



**Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council**

**Burbage Design Statement
Supplementary Planning Document**

Sustainability Appraisal Report

November 2005

PREPARED BY THE STRATEGY & REGENERATION SERVICE

How to comment

Hinckley & Boworth Borough Council has produced this Sustainability Appraisal to accompany the consultation draft of the Burbage Village Design Statement.

Any consultation responses received in relation to either document will be taken into account prior to adoption of the Burbage Village Design Statement.

All comments must be received by **Monday 19th December 2005** and should be addressed to Strategy & Regeneration Service. Responses can be posted, faxed or emailed.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Sustainability Appraisal Report has been undertaken to accompany the Burbage Village Design Statement. It is the mechanism for ensuring that the potential economic, social and environmental effects of the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) are identified and any necessary mitigation measures are put in place.
- 1.2. The purpose of this SPD is to supplement policies within the saved Local Plan. The SPD aims to set out the principles, design features and quality standards for all new development in the village and to safeguard and enhance the existing environment whilst meeting the need for growth.

2. Background and Methodology

- 2.1. Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a process through which the sustainability of a plan under preparation is assessed. The Planning and Compulsory Act (2004) requires Local Planning Authorities to carry out a Sustainability Appraisal of the documents that form their Local Development Framework (LDF). This is to compel Local Planning Authorities to work towards achieving sustainable development thus enabling residents to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising quality of life for future generations. Sustainability Appraisal addresses social and economic issues but also takes into consideration environmental issues, especially in relation to the Government's four main sustainable development objectives:

- Social progress that recognizes the needs of everyone
- Effective protection of the environment
- Prudent use of natural resources; and
- Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment

- 2.2. Under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004) it is a requirement that plans (setting a framework for future development consent and likely to have significant environmental effects) is subject to (strategic) environmental assessment. Local Planning Authorities are required to carry out an environmental assessment of their LDF under these regulations. To tackle both approaches efficiently and effectively, the requirements of both regulations are considered in one document.

- 2.3. The basic approach to Sustainability Appraisal in order to comply with the above regulations should include the following stages:

- Setting the context, objectives and baseline
- Developing and refining options
- Appraising the effects of the draft SPD
- Consultation on the Sustainability Report and draft SPD; and
- Monitoring the implementation of the SPD

- 2.4. Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council commissioned consultants White Young Green to carry out the first stage of a SA in Spring 2005, which would be used to help produce the Core Strategy for the Borough. This produced a Scoping Report that identifies the baseline information and sustainability

objectives to underpin the documents in the LDF. These sustainability objectives have been used to test the sustainability of the SPD. However, the SPD emphasizes policies in the 'saved' Local Plan whereas these objectives relate to development of the future development-planning framework. Therefore it is necessary to carry out a sustainability assessment of these existing policies also.

- 2.5. The process followed for this SPD mainly concerns appraising the effects of the draft SPD. The SPD relates to 'saved' policies in the Local Plan so it was necessary to use sustainability objectives from the existing Core Strategy Scoping Report, which were developed from the first stage of the process. These were also subject to extensive stakeholder consultation.

3. **SPD Context, Objectives and Baseline**

- 3.1. The village of Burbage is one of the most popular villages in the county of Leicestershire. Situated to the west of Leicester, on the boundary with Warwickshire, residents enjoy a semi-rural location with good access to major cities of the East and West Midlands via the national truck road and motorway system. The village centre is the historic core of the settlement. It encompasses a Conservation Area and several listed buildings and other areas of local heritage value.

- 3.2. The village of Burbage is divided into five distinct zones that have their own individual features:

- Zone 1 is the Conservation Area where the fundamental character of the area is a contrast of narrow and open spaces within the street scene with terracing of houses built against or close to the footpath.
- Zone 2 is generally the area to the south of Coventry Road and Lychgate Lane. There is a mix of housing types ranging from Victorian terraces, to large, modern detached homes, there are also 4 small industrial estates ranging in age and types of buildings. The area backs on to open countryside that is mainly farmland.
- Zone 3 is the area to the west of Rugby Road. Originally the area was three distinct areas but over time new housing estates have filled the area between merging the settlements together. Properties range from small terraces to large country homes in spacious grounds. The area is bordered by the A5 to the South and a tree lined bridle way to the west.
- Zone 4 is the Northern area of the settlement and has the railway line running abreast its northern boundary. The area is made up of post war housing and is divided up into three distinct housing estates which are described as themed development.
- Zone 5 is the eastern area of the settlement around Hinckley Road and Sapcote Road. The development around the area is a mixture of detached houses set in mature grounds and small detached and terrace to the north of Sapcote Road lies Burbage Woods and Burbage common

- 3.3. The decision to produce a Village Design Statement for Burbage was based on a desire to ensure new development was locally sensitive in design. Two options were considered in relation to the merits of preparing further guidance to supplement the 'saved' Local Plan:
1. Prepare a Village Design Statement for Burbage setting out the character, principles, design features and quality standards that should be considered for all new development; or
 2. Adopt a 'business as usual' approach which would rely on the 'saved' Local Plan and other relevant national, regional and local policy mechanisms
- 3.4. Although the policies in the 'saved' Local Plan provide broad guidance, the Parish Council and other interest groups have been concerned about the impact of recent developments on the character and distinctiveness of the settlement. A 'business as usual' approach will potentially have the same social, economic and environmental effects but is less likely to take account of local features. A Village Design Statement will help ensure that proposals for new development can be accommodated that are in keeping with those features of local importance.
- 3.5. There are several policies in the 'saved' Local Plan that the SPD seeks to accentuate. However, these policies were not previously subject to Sustainability Appraisal as is required under the new planning system. The methodology being adopted to address this is to firstly identify the significant effects of the 'saved' policies by which to compare the SPD sustainability objectives. Secondly, the sustainability objectives derived through the scoping exercise in relation to the Core Strategy will be used to judge whether the guidance and objectives contained in the SPD are compatible with the sustainable development aims.
- 3.6. The table below details in table format the significant effects of each of the 'saved' policies in terms of social, economic and environmental impacts.

Table 1 - Significant effects assessment of 'saved' Local Plan policies

Saved Policy	Social	Economic	Environmental
RES7 – House Extensions	Extensions to dwellings can contribute to alleviating overcrowding and could provide improved health benefits	Extensions to dwellings can increase the value of a property, therefore enhancing the local market. Also, it allows residents to continue to occupy their existing home thus alleviating additional pressure on the housing market.	Appropriately designed extensions which are in keeping with local character and the street scene have less of an impact upon the environment
BE1 – Design and siting of development	Good sustainable design and appropriate siting of development contributes to more balanced communities	Good sustainable design and appropriate siting of development can bring about regeneration of an area and lever inward investment to a locality	Good sustainable design and appropriate siting of development lessens any adverse effects on the environment and can contribute to its protection and/or enhancement
BE7 – Development in Conservation Areas	Appropriate development in Conservation Areas can help protect, sustain and enhance an area's cultural heritage for future generations	Appropriate development in Conservation Areas can provide new economic life for heritage areas	Appropriate development in Conservation Areas can lessen any adverse effects on an areas cultural heritage and the wider environment plus contribute to its protection and/or enhancement
BE9 – Shop fronts in Conservation Areas	Appropriate shop front design in Conservation Areas can help protect, sustain and enhance an area's cultural heritage for future generations	Appropriate shop front design in Conservation Areas adds to the revitalisation of an area which will attract inward investment	Appropriate shop front design in Conservation Areas lessen any adverse effects on an areas cultural heritage and the wider environment plus contribute to its protection and/or enhancement
Retail6 – Shop fronts	Appropriate shop front design can help protect, sustain and enhance an area's cultural heritage for future generations	Appropriate shop front design adds to the revitalisation of an area which will attract inward investment	Appropriate shop front design lessens any adverse effects on the environment plus contribute to its protection and/or enhancement

- 3.7. This provides the baseline and identifies the key sustainability issues the SPD should be helping to address. Although the Local Plan was adopted in 2001, it appears that the above policies are in keeping with contemporary sustainable development aims.
- 3.8. For greater comparison analysis, the specific sustainability objectives of the SPD, identified through the preparation of the Village Design Statement, have been compared to sustainability objectives contained in the Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. Comparison was determined via a Compatibility Matrix which is detailed below:

Table 2 –SPD Sustainability Objectives

SPD Sustainability Objectives			
A	To ensure that sustainable development principles, design features and quality standards are achieved for all new development	E	To encourage the maintenance and replacement of trees and hedges that are an important element within Burbage and ensure appropriate soft landscaping in new developments
B	To ensure that new developments are in keeping in terms of scale, mix and density with existing defined mature areas	F	To ensure that appropriate development provides opportunities for non-car transport and protects pedestrian priority
C	To ensure that Burbage's open spaces, pathways, views, verges and water features are protected and enhanced due to their importance to distinctive character	G	All new development should seek to reduce fear of crime and incorporate appropriate anti-crime design features that are in keeping with their surroundings
D	To ensure that Burbage's natural environment is conserved, biodiversity should be protected and/or enhanced especially through new development		

Table 3 – Core Strategy Sustainability Objectives

Core Strategy Sustainability Objectives			
1	To ensure the provision of decent and affordable housing that meets local needs and links into the provision of services	12	To conserve and enhance woodland cover in the borough, particularly in the National Forest area
2	To improve health and reduce health inequalities by promoting healthy lifestyles, protecting health and providing access to health services.	13	To manage prudently water resources, improve water quality and protect the floodplain
3	To promote and support the empowerment of local communities in creating and implementing solutions that meet their needs focusing particularly on young, elderly and deprived people	14	To improve air quality particularly through reducing transport related pollutants

4	To provide better opportunities for local people and tourists to access and understand local heritage.	15	To manage prudently mineral resources and avoid / reduce pollution of land.
5	To improve access to and participation in cultural and leisure activities	16	To minimise energy use and develop renewable energy resources
6	To improve community safety, reduce the fear of crime and reduce anti-social behaviour, particularly in Hinckley town centre.	17	To reduce greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the rate of climate change
7	To protect and enhance the natural environment (species and habitats) whilst contributing to the achievement of BAP targets	18	To involve people, through changes to lifestyle and at work, in preventing and minimising adverse local, regional and global environmental impacts
8	To conserve and enhance the character, diversity and local distinctiveness of towns and villages in Hinckley and Bosworth district.	19	To improve access to education and training for children, young people and adult learners.
9	To preserve and enhance the character and appearance of archaeological sites, historic buildings, conservation sites, historic parks and other cultural assets	20	To develop a strong culture of enterprise and innovation whilst providing access to appropriate employment opportunities for the local population, particularly in rural areas
10	To promote and ensure high standards of sustainable design and construction..	21	To help farmers diversify their agricultural activities or venture into new rural businesses. To help other rural businesses diversify their activities.
11	To encourage and develop the use of public transport, cycling and walking	22	To optimise the use of previously developed land, buildings and existing infrastructure

Table 4 – Compatibility Matrix

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
A	-	-	✓	✓✓	✓✓	-	✓✓	-	✓✓	✓	-	-	?	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	✓	
B	-	-	-	?	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?
C	✓	✓	?	✓✓	✓✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
D	✓	✓	-	✓✓	✓✓	?	✓	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
E	-	-	?	✓✓	✓✓	?	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓✓	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-
F	?	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓✓	-	-	✓✓	-	-	✓✓	-	✓	✓✓	-	-	-	-	-	-
G	-	-	✓✓	-	-	-	✓✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Key:

✓✓	Highly compatible
✓	Compatible
-	Neutral
?	Uncertain
xx	Highly incompatible
x	Incompatible

- 3.9. From the above we can ascertain that the majority of the SPD objectives are either highly compatible/compatible or neutral (i.e. they do not have a positive or negative effect). This shows that the SPD is likely to meet the aims of many of the sustainability objectives or at the very least not have an adverse impact. There are some objectives of the SPD where the impact is uncertain. It is expected that once these elements of the SPD begin to be implemented their impact can then be measured. In summary, the compatibility matrix indicates that the SPD should contribute positively to the sustainability of the Borough.
- 3.10. The Burbage Village Design Statement contains a set of Guidance Notes to provide specific advice in relation to key design themes such as landscaping and the street scene. It has already been established that the SPD generally conforms to the sustainability objectives from the Scoping Report but to fully assess the sustainability of the guidance notes they were compared to the sustainability objectives from the Scoping Report.

Table 5 - Appraisal of SPD policies against SA objectives

Sustainability Objectives	GN1	GN2	GN3	GN4	GN5	GN6	GN7	GN8
<i>To ensure the provision of decent and affordable housing that meets local needs and links into the provision of services</i>	*	←	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>To improve health and reduce health inequalities by promoting healthy lifestyles, protecting health and providing access to health services.</i>	*	?	←	*	?	←	*	*
<i>To promote and support the empowerment of local communities in creating and implementing solutions that meet their needs focusing particularly on young, elderly and deprived people</i>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>To provide better opportunities for local people and tourists to access and understand local heritage.</i>	←	↔	↔	*	*	*	*	*

<i>To improve access to and participation in cultural and leisure activities</i>	*	?	*	*	*	←	*	*
<i>To improve community safety, reduce the fear of crime and reduce anti-social behaviour, particularly in Hinckley town centre.</i>	*	*	←	*	*	*	← ←	*
<i>To protect and enhance the natural environment (species and habitats) whilst contributing to the achievement of BAP targets</i>	?	*	*	←	← ←	?	*	*
<i>To conserve and enhance the character, diversity and local distinctiveness of towns and villages in Hinckley and Bosworth district.</i>	← ←	← ←	←	←	←	?	*	←
<i>To preserve and enhance the character and appearance of archaeological sites, historic buildings, conservation sites, historic parks and other cultural assets</i>	↔	↔	↔	↔	←	*	*	*
<i>To promote and ensure high standards of sustainable design and construction..</i>	↔	← ←	↔	*	↔	*	*	*
<i>To encourage and develop the use of public transport, cycling and walking</i>	*	*	← ←	*	*	←	*	←
<i>To conserve and enhance woodland cover in the borough, particularly in the National Forest area</i>	*	*	←	← ←	←	?	*	*
<i>To manage prudently water resources, improve water quality and protect the floodplain</i>	*	*	*	*	←	*	*	*
<i>To improve air quality particularly through reducing transport related pollutants</i>	*	*	← ←	←	*	*	*	*

<i>To manage prudently mineral resources and avoid / reduce pollution of land.</i>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>To minimise energy use and develop renewable energy resources</i>	*	← ←	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>To reduce greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the rate of climate change</i>	*	?	*	?	?	*	*	*
<i>To involve people, through changes to lifestyle and at work, in preventing and minimising adverse local, regional and global environmental impacts</i>	*	←	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>To improve access to education and training for children, young people and adult learners.</i>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>To develop a strong culture of enterprise and innovation whilst providing access to appropriate employment opportunities for the local population, particularly in rural areas</i>	*	←	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>To help farmers diversify their agricultural activities or venture into new rural businesses. To help other rural businesses diversify their activities.</i>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>To optimise the use of previously developed land, buildings and existing infrastructure</i>	*	←	*	*	*	*	←	*

Key:

→	Significant negative effect	-	There is no relationship/significant relationship between the objective and the policy
←	Significant positive effect	←	Marginal positive effect
↔	Effect depends on how policy implemented	?	Unknown/Uncertain
→	Marginal negative effect		

- 3.11. Table 5 illustrates that all the Guidance Notes in the SPD have some positive correlation with the sustainability objectives. Many of them centre on environmental objectives but this should not be surprising as the overall aim of the SPD is to influence the built environment of the settlement. However, it should be remembered that the appraisal of the significant effects of the 'saved' Local Plan policies highlights the effects environmental objectives could render in terms of social and economic themes.
- 3.12. The Sustainability Appraisal process has underlined areas where the sustainability objectives are not being specifically met by this SPD. This to be expected as a Village Design Statement is intended to provide design guidance in relation to the built environment. However, there is the opportunity for greater emphasis to be placed with one of the guidance notes to allow for a greater reflection of the sustainability objections. The recommendation is as follows:

Guidance Note	Suggested changes
GN6: Leisure and Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend encouraging new developments to help enable opportunities for people to access and understand local heritage • Recommend reference to the benefit of leisure and recreational space towards healthier lifestyles

- 3.13. In summary, the Burbage Village Design Statement can only really reflect those sustainability objectives that relate to the built environment such as encouraging development to be environmentally sustainable and in keeping with the character and distinctiveness of the existing settlement. This is because this is the limited remit of this SPD. The various analysis tools featured above have indicated that there are no significant environmental, social or economic effects that would occur through implementation of this SPD.

4. Monitoring

- 4.1. The Burbage Village Design Statement will form part of the Local Development Framework for the Borough. As such, indicators and targets for measuring implementation of the SPD will be those advocated for the relevant sustainability objectives as detailed within the Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal. It should be noted that those indicators are of a strategic nature and may not be as relevant to the remit of settlement-specific design guidance. Because no significant effects have been identified through the Sustainability Appraisal process it is not intended to conceive any specific indicators for this SPD.

5. Next Stages

- 5.1. The public participation stage of the SPD and this Sustainability Appraisal, in accordance with Regulation 17, will take place over November/December 2005. If significant changes are made to the SPD, it will be necessary to make sure that the effects of these changes are appraised before the Council finally adopts it.