1: Understanding South Staffordshire's Design Context: Village Summary - Acton Trussell

1.Acton Trussell (Other Village)

1.1 The village of Acton Trussell is located close to the M6, bounded by the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal Conservation Area on its western flank and enclosed by defined 'open countryside'. The village spreads to the east into the expansive arable landscape towards the A34 and the more isolated rural villages.

1.2 The village has Roman connections and medieval origins, with a mill recorded in Domesday at 'Actone'. The village is now largely notable for its early 18th Century timber framed moat house and school buildings, the relationship with the canal and the more modern development which clusters around Acton Hill. The village overlooks the Church of St. James which dates from the 13th Century and sits alone on an adjoining hill, which covers the site of the Roman settlement in the area.

1.3 The village is clustered upon and around a shallow hillside, which affords glimpses of Stafford Castle, and is enclosed by an open agricultural landscape and the canal to the west. The enclosing rural landscape primarily comprises large, open fields to the south, with a patchwork of smaller fields to the north, with limited tree planting and shallow hedgerows.

1.4 The village is of relatively modest proportions and retains an enclosed character owing to its visual and physical relationship with the canal. Residential properties extend to partially enclose the eastern canal banks and project out into the agricultural landscape. The village has expanded in the latter part of 20th Century, to encompass the former canal and farm buildings, and the scattered cottages to the north of the Moat House.

1.5 Latterly the village settlement pattern has developed a narrow, roughly lozenge shape, roughly bisected by Penkridge Road, and winding up the hill to Top Road. The structure of the village follows the hill's topography and creates a compact, cohesive group rising from the agricultural landscape, interspersed with scattered tree groups and bounded by low, neat hedgerows. Bank Top is lined with impressive mature trees which enhance the apparent scale of the hill, and both dominate and embrace the attractive residential environment.

The flat, open fields to the west give views across to the River Penk and the M6, intruding into key vistas.

1.6 Building scale reflects the village's modest nature: late 20th Century, two-storey dwellings, interspersed amongst 19th Century cottages. A few cottages from the nearby Shugborough Estate contribute to local distinctiveness. Properties follow the topography up the hill and the built character is therefore both cohesive and domestic in character, with spacious settings and generous planting on-plot and in the street scape. The canal edge is relatively domesticated and incorporated into rear gardens or field boundaries. Canal structures form a key part of the fabric of the village, including its entrances and viewpoints.

Materials

1.7 The building materials typically and frequently seen in Acton Trussell are:

Tiles: Blue/brindled clay
Bricks: Red/orange weathered, fired brown to blue
Facing: Some timber-framing
Doors & windows: Timber

Archaeology

1.8 There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive within the historic cores of villages and mitigation may be required at some point in the planning/development process.

Key Development Design Principles: Acton Trussell

1.9 Acton Trussell is an 'Other Village' with only a few open spaces or recreational facilities. The general design guidance on minor development is outlined in the main guide. Specific attention should be paid to the following in design proposals:

a. **Enhance village entrances.** The key entry points to the village, particularly from the south, along Penkridge Road and the north along Mill Lane should remain abrupt, understated, points of arrival. Any new development on the village edge and at these entrances should ensure the modest, uncluttered entry to the village core is maintained. This requires new development and domestic structures to avoid intrusive projection into the road frontage, maintaining the village core's green enclosure.

b. **Maintain the compact character of the village.** The hillside character and cohesion of the settlement should be maintained and enhanced, by integrating new development into the existing village framework, avoiding projections into the arable landscape, or the coalescence of peripheral buildings groups.

c. **Retain the grouping and mass of the built stock.** Any new development should ensure that building alignments continue to run along the contours of the hill to enhance its graded, stepped character, with careful attention to the uncluttered roof form and materials. The cohesion of the built stock should be enhanced by the retention of low- rise properties with narrow building plans, and the use of common, high quality materials.

d. **Simplicity of roofscape, appropriate colours and textures.** The modest scale of the village and its prominence as a cohesive entity within the wider agricultural landscape require attention to darker, earthy colours and textures. This is to help integrate the mass of the built form with the tree groups within the village core. Bright contrasting colours or complex roof structures should be avoided in particular, to ensure that the cohesion of the group and village form is retained.

e. **Retain visual connections with the countryside.** The visual connection to St. James' Church, and more distant views across the arable landscape should be maintained from within the village core, ensuring that the building group remains a feature evidently contained within the agricultural setting.

f. **Enhance the green edges.** The village's green edges should be strengthened visually to contain any apparent domestic progression into the agricultural landscape. The existing village edge is tightly enclosed by relatively open, arable fields. The current abrupt edges to parts of the village's residential areas increase its apparent domestic penetration into the open countryside, which could compromise its agricultural character unless it is contained by new boundary landscaping. New development, including domestic structures, particularly on the eastern and southern boundaries should serve to soften the village boundaries with appropriate, effective planting buffers.

g. **Strengthen green space networks.** The established green spaces and tree groups within the village framework should contribute to the creation of an enhanced network throughout the village. New development should incorporate existing planting and add new features to link with the village edge, enhancing the character of the village as a cohesive, wooded hillside development within the open arable landscape.

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Maintain green space networks along with the character of the village

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Careful management of development at gateways to the village

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Enhancement of green edges is essential

2. Understanding South Staffordshire's Design Context: Village Summary - Bednall

2. Bednall (Small Service Village)

2.1 The small village of Bednall is located within an expansive arable landscape between the A34 and the M6, enclosed by the Green Belt. The village has the feeling of detachment and isolation, being only accessible by the relatively narrow Common Lane and Cock Lane. It has obscure medieval origins, with the present early-Victorian church of All Saints replacing a chapel of 12th Century origins.

2.2 The village is located on a shallow hillside, which falls away from the parish church to the open agricultural landscape to the southeast. The enclosing landscape largely comprises large open fields to the south, and a patchwork of smaller fields to the north. The landscape has limited tree planting and only shallow hedgerows.

2.3 Historically, the village grew up around the cluster of the church, Bednall Hall, and their associated farm units surround the junction of Cock Lane and Common Lane. Latterly, the village settlement pattern has developed a roughly linear form, extending along Common Lane, running east-west, to coalesce with former outlying cottages, but retaining only a shallow projection into the enclosing landscape. The modest expanse of the village, set within the dominant arable landscape, maintains its compact and cohesive character, despite its latter-day growth along the spinal lane. The building groups are largely set back from the spinal village road of Common Lane, creating an open, spacious character with opportunities for extensive street scape planting. There has been some more recent residential projection to the south, with this back-land development undermining the essentially linear form of the village.

2.4 The scale of the built fabric reflects the modest nature of the village, largely comprising cottages and low-lying properties, which sit within the landscape. Many have narrow plans, with their mass broken by a large number of gables. The built character is consequently largely domestic in character, flanked by a number of former agricultural properties. They have been converted or rebuilt and visually project domestic use into the enclosing countryside. These buildings of greater mass also tend to exhibit unbroken slate roof scapes.

2.5 Many of the traditional buildings were constructed for workers on the Hatherton Estate. They are richly detailed and make a significant and positive contribution to local distinctiveness in and around Bednall.

Materials
2.6 The building materials typically and frequently seen in Bednall are:

Tiles: Brown clay
Bricks: Red/brown
Facing: Some white painted brick render
Doors & windows: Timber

Archaeology
2.7 There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive within the historic cores of villages and mitigation may be required at some point in the planning/development process.

Key Development Design Principles: Bednall
2.8 Bednall is a 'Small Service Village' with only a very limited range of facilities, essentially comprising a school, church and a general store, with no open spaces or recreational facilities. The general design guidance on minor development is outlined in the main guide. Specific attention should be paid to the following in design proposals:

a. **Maintain the narrow, linear character of the village.** The cohesive linear form of the agricultural village should be maintained and enhanced, avoiding any development in depth, projections into the arable landscape, or the coalescence of peripheral buildings groups which might compromise the historic settlement pattern.

b. **Maintain the village entrances.** The approaches and entry to the village should remain low key, such that the point of arrival continues to be understated. New development on the village edge should enhance this modest statement and ensure that the properties and structures remain set back from the road frontage to maintain a strong, green spinal route through the village core.

c. **Ensure a modest scale and mass of the built stock.** The vernacular, domestic scale of the village's core built fabric requires new development to adopt similarly appropriate forms. New development should maintain the variety of elevation and mass exhibited by the more historic

cottages, avoiding extensive duplication of form and sprawling building plans. Cohesion should be created by the retention of low-rise properties with narrow building plans and the use of common, high quality materials, whilst concentrating on enhanced street scape planting.

d. **Focus on boundary treatment and green edges.** Village development, both within the core and on the edge, should create soft, green edges. Expanses of suburban style fencing should be avoided as these will visually deaden the street scape, compromising the rural character.

e. **Ensure visual connections with the countryside are maintained.** Views and physical connections with the enclosing countryside should be apparent within the village core, ensuring that building groups remain evidently a feature within the landscape, rather than becoming permanently divorced from their agricultural setting.

f. **Enhance the green edges.** The extension of domestic uses into peripheral former agricultural properties needs to be balanced by strengthening the green edge of the village. The existing village edge is relatively open, providing views into the extensive arable field beyond. Increasing domestic penetration into this landscape will compromise the agricultural character of the village, unless it is contained by new boundary landscaping. Similarly, the development impact of modern agricultural units should be contained by the introduction of extensive new woodland planting providing screening blocks of planting at key viewpoints.

g. **Enhance green space networks.** Any new village development should contribute to the creation of a network of green spaces throughout the village, incorporating existing and new planting better to connect the settlement to its agricultural setting.

h. **Adopt appropriate colours and textures.** The modest scale of the village and the relatively open countryside creates a need to ensure that new development adopts darker, earthy colours and textures visually to 'ground' buildings breaking up the mass of larger units to avoid the over dominance of agricultural storage buildings within the landscape.

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Inspiration from historic scale and mass of existing buildings

© South Staffordshire Council
Boundary treatments should create soft green edges

© South Staffordshire Council
New development should adopt appropriate colours and textures

3: Understanding South Staffordshire's Design Context: Village Summary - Bilbrook

3. Bilbrook (Main Service Village)

3.1 Bilbrook has effectively merged with its larger and more ancient neighbour on its western boundaries, Codsall. It does, however, have a distinct village centre around Duck Lane/Lane Green Road. The settlement was an outlying farming village on the edge of Codsall which expanded due to the location of the Boulton Paul Aircraft production plant to the eastern edge of the village. It is located between the A449 (Stafford Road) and the A41 (Holyhead Road). It is well served by the railway network that runs through village, connecting it to Telford and Wolverhampton.

3.2 Prior to the 1850s, Bilbrook was a small farming village composed mainly of the estate of Bilbrook Manor, with its constituent farm workers cottages. In 1849 the railway came, joining Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury. Bilbrook Church was built in 1898, extended in 1951 and again in 1965. As late as the 1950s, the small church was still surrounded by trees as now it is hemmed in by other buildings. Bilbrook owes its expansion to the building of the Boulton Paul aircraft factory in 1936. Its arrival led to the building of a number of housing estates around Joeys Lane as well as the construction of the station in 1934. Before the Great War there was no development on the left of Bilbrook Road.

3.3 The much expanded village has created a distinctly 20th Century, suburban character. It has an abrupt development edge opening to the largely arable agricultural landscape. It is enclosed by the West Midlands Green Belt on all its sides. Farmland to the east and north, emphasises the enclosure of the settlement, which retains a compaction and important visual connections to the enclosing agricultural landscape.

3.4 The settlement pattern is defined by the arterial roads leading off the Bilbrook Road/Lane Green Road, the enclosure of the railway and the countryside edge. The low rise form of the village is enhanced by the extent of the planting and green spaces within the village. The two schools are prominent features within the village, both having a large amount of recreational space which serve to separate the two villages and create the basis for a network of green spaces.

3.5 The village offers a great variety of 20th Century building forms, particularly residential properties relating to the interwar period and the post-1960s. However, the scale of development is largely low rise with spacious plots and extensive green edges and gardens. There are a number of notable open spaces providing good links to the enclosing countryside.

Materials

3.6 The building materials typically and frequently seen in Bilbrook are:

Tiles: Red clay
Bricks: Red
Facing: Render, some painted
Doors & windows: Timber

Archaeology

3.7 There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive within the historic cores of villages and mitigation may be required at some point in the planning/development process.

Key Development Design Principles: Bilbrook

3.8 Bilbrook is a 'Main Service Village' which offers a good range of facilities and services which are spread across two key centres, including a school and employment land. The general design guidance on both major and minor development is outlined in the main guide. Specific attention should be paid to the following in design proposals:

a. **Create new character areas.** The design of new development should be highly permeable and closely integrated with both the established village fabric and the enclosing countryside. New housing in particular should face and enclose new streets and create walkable linkages to the village centre.

b. **Streetscape enhancement.** The low rise, street scape should be enhanced by a particular focus on additional tree and hedge planting to create a network of green spaces, linking the village core with the enclosing countryside.

c. **Landscaping of car parking areas.** Car parking should be integrated into the village fabric by means of boundary and integral tree planting to avoid sprawling open areas in the village core.

d. **Enhance the diversity of the built stock.** The village character should be strengthened by means of facilitating a greater diversity of building types within the various village neighbourhoods, while respecting the low-rise scale of the existing built fabric. Cohesion should be created by use of common, high quality materials, as well as focusing on enhanced street scape planting.

e. **Enhance the village entrances.** New development should contribute to the enhancement of the village entrances, particularly at the junctions with the countryside.

f. **Maintain views out into the countryside.** New development should protect views out to the surrounding countryside to provide visual linkages to the agricultural setting, particularly along Pendeford Mill Lane and Watery Lane and the established village edge.

g. **Strengthen the Green Belt edge.** New development should contribute to the strengthening of the boundary planting, to reinforce the enclosure of the settlement within the surrounding countryside and create a clear and abrupt edge to the village's built form.

h. **Enhance the green space network.** New development should incorporate existing and new planting to enhance the compartmentalisation of the village's fabric, maintain the established open spaces and create a clear network of green spaces.

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Enhance diversity in the built streets

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Enhance the village's character areas

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Highways impact on the village edge needs containing

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Cohesion of materials is important

4: Understanding South Staffordshire's Design Context: Village Summary – Bishop's Wood

4. Bishop's Wood (Small Service Village)

4.1 The hamlet of Bishop's Wood lies three miles to the west of Brewood on the Shropshire Border, just south of the A5, flanking the junctions of Ivetsey Bank Road and Old Coach Road. It is entirely enclosed by the Staffordshire Green Belt.

4.2 The village began to develop as a settlement in the 19th Century. Its name probably derives from the country residence of the early Bishops of Lichfield.

4.3 The landscape setting of Bishop's Wood is dominated by rolling arable land, with deep hedgerows enclosing large fields and scattered clusters of prominent farm buildings. The centre of the village follows the ridge line along Ivetsey Bank Road and affords distant views to the north and east across the District. To the west the modern village falls away from the ridge and settles into a shallow valley as it approaches the County boundary. This characteristic assists in tempering the impact of the modern built form of the village, emphasising the dominance of its agricultural setting.

4.4 The settlement pattern remained scattered until the late 1960s. A comprehensive redevelopment, complete by 1971, coalesced the collection of cottages and created the current enclosed village form. This development simply overlay the more densely developed housing estate onto paddocks and smaller fields to the west of Ivetsey Bank Road and the Old Coach Road. This also resulted in the pub becoming located in the centre of the village, close to the axial point of the much expanded settlement. However, the church and school buildings remained detached from the core of the village to the south of the main building groups.

4.5 The village is a mix of 19th Century cottages and late 20th Century houses. The built form has evolved from farm workers cottages to low-density terraced and semi-detached housing. A number of the cottages have now been replaced or converted. Plots are relatively generous with off-road parking, while streets incorporate hedges and trees. Development scale remains modest two-storey, the materials helping to integrate buildings into the arable landscape.

Materials

4.6 The building materials typically and frequently seen in Bishop's Wood are:

Tiles: Hand-made red/brown clay
Bricks: Red/brown
Facing: Rendering, some painted
Doors & windows: Timber

For development in Bishop's Wood, reference should be made to the Brewood Village Design Statement.

Archaeology

4.7 There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive within the historic cores of villages and mitigation may be required at some point in the planning/development process.

Key development design principles: Bishop's Wood

4.8 Bishop's Wood is a 'Small Service' Village', largely built to suburban densities on the periphery of the District. It has only a very limited range of facilities, including a village hall, playing field, church and public house. The limited facilities and tight greenbelt enclosure mean that it is only able to accommodate a very limited range of pressures within the development boundary before the existing settlement pattern becomes compromised.

The general design guidance on both major and minor development is outlined in the main guide. Specific attention should be paid to the following in design proposals

a. **Maintain the compact character of the village.** The hillside character and cohesion of the settlement should be maintained and enhanced by integrating new infill carefully into the existing village pattern. Obtrusive projections into the landscape, including excessive domestic extensions or prominent garden buildings, should be avoided.

b. **Maintain the degree of diversity of built form.** The surviving 19th Century, former farm workers cottages create interest in the character and density of the contemporary village. These modest terraces should be retained, where appropriate, to

avoid erosion of the diversity of the village's built form and loss of its connections to its origins.

c. **Maintain the understatement of village entrances.** The key entry points, particularly along Ivetsey Bank Road, should remain abrupt and understated as points of arrival into the village. Development on the village edge, and at these entrances should protect entry to the village core, strengthening hedgerows to emphasise the dominant agricultural character. This will require new development and domestic structures to avoid intrusive projection forward into the road frontage, maintaining established building lines and the village core's green enclosure.

d. **Retain the grouping and mass of the built stock.** Any new infill development should ensure that building alignments continue to run along the contours of the hillside to integrate the built form into the rolling landscape. Careful attention should be paid to maintaining uncluttered roof forms and the established mass of the built stock should be enhanced by the retention of low-rise properties with narrow building plans, and the use of common, high quality materials.

e. **Simplicity of roofscape, appropriate colours and textures.** The modest scale of the village and its prominence as a cohesive entity within the wider agricultural landscape require attention to darker, earthy colours and textures. This is to help integrate the mass of the built form with the tree groups and hedge lines within the village core. Bright contrasting colours or complex roof structures should be avoided in particular, to ensure that the cohesion of the group and village form is retained.

f. **Retain visual connections with the countryside.** Any new infill development should ensure that the visual connections to the wider agricultural landscape are maintained from within the village core. In particular the loss of vistas from Old Weston Road out of the village, across rooftops should be maintained, ensuring that the building groups remain evidently contained within the agricultural setting.

g. **Enhance the green edges.** The green edges of the village should be strengthened visually, by additional tree planting to create greater visual enclosure, and reduce any apparent domestic

progression into the agricultural landscape. The village's various edges are tightly enclosed by relatively open arable fields. This characteristic could increase the apparent domestic penetration into the open countryside, compromising the rural character of the village, unless the built form is contained by new boundary landscaping. New development, including domestic structures, on all boundaries should serve to enhance the wooded edge to the boundaries creating effective planting buffers.

h. **Strengthen green space networks**. The existing green spaces and tree groups within the village framework should contribute to the creation of an enhanced footpath network, linking the village to its agricultural setting. Any new infill development should incorporate existing planting, and add new features to strengthen the character of the village as a cohesive, wooded hillside development within the open arable landscape.

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Strengthen neighbourhood centres

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The diversity of built form should be retained

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Enhance the green edge to the village to emphasis the arable enclosures

5: Understanding South Staffordshire's Design Context: Village Summary – Blymhill

5. Blymhill (Other Village)

5.1 The village of Blymhill is located north of Wolverhampton, approximately 6 miles northeast from Shifnal and 6 miles northwest from Brewood, close to the Shropshire border. The rural village is small and scattered with the main historic core of the village designated as the Blymhill Conservation area. The conservation area is encircled by farmland, stretching linearly along Brockhurst Lane and southwards to the Church of St Mary and an ancient moated site.

5.2 The village has medieval origins as an agricultural village and later served as part of the Earl of Bradford's estate at Weston Park. The village contains a number of listed buildings one of which is the Grade I listed Church of St Mary. The church has 14th century origins and despite being extensively rebuilt still contains several original features such as its medieval tower. Other notable listed buildings within the village include the old school, The Old Rectory and The Black and White Cottage. In 1934, the village grew under the terms of the Staffordshire Review Order which added the adjoining parishes of Church Eaton and Gnosall to the village.

5.3 During its time as part of the Earl of Bradford's estate Blymhill housed many of the workers on the estate many of whom lived in simple 19th century cottages. These paired cottages are still seen today dotted around the village mainly to the north of the church. These cottages are interspersed with substantial farmhouses separated by fields and farmyards. The majority of the buildings within the village are redbrick with the exception of the church which is built of sandstone and The Black and White Cottage with its white painted brick with black painted timbers.

5.4 The main road running through the village, Brockhurst Lane is a winding country lane with narrow farm tracks branching out into the surrounding fields. The church and other neighbouring buildings are located to the south of the lane whilst cottages and moderately sized dwellings are to the west end of Brockhurst Lane. Mature trees line the roads up the hill to High Hall Farm and are planted in groups around the church and rectory contributing to the character of the conservation area and rural landscape.

5.5 Very few modern buildings have been added to the village therefore its historic and agricultural character have been retained. There are no shops or public houses within the village, however there are a number of working farms, a village hall and church.

Materials

5.6 The building materials typically and frequently seen in Blymhill are:

Tiles: Handmade clay and slate
Bricks: Red/brown
Facing: Some timber-framing and rendering
Doors & windows: Timber

Archaeology

5.7 There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive within the historic cores of villages and mitigation, may be required at some point in the planning/development process.

Key Development Design Principles: Blymhill

5.8 Blymhill is an 'Other village' with only a few minor open spaces and limited array of services comprising a church and village hall.

a. **Scale and Proportion** In general, new buildings should directly reflect the ridge height, roof span, roof pitch and eaves depth of surrounding properties, with an expectation that the scale will rarely exceed two and a half storeys.

b. **Cohesion of materials** New development should enhance the general cohesion of the village by focusing on the use of red brick and tiles.

c. **Maintain views out into the countryside.** New development should protect the key views out of the village core into the enclosing countryside.

d. **Protect and enhance the historic core.** Any new development should serve to enhance the setting of the Church of St Mary and the surrounding historic buildings.

e. **Enhance the village character.** Any new development within the village core should adopt a compact density, directly connected to the existing street structure to strengthen the historic character and settlement pattern.

5.9 A Conservation Area Management Plan and Appraisal were produced in 2010 and are in the process of being reviewed and updated. . This must be referred to when considering proposals for development within the Conservation Area or in areas outside the Conservation Area which would affect views into or out of the Conservation Area.

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Enhance the historic core

© South Staffordshire Council

Protect the views out of the village

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Promote the cohesion of Materials

6: Understanding South Staffordshire's Design Context: Village Summary – Bobbington

6. Bobbington (Small Service Village)

6.1 Bobbington is a small rural village with medieval origins, mentioned in Domesday and with a church that retains Norman construction. The village is the focus of a predominantly agricultural landscape, entirely enclosed by the Green Belt and located on the County boundary with Shropshire, west of the West Midlands conurbation.

6.2 The village is enclosed by an expansive arable landscape on the elevated watershed between the river valleys of the Severn and the Stour. This is open gently undulating agricultural land, with large flat fields and limited hedgerow trees. The landscape is enhanced by areas of managed parkland and tree groups which border the village and neighbouring hamlets. The former Second World War airfield, now known as 'Wolverhampton Business Airport', located immediately to the east indicates the relatively gentle nature of the topography.

6.3 The modern settlement pattern is arranged in linear form, set back from Six Ashes Road. The spinal road runs in an arc to the south of the historic Holy Cross Church, and the site of the Red Lion Inn. The village grew up in the 20th Century around this cluster of buildings spreading along the street, bounded by paddocks to the north and open fields to the south. The strong linear form retains the scattered development character, extending the village along Six Ashes Road, east and west into the arable landscape. The modern road frontage lacks definable character and there is little sense of a focal space. Housing is set back from the road, but without creating the wider public route that might exist at the heart of the village. The space north of the church, i.e. between the village and stream, has lost its historic importance relative to the road frontage, as the mill and pond have gone and has become a 'back land'.

6.4 The relatively isolated village retains its close physical and visual relationship with the enclosing countryside and supports a modest population. The development pattern retains a spacious and green character even at its core which accommodates a small number of public and commercial buildings.

6.5 The village's built form is largely inter-war in character, with low density red brick and slate roof dwellings. These are interspersed by the occasional cream rendered 19th Century properties, distinguished by their narrower plans, taller ridge lines and steeper roofs. Modern additions to the village have contained the use of red/orange brick. The village remains cohesive, despite stretching out into the landscape, by virtue of the general arrangement of properties, running along Six Ashes Road and the constrained development boundaries. The enclosing landscape contains several buildings of historic interest including Bobbington Hall, Blakelands, Bobbington House, and Leaton Hall.

Materials
6.6 The building materials typically and frequently seen in Bobbington are:

Tiles: Blue clay
Bricks: Red/brown brindled, some painted
Facing: Render, painted
Doors & windows: Timber

Archaeology
6.7 There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive within the historic cores of villages and mitigation may be required at some point in the planning/development process.

Key Development Design Principles: Bobbington
6.8 Bobbington is a 'Small Service Village' and has a school and a post office. The small scale of the village and its green belt enclosure is likely to constrain new development to small scale infill or modification of existing properties. The general design guidance on minor development is outlined in the main guide. Specific attention should be paid to the following in design proposals:

a. **Enhancement of spacious linear frontage.** New extensions and infill development will have a disproportionate impact because of the visibility of the linear street frontage and the low density of the settlement pattern. New additions should be careful to remain both proportionate to the existing dwelling and retain the spacing between existing buildings.

b. **Create positive gateways and landmarks.** New development should make a positive contribution to the cohesion of the existing building group, and contribute to the introduction of discrete landmarks, particularly at the entry points along six Ashes Road, Church Lane and Brantley Lane.

c. **Consistent materials choice and architectural detailing**. New development should adopt simple earth-derived colours, maintaining darker red brick and tiles, and avoiding stark contrasts within the street scape, while introducing innovation within the established palette.

d. **Encourage modern design.** Any new infill or replacement development should use innovative new development design (retaining the general low-rise, two-storey scale) to broaden the variety and character of the built form and demonstrate continuing evolution of the village core.

e. **Enhance village green spaces.** New development should contribute to the enhancement of existing spaces within the village development framework, including enclosure and landscaping of car parking areas, to limit the expanse and visual impact of parked vehicles.

f. **Protect and enhance the setting of the church.** The setting of Holy Cross Church, including the existing open space to its north and east of the church, linking to surrounding countryside should be protected from inappropriate development.

g. **Avoid visual projection into the agricultural landscape.** Back land development, or infill development projecting deep into rear garden areas should be avoided to maintain the cohesion of the built form. Careful detailing and siting should also be given to domestic storage in rear gardens, again to avoid domestic projection into the agricultural landscape.

h. **Retention of key views.** The limited view of the church from Six Ashes Road should be protected and enhanced where possible, along with other channelled views between properties to maintain visual connections to the enclosing countryside.

i. **Strengthen the Green Belt edge.** New development on the village periphery and particularly the Green Belt boundary, should enhance of the green edge of the built form. The existing linear woodland enclosures should be enhanced to improve green space networks, particularly along Brantley Lane and Church Lane, leading out into open countryside.

© South Staffordshire Council
Retention of key views through the village

© South Staffordshire Council
Green Belt development should complement the landscape

© South Staffordshire Council
Consistent material choice which is in keeping with existing architecture

7: Understanding South Staffordshire's Design Context: Village Summary - Brewood

7. Brewood (Main Service Village)

7.1 The village of Brewood has ancient origins, with its name being traced to the post-roman period of Celtic and Anglo-Saxon settlement meaning, 'wood at the hill called Bre'. It is located at the high point at the eastern end of a low ridge within the Staffordshire Plan Character Area, overlooking the shallow valley of the River Penk and enclosed by green belt.

7.2 The landscape setting of the village emphasises the compact nature of the settlement, with winding lanes tightly enclosed by mature hedgerows. The roads focus on the modest Market Place at the junction of Sandy Lane, Stafford Street, Bargate Street and Church Road, whilst the prominent spire of the parish church of St Mary and St Chad dominates distant views of the village. The surrounding countryside is well wooded, channelling views out from the village, while the Canal is an important landscape feature which contains the edges of the village, and provides important vistas of the settlement.

7.3 Brewood's compact settlement pattern largely retains its radial form, growing out from the ancient market place, with a concentration of historic buildings surviving within the core area. The village grew slowly from the 13th Century, but with relatively extensive growth in the 19th Century when new brick terraces were erected along the radial routes. The mid-20th Century witnessed some considerable expansion, with further ribbon development to the north and east extending the village's development boundary.

7.4 The village exhibits an impressive variety of surviving building forms, ranging from 17th Century box-frame timber cottages, through to the formality of the elegant 18th and 19th Century villas. The properties are, in general, relatively modest in scale, mostly two-storey, with exceptions extending to three into the roof space.

Materials
7.5 The building materials typically and frequently seen in Brewood are:

Tiles: Hand-made red/brown clay
Bricks: Red/brown with some use of brick string and band coursing and decorative details

Facing: Rendering, some painted
Doors & windows: Timber

For development in Brewood, reference should be made to the Brewood Village Design Statement.

Archaeology
7.6 There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive within the historic cores of villages and mitigation may be required at some point in the planning/development process.

Key Development Design Principles: Brewood
7.7 Brewood is a 'Main Service Village' which offers a reasonably good range of facilities and services, including a school, post office, medical facilities, shops, public houses, village hall, library, church and recreation provision.

7.8 Brewood is unique in having its own 'Village Design Statement' adopted by the Council as Supplementary Planning Guidance. This set out a detailed analysis of the villages main characteristics. All new building In Brewood should be informed by and demonstrate reference to the Village Design Statement. The general design guidance on both major and minor development is outlined in the main guide. Specific attention should be paid to the following in developing design proposals:

a. **Retain Brewood's compact settlement pattern.** Proposals should maintain and strengthen the compact nature of Brewood's form, whilst avoiding visual fragmentation and sprawl, or the suburbanisation of the settlement pattern. This can be achieved by adopting tight, relatively dense development designs, which complement the village fabric.

b. **Strengthen the pastoral enclosure.** Development on the edge of the village should enhance the strong hedgerow patterns and pastoral setting, particularly along the main approaches to the village along Coven Road, Kiddemore Green Road and along the A449 to the northeast. It should also enhance the green edge and strengthen the Green Belt edge.

c. **Green space network.** Development will be expected to contribute to the apparent green and well-wooded character of Brewood, by including space for new or restored planting, maintaining its ancient character as "the wood at the hill" creating clear linkages with the enclosing woodlands.

d. **Simple building details.** Brewood Village is relatively cohesive in terms of its built form. New development should, therefore, complement the established built fabric. Whilst innovation in building design is to be encouraged (particularly to ensure the efficiency of new buildings), this should be balanced by consideration of the site context and focus on the use of simple, well- detailed, vernacular building forms.

e. **Inspiration from local materials**. Building materials should reflect local precedents in colour, texture and proportion, relevant to the site's immediate context. The use of reddish- brown bricks and clay tiles for walls and roofs is encouraged, with only the exceptional use of rendered or painted brick in the village core, where a contrast may be considered desirable.

f. **Scale and proportion.** In general, new buildings should directly reflect the ridge height, roof span, roof pitch and eaves depth of surrounding properties, with an expectation that the scale will rarely exceed two and a half storeys outside Market Place in the village core.

g. **Complement the street scape.** New buildings and 7.9A infill developments should normally face the back edge of the pavements, forming continuous frontages, which positively address the street. Parking, cycle and bin stores and other services should be accommodated within the envelope of the building group, avoiding public frontages.

h. **Retention of key views.** New development should retain key external vistas, particularly from the Shropshire Union Canal, the village edges (such as The Pavement) and the enclosing countryside, focusing on retaining distant views of the church spire and the relatively uncluttered residential roofscape.

7.9 A Conservation Area Management Plan and Appraisal were produced in 2010 and are in the process of being reviewed and updated. This must be referred to when considering proposals for development within the Conservation Area or in areas outside the Conservation Area which would affect views into or out of the Conservation Area.

© South Staffordshire Council
Simple building materials

© South Staffordshire Council
Vernacular building forms

© South Staffordshire Council
Inspiration for new development should be taken from existing examples

© South Staffordshire Council
Retention of key views is essential

8. Cheslyn Hay (Main Service Village)

8.1 Cheslyn Hay remains a distinctive village, despite its 20th Century growth and the encroachment of the transport network. The village is located south of Cannock on the edge of the District and is separated from Great Wyrley by the local railway.

8.2 The village is enclosed by farmland to the south, west and northwest, forming part of the West Midlands green belt.

8.3 Despite some scattered occupation in the early 17th Century, the village traces its real development back to the enclosure of Cheslyn Common in 1797. The subsequent opening of coal mines in the parish reportedly brought, "some respectable inhabitants to the place", and stimulated the 19th Century expansion of the village as a key part of the Staffordshire coal mining industry. The village has latterly spread from its original nucleus near the junction of High Street and Low Street towards the enclosing motorways. The village core retains the tight urban grain of the 19th Century growth and buildings dating from this period, interspersed with pockets of green space. Attractive views out to the enclosing countryside are maintained from the village core to the north and west. 20th Century housing development on the village edge has a more suburban character, and is interspersed by an emerging network of green spaces which maintain access to the enclosing countryside.

8.4 The dominant residential building types within the village date from the late 19th Century and early 20th century and are largely red brick. The dominant character of this early housing is terraces or semi-detached cottages with substantial chimneys. Many of these buildings have good terracotta detailing – reflecting the skills and materials of the local brick and tile making industries – and the core of the old village contains some very attractive buildings from this period. Vernacular buildings predating this period are rare. The village has expanded rapidly in the last century to provide a full range of services benefiting from its accessibility. The latter expansion of the village has been characterised by sprawling peripheral development which extends into the surrounding farmland.

Materials

8.5 The building materials typically and frequently seen in Cheslyn Hay are:

Roofs: Slate or blue or red/brown clay tiles
Chimneys: Prominent brick stacks with buff terracotta pots
Bricks: Red, some painted
Facing: Render, some painted, also terracotta string- course detailing
Doors & windows: Timber

Archaeology

8.6 There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive within the historic cores of villages and mitigation may be required at some point in the planning/development process.

Key Development Design Principles: Cheslyn Hay

8.7 Cheslyn Hay is a 'Main Service Village'. The village offers a good range of facilities and services. The general design guidance on both major and minor development is outlined in the main guide. Specific attention should be paid to the following in design proposals:

a. **Maintain the village core.** Development should focus on enhancing the identity of the relatively compact village core, by respecting the scale, massing and enclosure of the red brick properties.

b. **Strengthen the village character.** New development in the core areas should respect the massing, modest scale, proportions and the vertical emphasis of the elevations of adjacent properties.

c. **Appropriate village density.** New development within the village core should deliver new housing development, to make efficient use of land, and strengthen the centre's viability.

d. **Enhance the village identity.** Development should serve to reinforce the identity of Cheslyn Hay by strengthening the local boundaries, with particular emphasis on the gateway points into the village at Station Road, Saredon Road and along Landywood Lane on the southern boundary.

e. **Encourage modern design.** Innovative new development design will be encouraged to strengthen the village core areas and avoid the further loss of green space within the village framework.

f. **Maintain views out into the countryside.** New development should protect the key views out of the village core into the enclosing countryside.

g. **Limit impact of car parking.** New development in the core areas should accommodate parking on site by means of courtyard or under-croft parking provision, absorbing parked cars without intrusion.

h. **Strengthen the Green Belt Edge.** Development on the periphery of the village should enhance the hedgerow patterns and avoid stark fence lines along the countryside edge.

i. **Green Space network.** Development will be expected to enhance the network of green spaces which link the outer areas of the village to the core, particularly adding to tree coverage in the street scene leading out along Saredon Road.

j. **Retain or reinstate period detailing.** Surviving period features and materials, should be reflected in new development to animate and create visual movement in frontage properties.

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Development density should be maintained in order to preserve key views

© South Staffordshire Council

Appropriate village density of new development

© South Staffordshire Council

Maintain village core by respecting the scale, massing and street enclosure

9: Understanding South Staffordshire's Design Context: Village Summary - Codsall

9 Codsall (Main Service Village)

9.1 Codsall has ancient origins and is actually recorded in the Domesday Book, with a population of six people, developing slowly until its major expansion in the later 20th Century. The settlement is located centrally in the District, to the west of nearby Wolverhampton.

9.2 The historic parts of the village have long since been enclosed by the extensive growth of the settlement to the south and east. However, its medieval origins and rural landscape setting are retained by the Norman doorway of the ancient Church of St Nicholas, and the open views across the agricultural landscape to the west.

9.3 The much expanded village has created a distinctly 20th Century, suburban character with an abrupt development edge opening to the largely arable agricultural landscape. The modern settlement pattern is defined by the arterial roads leading off the crossroads at Histons Hill/Elliotts Lane and Wolverhampton Road. At the crossroads is located the Council's offices. The village's low rise form is enhanced by the extent of the planting and green spaces within the village. These lead towards the countryside edge, creating valuable networks of green space to the north and west. Farmland to the west and northwest, emphasises enclosure of the settlement in the greenbelt.

9.4 The village offers a great variety of building forms, but the scale of development is largely low-rise with spacious plots and extensive green edges and gardens. Development was in three phases: Historic – around the church and Church Road/Wolverhampton crossroads; Post railway – elegant Victorian and Edwardian 3-storey villas and, post-war. In common with much of the District, the buildings are largely brick and tile. The occasional use of render is consequently all the more striking when on landmark buildings.

9.5 A particular local characteristic is the use of low sandstone walls alongside the pavements on several roads. Codsall had a number of sandstone quarries exposed and exploited by the construction of the Shrewsbury to Wolverhampton railway line. These locally distinctive walls should be retained and in some instances it may be appropriate to repeat this detail in new developments in the village.

Materials
9.6 The building materials typically and frequently seen in Codsall are:

Tiles: Red clay
Bricks: Red
Facing: Render, some painted
Doors & windows: Timber

Archaeology
9.7 There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive within the historic cores of villages and mitigation may be required at some point in the planning/development process.

Key Development Design Principles: Codsall
9.8 Codsall is a 'Main Service Village' it offers a good range of facilities and services, spread across two key centres. The general design guidance on both major and minor development is outlined in the main guide. Specific attention should be paid to the following in design proposals:

a. **Maintain the distinction of the village character areas.** The historic core around St. Nicholas's Church should be retained as a distinctive character area and be protected from any peripheral development which would serve to separate it from the open countryside.

b. **Strengthen the village character.** The density of development within the village centres, particularly around Wilkes Road/Wolverhampton Road should be increased to improve the legibility, viability and identity of the village centres.

c. **Create new character areas.** The design of new development should be highly permeable and closely integrated both with the established village fabric and its enclosing countryside. In particular, new housing should face and enclose new streets and have walkable linkages to the village centre.

d. **Green space enhancement.** The low-rise street scape should be enhanced. A particular focus should be on the additional planting of trees and hedges, to create networks of green spaces, linking the village core with the enclosing countryside.

e. **Landscaping of car parking areas**. Car parking should be integrated into the village fabric by means of boundary and integral tree planting to avoid sprawling open areas in the core of the village.

f. **Enhance the diversity of the built stock**. The village character should be strengthened by facilitating a greater diversity of building types within the various village neighbourhoods, while respecting the low-rise proportions of the existing built fabric. Cohesion should be created by use of common high quality materials, as well as by focusing on enhanced street scape planting.

g. **Enhance the village entrances.** New development should contribute to the enhancement of the village entrances, particularly at the junctions with the countryside, for example along Watery Lane/ Bilbrook Road and Birches Road/Codsall Road.

h. **Maintain views out into the countryside**. Views out to the enclosing countryside are mainly established along the village edges.

i. **Strengthen the Green Belt edge.** New development should contribute to the strengthening of the boundary planting, to reinforce the enclosure of the settlement within the surrounding countryside and create a clear and abrupt edge to the village's built form, as per the established edge along Keepers Lane and Oaken Lanes and Church Lane.

j. **Enhance the green space network.** New development should incorporate existing and new planting to enhance the compartmentalisation of the village's fabric, maintain the established open spaces and create a clear network of green spaces.

9.9 A Conservation Area Management Plan and Appraisal were produced in 2010 and are in the process of being reviewed and updated. This must be referred to when considering proposals for development within the Conservation Area or in areas outside the Conservation Area which would affect views into or out of the Conservation Area.

© South Staffordshire Council
The diversity of building stock is important

© South Staffordshire Council
Cohesion of materials is also important

© South Staffordshire Council
Green space enhancement of the street scape

© South Staffordshire Council
Landscaping of car parking areas

10. Coppenhall (Other Village)

10.1 Located 3 miles southwest from Stafford and 4 miles northwest from Penkridge, Coppenhall stands on an eminence. The village is recorded in Domesday and was formerly wholly dependent on agriculture. It was unusual in the fact that it lacked an overall landowner and instead land belonged to individual farmers. The ground rises from the east of the village to the west.

10.2 The Church of St Lawrence is sited within the village and has origins in the 12th century. The church remains relatively unaltered with the exception of it being restored and re-roofed in 1866. The timber framed bell cote is 16th century and was also restored in 1866.

10.3 Coppenhall was once the site of two windmills, one in Windmill Field and the second standing approximately 100 yards north west of Butterhill Farmhouse. The Butterhill Farm windmill was the only six-sail windmill in Staffordshire. In 1912 its remaining tackle was removed but the tower remains standing today and is now a listed structure.

10.4 The main roads running through the village have no pavements and are lined with hedges and trees retaining the village's rural agricultural character. There are no services in the village with the exception of the church however residents use the facilities of other nearby villages for example Hyde Lea which has a village hall and a public house. The village contains a nucleated group of buildings with a mixture of residential properties which include old red brick cottages and farmhouses, white rendered and modern red brick houses.

Materials
10.5 The building materials typically and frequently seen in Coppenhall are:

Tiles: Clay
Bricks: Red
Facing: Some rendering
Doors & windows: Timber and uPVC

Archaeology
10.6 There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive within the historic cores of villages and mitigation, may be required at some point in the planning/development process.

Key Development Design Principles: Coppenhall
10.7 Coppenhall is an 'Other village' with only a few minor open spaces and a very limited array of services however residents use the services of neighbouring villages including a church, village hall and a public house.

a. **Scale and Proportion** In general, new buildings should directly reflect the ridge height, roof span, roof pitch and eaves depth of surrounding properties, with an expectation that the scale will rarely exceed two and a half storeys.

b. **Cohesion of materials** New development should enhance the general cohesion of the village by focusing on the use of red brick and tiles.

c. **Maintain views out into the countryside** New development should protect the key views out of the village core into the enclosing countryside.

d. **Maintain the village agricultural character** Development on the edge of the village should enhance the strong hedgerow patterns and pastoral setting.

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Protect the views out of the village

© South Staffordshire Council

Promote cohesion in use of materials

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11: Understanding South Staffordshire's Design Context: Village Summary – Coven

11 Coven (Local Service Village)

11.1 Coven is a small village, located in the South West of Staffordshire and was originally a manor in the parish of Brewood. Located on former heathland the village developed around a former windmill 2 miles south east of Brewood, flanked to the east by the A449, Stafford Road which 1 mile south joins the M54. To the west lies both the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal and the River Penk.

11.2 Coven remained a small working village at the centre of the agricultural landscape until the late 19th Century, providing locksmiths, chain making and iron smelting. There are still remnants of the past era in the form of a tiny chapel which is now named 'The Church on the Common'. The first recorded population of the village was in 1851 when there were 800 people, the population today is approximately 3,300, but it still remains very rural.

11.3 The village landscape is tightly enclosed by arable farmland and is entirely within the West Midlands Green Belt. The village offers little potential for expansion beyond the village boundary.

11.4 The settlement developed along Brewood Road, south of the parish church of St. Paul built in 1857, creating a winding linear pattern. The village developed as a small cluster of buildings including the village foundry, and a modest chapel until the later part of the 20th Century, creating a series of cul- de-sacs extending from Brewood Road. Brewood Road is the artillery road which runs through the village joining Stafford Road to the east.

11.5 The current building forms are predominantly 20th Century residential, but some older buildings retaining the village's heritage. These include the timber framed Grange Farm west of the church and The Beeches, whose land was used to develop modern housing developments. The dominant building materials are simple brick and tile.

11.6 There are a number of buildings in and around Coven which were constructed for workers on the Somerford Estate. Although relatively small in number they make a positive contribution to the local distinctiveness.

11.7 The building density is spacious, with generally low rise, two-storey residential housing estates with some larger three-storey older properties. To the north of the village edge the newer post-war estates create clear edges of the village. Much of the newer development has taken place to the northeast.

Materials

11.8 The building materials typically and frequently seen in Coven are:

Tiles: Hand-made red/brown clay
Bricks: Red/brown, some painted
Facing: Timber-framing, some hidden
Doors & windows: Timber

Archaeology

11.9 There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive within the historic cores of villages and mitigation may be required at some point in the planning/development process.

Key Development Design Principles: Coven

11.10 Coven is a 'Local Service Village' which offers a reasonably good range of facilities and services, including a post office, medical facilities, shops, public houses, village hall and recreation/open space and allotment provision. The general design guidance on both major and minor development is outlined in the main guidance. Specific attention should be paid to the following in design proposals:

a. **Enhance the village's entrances.** The character of the settlement needs to be enhanced by retaining a focus on the key entry points from the north along School Lane, and the west and the south from Brewood Road.

b. **Scale and proportion.** In general, new buildings should directly reflect the ridge height, roof span and eaves depth of surrounding properties, with an expectation that the scale will rarely exceed two and a half storeys.

c. **Cohesion of materials.** New development should enhance the general cohesion of the village by focusing on the use of red brick and tiles.

d. **Complement the street scape.** New buildings and infill developments should normally face the back edge of the pavements, forming continuous frontages, which positively address the street. Parking, cycle and bin stores and other services should be accommodated within the envelope of the building group, avoiding public frontages.

e. **Retention of key views and physical permeability.** New development should retain key external vistas, particularly from the Shropshire Union Canal and River Penk, the village edges and enhance both visual and recreational connections to the enclosing countryside, focusing on retaining distant views.

f. **Strengthen the village character.** New development should serve to create the apparent narrowing of the suburban streets by an increase in the density of development and the enclosure of frontages with boundary walls, hedgerow planting and street trees. The spinal route of Brewood Road in particular should be enhanced by street tree planting creating a linkage to the enclosing countryside.

g. **Strengthen village facilities.** New development should serve to support the development of the existing village facilities, ensuring that the street scape is enhanced around such facilities as well as improving pedestrian access.

h. **Strengthen the pastoral enclosure.** Development on the edge of the village should enhance the strong hedgerow patterns and pastoral setting.

i. **Strengthen the greenbelt edge.** New development on the periphery of the village, and particularly the green belt boundary, should contribute to the enhancement of the green edge of the built form. Particularly along Brewood Road and School Lane, leading out into the open countryside.

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Strengthen village character

© South Staffordshire Council

Enhance character with complementary materials for landmarks

© South Staffordshire Council

Maintain the cohesion of materials in the street scape

12: Understanding South Staffordshire's Design Context: Village Summary - Dunston

12 Dunston (Small Service Village)

12.1 The scattered village of Dunston is located in designated open countryside along the A449 and forms an important gateway to the District as a whole from junction 13 of the M6. The village extends along a ridge overlooking the motorway and the River Penk to the east and retains its rural, agricultural character. The village has Saxon origins as a farmstead, and is recorded in Domesday as Dunestone. The prominent, spired church of St. Leonard has medieval origins but was rebuilt in 1876. The church now overlooks the A449 and forms a loose group with a cluster of cottages.

12.2 The village is located in the Staffordshire Plain character area, sandwiched between the motorway and the railway, but retaining its attractive rural character. The landscape setting comprises large mainly arable fields, crossed by narrow lanes and divided by the A449. The building groups are enclosed by some impressive woodlands standing prominent in the relatively open arable landscape.

12.3 The settlement pattern comprises a collection of scattered building groups and small-holdings to the north of Dunston Hall, with a pair of large agricultural complexes and the largest loose nucleus of buildings arranged around the church. The village extends across the railway line along School Lane to a further cluster of cottages and modest farm units. The building groups are connected by narrow lanes and deep clipped hedges, further emphasising the scattered nature of the place. Immediately to the north of the church, a late 20th Century development has created a discreet village square, with modern housing enclosing an open green space. However, the modest nature of this recent development retains the scattered character of the village, which remains bounded by mixed arable and pastoral fields.

The built fabric

12.4 Dunston's built fabric is almost entirely brick, contrasting with the stone Gothic church. It is domestic in scale with cottages and detached dwellings forming a loose collection of buildings within the dominant agricultural landscape. Some of the traditional buildings in and around Dunston were constructed for workers on a farm owned by F C Perry. They are richly detailed and

make a positive and significant contribution to local distinctiveness.

Materials
12.5 The building materials typically and frequently seen in Dunston are:

Chimney pots: Buff terracotta
Tiles: Blue clay
Bricks: Red/brown brindled
Facing: Some mock half-timbering to upper storeys
Doors & windows: Timber

Archaeology
12.6 There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive within the historic cores of villages and mitigation may be required at some point in the planning/development process.

Key Development Design Principles: Dunston

12.7 Dunston is a 'Small Service Village' with an extremely limited range of facilities, simply comprising a school, church and village hall. The general design guidance on minor development is outlined in the main guide. Specific attention should be paid to the following in design proposals:

a. **Maintain the loose, clustered grouping of the village.** The nature of the village as a collection of modest building clusters should be maintained, enhanced and protected from any substantial peripheral development which would compromise its character by the coalescence of the groups.

b. **Enhance the role as District entrance.** The importance of the village as a defining entrance to the District should be preserved. Avoiding development that would encroach upon the A449 and enhancing the planting and green enclosure of the road frontage would ensure that the rural, agricultural character remains dominant.

c. **Widen the diversity of the built stock.** Any new development should adopt appropriate, vernacular forms and avoid the coalescence of building groups or duplication of types, to create an apparent estate development. Pattern-book design forms should be avoided, respecting the proportions and low-rise scale of the existing built

fabric. Cohesion should be created by use of common, high quality materials, with narrow plans to reduce apparent mass, as well as focusing on enhanced street scape and site edge planting.

d. **Maintain focused views of the built fabric.** The village's location and scattered nature means that its dominant characteristics are its landscape components and parish church. Channelled views along the A449 and School Lane should be preserved and enhanced by substantial hedgerow and tree planting.

e. **Ensure visual connections with the countryside are maintained.** New development should not compromise physical connections with the surrounding countryside. Building groups should remain loose landscape clusters and features in, rather than divorced from, its agricultural setting.

f. **Strengthen the woodland groups and green edges.** New development should strengthen the woodland enclosure of the villages' various building groups. This should reinforce existing peripheral green spaces, better to integrate building groups into the agricultural landscape. Plot boundaries should be planted with deep hedgerows to create new wildlife corridors.

g. **Enhance green space networks.** Any new village development should contribute to the development of the network of green spaces within the M6 and railway line boundaries, incorporating existing and new planting to enhance the village's landscape setting.

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Existing clusters of buildings should be maintained

© South Staffordshire Council

Visual connection with the countryside should be protected

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Focus on the gateways which are dominant characteristics of the village

13: Understanding South Staffordshire's Design Context: Village Summary - Enville

13. Enville (Other Village)

13.1 The small village of Enville is located approximately 5½ miles from Stourbridge and 8½ miles southeast of Bridgnorth. It lies on the A458 Stourbridge-Bridgnorth Road. A large proportion of the village is located within the Green Belt and the western side of the village lies within a Historic Landscape Area. The southern part of the village leading down to Enville Hall is identified as the Enville Conservation Area.

13.2 The earliest record of the village is within the Domesday Book where it was entered under the name of Efnefeld. The current parish is comprised of three ancient parishes; Enfield, Lutely and Morf. The village has Saxon origins when it was held by Alric one of William the Conqueror's Thanes, however, the great overlord of the district was William FitzAnsculph.

13.3 In 1422 John Lowe, of Whittington, was lord of Enville. In 1441, He was succeeded by his son, Humphrey Lowe, Sheriff of the County of Stafford, whose only daughter and heir, Eleanor later married Robert Grey, third son of Reginald, Lord Grey of Ruthin. It is recorded that in 1484 their son Humphrey, owned the manors which form the parish of Enville seen today. Since then the ownership of Enville has remained with the family of Grey.

13.4 The main road through the village was once a turnpike road and each month the turnpike trustees met at The Cat Inn at Enville as it was deemed to be the halfway point for farmers travelling from Bridgnorth to the Stourbridge markets. The Cat Inn public house also served as a meeting point for the local hunt and by the 1830s was a calling point for thrice-weekly coach and omnibus services to Bridgnorth, Kinver, Stourbridge and Wolverhampton.

13.5 The Church of St Mary has Norman origins with its nave dating back to around AD1100. Roger de Birmingham (AD1272-1307) added a Transitional chancel to the church and extensive restorations were undertaken in 1749 and again in 1871 when the original tower was taken down to be replace with the ornate tower standing today. Despite these alterations many of the church's distinguishing features remain. A small stone figure of Saxon origin built into the arcading above the south aisle provides

evidence of an earlier church that once stood on the site.

13.6 Enville Hall was once a medieval manor house however it was replaced with a brick house by the mid-16th century by Thomas Grey. It has been altered and extended over the years and once even contained a private racecourse within the grounds. The gardens are one of the five Registered parks and gardens in the district and were laid out in conjunction with William Shenstone in the mid-18th century and were found to have previously contained a deer park. The house today remains a private dwelling although each year it is used to host occasional events. Unlike the nearby Four Ashes Hall, originally built in the late 16th century and now used for weddings, receptions, corporate events and country pursuits.

13.7 The village contains little new development and has retained its rural character within its rolling countryside setting. It consists of a small cluster of buildings, with The Cat Inn as a central feature, at the foot of a slope leading up towards the Church. The green in the centre of the village is surrounded by a variety of informally arranged buildings. Mature trees and hedgerows link the buildings along the A458 which would otherwise appear scattered.

Materials
13.8 The building materials typically and frequently seen in Enville are:

Tiles: Clay and slate Bricks: Red brick
Facing: Some painted timber and rendering
Doors & windows: Timber

Archaeology
13.9 There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive within the historic cores of villages and mitigation, may be required at some point in the planning/development process.

Key Development Design Principles: Enville
13.10 Enville is an 'Other village' with only a few minor open spaces and limited array of services comprising a church, village hall and public house.

a. **Scale and Proportion** In general, new buildings should directly reflect the ridge height, roof span, roof pitch and eaves depth of surrounding properties, with an expectation that the scale will rarely exceed two and a half storeys.

b. **Inspiration from local materials** Building materials should reflect local precedents in colour texture and proportion, relevant to the site's immediate context. The use of reddish-brown bricks and clay tiles for walls and roofs is encouraged.

c. **Strengthen village facilities** New development should serve to support the development of existing village facilities, ensuring that the street scape is enhanced around such facilities as well as improving pedestrian access.

d. **Green space network** Existing trees and planting space should be retained in new development to enhance the green spaces which link the edge of the village to its core.

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Enhance the network of green spaces

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Reflect local building materials

© South Staffordshire Council

Maintain views out to surrounding countryside

© South Staffordshire Council

Existing facilities should be supported

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14: Understanding South Staffordshire's Design Context: Village Summary - Essington

14 Essington (Local Service Village)

14.1 Essington is located along the B4156 (Wolverhampton Road) south of the M6 and is also in close proximity to the junction merging on to the M54. Essington for many centuries formed part of the Bushbury parish, which until 1934 was part of the Cannock Rural District. Coal, clay and iron have been mined in Essington Wood since the middle ages. In the village of Essington, there are two adjacent small quarry lakes surrounded by woodland. The lakes and the woods act as local meeting places. These lakes are encompassed by the village's residential developments on three sides.

14.2 Essington has now become a popular residential area, enclosed by the Green Belt which ensures that it does not merge with the neighbouring conurbation. The village has been subject to a considerable amount of sub-urban development in the latter part of the 20th Century. The majority of the landscape to the south is urbanised, separated by a critical green gap, and the M6 to the east. The immediate setting is, however, agricultural in character.

14.3 The village developed along a cross roads of Brownshore Road and Wolverhampton Road, creating a three-legged linear form. It remained limited in scale until the post-war period, but expanded with substantial development, particularly from the 1950s. Later 20th Century housing developments are located to the western side of the village, extending further in to the countryside. They are radial in character, with a secondary route running across the B4156. This housing development has changed the village's traditional linear character and opened up opportunities for potential further growth.

14.4 The built form of the village is largely late 20th Century, low rise housing, of red brick. A number of traditional buildings have a timber-framed core and a cluster of buildings along Bognop Road are early 18th Century. The Methodist Chapel, erected in 1883, is also of red brick. The paler brick post Great War development, includes the fine Church of St. John the Evangelist built in 1932. There has been considerable suburban development in the post-war period with many low density two-storey residential properties creating new neighbourhoods across the village.

Materials

14.5 The building materials typically and frequently seen in Essington are:

Tiles: Red/brown or blue clay
Bricks: Buff brown/blue
Facing: Some rendering
Doors & windows: Timber

Archaeology

14.6 There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive within the historic cores of villages and mitigation may be required at some point in the planning/development process.

Key Development Design Principles: Essington

14.7 Essington is a 'Local Service Village' providing a limited range of essential facilities, including a school, post office, shops, public houses, churches and recreation spaces. The general design guidance on both major and minor development is outlined in the main guide. Specific attention should be paid to the following in design proposals:

a. **Strengthen village core.** Any new development should serve to enhance the viability and attraction of the existing village facilities by means of clear and well-designed pedestrian access.

b. **Enhancement of entrances.** Entrances create very sudden views and impressions of the village along Hobnock Road, Brownshore Lane and Blackhalve Lane in particular. New development should serve to enhance these important entrances, creating a clear entry and enclosure of the village edge.

c. **Density of development.** New peripheral development should be designed in a compact form, directly addressing street frontages and accommodating services to the rear to maintain the continuity of the building group. The cohesion of the village character relies on retaining the compact dense nature within the various, connected neighbourhoods, while maintaining the domestic scale of the settlement's core.

d. **Protection of village edge.** Development impingingg. upon the village boundary should strengthen its green edge with substantial new planting, providing connections to the wider landscape and enhancing key distance views of the village.

e. **Retention of views of the parish church.** New development should serve to protect prominent views of the parish church on Wolverhampton Road, both from within the village centre and across the wider landscape.

f. **Access to the village.** Any new development which takes place on existing developed land or newly allocated should aim to improve connectivity to the village core. This is to maintain good urban form and frontage.

g. **Encourage modern design.** Innovative new development design will be encouraged to include strengthened connections between neighbourhood area and the village core, avoiding the loss of green space within the village framework.

h. **Parking provision and siting.** New development design should make appropriate provision of vehicles, ensuring that parking facilities do not dominate the street scape or building group. Vehicles should be located on-plot in gated, underground or to the rear of buildings.

i. **Enhancement of green spaces.** New development should serve to ensure that the village street scape is enhanced with extensive new planting to visually narrow the existing open, suburban-style character of the streets, enclose frontages and create improved connections to the wider countryside.

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Development density should aim to improve neighbourhood connectivity

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Maintain the continuity of the building group

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Strengthen the green edge through substantial new planting

15: Understanding South Staffordshire's Design Context: Village Summary - Featherstone

15 Featherstone (Local Service Village)

15.1 The village is located on the low lying land to the west of the Cannock Road, within a patchwork landscape of large arable fields, which create an important buffer with the M54 to the south, and the extensive prison estates, located nearby to the west. To the east of the village lie the extensive Hilton Park estates. The combination of Featherstone's recent economic history and its tight enclosure retains the perception of a close, well-defined community.

15.2 The village has ancient connections, described as a scattered settlement in the land holdings of the Monastery of Wolverhampton in 994. It remains tightly enclosed by the largely agricultural landscape included as Green Belt. The area remained sparsely populated until the sinking of the Hilton Main Colliery in the immediate post Great War period. The population rose from 39 in 1921 to some 1,500, with the original colliery estate having been expanded by an extensive new housing development. The pit closed in 1969, but the village has continued to grow as a result of its accessibility, creating a modern day estate, enclosed by the Green Belt boundaries.

15.3 Featherstone is now largely dominated by its sub-urban, low-rise residential areas. These are accessed directly from the peripheral vehicular routes, to create a series of culs-de-sac, strongly contained by the agricultural edge and creating an inward looking settlement pattern. The views to the south are contained by enclosing rear gardens creating a green edge to the open arable fields. There is minimal connection to the surrounding landscape, but a modest green space network has developed within the settlement. There is no strongly defined village centre, and housing plots tend to be dominated by open frontages and off-street parking areas, providing potential opportunities for street scape planting.

15.4 The dominant building forms are late 20th Century, low rise, low density housing featuring generous garden spaces, with some attractive inter- war development surviving, including the primary school which creates a key focus along The Avenue.

Materials
15.5 The building materials typically and frequently seen in Featherstone are:

Roofs: Slate or concrete tiles
Bricks: Red/buff brown
Facing: Some rendering and painted brickwork
Doors & windows: Timber

Archaeology
15.6 There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive within the historic cores of villages and mitigation may be required at some point in the planning/development process.

Key Development Design Principles: Featherstone
15.7 Featherstone is a 'Local Service Village' which offers a limited range of essential facilities catering for the immediate area. The village includes a post office, convenience shops, a public house and village/ community hall, a doctor's surgery and church. The general design guidance on both major and minor development is outlined in the main guide. Specific attention should also be paid to the following in developing design proposals.

a. **Strengthen the village character.** New development in the core areas should reinforce the identity of Featherstone as a clearly defined and cohesive place, by strengthening the street scape and with particular emphasis on gateway points, both into the village from Cannock Road and New Road and within the village core.

b. **Encourage modern design.** Innovative new development design, respecting the massing, modest scale, proportions and the low-lying character of the village, should be encouraged. New development should contribute to the enhancement of the village centre's facilities, green space connections and strengthen the village core areas, avoiding the loss of open spaces within the village framework.

c. **Enhance the village's connectivity.** Any new development should serve to connect the various neighbourhoods by means of an integrated network of spaces, linking to open, accessible footpaths and the village core.

d. **Maintain views out into the countryside.** New development should avoid eroding existing views out of the village core into the enclosing arable landscape, while strengthening the enclosure of the landscape setting to the (M54 boundary).

e. **Appropriate village density.** New development within the village core should encourage housing development to make more efficient use of land whilst recognising the local character, and strengthen the local centre's viability. New development should avoid creating unstructured open spaces, by a tighter focus on the street frontage.

f. **Limit impact of car parking.** New development should ensure that parking is accommodated on-plot, while ensuring that frontages retain space for landscaping and street tree planting. Internal or courtyard parking should be encouraged, absorbing parked cars without intrusion to the street scape.

g. **Strengthen the Green Belt edge.** Development on the periphery of the village should enhance the hedgerow patterns and tree planting to create woodland edge. Stark fence lines along the countryside edge should be avoided to create a new village edge green space and wildlife networks.

h. **Retain heritage references.** Surviving street scape features relating to the former pit village should be reflected in any new development to outline the evolution of the place, and create local landmarks.

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Strengthen the village character and community

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Street scape references to the former pit village should be retained

© South Staffordshire Council

Enhance village connectivity and services

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16: Understanding South Staffordshire's Design Context: Village Summary - Great Wyrley

16 Great Wyrley (Main Service Village)

16.1 Great Wyrley is located along the A34 (Walsall Road) south of the M6 toll motorway, within the former South Staffordshire Coalfield. Coal and ironstone mines were working in the area from 1642, although the village remained little more than a scattering of dwelling until the early 20th Century. The 18th and 19th Century industrial development stimulated the growth of the village, based on local coal and nearby iron industries. The canals, roads and railways brought skilled men and materials, and new factories were built at Church Bridge at the northern end of the village. The modern village remains enclosed by the railway to the west and Watling Street to the northeast.

16.2 Despite its expansion in the modern era the village retains visual connections to its surrounding agricultural setting, and is contained by the Green Belt to the south and east. The enclosing landscape includes some coarse grassland of uneven levels, consisting of the overgrown deposits from disused collieries.

16.3 The settlement pattern of Great Wyrley is roughly linear, arranged along a ridge line, developed along the old Walsall Road (A34). It has developed relatively slowly, during the 20th Century along this north-south route, and is consequently contained by the two strong edges of the railway and Walsall Road. These hard edges contribute to retaining the distinctive identity of the village, despite the apparent merge with neighbouring Cheslyn Hay.

16.4 The majority of building form is relatively low density residential development much of which is mid-late 20th Century estate development. The village retains some clusters of 19th Century and Edwardian development along the Walsall Road, but in essence the settlement exhibits a great variety of built form. There are few buildings which predate the 19th Century, with the most notable being the impressive Church of St. John dating from 1844.

Materials
16.5 The building materials typically and frequently seen in Great Wyrley are:

Roofs: Slate or blue or red/brown clay tiles and ridge tiles
Chimneys: Prominent brick stacks with buff terracotta pots
Bricks: Smooth red, close jointed
Facing: Render, some painted, also terracotta string- course detailing
Doors & windows: Timber

Archaeology
16.6 There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive within the historic cores of villages and mitigation may be required at some point in the planning/development process.

Key Development Design Principles: Great Wyrley
16.7 Great Wyrley is identified as a 'Main Service Village' and offers a good range of facilities, including a school, medical services, public houses, a number of local shopping centres, recreation space and employment areas. It is also accessible to the leisure centre at Cheslyn Hay. The general design guidance on both major and minor development is outlined in the main guide. Specific attention should be paid to the following in design proposals:

a. **Maintain views out into the countryside.** The visual connections to the enclosing countryside and distant landscape should be retained, and any new development should avoid eroding views particularly from the Walsall Road.

b. **Strengthen the Green Belt edge.** Development on the periphery of the village should further enhance the landscape boundary to create a clear edge and containment of the built form of the village. The character of the woodland enclosure should be enhanced to improve the green space networks.

c. **Green space network.** Space should be retained in any new development to enhance the network of green spaces which link the outer areas of the village to the core. These should contribute to the woodland-edge character and the strong enclosure of the arable fields. The cross-village routes and street frontages should be extensively planted.

d. **Strengthen the neighbourhood centres.** Any new development should contribute to the enhancement of the identity and viability of the compact neighbourhood centres by respecting the scale, massing and tight street enclosure of the existing red-brick properties. Particular care should be taken to respect the proportions of street frontage properties.

e. **Strengthen the neighbourhood character.** New development in the core areas of the village should respect the massing, modest scale, proportions and the vertical emphasis of the visual elevations of adjacent properties.

f. **Appropriate village density.** New development within the neighbourhood areas should create housing development to make efficient use of land, and should be of a greater density in the core areas.

g. **Enhance the village entrances.** Development should contribute to the reinforcement of the identity of Great Wyrley by strengthening local landmarks and creating a sense of arrival, with particular emphasis on the entrance points into the village along Walsall Road, (south of Holly Lane), Station Road (adjacent to the station), the junction with the Watling Street roundabout and the Holly Lane/Gorsey Lane junction.

h. **Encourage modern design.** Any new development should adopt innovative new development design, to demonstrate the continuing evolution of the village core areas, in particular making space to enhance the green space network within the village framework.

i. **Limit the impact of car parking.** New development should avoid dominating the street scape and losing opportunities for street scape planting by means of integral, courtyard or under-croft parking provision. R absorbing parked cars without intrusion.

© South Staffordshire Council
Enhance village gateway and greenbelt edge

© South Staffordshire Council
Street frontages should be extensively planted

© South Staffordshire Council
Increase village density

© South Staffordshire Council
Maintain the cohesion of materials

17: Understanding South Staffordshire's Design Context: Village Summary – Hatherton

17. Hatherton (Other Village)

17.1 The village of Hatherton is located around 3¼ miles southeast of Penkridge and to west of Cannock. It is within Green Belt land and is bisected by the A5, an old Roman road also known as Watling Street. The village lies on the southern slope of Shoal Hill in the northeast and extends from there down to Four Ashes in the southwest.

17.2 For many years Shoal Hill was a popular resort for locals as well as tourists from Cannock and the Black Country. Hatherton Hall is a grade II Gothic style building built in 1817 and became one of the district's first listed buildings when it was designated in 1953. The building is set within parkland and remains largely unaltered externally. In 1864 the Church of St Saviour was built in the village and was later redecorated twice in 1876 and 1887 and renovated in 1923. To the south of the A5 stands the Four Crosses Inn public house which displays black painted timbers and white painted brick and is Grade II listed.

17.3 To the north of the village, along Church Lane are some modern residential buildings with a group of red brick bungalows with painted eaves and some rendering. The roads through the village a hedge-lined and in some places single tracks, which contributes to its agricultural character. Iron railings and stonewalls are seen in area and enclose residential properties and farmyards as well as some areas of land.

17.4 The section of the village close to the A5 is the main hub of the village with the church and Chase Park sports centre. There is also a working poultry farm. The buildings close to the village centre located along the northern side of Watling Street appear to be old red brick farmhouses and farm buildings which have been converted and now serve as commercial space and a public house. The Hatherton canal protection line is a derelict branch of the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal that runs through the village.

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Maintain views into countryside

Materials
17.5 The building materials typically and frequently seen in Hatherton are:

Tiles: Clay
Bricks: Red and brown brick
Facing: Rendering
Doors & windows: Timber and cast iron

Archaeology
17.6 There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive within the historic cores of villages and mitigation, may be required at some point in the planning/development process.

Key Development Design Principles: Hatherton
17.7 Hatherton is an 'Other village' with only a few minor open spaces and a very limited array of services including a church, sports centre and public house.

a. **Strengthen the village character** New development in the core areas should respect the massing, modest scale, proportions and the vertical emphasis of the elevations of adjacent properties.

b. **Scale and Proportion** In general, new buildings should directly reflect the ridge height, roof span, roof pitch and eaves depth of surrounding properties, with an expectation that the scale will rarely exceed two and a half storeys.

c. **Cohesion of materials** New development should enhance the general cohesion of the village by focusing on the use of red brick and tiles.

d. **Maintain views out into the countryside** New development should protect the key views out of the village core into the enclosing countryside.

e. **Strengthen village facilities** New development should serve to support the development of existing village facilities, ensuring that the street scape is enhanced around such facilities as well as improving pedestrian access.

f. **Green space network** Existing trees and planting space should be retained in new development to enhance the green spaces which link the edge of the village to its core.

18: Understanding South Staffordshire's Design Context: Village Summary - Hilton

18. Hilton (Other Village)

18.1 Hilton is located within close proximity to the M54 motorway. The village is split in two halves bisected by the A460. To the west side of the A460 lies Hilton Cross and to the east lies Hilton Main. Hilton main is designated within a Historic Landscape Area. However, Hilton Cross is designated as a strategic employment site and contains an area of Ancient Woodland. The village in its entirety is surrounded by Green Belt land. Hilton was amongst the lands donated to the monastery of Wolverhampton upon its foundation in 994 by Lady Wulfrun.

18.2 The most prominent feature of the village is Grade I Listed Hilton Hall. Its parks are designated as Historic Landscape and some of its surviving components include shelter belts, woodland, ornamental lake and parkland trees. Sir John Swinnerton constructed Hilton Hall in the early 14th century when it was known as Hilton Manor House. The Swinnerton family lived in the hall for 200 years until 1547 when Margaret Swinnerton wed Henry Vernon a descendent of Richard de Vernon who arrived from Normandy with William the Conqueror in 1066. In 1700 the hall was rebuilt and many years later in 1830 the building was extensively remodelled. It remained in the Vernon family for 400 years, through 12 generations of Vernons and the family coat of arms and motto can be seen prominently displayed on the frontage of the hall. The hall has since been used for several purposes including a nursing home and more recently the headquarters of Tarmac plc. In front of the hall stands a Grade II listed Portobello Tower which was erected in honour of Admiral Vernon, who, in 1739 captured the Spanish Stronghold of Porto Bello with only six ships. Hilton Hall is located north of the M54.

18.3 Hilton's main industries were largely extractive and the village had two collieries; Hilton Main and Holly Bank. There has also been a large gravel pit off Bognop Road. The area remains industrial with Hilton Main Industrial Estate and has close links with the M54 motorway and Cannock Road.

Materials
18.4 The building materials typically and frequently seen in Hilton are:

Tiles: Slate or concrete tiles
Bricks: Red/buff brown
Facing: Some render
Doors & windows: Timber and uPVC

Archaeology
18.5 There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive within the historic cores of villages and mitigation, may be required at some point in the planning/development process.

Key Development Design Principles: Hilton
18.6 Hilton is an 'Other village' with only a few minor open spaces and limited array of services comprising Hilton Hall and gardens and an employment site.

a. **Strengthen the village character** New development in the core areas should respect the massing, modest scale, proportions and the vertical emphasis of the elevations of adjacent properties.

b. **Scale and Proportion** In general, new buildings should directly reflect the ridge height, roof span, roof pitch and eaves depth of surrounding properties, with an expectation that the scale will rarely exceed two and a half storeys.

c. **Cohesion of materials** New development should enhance the general cohesion of the village by focusing on the use of red brick and tiles.

d. **Maintain views out into the countryside.** New development should protect the key views out of the village core into the enclosing arable landscape. The enclosure of the landscape setting of the M54 motorway and industrial site could be strengthened to prevent the view of the M54 motorway dominating the views from the village.

e. **Creation of local landmarks** Key development sites within the development boundary should serve to make a positive enhancement and consolidation of the village cores, creating local landmarks.

19: Understanding South Staffordshire's Design Context: Village Summary - Himley

19. Himley (Other Village)

19.1 The village of Himley is situated on the A449 the main Stourbridge-Wolverhampton road. It is 1½ miles northwest from Kingswinford and 4 miles west from Dudley. It is recorded in Domesday Book under the spelling Himilie and has been found recorded elsewhere under the names Himelilega and Himlele. The Himley Conservation Area encompassing Himley Hall, The Dudley Arms, and the buildings located on School Road from the junction of the A449 up until the Country Club.

19.2 Himley Hall was constructed in the 18th century on the site of a medieval manor house which was demolished and replaced by the new hall. The grounds were designed by Capability Brown and between 1824-1827 the hall was extensively remodelled by William Atkinson. It was once home to the Earls of Dudley and had regular royal visits including Edward VIII who spent the last weekend before his abdication at the hall. The hall has had several uses in the past including as a Red Cross Hospital during World War II however, it is now owned by Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council and is used for events and exhibitions. At one point all of the houses in Himley village were associated with the Hall in one way or another such as the Ice House (Grade II listed) located on Cherry Tree Lane. The hall and its grounds are identified as a Historic Landscape Area and it is a Grade II Registered Park and Garden.

19.3 Holbeach House is also of historical interest as it was involved in the Gunpowder Plot of 1604. A number of the conspirators fled from Stourbridge to Holbeach to prevent them being arrested by the Sheriff of Worcester. They were forced to appear when part of the house was set on fire. St Michael & All Angels Church was built in Himley in 1764. It is a small brick and plaster building with large windows characteristic of the period in which it was established.

19.4 The area of Himley was of great importance to Black Country's coal industry. In nearby Baggeridge a colliery was established and originally owned by the Earl of Dudley which became the last of the working Black Country pits when it closed in 1968. The first shaft was built in 1899 with a second built in 1910

and Baggeridge Colliery was in full production by 1912. Later in 1938 the colliery began making bricks as a by-product of the mine using Etruria Marl Clay and colliery shale which both occurred locally. This proved to be a great success and in 1944 a separate company was set up under the name of Baggeridge bricks. The surrounding area is now a country park used for recreation and education.

19.5 On the west of the A449 stands Grade II listed The Dudley Arms public house and several cottages that were once part of the hall estate. Continuing to the west of the village along Cherry Tree Lane and School Road there are a number of modern dwellings moderate in size. To the south of Himley is a relatively new residential barn conversion development. On the opposite side of the A449 much grander architecture can be seen with Himley Hall, St Michael's church, The Rectory and Himley House Hotel all situated on the eastern side. The village does not contain any shops, a post office or school however there are several public houses, two hotels, a nursing home, a cricket club, a golf course and a farm shop/nursery. To the south of the village runs the South Staffordshire Railway Walk.

Materials
19.6 The building materials typically and frequently seen in Himley are:

Tiles: Clay Bricks: Red Brick
Facing: Some rendering
Doors & windows: Timber

Archaeology
19.7 There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive within the historic cores of villages and mitigation, may be required at some point in the planning/development process.

Key Development Design Principles: Himley
19.8 Himley is an 'Other village' with only a few minor open spaces and array of services comprising two hotels, a public house, a cricket club and a golf course.

a. **Scale and Proportion** In general, new buildings should directly reflect the ridge height, roof span, roof pitch and eaves depth of surrounding properties, with an expectation that the scale will rarely exceed two and a half storeys.

b. **Cohesion of materials** New development should enhance the general cohesion of the village by focusing on the use of red brick and tiles.

c. **Strengthen village facilities** New development should serve to support the development of existing village facilities, ensuring that the street scape is enhanced around such facilities as well as improving pedestrian access.

d. **Maintain the village core** Development should focus on enhancing the identity of the relatively compact village core by respecting the scale, massing and enclosure of the historic buildings.

e. **Greenspace network** Development will be expected to enhance the network of green spaces which link the outer areas of the village to the core.

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Promote cohesion through use of materials

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Enhance the existing network of green spaces

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Enhance the identity of the village core

20: Understanding South Staffordshire's Design Context: Village Summary - Huntington

20. Huntington (Local Service Village)

20.1 Huntington, is a village noted for its coal mining heritage, located on either side of the Stafford-Walsall Road to the east of Penkridge and north of Cannock, and enclosed by the green belt. The village is on the edge of Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and retains views of woodland enclosing the place. The main arterial road running through the village is the A34, which connects the village directly to the M6 at Junction 11 via the A460.

20.2 The village's landscape setting is one of agricultural land and forestry, creating an attractive landscape of outstanding natural beauty, enhanced by the regenerated woodlands located on the impressively landscaped former spoil heaps. These create a green backdrop to the village, connecting to the borders of Cannock Chase from where the land falls from over 700ft in the north east to 400ft in the south west.

20.3 The village developed rapidly in the early 20th Century to create a linear settlement pattern with terraced houses in pairs and groups developed along the Stafford Road. The village started coal extraction from the 17th Century, but remained as a hamlet until the development of the Littleton Collieries in 1897. This created a sharp increase in the population with 2,000 employees in the early 1980s. The colliery closed on 9 December 1993 and has now been redeveloped for housing and regenerated landscape.

20.4 The earliest surviving building group within the development boundary is Huntington Farm, which dates from the 18th Century. A few cottages at the north end of the village remain as part of the original hamlet. However, most of the later terraced houses and cottages date from the rapid expansion of the mining village in the early 20th Century. The village has continued to expand in the 21st Century with the development of the former colliery site to the west of Stafford Road, creating a new neighbourhood and village green within the enlarged village boundary. The defining characteristic of Huntington's traditional building stock is terraces of houses with prominent chimney stacks – clearly reflecting the ready availability of coal from the Littleton Colliery.

Materials
20.5 The building materials typically and frequently seen in Huntington are:

Tiles: Red clay
Chimneys: Prominent grouped stacks
Bricks: Red/brown
Doors & windows: Timber

Archaeology
20.6 There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive within the historic cores of villages and mitigation may be required at some point in the planning/development process.

Key Development Design Principles: Huntington
20.7 Huntington is the sole 'Local Service Village' in the North area of the Community Strategy. The village offers only the essential range of facilities, including a post office, shops, public house, community/ village halls and recreation provision, although recent development is increasing the range of shops. The general design guidance on both major and minor development is outlined in the main guide. Specific attention should be paid to the following in design proposals:

a. **Retain references to the historic character.** The surviving built fabric and form relating to the former pit village should be reflected in any new development to outline the evolution of the place and create appropriate local landmarks.

b. **Strengthen the village character.** New development should reinforce the identity of Huntington as a clearly defined, linear village, with close visual connections out across the agricultural landscape. This should be achieved by strengthening the street scape and with emphasis on entrance points.

c. **Cohesive roofscape and materials.** The hillside character of the village requires particular attention to the quality and cohesion of the roofscape, which should be animated with vertical elements and gables, as well as adopting consistent, natural colours and textures in the use of materials.

d. **Maintain views out into the countryside.** New development should avoid blocking views out of the village core into the enclosing rural landscape, whilst strengthening the enclosure of the landscape setting to the west and east.

e. **Enhance the village's connectivity.** New development should serve to connect the various neighbourhoods, particularly across Stafford Road, by means of an integrated network of open spaces, to provide access to the reclaimed landscape areas adjacent to the village core, in particular Littleton Leisure Park.

f. **Containment of the village edge.** Development on the periphery of the village should avoid extending inappropriately into the enclosing countryside. Development should be tightly enclosed by deep blocks of planting to maintain the separation and hillside character of the village. Stark fence lines along the countryside edge should be avoided. New planting along the village edge should also create functional wildlife corridors.

g. **Appropriate village density.** New development within the village core should encourage housing development at a medium to high density to make more efficient use of land and strengthen the cohesion of the residential neighbourhoods. Space should be retained within the street scape to accommodate on-street planting, whilst avoiding the creation of unstructured open spaces.

h. **Innovative modern design.** Further development within the village boundary should investigate the potential to adopt innovative development design. Such modern design should respect the massing, modest scale, proportions and the low-lying character of the historic core along Stafford Road while creating a clear architectural local connection with the village, in terms of materials.

i. **Limit impact of car parking.** New development should ensure that parking is accommodated on-plot, using integral or courtyard parking. On- street parking should only be accommodated within specifically created parking bays. These should be enclosed with street scape planting and accommodated without intrusion to the street scape.

© South Staffordshire Council
Development should avoid blocking views of the village core

© South Staffordshire Council
Example of a typical village street scape

© South Staffordshire Council
Reminders of the village's history

21: Understanding South Staffordshire's Design Context: Village Summary - Kinver

21. Kinver (Main Service Village)

21.1 The village is located along the valley of the River Stour, below the heath and wooded sandstone escarpment of Kinver Edge, which dominates and overlooks the settlement.

21.2 The landscape setting of the village is enclosed by the woodland and the river valley, with the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal running roughly parallel to the river and creating a significant green wedge separating the core of the village from the outer lying areas developed along Dunsley Road. The canal provides a series of attractive views, although the views from the river are occasionally rather too focused on the sprawling back land development which detracts from the village.

21.3 The settlement pattern is characterised at its core by the medieval High Street, which retains remnants of the former burgage plots, which extend to the rear to create narrow, linear garden and development sites towards the river and the escarpment below St. Peter's Church. The latter day development, mainly from the 20th Century has grown from this core to create a series of lower density, suburban residential areas, with extensive tree and garden planting.

21.4 The scale of development in the village is generally low rise and domestic with building forms developing from historic cave dwellings and the surviving 17th Century timber-framed, rendered buildings through to the more widespread use of brick from the following century onwards. Roof pitches in the core areas are steep, reflecting the narrow roof span. The outer lying areas become more eclectic in form, but generally retain the low-rise scale and dominant red brick and white-painted render of building elevations. Roofs are of particular importance to the cohesion of the place, and are largely red-brown clay tiles or blue-grey welsh slate. The occasional use of concrete roof tiles, introducing new colours and textures can be unduly intrusive.

Materials
21.5 The building materials typically and frequently seen in Kinver are:

Tiles: Red, blue black clay
Bricks: Red/orange, some painted

Facing: Render, painted
Doors & windows: Timber

Archaeology
21.6 There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive within the historic cores of villages and mitigation may be required at some point in the planning/development process.

Key Development Design Principles: Kinver
21.7 Kinver is a 'Main Service Village'. It offers a good range of essential services for the local area, such as schools, shops, a post office, community hall, pubs and open spaces. The general design guidance on both major and minor development is outlined in the main guide. Specific attention should be paid to the following in design proposals:

a. **Enhancement of entrances.** Sudden views and impressions of the village are created along the brow of Enville Road, the junction of Compton Road & Meddins Lane and on entry into High Street from the south. These gateways should be preserved from intrusive development.

b. **Roof scape: materials and details.** Its valley bottom setting, below Kinver Edge, gives an unusual focus on roofscapes, consequently requiring careful attention in building design. Particular attention should therefore be given to the coherence of the village roofscape, ensuring:
   • complementary colour and texture of materials;
   • relatively narrow and steep roof spans; and
   • the animation of roof slopes with details such as flues and projecting gables.

c. **Authenticity of infill development.** The compact, attractive historic core requires new development adopting a historicist form to ensure that elevation details are convincingly authentic, particularly in terms of window form, and openings, depth of reveal, materials and street scape proportions.

d. **Density of development.** The cohesion of the village relies on retaining the compact density, nature, and domestic scale of the settlement's core while retaining views out to the enclosing countryside. New peripheral development should also be designed in a compact form, directly addressing street frontages and accommodating services to the rear. Low density, suburban housing layouts are particularly to be avoided.

e. **Proportion and detail of shop frontages and signage.** The linear, commercial core along High Street requires careful attention to the detailing of shop frontages in terms of both materials and their relation to building elevations, to ensure that the street scape remains cohesive and is not unduly disrupted by ill-considered and overly dominant individual signage.

f. **Retention of views of the parish church.** Prominent views need to be retained of the parish church on Church Hill from within the village centre and across the valley bottom.

g. **Access to water fronts.** Where appropriate new development should enhance the accessibility of the enclosing green spaces, including canal- and riverside edges, either physically or visually.

h. **Enhancement of the green space character.** The village is enclosed by substantial woodland areas extending from Kinver Edge and Enville. New development should seek to enhance this connection to the landscape context by the retention and inclusion of street frontage and back land planting.

i. **Back land and 'burgage' plot development.** Development design of back land sites, including car parking, should retain the narrow, linear form and planting to avoid large unstructured expanses of open land. However development on burgage plots may be unacceptable in principle as the plots and the layout that they create are very important elements of the "special historic interest" of the conservation area.

j. **Accommodation of parking.** The development or enhancement of parking areas within the village core should retain a reflection of the linear burgage plots by extensive boundary and on-site planting.

21.8 A Conservation Area Management Plan and Appraisal were produced in 2010 and are in the process of being reviewed and updated. This must be referred to when considering proposals for development within the Conservation Area or in areas outside the Conservation Area which would affect views into or out of the Conservation Area.

© South Staffordshire Council
Encourage the use of traditional materials and detail

© South Staffordshire Council
Traditional street frontage should be maintained

© South Staffordshire Council
Authenticity of infill development

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22: Understanding South Staffordshire's Design Context: Village Summary - Lapley

22. Lapley (Other Village)

22.1 The historic village of Lapley is located approximately 4 miles from Brewood, 3½ miles southwest of Penkridge and ½ a mile northeast of the Shropshire Union Canal. It is a quiet and compact village of around 80 houses surrounded by Green Belt land. The majority of the village has been designated as a conservation area with a historic medieval village core and the village green at the centre. The village has been a winner in South Staffordshire in the Best Kept Village competition on many occasions.

22.2 Located to the west of the village is All Saints Church, an ancient priory church that is grade I listed. The church is built of sandstone and originally crucifix in shape however the transepts no longer exist. The church once had a Priory of Black Monks as land in Lapley was endowed c. 1061 to Rheims Abbey by Alfgar, Lord of Mercia and Chester, in respect of his son Burchard's dying wish. Burchard had been travelling back from Rome where he had been on a mission with the Archbishop of Canterbury. Whilst travelling home, Burchard became ill and later died at Rheims in France. He told the monks that if he could be buried there his father would give them lands and a church in England. The land gifted to them was Lapley and the monks later built the priory. In 1645 Cromwell's troops stationed at Lapley Hall took the Priory and made the people in the village pay to have the fortifications taken away. The Old Manor House and neighbouring cottages now stand on the site where the priory building stood. The earthworks may contain significant archaeological remains.

22.3 There are 18 listed buildings situated along the winding lanes within the village Conservation Area. These range from 16th century timber framed houses to large 17th, 18th and 19th century red brick houses, outbuildings and barns, entrance gates, boundary walls and churchyard memorials. Under the Staffordshire review in 1934 Lapley's boundaries were changed with part of the village being transferred to Penkridge and parts of Bradley and Penkridge were incorporated into Lapley.

22.4 There is some modern development to the east and north of the village but it is generally contained within the historic boundary of the settlement. The majority of the buildings within the Lapley are set in generous plots compared to neighbouring villages and hamlets. The village maintains its rural character having extensive views of the surrounding fields and an abundance of trees and hedging. Lapley stands on a low hill with the Church in the east stood on slightly raised grounds which descends slightly towards the west of the village to the former Vaughan Arms public house. The main focal points and the hubs of social activity within Lapley are the Church and Village Green. As well as the village green Lapley has several areas of open space and an active residents group who organise local events.

Materials
22.5 The building materials typically and frequently seen in Lapley are:

Tiles: Handmade clay and slate
Bricks: Red/brown Brick
Facing: Some rendering
Doors & windows: Timber

Archaeology
22.6 There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive within the historic cores of villages and mitigation, may be required at some point in the planning/development process.

Key Development Design Principles: Lapley
22.7 Lapley is an 'Other village' with only a few minor open spaces and limited array of services comprising a church and village green.

a. **Scale and Proportion** In general, new buildings should directly reflect the ridge height, roof span, roof pitch and eaves depth of surrounding properties, with an expectation that the scale will rarely exceed two and a half storeys.

b. **Cohesion of materials** New development should enhance the general cohesion of the village by focusing on the use of red brick and tiles.

c. **Strengthen village facilities** New development should serve to support the development of existing village facilities, ensuring that the street scape is enhanced around such facilities as well as improving pedestrian access.

d. **Maintain views out into the countryside.** New development should protect the key views out of the village core into the enclosing countryside.

e. **Green space network** Existing trees and planting space should be retained in new development to enhance the green spaces which link the edge of the village to its core.

22.8 A Conservation Area Management Plan and Appraisal were produced in 2010 and are in the process of being reviewed and updated. This must be referred to when considering proposals for development within the Conservation Area or in areas outside the Conservation Area which would affect views into or out of the Conservation Area.

© South Staffordshire Council
Promote the use of red brick and tiles

© South Staffordshire Council
Retain and enhance the green space network

© South Staffordshire Council
Key views to the countryside to be protected

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23. Lower Penn (Other Village)

23.1 The small rural hamlet of Lower Penn is situated to the southwest of Wolverhampton on the edge of the West Midlands conurbation. Approximately 1 mile south of Lower Penn lies Wombourne and a few miles to the west lie the villages of Trysull and Seisdon. The majority of the village stretches along Springhill Lane from the small green next to Dirtyfoot Lane along to the crossroads and The Greyhound Inn public house. The settlement has an agricultural history and is located within Green Belt land. Lower Penn Conservation Area covers the core of the village. The area to the north and east of the village is highly developed and although it only has a slight visual impact on the views of the conservation area it does bring increased traffic load to the narrow country lanes.

23.2 The villages of Upper Penn and Lower Penn were established on land held by Saxon nobility when the previously wooded landscape was cleared in the centuries leading up to the Norman Conquest. By the time of Domesday, both the villages were under the ownership of William Fitzansculph, Lord of Dudley. Lower Penn was known under the name 'Penne' and was home to six villagers.

23.3 There are four listed buildings within the conservation area. These include two farmhouses Manor Farm and Lower Penn Farm and two 17th century timber framed cottages Walnut Tree Cottage and Malthouse Cottage. Although some modern buildings have been introduced between the listed buildings the appearance of a historic agricultural community has still been retained.

23.4 Lower Penn stands on a ridge called Spring Hill which runs down from the Parish of Bartholomew in Upper Penn around 2 miles east of the village, down to the west of the settlement. Views from on top of this ridge range from the Malverns in the south past the Clee Hills and to the Wrekin in the west. However, this topography means the centre of the village is at a lower level therefore views to the north and south are limited. The western side of the settlement has a mainly flat topography which was ideal for the canals and railways built in the area during the 18th and 20th centuries.

23.5 It is a dispersed settlement with farmhouses, cottages and a small church positioned along a long winding country lane. Its rural character is maintained by the hedge-lined lanes and large farmhouses set on generous plots with farm buildings and cottages scattered between. Main focal points of the village include the Church of St Anne, the village green and the crossroads. Lower Penn does not contain any shops, only the public house and the church and a number of working farms. The Greyhound public house and the village hall called Victory Hall act as the hubs of commercial and social activity for local residents.

Materials
23.6 The building materials typically and frequently seen in Lower Penn are:

Tiles: Clay
Bricks: Red/brown brick
Facing: Some painted timber and rendering
Doors & windows: Timber and uPVC

Archaeology
23.7 There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive within the historic cores of villages and mitigation, may be required at some point in the planning/development process.

Key Development Design Principles: Lower Penn
23.8 Lower Penn is an 'Other village' with only a few minor open spaces and limited array of services comprising a church, village green, public house and village hall.

a. **Scale and Proportion** In general, new buildings should directly reflect the ridge height, roof span, roof pitch and eaves depth of surrounding properties, with an expectation that the scale will rarely exceed two and a half storeys.

b. **Inspiration from local materials** Building materials should reflect local precedents in colour texture and proportion, relevant to the site's immediate context. The use of reddish-brown bricks and clay tiles for walls and roofs is encouraged.

c. **Strengthen village facilities** New development should serve to support the development of existing village facilities, ensuring that the street scape is enhanced around such facilities as well as improving pedestrian access.

d. **Green space network** existing trees and planting space should be retained in new development to enhance the green spaces which link the edge of the village to its core.

e. **Limit the traffic load on the narrow lanes within the village** New development should not increase the traffic load already experienced due to the highly developed areas close to the settlement especially at the crossroads within the village.

23.9 A Conservation Area Management Plan and Appraisal were produced in 2010 and are in the process of being reviewed and updated. This must be referred to when considering proposals for development within the Conservation Area or in areas outside the Conservation Area which would affect views into or out of the Conservation Area.

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Attention should be given to traffic junction load

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Building materials should reflect local precedent

© South Staffordshire Council

Support should be given to sustaining local village facilities

24: Understanding South Staffordshire's Design Context: Village Summary – Patshull

24. Patshull (Other Village)

24.1 The village of Patshull is located close to the border of Shropshire approximately 9 miles west of Wolverhampton and 3 miles southwest of Albrighton. Patshull is located within Green Belt land and the majority of the village is designated as a Historic Landscape Area.

24.2 Patshull Park dominates the area and Grade I listed Patshull Hall is considered to be South Staffordshire's finest country house with its grounds being one of the five Registered Park and Gardens in the district. It was built in around 1750 designed by Gibbs and was formerly the home of the Earls of Dartmouth and stood within 340 acres of grounds designed by Capability Brown. The hall has had several different uses including as a hospital during World War II, a rehabilitation centre after the war and in the 1980s it was used as an orthopaedic hospital. In the 1990s the building was briefly used as a school before the hall fell into disrepair and was added to the English Heritage list of Buildings at Risk. The hall has now been restored and several of the surrounding buildings have been converted to private dwellings.

24.3 In 1743 the Church of St Mary was erected within the grounds of Patshull Hall. It is in the Italian style and was fully restored during 1874 however the church is now redundant. Within the grounds surrounding the house and the church lies a large serpentine lake called Patshull Pool. Sections of the park were sold off and a hotel and golf course have now been established within the park grounds and a classical temple created by Capability Brown has been converted to a country club.

24.4 To the northwest of Patshull Park there are several red brick residential buildings scattered along hedge-lined, single track roads and farm tracks. The area is largely agricultural land and the topography is relatively flat allowing views across the rural landscape.

Materials
24.5 The building materials typically and frequently seen in Patshull are:

Tiles: Clay
Bricks: Red/Brown Brick
Facing: Some stone
Doors & windows: Timber

Archaeology
24.6 There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive within the historic cores of villages and mitigation, may be required at some point in the planning/development process.

Key Development Design Principles: Patshull
24.7 Patshull is an 'Other village' with large open spaces and a very limited array of services.

a. **Retain Patshull's** rural character

b. **Scale and Proportion** In general, new buildings should directly reflect the ridge height, roof span, roof pitch and eaves depth of surrounding properties, with an expectation that the scale will rarely exceed two and a half storeys.

c. **Retention of key views** New development should retain the key views of Patshull Hall and its historic park setting.

d. **Inspiration from local materials** Building materials should reflect local precedents in colour texture and proportion, relevant to the site's immediate context. The use of reddish-brown bricks and clay tiles for walls and roofs is encouraged.

© South Staffordshire Council
Seek inspiration from local materials

© South Staffordshire Council
Retain the rural character

25: Understanding South Staffordshire's Design Context: Village Summary – Pattingham

25. Pattingham (Local Service Village)

25.1 Pattingham is located in a rural landscape, towards the Shropshire border, approximately 8 miles west of Wolverhampton and 10 miles north east of Bridgnorth.

25.2 The relatively extensive village dominates the rural landscape setting, on a plateau of keuper sandstone within the mid-Severn Sandstone Ridge character area. The village is enclosed by large, open fields with neat hedge rows, with tree groups largely confined to the enclosure of the parish church and the area north of the historic core, extending along High Street and Patshull Road.

25.3 The village can claim Saxon origins, although little physical evidence remains, and is mentioned in the Domesday Book. The parish church of St. Chad dates from the 12th Century with the prominent west tower built around 1330, now supporting a spectacular spire built in the late 19th Century. This is a focal point across the village and the wider rural landscape.

25.4 The successful farming community was grouped around the parish church where the settlement pattern developed along the High Street/Wolverhampton Road. This remains the core of the village and is the focus of the conservation area. The village retained its tightly grouped, linear form, along these roads despite some modest expansion of the village in the late 18th Century, stimulated by the growth of industry in the nearby conurbation. Further linear growth of the village, continuing along High Street, Wolverhampton Road and Clive Road occurred from 1869 with the succession of the Earl of Dartmouth to become the Lord of the Manor. Farm buildings and cottages were added around this date, many of which survive to consolidate the fabric of the centre of the village.

25.5 The village expanded substantially in the latter part of the 20th Century, with more contemporary housing development, built to generous, suburban style plots. These are located to the south of the historic core, and project into the arable landscape, creating an abrupt edge to the village, enclosed by narrow hedgerows. Despite this growth, Pattingham's agricultural character remains with the site of the former pound now providing space for the village hall and recreation ground at the core of the village.

The space of road between the church and the Pigot Arms, and the unusually wide junction is a remnant from the post-medieval layout of the village, when this site, occasionally referred to as the 'Bull Ring', was used for blood sports up until the 19th Century.

25.6 The village fabric retains its historic building forms, in the village centre, with tightly enclosed, narrow street frontages with long narrow plots to the rear. The built scale is domestic vernacular along the High Street, while the similarly scaled modern day village stretching into the enclosing agricultural landscape. Despite this expansion the village has remained relatively compact and legible, dominated by red brick properties at the core, with narrow plots and slate roofs lining the street frontage.

25.7 Many cottages and farmhouses in and around Pattingham were constructed for workers on the Patshull Estate. They have prominent gables, overhanging eaves and verges with narrow upright window openings. These are some of the most locally distinct buildings in the District.

Materials
25.8 The building materials typically and frequently seen in Pattingham are:

Tiles: Blue clay
Bricks: Red/brown
Facing: Some rendering
Doors & windows: Timber, with diamond latticed cast iron casements in Patshull estate cottages

Archaeology
25.9 There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive within the historic cores of villages and mitigation may be required at some point in the planning/development process.

Key Development Design Principles: Pattingham
25.10 Pattingham is a 'Local Service Village' it offers a limited range of facilities and services including a school, post office, local shops, and public houses. It has a prominent village hall with public recreation space. The village benefits from its relative proximity to the extensive facilities available in Perton. The general design guidance on minor development is outlined in the main guide. Specific attention should be paid to the following in design proposals:

a. **Authentic development details.** The compact, historic core requires a focus on the scale, form and detailing of new development, complementing the vertical elevation rhythms, dark, earthy colours and textures of the historic core with convincingly authentic architectural details. Particular, attention needs to be given to window patterns, brick colours and street scape proportions, and new development should retain and strengthen local distinctiveness by reference to Patshull estate buildings.

b. **Focus on the parish church.** The focus of the street scape views should remain on St. Chad's Church, as both a gateway landmark along High Street, Wolverhampton Road and Patshull Road.

c. **Enhance distinctive character areas.** The distinctive character areas within the village boundaries, including the compact, domestic scale of the historic core along High Street, the landscaped, substantial properties around St. Chad's Church and the rural edge, should be identified as distinctive areas within the village boundaries. New development should enhance their positive characteristics, particularly the visual and physical connections to open countryside.

d. **Density of development.** The continued cohesion of the village relies on retaining the compact character and domestic scale of the settlement's core while retaining views out to the countryside. New peripheral development should be designed to reflect the filtering of density towards the village edge. The village core should be retained in a compact form, directly addressing street frontages and accommodating services to the rear.

e. **Enclosure of the village edge.** The expansion of the village has projected into the relatively open arable landscape. New development should, therefore, enhance the enclosure and limit the erosion of the arable edge and landscape context by the strengthening of back land planting.

f. **Parking and service accommodation.** New development within the village core should discreetly accommodate space for vehicles and services within landscaped areas on-plot, avoiding further reliance for on-street provision, or unrelieved areas of surface parking.

g. **Importance of village gateways.** All the village approaches and gateways, particularly those along Patshull Road, Moor Lane and Wolverhampton Road, create very sudden, character defining views of the village as they emerge from the arable landscape. Focus should be on the quality of development in these areas, strengthening the village's green edge and the quality of materials and detailing.

25.11 A Conservation Area Management Plan and Appraisal were produced in 2010 and are in the process of being reviewed and updated. This must be referred to when considering proposals for development within the Conservation Area or in areas outside the Conservation Area which would affect views into or out of the Conservation Area.

© South Staffordshire Council
Enclosure of street-frontage is important

© South Staffordshire Council
Inspiration from vernacular building types

© South Staffordshire Council
Maintain density of development

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26. Penkridge (Main Service Village)

26.1 Penkridge is located along the River Penk, to the north of the District, sandwiched between the M6 to the east, and the mainline railway to the west. The village is enclosed by Green Belt to the south, east and west and designated open countryside to the north. It is roughly bisected by the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal which creates a gentle division running north to south through the settlement. A harsher division is formed by the A449, which has had a major impact on the quality of the villages's latter-day development. The village has Roman connections, with archaeological remains of a large fort at Kinvaston Hall Farm, and medieval origins.

26.2 The village is dominated by its tightly enclosed landscape setting and the linear transport routes. These create strong, impermeable edges to the settlement's boundaries, and a distinctively inward looking built form, arranged around the transport routes and separated from the enclosing, open countryside.

26.3 The historic core of the village is centred around Market Street which retains a cluster of historic buildings, dating from the 15th & 16th Centuries. The village settlement pattern grew from its historic function as a centre for horse trading and retains a weekly market. The centre has a mixture of low-rise houses and shops, many of which were originally half timbered and in-filled with wattle and daub. Victorian brick cottages are a feature of the lower end of Market Street, with a well preserved Tudor building, formerly the Blacksmith's Arms.

26.4 The impressive, Grade I listed 13th Century parish church, built of local Penkridge stone, dominates the built form and is a key landmark within the village. In contrast, the majority of the buildings are of a domestic scale, largely around 2-storeys, although with an increase in height along Stafford Road. Materials are a mix of red or buff brick and painted render.

26.5 Many of the traditional buildings in and around Penkridge were constructed for workers on the Teddesley Estate. They are often characterised by substantial, well-detailed chimneys, fish scale banding of the roof tiles and decorative timberwork on gable ends. They give a specific local distinctiveness which is expressed more strongly in and around Penkridge than any other village in the District.

Materials
26.6 The building materials typically and frequently seen in Penrkidge are:

Tiles: Blue clay, some with fish-scale banding
Chimneys: Well-detailed brick
Bricks: Red/brown brindled
Facing: Some timber-framing and decorative timberwork on gable ends; occasional brick string courses
Doors & windows: Timber

Archaeology
26.7 There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive within the historic cores of villages and mitigation may be required at some point in the planning/development process.

Key Development Design Principles: Penkridge
26.8 Penkridge is the sole 'Main Service Village' identified in the North area. The village offers a good range of facilities and services, and is notable for its pubs and restaurants. The general design guidance on both major and minor development is outlined in the main guide. Specific attention should be paid to the following in design proposals:

a. **Maintain the distinction of the village as a rural market centre.** The historic core area around Market Street should be enhanced as a distinctive area within the village and protected from development which would compromise its character.

b. **Strengthen the village character.** The impact of Stafford Road on the accessibility of the village should be addressed, with new development design contributing to traffic calming measures and enhancing the sense of arrival at the village core.

c. **Enhance the village entrances.** New development should contribute to the enhancement of the village entrances, creating clear points of arrival at the junctions with the countryside, particularly along Stafford Road, Cannock Road, Wolverhampton Road and Otherton Lane.

d.

d. **Enhance the diversity of the built stock.** New development should contribute to enhancing the diversity of building types within the various village neighbourhoods. Wherever possible new development should maintain and strengthen the local distinctiveness provided by the Teddesley Estate buildings. Pattern-book design forms should be avoided by respecting the proportions and low-rise scale of the existing built fabric. Cohesion should be created by use of common, high quality materials, as well as enhanced streetscape planting.

e. **Strengthen the Green Belt edge.** New development should contribute to the strengthening of the green enclosure of the village. The objective should be to reinforce the peripheral green space networks and maintain a clear and abrupt edge to the village's built form, for example as the established edge along the M6 motorway edge and Teddesley Road.

f. **Enhance the green space network.** New development should contribute to the development of the network of green spaces within the village, particularly those linked by the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal and the River Penk. Where appropriate new development should incorporate existing and new planting to enhance the compartmentalisation of the village's fabric and create functional open spaces.

g. **Create new character areas.** Any new development's design should be highly permeable and closely integrated within the village fabric to create clear new character areas, functionally linked to the historic core and enclosing countryside.

h. **Integration of car parking areas.** Cars should be carefully accommodated within the village fabric, using on-plot or courtyard parking, with boundary enclosures and landscaping, avoiding open, unstructured parking in the village core.

26.9 A Conservation Area Management Plan and Appraisal were produced in 2010 and are in the process of being reviewed and updated. This must be referred to when considering proposals for development which would impact on the Conservation Area or its setting.

e.
f.
g. En

© South Staffordshire Council

The village character should be addressed enhancing a sense of arrival

© South Staffordshire Council

Strengthen the character of historic buildings

© South Staffordshire Council

Connection to river side green space is important

© South Staffordshire Council

Sensitive location of car parking

27: Understanding South Staffordshire's Design Context: Village Summary – Perton

27. Perton (Main Service Village)

27.1 Perton is now associated with the modern settlement built on the site of a disused airfield on the extreme western edge of the Wolverhampton conurbation. However the parish has ancient origins and the main coaching route from Wolverhampton to Shrewsbury ran through the new estate parallel to the current line of the A41. At the heart of the old settlements was Wrottesley Hall whose very large estate lands extended as far as Wombourne and included parts of Bilbrook. Although close to the urban area, the village's primary setting is the undulating, agricultural landscape of the Stour Valley.

27.2 The settlement pattern is distinctive and bears little resemblance to traditional Staffordshire village layouts. The River Penk was diverted to create two artificial lakes which form the core of the settlement. The main community facilities - churches, shops, health care facilities - are grouped around this landscaped area in a zoned space separate from the main access loop. The layout is low density and includes large areas of surface car parking alongside the grassed parkland. Businesses and other facilities are low rise and set back from the main road behind car parks and around a pedestrianised precinct.

27.3 Beyond the core area the layout is residential in character and dominated by the circulation network, in particular the 3 mile loop road (The Parkway) and its dependent network of residential access roads and cul-de-sac. The design allows for efficient vehicle movement and there is in places a separate pedestrian network.

27.4 Housing layouts are low density and inward facing around access roads. The green spaces along the loop roads, pedestrian circulation routes and the boundary to the open countryside are dominated by garden boundaries. This undermines the intimate village character which is a distinctive feature of older South Staffordshire settlements.

27.5 Housing unit design is typical of the 1970s and 1980s, being mostly detached and semi-detached units with garages and individual enclosed gardens. There is little variety in the combination of unit types, and the

detailing of houses, including the choice of materials, does not reflect the local vernacular.

Materials
27.6 The building materials typically and frequently seen in Perton are:

Tiles: Blue concrete
Bricks: Red/brown
Facing: Some part rendering
Doors & windows: Timber

Archaeology
27.7 There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive within the historic cores of villages and mitigation may be required at some point in the planning/development process.

Key Development Design Principles: Perton
27.8 Perton is a 'Main Service Village'. It offers a good range of essential services for the local area, such as schools, shops, a post office, community hall, pubs and spaces. The demand for facilities within the village is therefore likely to remain stable, and the pressure for redevelopment will be limited to the modification or replacement of individual residential units and the existing public and commercial facilities in the village core. Because of the planned character of the village, a number of issues should be taken into account when considering proposals. The village core has a number of structural and functional limitations which should be addressed. Issues likely to arise include:

a. **Village - Layout.** The existing layout imposes a rectangular plan on the village centre which is at odds with the scale and intended character of the village settlement. It also conflicts with the adjacent naturalistic parkland landscape. Large scale rebuilding proposals should re-address this issue, considering how areas for both vehicles and pedestrians can be reorganised into a more traditional street layout which is more integral with its surroundings.

b. **Public Space.** The separation of movement types between wholly pedestrianised and car dominated environments should be reconsidered so that less dependence is placed on zoned access types. The isolation of the core from the loop road could be addressed through the creation of a through traffic route with commercial frontages and shared
access types generating a more active village centre. This should be reinforced by a hierarchy of space types which includes the landscaped open space. Avoid large, visible car parking areas.

c. **Village Centre - Mixing of Land Uses.** The zoning of retail and community uses away from residential areas is untypical of South Staffordshire villages. Redevelopment proposals should aim to reintegrate uses with residential units built in the core area. This will support a more diverse and secure village centred.

d. **Built Form and Detailed Design.** Within an overall master plan, reconstruction in the village centre should aim to create a hierarchy of built form with key facades, entrances and building mass arranged around main public spaces. This should aim to reproduce the close relationship between built form, functional importance and public spaces which is characteristic of more traditional settlements in the area. Materials choice should be consistent and related to the hierarchy of built form.

e. **Residential Areas.** Opportunities to enhance existing residential areas are limited by the Green Belt setting and the lack of additional land within the village for new development. Where opportunities for new housing do arise, proposals should respond to their location within the village:

i) Creating effective frontage to public areas including the loop road and the landscaped spaces in the village centre.

ii) Employing non-standard design and detailing to create distinctive local landmarks and gateways for instance at village entrances, junctions and other visible locations within the development.

iii) Creating a more natural settlement edge through a variety of massing, orientation and building line.

f. Minor Development. Extensions and infill development should follow the guidance set out in the main guide and with reference to local issues.

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Village edge enhancement is important

© South Staffordshire Council
A public green space opportunity for enhancement

© South Staffordshire Council
A typical residential area

© South Staffordshire Council
Important to ensure cohesion of minor development through material choice

28: Understanding South Staffordshire's Design Context: Village Summary - Saredon

28.Saredon (Other Village)

28.1 Saredon is formed from two hamlets; Little and Great Saredon, that are linked by the Saredon Brook, a tributary of the Penk. It lies south of the A5 and is bisected by the M6 motorway.

28.2 Both Little Saredon and Great Saredon were recorded in the Domesday Book. The brook once provided the energy for two corn mills at Saredon and Deepmore and was renowned for the large number of trout it held. A windmill built around 1640 once stood in the middle of Little Saredon and remained in use until 1872. In 1942 the remaining mill gear was removed and later the mill was converted into a residential dwelling. The Mill House and its windmill tower remain a focal point within the village. Saredon was also well known for the disproportionately large amount of yew trees that used to grow in the village.

28.3 Great Saredon has a Roman tumulus on high ground, a quarter mile distant from, and facing, the A5. Two of the Three Bronze Age Burnt Mounds found within South Staffordshire were located in Saredon.

28.4 The two hamlets both have a nucleated centre however they show slight differences in the character of the buildings. Great Saredon shows examples of timber framed cottages such as High View Cottage, which are thought to date back to the mid-16th century. High View Cottage is unusually decorated in that the timber framing has diagonal braces and shaped studs. Both Little Saredon and Great Saredon contain a mixture of residential buildings and farm houses and farmyards surrounded by agricultural and grazing land.

28.5 There are a number of red brick farmhouses and farm buildings that have been converted in to dwellings in the village. An example of this is the Little Saredon Dairy and Farmhouse. The roads that link the two hamlets are narrow, tree and hedge-lined country roads. There are no services or areas of open space within the village.

Materials
28.6 The building materials typically and frequently seen in Saredon are:

Tiles: Slate, some fish scale design
Bricks: Red brick
Facing: Some painted timber and rendering
Doors & windows: Timber

Archaeology
28.7 There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive within the historic cores of villages and mitigation, may be required at some point in the planning/development process.

There is evidence of a Roman tumulus within the surroundings of the village. Two Bronze Age burnt mounds have also been identified within the village.

Key Development Design Principles: Saredon
28.8 Saredon is an 'Other village' with only a few minor open spaces and limited array of services comprising a church, village green, public house and village hall.

a. **Scale and Proportion** In general, new buildings should directly reflect the ridge height, roof span, roof pitch and eaves depth of surrounding properties, with an expectation that the scale will rarely exceed two and a half storeys.

b. **Cohesion of materials** New development should enhance the general cohesion of the village by focusing on the use of red brick and tiles.

c. **Maintain views out into the countryside** New development should protect the key views out of the village core into the enclosing arable landscape. The enclosure of the landscape setting of the M6 motorway could be strengthened to prevent the view of the M6 motorway dominating the views from the village.

d. **Creation of local landmarks** Key development sites within the development boundary should serve to make a positive enhancement and consolidation of the village cores, creating local landmarks linked to the setting of the hamlets and the brook.

4: Understanding South Staffordshire's Design Context: Village Summary – Seisdon

29. Seisdon (Other Village)

29.1 The village of Seisdon is approximately 6 miles west of Wolverhampton. It is located within the parish of Trysull and Seisdon. The southern side and the core of the village are designated as a Conservation Area. Smestow Brook runs through the eastern side of the village towards the neighbouring village of Trysull.

29.2 The village appears to have Anglo-Saxon origins. Seisdon has a historic connection with the ancient Seisdon Hundred Roll which was recorded in the Domesday Book. This was the smallest of the five Hundreds designated within Staffordshire. Each Hundred was formed to support a military unit. The Seisdon Hundred included many other villages and parishes as well as the town of the county, Wolverhampton. It had five open fields where people of the Hundred assembled.

29.3 The Grade II listed Seisdon Hall is one of the two large houses in the village, the other being Seisdon Manor House. The Hall was originally built in the 17th century however the main fabric dates from the 1840s. The barns and stable block to the east of the Hall have now been converted into residential buildings. Other listed buildings within the village are The Old Smithy, Beech Hurst Farmhouse, Seisdon Mill, Windrush Cottage, plus the bridge carrying Ebstree Road over the Smestow Brook all of which are grade II listed. The area known as The Fold is considered to be oldest part of the village as it shows characteristics of older, possibly medieval, settlements.

29.4 On the boundary of Shropshire County where Seisdon is closely positioned, there is a high position which formed an ancient entrenchment named Abbot's Wood (Apewood) Castle. Evidence of pit alignments which are considered to represent field boundaries have been found within Seisdon and could date back to Prehistoric or Roman periods. One of the alignments discovered is thought to be an old Roman road.

29.5 The village has a compact, nucleated pattern and the village shop and post office is located at the centre along with a mechanic's workshop. These are the main services provided in the village. The village shares the Church of All Saints' which is located within the neighbouring village of Trysull.

29.6 The main road running through the village, Seisdon Road is lined with stone walls through the main core of the village. The other roads and lanes branching from the village are tree and hedge-lined country roads. There are areas of more modern development to the north of the village located outside of the Conservation Area.

Materials
29.7 The building materials typically and frequently seen in Seisdon are:

Tiles: Clay Bricks: Red brick
Facing: Some painted timber and rendering
Doors & windows: Timber

Archaeology
29.8 There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive within the historic cores of villages and mitigation, may be required at some point in the planning/development process.

29.9 Several pit alignments have been found within the surroundings of the village which could date back to Prehistoric or Roman periods.

Key Development Design Principles: Seisdon
29.10 Seisdon is an 'Other village' with only a few minor open spaces and limited array of services comprising a village shop and post office, a mechanic's workshop and a church shared with the neighbouring village of Trysull.

a. **Scale and Proportion** In general, new buildings should directly reflect the ridge height, roof span, roof pitch and eaves depth of surrounding properties, with an expectation that the scale will rarely exceed two and a half storeys.

b. **Cohesion of materials** New development should enhance the general cohesion of the village by focusing on the use of red brick and tiles.

c. **Strengthen village facilities** New development should serve to support the development of existing village facilities, ensuring that the street scape is enhanced around such facilities as well as improving pedestrian access.

d. **Building style** The South Staffordshire vernacular of local brick and roof tiles is prominent within the village, particularly on farm buildings. As in other villages in the district, this is combined with painted render or rough coat and more modern brick types to create a varied village scape. New development should promote and strengthen local distinctiveness such as this variety.

29.11 A Conservation Area Management Plan and Appraisal were produced in 2010 and are in the process of being reviewed and updated. This must be referred to when considering proposals for development within the Conservation Area or in areas outside the Conservation Area which would affect views into or out of the Conservation Area.

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Promote and strengthen local distinctiveness

30: Understanding South Staffordshire's Design Context: Village Summary - Shareshill

30 Shareshill (Small Service Village)

30.1 Shareshill is an attractive village located about 6 miles south of Cannock, on relatively high ground above Cannock Road, enclosed by the Green Belt. The village retains its close physical and visual connection to the enclosing mixed arable and pastoral landscape. It is located close to the busy A460/M6 junction, but retains its rural character and remains largely unaffected by the proximity to these main vehicular routes.

30.2 The village is dominated by the 14th Century tower of the impressive St Mary's Church, which was re-built in 1740 after the destruction of the original church. The settlement pattern of Shareshill remains compact and cohesive, with clear views out to the enclosing countryside and an inward focus on the church tower. The density of development in the village core retains the historic street pattern and enclosure of the road frontage, with generous gardens to the rear, connecting green spaces. The narrow streets retain their rustic informality to emphasise the enclosed, inward looking character of the village. The periphery of the village encloses a number of farm units, with their functional agricultural buildings retaining a contribution to the compact rural and agricultural character of the village, despite their conversion to new uses. The village has latterly expanded with some peripheral 20th Century development to the east, which projects the low density development into the countryside.

30.3 The village exhibits a range of built form, from timber-framed late 16th Century cottages through to modern residential properties. Its modest scaled buildings are mainly 2-3 storeys in height. However, some of the larger properties have an off-white render, retaining clay tiled roofs and large chimney stacks while the agricultural buildings tend to have slate roofs. Many 19th Century residential properties tend to exhibit decorative eaves and brickwork, some with blue Staffordshire brickwork. Some buildings show the influence of the Vernon family from nearby Hilton Hall.

30.4 Although not as numerous as elsewhere a small number of cottages associated with the estates of Hilton Hall can be found in Shareshill and its surrounding areas.

Materials

30.5 The building materials typically and frequently seen in Shareshill are:

Roofs: Slate or blue clay tiles, decorative eaves Chimneys: Prominent, narrow stacks with string course near top
Bricks: Red/buff brown, Staffordshire blue for detailing, especially at eaves
Facing: Timber-framing and some rendering painted off-white
Doors & windows: Timber

Archaeology

30.6 There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive within the historic cores of villages and mitigation may be required at some point in the planning/development process.

Key Development Design Principles: Shareshill

30.7 Shareshill is a 'Small Service Village' with a restricted range of facilities, offering a church, school, village shop and post office, village hall, playing field and public house. It is more accessible to the nearby extensive facilities in Cheslyn Hay. The general design guidance on both major and minor development is outlined in the main guidance. Specific attention should be paid to the following in design proposals:

a. **Appropriate village density.** Any new development within the village core should create a relatively dense pattern to strengthen village character.

b. **Maintain views out into the countryside.** Visual connections to the agricultural landscape should be retained with new development avoiding the loss of established views.

c. **Enhance the green village edge.** Development on the village edge should enhance the green fringe contain the village's built form in the landscape, particularly with views from Cannock Road. The character of the woodland enclosure should be enhanced to contribute to green space networks.

d. **Green space network.** Existing trees and planting space should be retained in new development to

enhance the green spaces which link the edge of the village to its core, particularly adding to the woodland edge character at key viewpoints such as Elms Lane, should be extensively planted to soften the urbanising impact of new development.

e. **High quality contemporary architecture.** Any new development should adopt imaginative design, acknowledging the scale, mass and materials prevalent within Shareshill, to demonstrate the village's continuing evolution.

f. **Enhancement of the village entrances.** It is important to balance proximity to major road networks by enhancing the sense of arrival and entry into the village at its key entrances. This will require attention to the development enclosure, adopting locally relevant building materials and details.

g. **Proportionate alterations and additions.** Domestic scale additions should remain in scale with the individual building and the modest proportions of the village's built fabric. Dominant, bulky additions should be avoided and building materials, colours and textures should be rustic and earthy and avoid strident visual impact.

h. **Limit the impact of car parking.** The accommodation of car parking should be carefully considered to avoid dominating village frontages or streetscapes and losing opportunities for street scape planting. Integral, rear courtyard or under-croft parking provision will be encouraged to absorb vehicles without intrusion.

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Focus on the authenticity of details

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Maintain views of key landmarks

31: Understanding South Staffordshire's Design Context: Village Summary – Stretton

31. Stretton (Other Village)

31.1 The village of Stretton is a small dispersed village located just north of the A5 also known as the Roman road Watling Street. It is equidistant from Wolverhampton and Stafford and falls within the parish of Lapley, Stretton and Wheaton Aston. The village is situated within Green Belt land.

31.2 The name Stretton means derives from 'settlement on a Roman road'. At the centre of the village is Stretton Hall, originally built for the Connolly family by Inigo Jones in 1620. It contains one of only two hanging staircases in the country. It is now a privately owned grade II listed building belonging to the Monckton family and is not open to the public.

31.3 Close to the hall stands St John's Church which originated in the 12th century. The building is Grade II listed and still retains features such as a stone altar and leper window.

31.4 There are a number of former watermills in the district that retain much of their equipment including the early 19th century Stretton Mill. This mill has retained many of its original features including its cast-iron hoops to the undershot gable wall mounted wheel, two grindstones, the grinding axle, mill gear and grain storage bins. However, these are now on display at Shugborough museum.

31.5 A striking feature to the southwest of the village is the iron aqueduct built by Thomas Telford in 1832 which carries the Shropshire Union Canal over the A5. A wharf is located just north of the aqueduct in Stretton which is a popular mooring place and has a small boat repair yard.

31.6 The country lanes leading through the village are lined with a mixture of stonewalls and brick walls as well as hedgerows which mark the boundaries of the residential buildings and agricultural land. The majority of the buildings are red brick buildings with the exception of the Grade II listed Magpie Cottage which is timber framed with painted brick infill. Due to the amount of arable land and woodlands the village has a strong agricultural character. To the north of the village is Stretton Wood. The village does not provide any services with the exception of the private primary school and canal wharf.

Materials
31.7 The building materials typically and frequently seen in Stretton are:

Tiles: Clay **Bricks:** Red brick
Facing: Some painted timber and rendering
Doors & windows: Timber

Archaeology
31.8 There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive within the historic cores of villages and mitigation, may be required at some point in the planning/development process.

Key Development Design Principles: Stretton
31.9 Stretton is an 'Other village' which contains local services of the school and wharf, however it does not have any shops, public houses or areas of open space.

a. **Scale and Proportion** In general, new buildings should directly reflect the ridge height, roof span, roof pitch and eaves depth of surrounding properties, with an expectation that the scale will rarely exceed two and a half storeys.

b. **Cohesion of materials** New development should enhance the general cohesion of the village by focusing on the use of red brick and tiles.

c. **Strengthen village facilities** New development should serve to support the development of existing village facilities, ensuring that the street scape is enhanced around such facilities as well as improving pedestrian access.

d. **Maintain views out into the countryside.** New development should protect the key views out of the village core into the enclosing countryside.

e. **Green space network** Existing trees and planting space should be retained in new development to enhance the green spaces which link the edge of the village and canal to its core.

f. **Creation of local landmarks** Key development sites within the development boundary should serve to make a positive enhancement and consolidation of the village core, creating local landmarks linked to the setting of the canal.

g. **Enhancement of the canal corridors** New development should focus on creating active frontages to the Shropshire Union Canal corridor, managed as enhanced public realm.

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Promote cohesion through use of materials

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Village facilities

© South Staffordshire Council
Retain and enhance green space network

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32: Understanding South Staffordshire's Design Context: Village Summary – Swindon

32. Swindon (Local Service Village)

32.1 Swindon is a small village in the Smestow Valley between Wombourne and Dudley, located entirely within the Green Belt enclosing the West Midlands conurbation. It developed slowly from the late medieval period with the growth of a local iron foundry. The industry was hugely influential and contributed to the 19th Century growth of the village, becoming its main employer and the dominant built form, until the closure of the steelworks in 1976.

32.2 The former Swindon Iron Works site, and much of the older terraced housing, located along the canal have been cleared and redeveloped. However, the village retains its focus on the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal, which forms an important linear green space and a link to its industrial past.

32.3 The enclosing landscape setting is an attractive mix of arable and pastoral agriculture with wooded slopes rising above and embracing the village to the south west. The modest Smestow Brook and the canal jointly link the village to its surrounding landscape, creating distinctive green corridors through the village.

32.4 The modern-day settlement pattern has a spacious, open feel and is strongly influenced by the canal, and the spinal route of Wombourne Road/The Holloway. The village edges are largely simple fence lines, hard against the pastoral fields, with relatively little enclosure by hedges or trees. The canal forms the main focus of the public realm corridor within the village.

32.5 Much of the modern village housing dates from the late 20th Century, and is low-rise and suburban in architectural character, arranged in small-scale estates and cul-de-sacs. These tend to run parallel with and enclose the river and canal, reducing permeability and accessibility within the village. The focus of the village remains around the canal crossing so the mid-19th Century Church of St. John remains on the periphery of the village, projecting into the open countryside to the west. Consequently, the village lacks the higher densities at the core of some of the older medieval villages in the District, or a clear focal point around the parish church.

32.6 The built form retains a small number of older properties at the village core, limited to the main road frontage. These are mostly unadorned 19th Century properties, related to the industrial expansion of the village, constructed of brick and tile. Swindon's remaining historic buildings are loosely grouped at the junction of Wombourne Road and the High Street and include a 19th Century Chapel and a red brick barn with diamond pattern ventilation openings. The later 20th Century housing is low-rise, largely constructed of a lighter red-brick and tiled roofs.

Materials

32.7 The building materials typically and frequently seen in Swindon are:

Tiles: Blue clay
Bricks: Red/brown/blue brindled, some painted
Facing: Render, painted
Doors & windows: Timber

Archaeology

32.8 There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive within the historic cores of villages and mitigation may be required at some point in the planning/development process.

Key Development Design Principles: Swindon

32.9 Swindon is a 'Local Service Village'. It offers a limited range of services, such as a school, shops, an in-store post office, community hall, pubs and open spaces. Further development is constrained by the topography of the river valley. The brown field site of the steelworks has already been redeveloped and future development is likely to be limited to smaller scale and infill projects. Specific attention should be given to the following when considering design proposals:

a. **Enhancement of main road frontages.** New development, including infill, should consolidate the street pattern by reducing the dominance of the highway, enhancing street frontages with enclosure and on-site planting. Front garden areas should be enclosed and planted to reduce the apparent width and suburban character of the streets.

b. **Enhancement of village character.** New development should serve to increase density in key locations, particular along the main road. Accommodation for vehicles should be discreetly located. Large gaps in the building groups, particularly in the area of the Smestow Brook and the canal, should be avoided.

c. **Improvement of visual diversity and building hierarchy.** The replacement of much of the housing stock in the past 40 years has reduced Swindon's visual diversity. New and infill development should address this by the encouragement of greater variety and innovation in house types. The focus should be on retaining an appropriate low-rise scale, while avoiding uniformity, or repetitive detached house types.

d. **Creation of local landmarks.** Key development sites within the development boundary should serve to make a positive enhancement and consolidation of the village core, creating local landmarks linked to the setting of the river and the canal.

e. **Enhancement of the canal and water corridors.** New development should focus on creating active frontages to the Smestow Brook and the canal corridors, managed as enhanced public realm.

f. **Improvement of permeability.** The visual legibility of the village should be enhanced, ensuring the current insular nature of the village is addressed by the creation of non-vehicular through routes, particularly for pedestrians and cyclists.

g. **Greater enclosure of the village edge.** New development should aim to create a more varied village edge environment, including the creation of defined gateways at the main road entrances. Proposals which include repetitive elements visible against the river valley setting should be rejected in favour of building types which make a positive contribution to the enclosure of the village edge and avoid proposals which present rear garden-fencing to the open countryside.

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Importance of diversity in building form

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Avoid uniformity or repetitive building types

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Need to enhance main road frontage

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Enhancement of canal and water corridors is important

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33: Understanding South Staffordshire's Design Context: Village Summary - Teddesley Hay

33 Teddesley Hay (Other Village)

33.1 The village of Teddesley Hay is located approximately 2¾ miles to the east of Penkridge and 5 miles south of Stafford. The western edge of the village meets the M6 motorway. The village is situated on Green Belt land and the area is dominated by Teddesley Park Estate which is identified as an Historic Landscape Area. The river Penk and Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal run through the west of the village.

33.2 Originally the village was a division of the royal forest of Cannock before 1100 and remained enclosed until 1820. The area was then transformed by Edward John, 1st Baron Hatherton, who brought the area into a high state of cultivation and had a number of large farm buildings and cottages erected all before his death in 1863.

33.3 Teddesley Hall was a large mansion built by Sir Edward Littleton around 1750 and once stood in the village. However, following the death of the 3rd Lord Hatherton in 1930, it was left unoccupied and was used by troops for prisoners of war during World War II. Less than a decade later it was demolished all together and only a few service blocks remain which are now Grade II listed. A medieval house, thought to be a hunting lodge, stood on a moated site approximately 200yards northwest of Teddesley Hall.

33.4 Cropmark features found within the village area are thought to be signs of an Iron Age farmstead. There is also evidence that Deer Parks may have once existed in Teddesley Hay.

33.5 There are recreational walking routes along the canal as well as the Staffordshire Way which runs through part of the Teddesley estate. The village is also in close proximity to Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. There are pockets of woodland scattered through the surroundings of the village and the park estate. The remainder of the village is agricultural and grazing land and to the east of the village lies the active Pottal Pool Quarry. The village is very dispersed with the majority of buildings being working farms and no real significant residential development in the area. The largest residential development is within Teddesley park

and consists of the remaining service buildings from the hall which have been converted into residential dwellings.

33.6 The A34 bisects the village and has several residential buildings and a garden centre situated along it. The road is hedge and tree-lined allowing views across the agricultural and pasture land on the east side. The road runs along the eastern side of Teddesley Park which is identified by the stone and brick walls which indicate the edge of the park land and entrance. The remaining roads within the area with the exception of Teddesley Road are hedge-lined single lanes and farm tracks. A characteristic seen in a few properties on both Teddesley Road and the A34 are white painted eaves.

Materials
33.7 The building materials typically and frequently seen in Teddesley Hay are:

Tiles: Clay
Bricks: Red/brown brick
Facing: Some rendering and painted eaves
Doors & windows: Timber

Archaeology
33.8 There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive within the historic cores of villages and mitigation, may be required at some point in the planning/development process.

33.9 There is evidence of a possible Iron Age farmstead and a medieval moated manor house/hunting lodge within the area.

Key Development Design Principles: Teddesley Hay
33.10 Teddesley Hay is an 'Other village' with a garden centre, a few minor open spaces and walkways along the canal and through the park estate. The village also shares the Community Centre located in nearby Acton Trussell.

a. **Scale and Proportion** In general, new buildings should directly reflect the ridge height, roof span, roof pitch and eaves depth of surrounding properties, with an expectation that the scale will rarely exceed two and a half storeys.

b. **Cohesion of materials** New development should enhance the general cohesion of the village by focusing on the use of red brick and tiles.

c. **Strengthen village facilities** New development should serve to support the development of existing village facilities, ensuring that the street scape is enhanced around such facilities as well as improving pedestrian access.

d. **Maintain views out into the countryside.** New development should protect the key views out of the village core into the enclosing countryside.

e. **Green space network** Existing trees and planting space should be retained in new development to enhance the green spaces which link the village, river and canal route. New development should incorporate existing planting and add new features to link within the village edge, enhancing the character of the village as a development within the open arable landscape.

f. **Enhancement of the canal corridors and walking routes** New development should focus on creating active frontages to the Shropshire Union Canal corridor and Staffordshire Way, managed as enhanced public realm.

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White painted eaves

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Historic remains of Teddesley Hall

34: Understanding South Staffordshire's Design Context: Village Summary - Trysull

34 Trysull (Small Service Village)

34.1 Trysull is a compact settlement situated in the shallow, broad valley of the Smestow Brook approximately six miles to the south-west of Wolverhampton. Traditionally an agricultural settlement, farming is mainly arable with pasture for a few sheep, but mainly horses. Early maps show a mill located alongside the brook; some buildings remain on the site.

34.2 The village is grouped around a cross roads close to a bridging point over the brook. Although an ancient settlement (the church is medieval) it has never expanded beyond a limited group close to the junction. Its maturity is reflected in the diverse range of building types and spaces, and the organic edge the village forms with the surrounding countryside.

34.3 Trysull has a subtle hierarchy of scale which reinforces its strong focus around the road junction and the church; this includes the cottages grouped along the edges of roads, and larger houses, villas and farms which create gateways at the edges of the village. Small scale pasture is mixed with mature gardens and tree planting at the village perimeter.

34.4 The village is lower density than most rural settlements in the area and the large gardens and mature tree planting in and around the village are one of its distinctive features.

34.5 The village contains a mixture of buildings from its earliest timber framed houses through to late 20th century buildings. A particularly noticeable characteristic are the early 20th century buildings erected by the Mander family. These constitute the most significant concentration of 'Arts and Crafts' style buildings in the District and they make a positive and significant contribution to 'local distinctiveness'.

Materials
34.6 The building materials typically and frequently seen in Trysull are:

Roofs: Some thatch, red/orange clay tiles
Bricks: Red/orange
Facing: Render, some painted, or painted rough coat
Doors & windows: Timber

Archaeology
34.7 There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive within the historic cores of villages and mitigation may be required at some point in the planning/development process.

Key Development design principles: Trysull
34.8 Trysull is a 'Small Service Village'. It offers a very limited range of services for the local area, such as a school, church, village hall, pubs and open spaces. Development is likely to be either infill or small scale. Specific attention should also be given to the following when developing design proposals.

a. **Development scale and density.** New development will be expected to reflect the existing village scale and density. This is quite varied; different scale and density types being juxtaposed, i.e. cottages and large farmhouses/ farm buildings. The existing low density pattern should be respected, although the precedent of farm courtyard groupings within the village suggests there is limited scope for conversion or new development at a higher scale within single sites. All proposals will have to be justified by their impact on the village scape.

b. **Protection of green space.** The village has limited public space, but large areas of gardens and small fields which are an important part of its low density character. New development will only be allowed if this pattern can be protected and enhanced.

c. **Village gateways and edge.** Trysull has well defined gateways and edges. New development must not encroach on the village entrances unless it can be shown to complement the existing hierarchy of scale, density and visual impact from the roadway. Development at the countryside boundary should protect the distinctive pattern of small fields and gardens.

d. **Boundary treatments.** Garden boundaries in Trysull are typically hedgerows, including edges to main roads; new development should reflect this pattern, and existing native species hedges and trees should be retained where possible.

e. **Building style.** The South Staffordshire vernacular of local brick and roof tiles is prominent within the village, particularly on farm buildings. As in other villages in the district, this is combined with painted render or rough coat and more modern brick types to create a varied village scape. New development should promote and strengthen local distinctiveness such as this variety.

f. **Paved Surfaces.** Large surfaced areas, for instance car parks, will be resisted. Courtyard groupings and subdivision should be used wherever possible to reduce the visual impact of car parking. Where it is necessary, the shallow depth of development alongside the road must be taken into account: poorly positioned car parks could create a negative boundary to the road on one side or to the countryside on the other. Generally, they should be positioned to the rear of properties and suitably enclosed with native species hedgerow and trees (not conifers or other fast growing screening types). Permeable surfacing should be used rather than tarmac.

g. **Permeability.** The village has a legible crossroads layout with a clearly identified focal point. New development will be expected to enhance this setting. Proposals for cul-de-sac development will be resisted; layouts should create useable and secure routes which connect one part of the village to another and do not confuse the dominant access pattern.

34.9 A Conservation Area Management Plan and Appraisal were produced in 2010 and are in the process of being reviewed and updated. This must be referred to when considering proposals for development within the Conservation Area or in areas outside the Conservation Area which would affect views into or out of the Conservation Area.

New development to reflect traditional brickwork and tilling

Focus on key landmarks

Importance of diversity and building form

Enhancement of village gateways

35. Weston-under-Lizard (Other Village)

35.1 The village of Weston-under-Lizard is located close to Blymhill, 6 miles northwest from Brewood near to the border of Shropshire. It is a model village located along the A5 with Weston Park situated to the south of the village. Its name refers to a hill called the 'Lizard' which is located 2½ miles to the southwest. The village is enclosed within Weston- under-Lizard Conservation Area which includes the Grade I listed Weston Hall, the landscaped park and the estate village. The part of the village located to the south of the A5 is situated within green belt land.

35.2 Weston Park is the ancestral home of the Earls of Bradford built in 1671 and stands within its own parkland some of which is outside of South Staffordshire district. It is open to the public and hosts a series of events each year. It is a registered park and gardens and was laid out by famous landscape designer, Lancelot 'Capability' Brown and contains features such as a Rose walk and Deer Park. The Grade I listed Church of St Andrews lies within the park and has 12th century origins however it was rebuilt 1700-01, and restored in 1876.

35.3 The containing wall of Weston Park, built of mainly stone with sections of red brick, runs along the south side of the main road through the village. This wall together with tree plantations within the grounds conceals views of the Hall from the road. Mature trees, hedges and brick walls line both sides of the road in order to reduce the disturbance from traffic. The majority of the buildings are located in a slight dip in the road and therefore views are restricted and inward looking.

35.4 Red brick cottages are dispersed in small groups or singly along the A5, interspersed with mature trees. The village has limited services which include Weston Park estate, a church, a country living shop and a garden nursery.

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Support village cohesion in choice of materials

Materials
35.5 The building materials typically and frequently seen in Weston-under-Lizard are:

Tiles: Clay
Bricks: Red
Facing: Some rendering
Doors & windows: Timber

Archaeology
35.6 There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive within the historic cores of villages and mitigation, may be required at some point in the planning/development process.

Key Development Design Principles: Weston-under-Lizard
35.7 Weston-under-Lizard is an 'Other village' with only a few minor open spaces and limited array of services comprising a church and Weston Park.

a. **Scale and Proportion** In general, new buildings should directly reflect the ridge height, roof span, roof pitch and eaves depth of surrounding properties, with an expectation that the scale will rarely exceed two and a half storeys.

b. **Cohesion of materials** New development should enhance the general cohesion of the village by focusing on the use of red brick and tiles.

c. **Strengthen village facilities** New development should serve to support the development of existing village facilities, ensuring that the street scape is enhanced around such facilities as well as improving pedestrian access.

d. **Maintain the village core** Development should focus on enhancing the identity of the relatively compact village core by respecting the scale, massing and enclosure of the historic buildings.

e. **Greenspace network** Development will be expected to enhance the network of green spaces which link the outer areas of the village to the core.

36: Understanding South Staffordshire's Design Context: Village Summary - Wheaton Aston

36. Wheaton Aston (Local Service Village)

36.1 Wheaton Aston is a rural village located in open countryside to the north of the District. It lies approximately 6 miles to the west of Penkridge and 4 miles north of Brewood and is flanked by the Shropshire Union Canal. The village has medieval origins, developing slowly from the 13th Century as the focus for small farming community.

36.2 The settlement emerged as a cluster of farmhouses, a small chapel and cottages, around the site of the parish church. A few buildings dating from the late medieval period survive. This oldest part of village is sited on a small knoll around the church of St. Mary, which remains the most important landmark in Wheaton Aston. The village extended along Long Street during the 19th century to meet the canal and latterly in the 20th Century to the north creating a relatively compact and enclosed development pattern.

36.3 The village's landscape setting comprises open arable farmland, with the canal located to the north and the West Midlands Green Belt to the south east. The village centre retains the compact nature of the settlement, with tightly enclosed winding lanes within the core areas. The Shropshire Union Canal is an important landscape feature which contains the edge of the village to the north, and provides important vistas of the settlement. Views out of the village beyond the post-war housing in all directions create interesting views with a number of landmarks within the wider landscape. The intrusion of modern infrastructure on this rural scene is minimal.

36.4 The predominant village settlement pattern is now associated with its post-war housing development, which increased the village's population considerably. However, the focus remains on the historic core. This is encompassed by the Conservation Area and is a nucleated group, focussed around the church and village square creating a street scape which provides enclosed views. The core consists of winding narrow lanes such as Frog Lane, Mill Lane and School Road leading out to agricultural landscape. Consequently, despite the late 20th Century expansion, Wheaton Aston retains its compact rural character.

36.5 The built form of the village has two distinct features, those of the conservation area which consists of a variety of materials with red brick and rendered properties and arranged in high densities. In contrast, outside of the conservation area, post-war 1960s residential developments, which tend to be largely brick, either red or buff/brown coloured, with shallow roofs of slate or concrete tiles. Although quite compact much of the properties have spacious private gardens, creating opportunities for enhancement of green networks.

36.6 Although Wheaton Aston has a few 'estate' cottages there is a particular building detail that is local to this area. A 19th century builder called Smith enriched the gable ends of his buildings with a particular detail that is unique to this part of the District. This is locally distinctive and could usefully be incorporated into some new buildings in this area.

Materials
36.7 The building materials typically and frequently seen in Wheaton Aston are:

Roofs: Slate or concrete tiles
Bricks: Red/buff brown
Facing: Some timber-framing and rendering
Doors & windows: Timber

Archaeology
36.8 There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive within the historic cores of villages and mitigation may be required at some point in the planning/development process.

Key Development Design Principles: Wheaton Aston
37.9 Wheaton Aston is a 'Local Service Village' which offers a good range of facilities and services, including a school, post office, public houses, village hall and recreation/open space. The general design guidance on both major and minor development is outlined in the main guide. Specific attention should be paid to the following in design proposals:

a. **Enhancement of entrances.** New development should serve to enhance the village entry points, in particular along Long Street/Lapley Road and Broadholes Lane/High Street, to retain the immediacy of the entry from the open countryside.

b. **Strengthen the green edge.** New development should serve to enhance the green edges to the village to better integrate the expanded settlement into its countryside setting, enhance the enclosure of the village and create a green network though the village. Development should not be constructed hard on the development boundary.

c. **Retention of key views.** New development should retain and enhance key external vistas, particularly of the Canal and the enclosing countryside, focusing on retaining distant views out of the village to maintain connections with its agricultural origins.

d. **Consistent materials choice and architectural detailing.** New development should adopt simple earth-derived colours, maintaining darker red brick and tiles, and avoiding stark contrasts within the street scape, while introducing innovation within the established palette.

e. **Enhance the village character.** Any new development within the village core should adopt a compact density, directly connected to the existing street structure to strengthen the historic character and settlement pattern.

f. **Encourage modern design.** Any new infill or replacement development should adopt innovative new development design, (while retaining the general low-rise, 2-storey scale) to broaden the variety and character of the built form and demonstrate the continuing evolution of the village residential areas.

g. **Protect and enhance the historic core.** Any new development should serve to enhance the setting of St. Mary's Church, including the modest open space which surrounds it. The limited views of the church from the surrounding countryside, emphasising its slightly elevated potion should be protected from intrusive development which diminishes the architectural importance of the landmark church building.

h. **Enhancement of physical and visual permeability.** Any new development should serve to enhance the recreational connections to the surrounding countryside and in the canal tow path. The limited view of the church should be protected and enhanced where possible, along with other channelled views between properties to maintain visual connections to the enclosing countryside.

36.10 A Conservation Area Management Plan and Appraisal were produced in 2010 and are in the process of being reviewed and updated. This must be referred to when considering proposals for development within the Conservation Area or in areas outside the Conservation Area which would affect views into or out of the Conservation Area.

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New development should serve to enhance the village edge

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A consistent choice of materials is important

© South Staffordshire Council
Protecting the village's historic core is essential

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Inspiration from village character

37: Understanding South Staffordshire's Design Context: Village Summary - Wombourne

37. Wombourne (Main Service Village)

37.1 Wombourne is a large village located within the Stour Valley 6 km south west of Wolverhampton. Although retaining a rural character, its varied economic base and proximity to the nearby urban area helps explain the expansion of the village beyond the typical bounds of a South Staffordshire agricultural settlement. In particular, Wombourne provides an ideal base for commuters, and much of the housing which spreads out from the village centre is a mix of typical 20th century suburban housing styles.

37.2 In spite of development pressures, however, Wombourne has been successful in retaining a rural sense of scale and layout pattern. This owes a great deal to the 'village green', an enclosed cricket field which is edged by mature trees, house frontages and a church spire. There are few historic buildings but the general pattern of building form and the generous scale of the green has helped sustain a robust village identity. The area around the green is enclosed by 19th century streets and houses which add to its character. These drew their influences more from the adjoining Black Country to the south rather than the South Staffordshire vernacular seen elsewhere in the District.

37.3 The later suburbs which spread out in large blocks of standardised house types are less successful visually or functionally, but are prevented from overwhelming the village by distinctive green corridors which bisect the built up area and draw the surrounding countryside into the heart of the settlement. These include the wooded course of the Smestow Brook, the disused railway line (now the South Staffordshire Railway Walk) and the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal.

37.4 The long village edge with the countryside is dominated by modern estate developments and lacks the diversity of the village scape. More recent developments attempt to address this, for instance along Bridgnorth Road, but fail to create distinctive gateways or project a village identity which responds to the South Staffordshire landscape.

Materials
37.5 The building materials typically and frequently seen in Wombourne are:

Tiles: Blue clay tiles
Bricks: Red/brown brindled, some painted
Facing: Render, painted
Doors & windows: Timber

Archaeology
37.6 There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive within the historic cores of villages and mitigation may be required at some point in the planning/development process.

Key development design considerations in the Wombourne

37.7 Wombourne is a 'Main Service Village' offering a range of facilities and services. In addition, it has a number of industrial sites.

37.8 The village has proved capable of absorbing development pressures in the past. However, many of the developments do not relate well to the green space structure or to the countryside edge, resulting in weak gateway areas and a lack of built form hierarchy. The integration of new development into the exiting fabric must be enhanced if the village is to protect its distinctive scale and identity.

37.9 Design issues specific to the village include the following:

a. **Enhancement of the village green.** The village's most distinctive space is subject to traffic and redevelopment pressure. Development proposals should ensure active and dense frontage is created facing the green, with car parking to the rear.

b. **The existing two and three story scale should be maintained:** The church spire is the exception and its role as the village focal point should be protected. Avoid single storey flat roofed structures and gaps in the frontage, and protect existing tree planting and the area of the green/cricket field itself from encroachment. Commercial signage should be restricted to conventional, low key fascias. Avoid detached, projecting or illuminated signage. These considerations should apply to the main streets leading away from the village green as well as the green itself, so thresholds into the village centre can be controlled and improved.

c. **Development edge to green space.** The village is divided by attractive green corridors, i.e. the former railway and the canal. New development should enhance their setting; creating active frontages along their edges. Avoid positioning back gardens and car parks against public areas. Where possible access should be enhanced and form an integral part of public realm layout.

d. **Development edge to open countryside.** On the village edge, many rear gardens border open countryside. New development should create a more diverse and active edge, noting local village precedents with a variety of scales. Avoid inward facing development. Building lines should vary, with open spaces and tree/hedgerow planting.

e. **Development of suburban housing areas.** The lack of distinctiveness within many of the housing areas should be addressed by local hierarchies of scale and development density, achieved through infill and larger scale development.

f. **Enhancement of entrances.** Village entrances are currently marked by gaps in housing areas. New development should seek to create distinct thresholds which relate in scale and form to the settlements village character and project its identity.

g. **Detailed development design.** Wombourne's character is less dependent than some South Staffordshire villages upon a local architectural vernacular; open space pattern, topography and overall scale are more important. Infill development should avoid disrupting existing street lines and scales, unless a local landmark building can be justified by its position at a junction or near open space. Older streetscapes typically have a varied styles and materials, with red brick prominent, sash windows and other finishes, such as cream painted render and (limited) local sandstone. Street frontages and building groups are often responsive to slopes, with gable ends 'stepping up' the slope.

37.10 A Conservation Area Management Plan and Appraisal were produced in 2010 and are in the process of being reviewed and updated. This must be referred to when considering proposals for development within the Conservation Area or in areas outside the Conservation Area which would affect views into or out of the Conservation Area.

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Infill development should avoid disrupting existing street lines and scale

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Maintain two- and three-storey scale

© South Staffordshire Council
Gateways should be enhanced

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Enhancement of village green