

## Village Design Statement Validation Checklist

<b>Village Design Statement for:</b>	<b>Swallowcliffe</b>
<p><b>(i) Does the VDS describe the distinctive character of the village and the surrounding countryside?</b></p>	<p>Swallowcliffe’s character is governed by sunken twisting lanes confined between stone walls and hedges, so that most of the 80 houses are detached, widely spaced and individually oriented. The open layout gives each a special relationship to the landscape and its own particular contribution to the look of the village. The village hosts a village hall and several other community facilities and there is very active community life. The caring for an ageing population and provision of appropriate housing in the right locations are key concerns, and so are traffic and visual intrusion from new development or telecommunications infrastructure. The relationship with Tisbury is highlighted, especially concerning traffic problems, shopping, and rail connections to Salisbury and beyond. Swallowcliffe lies within the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.</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> </ul>	<p>A separate chapter on landscape setting describes this in some detail, highlighting key features that can be cross referenced with other chapters such as “The Natural Environment” or “The Built Form”. Key features are the chalk escarpments and greensand terraces to the south and upper greensand wooded hills to the south west; and to the north east where Swallowcliffe Wood is prominent. Cutting through the hills south to north, is the spring filled valley where the village first developed. Other key features described are the woodlands and trees and fields.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>the shape of the settlement</b></li> </ul>	<p>The shape of Swallowcliffe obeys the land formation. Several maps within the document illustrate the extent of settlement and its linear structure, including key access roads. The Built Form chapter stresses the organic growth of the settlement which should be taken into account by builders. The main part of the village including the church sits at the floor of the valley adjacent to the stream. Groups of buildings which belong to the village sit above the village core. Swallowcliffe is currently an area of housing</p>

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	restraint. Outside the “envelope” other restrictions apply. The centre is a Conservation area with several listed buildings.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>the nature of the buildings themselves</b></li> </ul>	The Built Environment chapter in the VDS describes in detail the village buildings, their age, typical forms and structures and building materials used. Pictures and drawings illustrate the character and design of buildings. The chapter on the rural economy further describes how the village economy and the use of buildings have changed over time. Working from home has become an increasingly important part of village life.
<b>(iii) Does the VDS draw up design principles based on the distinctive local character?</b>	Local character is described in the Built Environment chapter, and reference is made how traditional and more recent designs can be absorbed by the village. The section on building materials provides descriptions so this information could be used by developers/builders. The document contains a separate ‘Developer Guidelines’ chapter which advises on the design principles that should be applied.
<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>	The VDS was prepared in partnership with the former Salisbury District Council.
<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>	Yes. The Swallowcliffe VDS was prepared by a working party elected at the first public meeting held on November 27 2003. Questionnaires and an invitation to comment on traffic were circulated to all households. A public meeting was held on Saturday 2 December 2006 when residents were consulted in preparation for sending the draft to the former Salisbury District Council.
<b>Other comments:</b>	This VDSs 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:

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	<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 VDSs are now approved as material planning considerations by the Council instead.</i></p> <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 14 February 2013 as a material planning consideration.</i></p>
<b>Overall Conclusions:</b>	This document provides a wealth of information regarding the history of Swallowcliffe, its landscape setting and the nature of the buildings. There is sufficient information available regarding the building materials present. A dedicated chapter on design principles provides useful guidance for builders and developers.
<b>Recommendation:</b>	It is recommended that, subject to the addition of the proposed addendum, the VDS for Swallowcliffe be approved as a material planning consideration for the purposes of development management.