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(i) Does the VDS describe the distinctive character of the village and the surrounding countryside?	The section entitled "Short History of the development of the village of Winterslow" provides a detailed description of the geographical and historical background to the settlement, providing the context for the character of the village today. Similar historical context is also provided for Lopcombe Corner.		
	The character of the parish is further described in other parts of the document, notably in the Environment and Open Spaces section and Settlements and Infrastructure section.		
(ii) Does the VDS show how character can be identified at three levels  • the landscape setting of the village	The "Environment and Open Spaces" section describes the landscape setting of the parish of Winterslow, which is in a landscape of rolling hills set to farmland and wooded areas. It also describes how the village landscape is made up of a range of agricultural land interspersed by woodland, notably the SSSI, Bentley Wood. This section also describes the wider views in and out of the village.		
the shape of the settlement	The "Environment and Open Spaces" section describes the settlement pattern which has generally followed the main routes through the village in the form of ribbon development. Houses/buildings are set back from the road to considerably varying degrees.		
the nature of the buildings themselves	Detailed information on the nature of the buildings themselves is provided in the section "Building Styles and Materials". This section includes good pictorial evidence of existing buildings.		
(iii) Does the VDS draw up design principles based on the distinctive local character?	Clear planning guidelines are provided at the end of each section to ensure that development is in keeping with the character of the settlement.		
(iv) Does the VDS work in partnership with the local planning authority in the context of existing local planning policy and influence future policies.	While the VDS has been prepared independently of the local planning authority, it does take into account the local planning policy context.  The aim of the VDS is clearly set out in the		
	introduction, which is to ensure future developments in the Winterslows are based on an understanding, both of the village's past and		

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		present character, and of its precious environmental setting, so that it can contribute sensitively to the protection and improvement of the village. This complements existing local planning policy.		
(v)	Has the VDS been developed, researched, written and edited by local people? Is it representative of the views of the village as a whole? Has the process involved a wide section of the village community in its production?	The VDS was endorsed by the Southern Wiltshire Area Board on 25 August 2011 as having been produced by a genuinely representative consultation of village opinion and the Area Board supported its submission for adoption as Supplementary Planning Guidance by Wiltshire Council.		
		A VDS steering group was set up in June 2010 comprising two members from the Winterslow Parish Council, one new member from the community, and five former members of the Parish Plan Steering Group. The Winterslow VDS is the result of 12 months of consultation and survey which encapsulates the views and aspirations of the whole community, via road shows held in the village hall and at Lopcombe Corner, and visits to various village clubs and societies, that cover groups of all ages.		
	Other Comments:	This VDS represents a point in time and so there may be some references in it that are now superseded. An addendum with the following wording should therefore be added to this VDS to reflect the current situation:		
		This VDS was produced at a point in time. Therefore, there may be references in it that are now superseded. This includes references to the former Salisbury District Council and the Salisbury District Local Plan. The Salisbury District Local Plan has been superseded by the South Wiltshire Core Strategy, albeit a number of Local Plan policies are saved in the Core Strategy. Similarly, there may be references to policies in the South Wiltshire Core Strategy that at the time of writing were still emerging. However, the VDS is still considered to be compliant with local policy on design matters. Finally, any references to the VDSs being adopted as		

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	Supplementary Planning Guidance or as a Supplementary Planning Document are also now superseded, as all VDSs are now approved as material planning considerations by the Council instead.	
	The VDS has been subject to a recent review by officers and considered up-to-date and relevant, and has subsequently been approved at the Southern Area Planning Committee on 14 February 2013 as a material planning consideration.	
Overall Conclusions:	The VDS is considered to meet the objectives set out in the validation checklist.	
Recommendation:	It is recommended that, subject to the addition of the proposed addendum, the VDS for Winterslow be approved as a material planning consideration for the purposes of development management.	