

## Village Design Statement Validation Checklist

**Village Design Statement for:**

**Steeple Langford**

**(i) Does the VDS describe the distinctive character of the village and the surrounding countryside?**

The VDS provides a description of the natural and man-made features of Steeple Langford Parish.

Section 2.2 describes the key historic influences that have helped to shape the character of the parish.

Section 3.4 describes the key conservation characteristics of the parish which include:

- An attractive and tranquil riverside setting
- Extensive use of the local Chilmark type limestone
- Some mixed use of buff and red bricks in 18th century buildings
- Stone and cob boundary walls that tie groups of buildings together and define boundaries
- The distinctive regional vernacular tradition of chequer work walling; particularly stone and flint.
- Survival of key groups of historically important buildings: e.g. the churches, manor houses and former rectory, Little Langford Farm and mill houses.
- The visually striking lead broach spire to the All Saints Church which is seen from many views within the parish and surrounding countryside
- The churchyard at Saint Nicholas of Myra in Little Langford is managed as a wild flower meadow rather than simply cutting the grass
- Important groups of trees that penetrate and punctuate the built areas
- The ever present ridge lines to the south and particularly the north that give the valley the sense of enclosure
- Interesting and unusual groups of cottages such as Church Cottages in Steeple Langford
- The character of the surrounding countryside, which has been shaped by farming and the shooting estates that

	<p>have maintained wooded areas and hedgerows</p> <p>Section 3.5 goes on to refer to the many listed buildings and structures ranging from manor houses, farm buildings, walls and monuments in graveyards, which contribute to the character of the parish.</p> <p>Section 5.2 on Rights of Way describes how one of the characteristics of the Langfords and the areas of open countryside in which it sits, is the extensive myriad of Rights of Way that crisscross the parish and provide routes through and beyond to neighbouring parishes. The preservation of this network of routes to which the public have access is regarded as essential to retaining the character of the parish</p>
<p><b>(ii) Does the VDS show how character can be identified at three levels</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>the landscape setting of the village</b></li>   <li>• <b>the shape of the settlement</b></li>   <li>• <b>the nature of the buildings themselves</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Landscape setting</b></p> <p>Section 4 describes the wider conservation including and beyond Designated Conservation Areas.</p> <p>Section 4.1 in particular refers to the setting of the parish, and refers to the views and vistas from within the villages and the surrounding areas of the Wylve Valley and the high ground to the north and south form much of the valued character of the parish.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Shape of the Settlement(s)</b></p> <p>Section 3.1 provides a description of the dwellings and villages. It explains that the villages are all of mainly ribbon development In most parts of the villages the houses front on to the road and have open views across farmland to the rear. The settlement pattern of the villages is notable for being compact and contained within the valley resulting in an unobtrusive appearance within the overall setting.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Nature of the Buildings</b></p> <p>Section 3.1 explains that, with the exception of</p>

	<p>established manor houses, most dwellings are single or double story with pitched roofs of tiles, slates or thatch. The majority have enclosed gardens to the front and rear of the property with space to park a number of cars. Any new development should blend with the layout and height of existing buildings, window design and proportions and the use of appropriate materials for cladding buildings and roofs.</p>
<p><b>(iii) Does the VDS draw up design principles based on the distinctive local character?</b></p>	<p>Section 3.6 provides guidelines to preserve the character of the local surroundings.</p>
<p><b>(iv) Does the VDS work in partnership with the local planning authority in the context of existing local planning policy and influence future policies.</b></p>	<p>The VDS was prepared in partnership with the local planning authority and recognises that development must comply Wiltshire Council's policies (see paragraph 1.3).</p>
<p><b>(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?</b></p>	<p>Section 1.2 explains how the VDS was produced and how this process involved the local community.</p>
<p><b>Other Comments:</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>Overall Conclusions:</b></p>	<p>The Village Design Statement is considered to meet the objectives set out in the validation checklist.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation:</b></p>	<p>It is recommended that the Village Design Statement for Steeple Langford be approved as a material planning consideration for the purposes of development management.</p>