	Village Design Statement Validation Checklist		
Village Design Statement for:		<b>Idmiston</b> , Porton and Gomeldon	
(i)	Does the VDS describe the distinctive character of the village and the surrounding countryside?	The section entitled "Village context" provides a description of the geographical and historical background to the settlements, providing the context for the character of the village today.  The character of the parish is further described in other parts of the document, notably in the Settlement Pattern and Open Spaces sections.	
(ii)	Does the VDS show how character can be identified at three levels  • the landscape setting of the village	The "Landscape Setting" section describes the landscape setting of the parish of Idmiston. The Parish is set in rolling chalk downland, incised by the wooded Bourne valley, with its river and ancient water meadows with meadows in the river valley and arable farming on the higher ground.	
	<ul> <li>the shape of the settlement</li> <li>the nature of the buildings themselves</li> </ul>	The "Settlement" section describes the settlement pattern of Porton The Gomeldons and Idmiston.  Detailed information on the nature of the buildings themselves is provided in the section "Buildings and Materials". This section includes	
(iii)	Does the VDS draw up design principles based on the distinctive local character?	good pictorial evidence of existing buildings.  Clear planning guidelines are provided within 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.	The aim of the VDS is clearly set out in the introduction, which is to ensure future developments in the parish of Idmiston are based on an understanding, both of the village's past and 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.	

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(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 Village Design Statement is shaped by the opinions and aspirations of local residents. At the beginning of the process questionnaires were distributed to all 890 dwellings in the Parish.	
		Nearly half of all of households responded. In all 439 forms were returned, which is a 49% response rate. Such a high rate of return lends credibility to the findings, as being representative of our community as a whole.	
		The process of producing the VDS was carried out by the Village Design Statement Team, with assistance from an officer from Spatial Planning at Wiltshire Council.	
	Overall Conclusions:	The Village Design Statement is considered to meet the objectives set out in the validation checklist.	
	Recommendation:	It is recommended that the Village Design Statement for Idmiston, Porton and Gomeldon be approved as a material planning consideration for the purposes of development management.	