates and promotes reduction, re-use, recovery and recycling of waste?	✓	Innovation supported
		Does the Village Design Statement include specific measures to reduce the amount of construction waste produced?	Not applicable	Not applicable
SA9	To preserve, enhance and increase awareness of the historic and cultural environmental and archaeological assets	Does the Village Design Statement enhance and respect the character and setting of Norton's historic, cultural and archaeological assets?	✓	Yes. Found throughout the VDS.
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?	✓	Found throughout the VDS.
SA11	To provide a strategic network of Green Infrastructure across the area	Does the Village Design Statement provide high quality Green Infrastructure linked to adjacent green areas?	✓	Trees and hedgerows of indigenous species are encouraged. It is considered that Ridge and Furrow fields should be protected.

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 Village Design Statement include measures which will improve human health and amenity eg. through providing access to open space, local facilities and education?	✓	This is by way of the means to access the local footpaths and set aside that surrounds the village etc.
SA13	To improve community safety, reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime	Does the Village Design Statement provide designs and layouts, which reduce opportunities and the potential fear of crime?	Not applicable	Not applicable
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 Village Design Statement provide opportunities for education/ learning new skills?	Not applicable	All education was moved to Daventry in the 1950's.

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 Village Design Statement help create opportunities for social connections/interaction amongst people?	?	A village community association exists and functions for the community are held in the Village Hall. The Church provides the place of worship. Unclear how VDS would influence
		Are facilities, services and amenities readily accessible to everyone, including those most in need?	✓	Yes. The Village Hall and Public House are accessible.
SA16	To develop a strong culture of enterprise and innovation	Does the Village Design Statement itself promote innovative design in its construction?	Not applicable	Not applicable
SA17	To create high quality employment opportunities	N/A	Not applicable	Not applicable
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 Village Design Statement make provision for the necessary infrastructure and facilities associated with this residential development site?	?	Not specifically mentioned

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
Natural England	None	None
English Heritage	None	N/A
The Environment Agency	None – just to highlight that the EA have prepared a guidance document on sustainable construction	Information noted
Norton Council Parish	No comments	N/A

APPENDIX B Responses to Sustainability Appraisal

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>