

Village Design Statement Validation Checklist

Village Design Statement for:	Landford
(i) Does the VDS describe the distinctive character of the village and the surrounding countryside?	Section 2 give detailed information on the village and community context. It includes detailed historic background to the village, describing Landford’s history and development; industry and employment; shopping; education; community; and leisure and social activities.
(ii) Does the VDS show how character can be identified at three levels:	Section 3 provides an in depth examination of the local landscape, and includes detailed information on topics such as that area’s geology; Rivers, lakes and ponds; Agricultural Activity; Woodland, Trees and Hedgerows; and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).
• The landscape setting of the village	
• The shape of the settlement	Section 5 of the VDS deals in detail with the settlement pattern of Landford, examining the settlement in five distinct parts.
• The nature of the buildings themselves	Sections 7 and 8 set out a design guide for housing and non-domestic buildings and these sections include reference to the nature of existing buildings.
(iii) Does the VDS draw up design principles based on the distinctive local character?	Yes. Section 4 provides some important contextual information which contributes towards the distinctive local character of Landford. The section is entitled “Pictures of Landford” and provides maps and photographs illustrating important views out of the settlement, and views within the settlement. Section 7 provides a comprehensive design guide for housing, drawing on the local context and includes a number of photographs by way of examples. Section 8 then does the same for non-domestic buildings.
(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 introduction explains that during the creation of this document, the Committee worked in partnership with the New Forest National Park Authority and Wiltshire Council as

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	<p>the planning authorities for this parish. This Statement is compatible with the statutory planning system and has been designed as a Supplementary Planning Document for the parish of Landford.</p> <p>Section 6 also deals with “Planning Considerations” and considers the Core Strategy and National Park Management Plan Policies; the purpose of the VDS; and provides advice on submitting a planning application.</p>
<p>(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?</p>	<p>The introduction explains that the VDS has been developed, researched, written and edited by local people; is representative of the views of the village as a whole; has involved a wide section of the village community in its production; describes the visual character of the village; and demonstrates how local character and distinctiveness can be protected and enhanced in new development.</p> <p>The Landford Community Plan was published and issued to every household in December 2008. As part of the consultation process to produce that Plan, questionnaires were circulated to the 460 households in the parish, and over 80% of households responded with one or more replies. To the question “<i>What changes to Landford would you like to see?</i>” there were many replies both for and against particular things, but many of the replies could best be summed up by “Keep the rural character of the village”.</p> <p>Having a local mandate to proceed with a VDS, a public meeting was held in March 2009 to explain the purpose and procedures involved, and people were invited to join a Committee. Twelve volunteers were recruited representing a geographical selection from across the parish. In June 2009 the Group had a stall at the Landford Summer Fair where they displayed information already gathered regarding the settlement, and</p>

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	<p>the public were asked their views on a series of questions to determine what they liked or disliked about the local built environment. With these views in mind and following research by members of the Group, a Draft VDS was produced in conjunction with the officers from the New Forest National Park Authority. It was used as a discussion document at a public meeting in February 2010 and also posted on a website. Every household received an invitation leaflet to the public meeting, which included the website address should they wish to view the document online.</p> <p>Throughout this process, articles have been printed in the local community magazine (Horizon) to keep local people informed on progress to date.</p>
<p>Other Comments:</p>	<p>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:</p> <p><i>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 Supplementary Planning Guidance or as a Supplementary Planning Document are also now superseded, as all Village Design Statements are now approved as material planning considerations by the Council instead.</i></p>

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	<p><i>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 24 January 2013 as a material planning consideration.</i></p> <p>Landford and a large proportion of the parish are now within the New Forest National Park. This authority has already adopted this VDS as SPD, in March 2011. This does not have any implications on Wiltshire Council approving this document as a material planning consideration.</p>
Overall Conclusions:	<p>The Landford VDS seeks to influence the design of future development within the village. It identifies the key characteristics of the village and highlights what residents consider to be important consideration for the design of future development proposals. It provides clear guidance to developers as to what should be respected and acknowledged by new buildings in order to help preserve the local scene.</p> <p>The VDS has been assessed by officers and considered to meet the objectives set out in this validation checklist.</p>
Recommendation:	<p>It is recommended that, subject to the addition of the proposed addendum, the VDS for Landford be approved as a material planning consideration for the purposes of development management.</p>