

Bucklebury Vision – a Design Statement for the Parish of Bucklebury (Refresh 2019)

Consultation Representations and Responses

Blue underlined text within the Recommended Action column is text which is suggested to be inserted, and text with ~~strikethrough~~ is suggested for deletion.

Consultee	Representation	Vision Group response
Highways Team	In the section on highways (page 10) the point should be made that it is important to preserve the rural character of the roads in Bucklebury as these form an important part of the landscape and therefore contribute to the AONB. Therefore, all future highways and traffic management improvements must be done in a sympathetic way. Reference should be made to the document 'Reclaiming Our Rural Highway', published in 2005 by the Dorset AONB Partnership.	Add to the end of 6G3 – <u>'Any such measures should be in sympathy with the Parish's rural nature.'</u> Add an additional guideline – <u>'Any future road improvements should avoid the use of standardised and intrusive urban materials that would degrade the rural quality of the area.'</u>
WBC Archaeology Team	I do not recall seeing the 2002 version of the Bucklebury Vision so it is useful to now have an opportunity to make some comments on this important document for the parish. However we had some liaison about 4 years ago with the parish clerk over Bucklebury's historic environment. I'm unsure as to the connection between the parish council and the Vision group but it's a pity none of the information we sent out in 2015 appears in the refreshed design statement. We're obviously totally supportive of their Guideline 1G1 to conserve and enhance the historic environment of the parish, but feel that the archaeological and historical information in this Vision could be much more obvious, comprehensive and up to date. It's a key factor in the	Information attached for you to

	<p>appearance and character of the parish. We're therefore attaching some reports and maps – we are happy to discuss how this West Berkshire Council data could be incorporated into the Vision.</p> <p>Introduction</p> <p>Perhaps the bullet points under The Overall Picture could include the word 'historic' as well as rural, eg To ensure new development, alterations and extensions are architecturally in keeping and are sympathetic to the rural and historic environment</p> <p>History</p> <p>This is a useful short section but could contain the whole story of human settlement of the area, coming more up to date (see also Appendix 1). There is a little bit of evidence for later prehistoric activity in the form of flint finds and the cropmark of a Bronze Age barrow, and there are some Roman remains and finds, particularly around Bucklebury village. The large size of the parish, the fact that it was also a Domesday Hundred and the suggestion that there might have been a minster here all point to the importance of Bucklebury in the late Saxon period, perhaps as an urban settlement or monastic site. It might not always have been as quiet and peaceful a haven as the Vision suggests! Additionally the 18th-19th century Bucklebury Foundry was in fact an important local industry, providing many iron products across the district.</p> <p>Landscape and Environment</p> <p>Our Historic Landscape Characterisation project (see map of Current Types) could be a beneficial addition to explain recent land-use, which will also tie in to the distribution of flora and fauna. Bucklebury's character today owes quite a lot to the medieval period or shortly after through the presence of its commons and some early enclosure,</p>	<p>consider.</p> <p>Page 4 - Amend 4th bullet under 'Overall picture' to read – '<i>To ensure new development, alterations and extensions are architecturally in keeping and are sympathetic to the rural <u>and historic</u> environment.</i>'</p> <p>Add information to Appendix.</p> <p>Add information to Appendix</p>
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<p>illustrations include the Foundry waterwheel and Monastic Fishponds but neither of these are listed buildings or scheduled monuments, and again they could be as being of local importance. There are nearly 20 unlisted buildings recorded in the HER which might therefore be of heritage interest to the Vision and worth a specific mention. Some of these might perhaps be the unnamed cottages labelled as special to Parish? The HER also holds records for earthworks such as areas of former field systems and possible ridge and furrow.</p> <p>Other comments</p> <p>We have spotted quite a few typos and sentences which could be improved a bit grammatically though I don't imagine copy editing of the text is really what the Vision group want us to do.</p> <p>The word 'natural' is included many times, in some places where we feel the parallel role of humans has been underplayed, eg in 3 G 2, landscape is very much an interaction of people and places (fields, commons, woods etc being managed land). So this could be 'The <i>natural beauty</i> and historic character of the landscape... should be conserved and enhanced'. On p13 and p22 however 'natural' has been left out of the phrase 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty' and should be put back in as this is an official term.</p> <p>There is also some out of date terminology we've spotted (in areas outside our own profession) – eg English Nature is now Natural England, and I believe that Wildlife Heritage Sites are now called Local Wildlife Sites (p21 – why is this map titled Bucklebury Parish: Hamlets, House (sic) and Roads?). In the Contents page it is Topography and Area of Conservation, though actually a more accurate title could be something like Topography and important Wildlife Sites. Conservation Areas and Special Areas of Conservation are two slightly confusing designations – Bucklebury does have a Conservation Area</p>	<p>Amend document as follows –</p> <p>Page 4 <i>'Its users will include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>West Berkshire Council, as Supplementary Planning Guidance</i> <p>Page 23 – Copyright - ... <i>'or in part part ...'</i></p> <p>Page 7 4th bullet – <i>'several habitats have <u>Local</u> Wildlife Heritage Site Sstatus...</i></p> <p>Page 21 map – all references to <i>'Wildlife Heritage Sites'</i> should be changed to <i>'<u>Local Wildlife Sites</u>'</i></p> <p>Page 13 Summary 1st bullet – <i>'.... in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding <u>Natural</u> Beauty.'</i></p> <p>Page 22 Summary 1st bullet – <i>'.... in the North Wessex Downs Area</i></p>
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	<p>(Historic/Architectural designation) but apparently not any SACs (protected sites designated under Habitats directive I believe).</p> <p>Does the Farming and Advisory Wildlife Group (FWAG) mentioned on p8 still operate locally?</p> <p>I note that the document doesn't make any reference to Tree Preservation Orders. We have recorded the Bucklebury oak avenue on the HER due to the commemorative nature of its planting (and the NPPF definition of the historic environment includes landscaped and planted or managed flora). Does this avenue have any protection from a TPO or other designations?</p> <p>P13 I am unsure of the meaning of the phrase</p> <p>They want the village to remain predominantly rural. This isn't factual and is already covered by the third bullet point opposite</p> <p>Attached pdfs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report of the parish's Heritage Designations, and a map showing their location • Map of other HER data – all known historic and archaeological buildings, sites and monuments as well as archaeological investigations • Map of Historic Landscape Character Current Types • Map of Historic Landscape Character Sensitivity 	<p><i>of Outstanding <u>Natural</u> Beauty.'</i></p> <p>Page 20 map title – amend to read '<i>Bucklebury Parish: Hamlets, Houses and Roads</i>'</p> <p>Page 21 map title – amend to read '<i>Bucklebury Parish: Hamlets, House and Roads Topography and <u>Nature Conservation</u></i>'</p> <p>Contents page - amend title of MAP 2 to read – '<i>Topography and Area of <u>Nature Conservation</u></i>'</p> <p>Page 8 – Amend the following paragraph to read – '<i>Funds from West Berkshire Council, the Environment Agency, English Nature and others are made available to t <u>The Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG Association West)</u> to <u>can</u> provide an advisory service to farmers and landowners on improving wildlife, habitats and landscape in the Pang Valley.'</i></p> <p>Page 13 Planning – remove 5th sentence – '<i>This isn't factual and is already covered by the third bullet point opposite.</i>'</p>
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Environment Agency	<p>We regret that at present, the Thames Area Sustainable Places team is unable to review this consultation. This is due to resourcing issues within the team, a high development management workload and an increasing volume of neighbourhood planning consultations. For the purposes of neighbourhood planning, we have assessed those authorities who have “up to date” local plans (plans adopted since 2012, or which have been confirmed as being compliant with the National Planning Policy Framework) as being of lower risk. At this time, therefore, we are unable to make any detailed input on neighbourhood plans being prepared within this local authority area. However, together with Natural England, English Heritage and Forestry Commission, we have published joint guidance on neighbourhood planning, which sets out sources of environmental information and ideas on incorporating the environment into plans. This is available at:</p> <p>http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140328084622/http://cdn.environment-agency.gov.uk/LIT_6524_7da381.pdf</p>	Noted
Historic England	<p>Thank you for consulting Historic England on the draft refresh of the Bucklebury Village Design Statement. I am happy to confirm that Historic England do not have any comments on the document.</p>	Noted
Natural England	<p>Natural England welcomes design guidelines that respect, and where possible, enhance the character and local distinctiveness of the surrounding natural and built environment; use natural resources more sustainably; and bring benefits for the local community, for example through green space provision and access to and contact with nature.</p> <p>The following is offered as general advice which we would expect to have been considered in the preparation of a Town or Village Design</p>	All comments noted

	<p>Statement:</p> <p>Landscape</p> <p>To preserve the wider landscape character of area, the Town or Village Design Statement should recognise and give appropriate consideration to the impact of the design statement on protected landscapes such as National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), if the town or village is within or adjacent to one.</p> <p>Landscape Character Assessments (LCA) provide a context for looking at possible changes and for seeking to ensure that the countryside character is protected and enhanced. Local area LCAs and those for protected landscapes (where applicable), should be cross-referenced as they are a useful tool to ensure that the Village Design Statement makes a positive contribution in terms of design, form and location, to the character and functions of the landscape, and avoids any unacceptable impacts. Following the principles of LCA at a local scale helps to capture the significant features, style and patterns of settlement and setting within the landscape and key views in and around the village. National Park and AONB Management Plans can also provide useful information for design statements within or adjoining protected landscapes.</p> <p>Natural England is revising the suite of 159 National Character Area (NCA) profiles to make environmental evidence and information easily available to a wider audience. NCA profiles are guidance documents which include a description of the key ecosystem services provided in each character area and how these benefit people, wildlife and the economy. They identify potential opportunities for positive environmental change and provide the best available information and evidence as a context for local decision making and action. The revised and current NCA profiles are available on the NCA pages of our</p>	<p>Appendix 2 – Landscape – add final sentence as follows – <i>‘Further information on the landscape character assessments covering this area can be found on West Berkshire Council’s website’</i> https://info.westberks.gov.uk/lca</p>
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	<p>website for you to refer to.</p> <p>Green Infrastructure and Sustainable Design</p> <p>Green infrastructure is a term used to refer to the living network of green spaces, water and other environmental features in both urban and rural areas. It is often used in an urban context to cover the benefits including space for recreation, access to nature, flood storage and urban cooling to support climate change mitigation, food production, wildlife habitats and health & well-being improvements provided by trees, rights of way, parks, gardens, road verges, allotments, cemeteries, woodlands, rivers and wetlands.</p> <p>Green infrastructure is also relevant in a rural context, where it might additionally refer to the use of farmland, woodland, wetlands or other natural features to provide services such as flood protection, carbon storage or water purification. Green infrastructure maintains critical ecological links between town and country.</p> <p>The Design Statement could usefully promote high quality and multifunctional green infrastructure. Natural England's Green Infrastructure Guidance provides an introduction to delivering green infrastructure at the micro and neighbourhood scale through features such as street trees, green facades and green roofs, where consistent with the local character. These features can be extremely important in increasing ecological connectivity between green spaces, particularly when footpaths and green corridors are not feasible.</p> <p>Biodiversity</p> <p>The Design Statement should have recognised and referenced designated wildlife sites¹ and other biodiversity assets in the immediate area, such as protected species, ecological networks, habitats and green spaces. Design guidelines should respect, and</p>	
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	<p>where possible, enhance the town or village’s local and neighbouring biodiversity resources. The Town and Country Planning Association has produced a practical and design orientated Biodiversity by Design guide to achieving high levels of biodiversity in developments, which may be of use. When preparing the Design Statement, your local Wildlife Trust and local environmental record centre should have been consulted, and local and national Biodiversity Action Plans should be referenced where relevant.</p> <p>Community Engagement</p> <p>As an organisation, we are committed to involving the community in our work, ensuring that local people and the organisations that support them are consulted at the earliest possible stage. We are keen to see this principle adopted as part of the village design statement formulation process so that local people have a chance to contribute to the development of the statements from the outset.</p>	
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