

South Worcestershire Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document

Overarching Design Principles



Adopted
March 2018



Adoption Statement

South Worcestershire Design Guide

Supplementary Planning Document

March 2018

Malvern Hills District Council, Worcester City Council and Wychavon District Council

Local Development Framework

South Worcestershire Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

Adoption Statement.

In accordance with Regulation 14 of the Town and Country (Local Development) (England) Regulation 2012. The South Worcestershire Design Guide SPD seeks to encourage a higher standard of design in all aspects of the built environment across south Worcestershire. The guide does not set prescriptive standards rather instead it identifies principles of good design that are considered to be best practice. The SPD forms part of the Local Development Framework for the three South Worcestershire Councils (Malvern Hills District Council, Worcester City Council, and Wychavon District Council).

Notice is hereby given that:

- a. On 23 January 2018 Malvern Hills District Council agreed to adopt the South Worcestershire Design Guide SPD with effect from 6 March 2018.
- b. On 5 March 2018 Worcester City Council agreed to adopt the South Worcestershire Design Guide SPD with effect from 6 March 2018.
- c. On 10 January 2018 Wychavon District Council agreed to adopt the South Worcestershire Design Guide with effect from 6 March 2018.
- d. That any person with sufficient interest in the decision to adopt the SPD may apply to the High Court for permission to apply for judicial review of that decision; and
- e. That any such application must be made promptly and in any event not later than 3 months after the 6 March 2018 2018, which is when the SPD was adopted.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose and structure



The Hive, Worcester

1.1.1 The South Worcestershire Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) aim is to encourage a higher standard of design in all aspects of the built environment across south Worcestershire. The guide does not set prescriptive standards, rather instead it identifies principles of good design that are considered to be best practice. It should be used alongside the appropriate national planning policies, local plan policies in the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) and adopted neighbourhood plans policies. Any given standards set out in the SPD are those adopted and prescribed by other parties and are correct at the time of adoption. Where the standards referred to within this document are superseded it will be necessary for each of the South Worcestershire Councils (SWC) to clarify their approach to implementing new standards. It replaces the Worcester City Residential Design Guide (2002) and the Wychavon District Residential Design Guide SPD (2010).

1.2 Status of the Design Guide

1.2.1 The requirement to produce this document is set out in the SWC Local Development Schemes (2016) and its status is as a SPD within the Local Development Framework (LDF). It has been prepared to supplement policies in the SWDP (adopted in February 2016) in particular SWDP 2 Development Strategy and Hierarchy and SWDP 21 Design. As such, it is a material consideration for the decision taker in the determination of planning applications and planning appeals.

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1.2.2 The SWC will expect planning applications to demonstrate how these guidelines have been taken into account e.g. within a masterplan, Design and Access Statement, and/or a Heritage Statement. Without detailed and relevant justification those proposals for development which do not reflect the guidelines set down in this document are unlikely to be acceptable to the SWC.

1.2.3 The SPD should be read in conjunction with the following documents and any additional or revised documents which may supersede them:

- Existing national planning policy i.e. the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), in particular Section 6 Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes and Section 7 Requiring good design as well as advice and standards set down in the Building Regulations.
- Existing local planning policy, i.e. in the SWDP or adopted neighbourhood plans.
- Although without statutory weight regard should be had to any relevant parish plans and village design statements that may contain useful guidance on design and local character.
- Existing relevant guidance published by Worcestershire County Council and other organisations, e.g. the AONB Management Boards.

1.3 How to Use the Design Guide

1.3.1 Due to the diverse and widespread area to which the SPD applies the approach has been to initially provide overarching design principles and guidance in Part 1 of the SPD (Figure 1). This allows for more detailed character and design guidance for the rural and urban areas of south Worcestershire in Part 2, and within the Annexe a series of topic related advice notes, e.g. on household extensions. Part 2 of the SPD is currently in development and the topic related advice notes, e.g. covering housing layout, commercial, retail, and urban design will be produced either as required or set out in the latest version of the Local Development Scheme. The first in the series of notes, Note 1: General Design Principles for Extensions and Note 2: Market Housing Mix Position Statement have been published within Part 1 of the SPD.

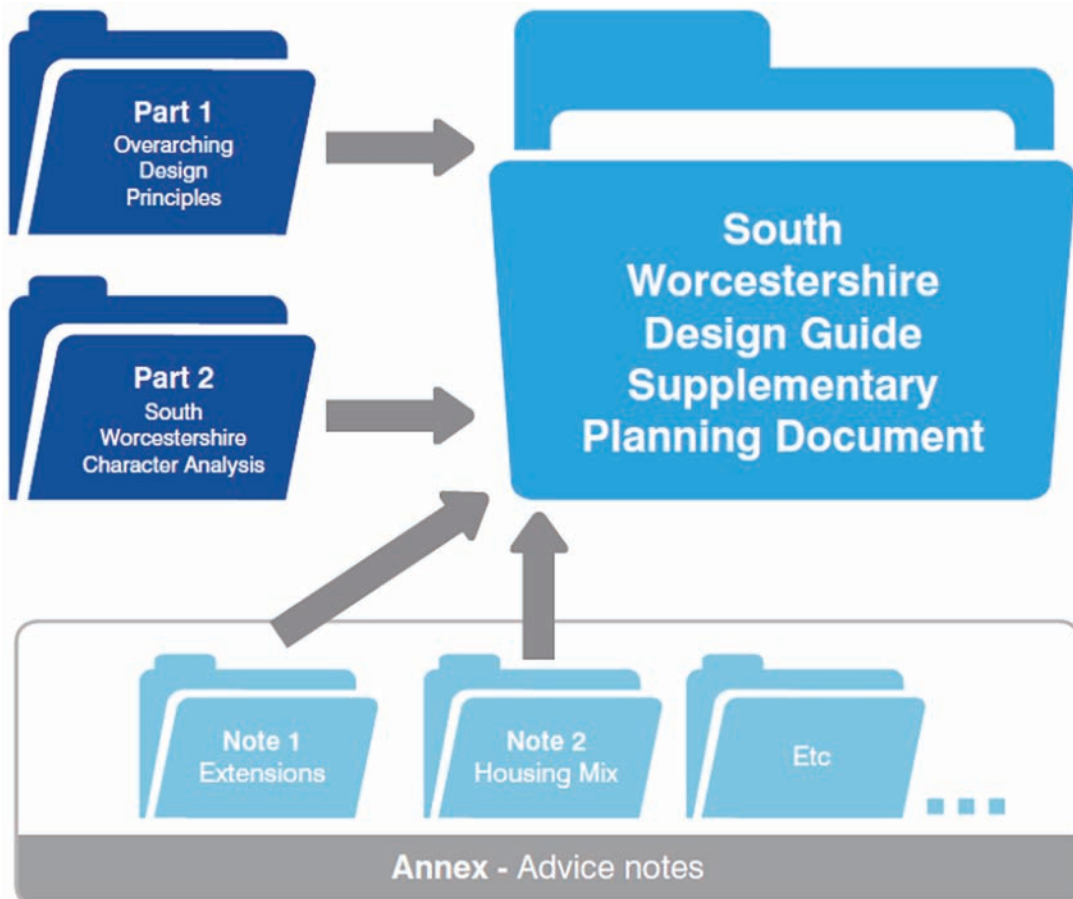


Figure 1: Structure of Supplementary Planning Document

1.3.2 The SPD is structured to assist with the careful process that an applicant should follow when submitting an application for all types of development. Overarching design principles are set out in Section 2 and Section 3 provides advice on preparing and submitting a planning application. This describes the requirements for submitting an application and provides guidance on getting to grips with the context and setting within which development is being proposed.

1.3.3 There are three logical stages that an applicant would need to follow to ensure that developments achieve a high quality of design:

1. As part of this process it is essential that the emerging design is based on thorough research and understanding of the context in which development is being proposed.
2. The applicant should refer specifically to the detailed guidance contained in Section 4, Achieving good design in new development, when working up the initial design of a scheme.
3. Section 5, Developing the Design Concept, covers the urban design principles that should be considered when working up schemes. The principles can be used when working up the design at the early stages of the process.

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1.3.4 Section 6 provides further advice on designing in the context of the natural and historic environment and the Section 7 sets out guidance on urban design and designing for the public realm.

1.3.5 Part 2 of the SPD will set out a character analysis of Worcester City and the rural districts i.e. Malvern Hills and Wychavon of south Worcestershire. This provides detailed information on the context of the different areas within south Worcestershire and will assist applicants in undertaking character analysis and developing locally distinctive designs.

The table below shows which subsections feed into each element of the design process to assist applicants in providing a comprehensive design approach.

Requirements for providing a comprehensive design approach	Relevant sections of the SPD	Section reference
Process		
<p>Demonstrate how the site context has been assessed, including physical, social and economic characteristics and relevant planning policies.</p> <p>Demonstrate how account has been taken of community involvement.</p> <p>Show how the scheme has emerged from rigorous process of assessment, involvement, evaluation and design. The statement should therefore explain the design out come not simply present it.</p>	Context Analysis	4.2
	Site	4.11
	Identifying Local Needs and Communities	4.12
	Local Character/Distinctiveness	4.13
Developing the Design Concept	5	
Use		
Use of buildings and spaces.	Mixed uses and living over the shop.	5.2
Amount		
How much would be built on the site.	Appropriate Density	5.3
The appropriateness of the density.	Context Analysis	4.2
Can the neighbourhood services support the amount of development planned.		
Layout		
<p>How the buildings and public spaces will be arranged on the site, and the relationship between them and the buildings and space around the site.</p>	Connecting Places	5.1
	Creating Mixed Use	5.2
	Respecting the Natural and Historic Environment	6
	Sustainable Design	5.4
<p>Demonstrate how the design incorporates crime prevention measures.</p>	The Public Realm	7
	A Safe Environment	5.6

Requirements for providing a comprehensive design approach	Relevant sections of the SPD	Section reference
Scale		
How big the buildings and spaces would be (height, width, and length)	Detailed Design	Part 2/Annexe
	Responding to the Setting	Part 2 6.3
Explain how this relates to the sites surroundings.	Rural/landscape	Part 2/Annexe
	Urban Design	7
Explain how the scale of buildings features fit comfortably.	Design Principles	5
Landscaping (inc. both hard and soft landscaping)		
The purpose of landscape design, including both hard materials and planting, often used together to create the required quality of setting.	Respecting the Natural and Historic Environment	6
How open spaces will be an inclusive part of the design, the creation of new space and how space is treated to enhance and protect the character of a place.	The Public Realm	7
	Amenities	5.7
Appearance		
The visual impression a place or building makes, including the external built form of the development, its architecture, materials, decoration, lighting, colour and texture and its setting within both the new design and surrounding existing landscape and/or townscape.	Local Character/Distinctiveness	4.13
	A Role for Modern Architecture and Contemporary Design	4.14
	Sustainable Design	5.4
	Detailed Design	Part 2/Annexe
Access		
The same process should be followed with regard to access. "Access" refers to "access to the development", not just the internal aspects of individual buildings.	Connecting Places	5.1
	Creating Mixed Uses	5.2
	Adaptability	5.5
Explain how access arrangements would ensure that all users would have equal and convenient access to buildings and spaces, parking and the public transport network.	The Public Realm	7
	Amenities	5.7
Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas		6 Part 2/Annexe
Appraising archaeology and the historic environment	Site Appraisal	4.3
Integrating new buildings within the historic environment	Historic Environment	6.4

2 Overarching Design Principles

2.1 South Worcestershire Context



Malvern Vale

2.1.1 The area covered by the SPD in terms of design character is extremely diverse and complex. Clearly the rural districts of Malvern Hills and Wychavon, transitional in nature from north to south, are mirrored by the complex over layering of the areas of Worcester city from the historic core to the urban fringe. All are important factors for consideration when developing locally distinctive design. This applies not only in all conservation areas in the villages, towns and city, but also in terms of contemporary designs, where the selection of materials and the detailed choices need to be carefully considered.

2.1.2 More detail on the character appraisal of south Worcestershire is provided in Part 2 of the SPD. However by way of context south Worcestershire refers to the geographic area incorporated into the joint planning framework contained within the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP). This provides planning policies covering Worcester City and the predominantly rural districts of Malvern Hills and Wychavon.

Worcester

2.1.3 The city of Worcester is a small and almost entirely urban district, which does however enjoy a coherent and highly valued green infrastructure network and notable biodiversity. Worcester lies on the River Severn; its historic city centre and core has Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval origins and there are many historic buildings, especially from the 16th to 19th centuries. This rich mix of heritage assets means there are 18 conservation areas and over 700 listed structures within the city. Following the expansion of the city at the beginning of

the 19th century it experienced phases of development similar to those seen in most English cities. The most recent suburban development has been at Warndon Villages and St Peters at the turn of the 21st century, and two substantial new urban extensions are allocated in the SWDP to the south (SWDP45/1) and west (SWDP45/2) of the city which are to meet Worcester's employment land and housing requirement to 2030.

Malvern Hills

2.1.4 Malvern Hills district is situated in the western part of south Worcestershire and includes the principal towns of Malvern, Upton-upon-Severn and Tenbury Wells, as well as a high number of villages. It is a relatively large, predominantly rural district broadly characterised in landscape terms by principal timbered and timbered plateau farmlands to the north and west, settled farmlands with pastoral use and enclosed commons to the south and principal timbered farmlands and wooded estate lands to the east. There are over 1,800 listed buildings and 21 conservation areas in the district, with the Malvern Hills being the principal feature of the district to the west. There is a range of architectural styles in Malvern, including Victorian, Edwardian and Georgian buildings, as well as more modern post-war development. The district also features a large number of farmsteads, (converted) barns and cottages.

Wychavon

2.1.5 Wychavon is a large and predominantly rural district characterised by numerous villages and hamlets as well as the three market towns of Evesham, Droitwich Spa and Pershore. The area has a rich and diverse historic built environment with over 2,500 listed buildings and 66 conservation areas. This distinctive character has provided a wealth of architectural styles and properties that are greatly valued, and are a legacy that current development can draw upon. As with Malvern Hills the district contains both low lying, rolling landscape of woodland and farms in the Severn, Avon and Evesham Vales as well as the Cotswold escarpment and Bredon Hill. Buildings and settlement patterns reflect this landscape with a combination of isolated farmsteads and hamlets, expanded villages and historic market towns.

2.2 Aims and Objectives

2.2.1 The primary aim of the SPD is to improve the overall quality of built design within south Worcestershire by providing the necessary guidance in a series of reference documents. It is important that buildings from the 21st century make an impact on built and urban design and become valued buildings and places of the future. This is achieved by:

- locally distinctive design.
- design that respects and enhances local character.
- design that incorporates contemporary and sustainable approaches to development; and
- design that adheres to the latest best practice in layout and built form, including external spaces and landscaping.

2 Overarching Design Principles

2.2.2 The SPD is aimed at all new build schemes including; large and small scale residential developments, small in-fill housing sites, extensions, commercial and employment buildings, retail developments and any public realm schemes. The design principles it endorses can be applied to different types and scales of development and can be used when submitting planning applications or masterplanning for the following:

Residential

- Extensions
- Single house in-fill
- Small developments
- Major developments

Commercial/Retail

- Office and inward investment sites
- High Street regeneration and retail parks
- Employment and B use class developments

Public realm

- Urban design and regeneration schemes
- Masterplans and development briefs

2.2.3 This part of the guide can be used to assist all those involved in the development process (including architects, urban designers, public and private sector developers, house builders, planners, parish councils, engineers and other interested parties) to implement and achieve high quality development across south Worcestershire.

2.2.4 The main objectives of the SPD are to:

Raise the standard of design through development that enhances local character and distinctiveness using traditional, locally distinctive and contemporary techniques.

Create places where people want to live and spend time by improving the public realm with access to outdoor spaces and by protecting private amenity.

Incorporate sustainable design techniques to minimise energy consumption and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Deliver a diverse mix of dwelling types including affordable homes to meet local needs and to create active and vibrant communities.

Deliver adaptable buildings that can be altered to meet the changing demands of the occupant, society and the climate.

Create a safer environment through effective design to help reduce crime and the fear of crime.

Respect the historic environment through development that enhances and protects heritage above and below ground.

Respect the natural environment through development that enhances and protects biodiversity.

Ensure new development reduces and manages the risk of flooding.

Promote development in accessible locations where existing services and facilities can be accessed safely on foot or bicycle.

Incorporate measures to improve connectivity throughout new schemes to promote walking, cycling and the use of public transport, to reduce the reliance on the motor vehicle.

Provide Health and Wellbeing benefits through improvements to the built and natural environment that encourage healthier lifestyles.

2.2.5 New development needs to be sensitive to its surroundings, but this does not mean it should copy existing styles. Instead it can draw on the local built environment to produce innovative and inspiring contemporary designs that are built to modern sustainable standards and are adaptable to the changing demands of society and the climate. Adapting to climate change is essential to ensure our communities remain desirable places to live and work and is a critical consideration in achieving sustainable development.

2.2.6 Regard should also be had to the latest (both existing and emerging) national guidance and strategies (Appendix 1). This should ensure that collectively we create buildings and places where people really want to spend time and that leaves a legacy for the future.

2.3 Creating Strong Communities

2.3.1 Good design is not just about the quality of individual buildings or their relationship to each other but also contributing to the creation of places to live, work and relax that stand the test of time. Whatever the function of the building or buildings consideration should be given at the outset of how design can contribute towards creating stronger communities. In terms of mixed use proposals four particular aspects should form part of the consideration of developing any design proposals. These are the provision of social infrastructure; a focus on creating sense of belonging and identity with place; and occupants' engagement and a stake in the process of planning and oversight of the scheme and finally once the scheme is completed ensuring long term satisfaction of the end users, i.e. residents, employees and local communities.

2.3.2 In designing for local communities it is useful to consider four key dimensions, particularly with respect to residential and mixed use schemes:

- Amenities and Social Infrastructure
- Social and Cultural Life
- Voice and influence
- Space to Grow

Amenities and Social Infrastructure – this relates to ensuring amenities and support services are put in place early after the commencement of new development. These might include public space; schools; playgrounds; provision and services for a range of age groups; healthcare; transport links; communal spaces and adaptability.

2 Overarching Design Principles

Social and Cultural Life – this is about shared spaces, collective activities and developing ‘social architecture’ to foster networks, engender a sense of belonging and place for those that inhabit the completed development. If successful this will underpin how people feel about their neighbourhood, create safe environment, and deliver quality of life and wellbeing.

Voice and influence – this is about governance structures to represent users and to engage them in shaping local decision-making and long term stewardship of a locality. This relates to how people feel they can influence the development, creation of groups to give people a voice and the establishment of local governance to respond to local concerns.

Space to Grow – this means development needs to be flexible that can adapt over time and build in capacity so buildings and public spaces can adapt to change.

2.3.3 The SPD provides a set of ‘highlighted’ design principles under each section heading. These look to encapsulate the above elements of achieving strong communities and provide a foundation to help deliver these key dimensions in all new development.

3 Preparing and submitting a planning application

3.1 Planning Submission Requirements



Pershore College

3.1.1 The requirements for submitting a planning application vary according to the location and type of permission being applied for. It is advised that applicants initially visit the relevant SWC websites below to identify the type of application they are required to submit and the accompanying documentation that is required before final submission so that no omissions are made. This will ensure that your application can be validated, processed and determined as quickly as possible.

3.1.2 Failure to supply all the necessary documentation and information with an application can result in a delay in processing and reaching a planning decision. For application information please follow the link to the relevant SWC.

Malvern Hills District Council

<https://www.malvernhills.gov.uk/apply-for-planning-permission>

Worcester City Council

<https://www.worcester.gov.uk/how-do-i-apply-for-planning-permission->

Wychavon District Council

<https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/making-a-planning-application>

3 Preparing and submitting a planning application

3.1.3 Should applicants have any queries prior to making a submission please contact the relevant council's planning department. In many instances it is advisable to seek pre-application advice (chargeable save for employment development proposals). The relevant council's webpage will provide details of pre-application procedures and, where relevant, fees.

3.1.4 With this in mind any application for a significant level of development is likely to benefit from a 'Development Team Approach' whereby a team of officers from within the council and other outside agencies can provide a more coordinated approach to dealing with development proposals. For large scale development proposals applicants are encouraged to contact the relevant Development Management teams as early as possible prior to a formal application being submitted so that comprehensive and consistent advice can be given to developers at an early stage. It should be noted there is a charge for this service on residential planning applications. For pre-application information please follow the link to the relevant SWC.

Malvern Hills District Council

<https://www.malvernhills.gov.uk/planning-advice>

Worcester City Council

<https://www.worcester.gov.uk/i-need-planning-advice>

Wychavon District Council

<https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/business-planning-application>

3.1.5 In the case of residential extensions and alterations to existing dwellings there are some types of development that are 'permitted development' and do not require planning permission. Where a building is listed any extensions and alterations will require listed building Consent. Once again it is advised that the applicant checks online using the Planning Portal website <https://www.planningportal.co.uk/info/200127/planning> or contacts the relevant planning department directly before commencing with any work.

3.2 Planning Policy Context

National Policy and Guidance

3.2.1 Any development that takes place within south Worcestershire, at whatever scale, needs to be consistent with national planning policy as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (the Framework) and National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG). The Government attaches great importance to the design of the built environment and the Framework puts great emphasis on design.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

“always seek to secure high quality design and a good standard of amenity...”

– Core Principles, paragraph 17

Section 7 Requiring good design (para. 56) of the Framework states that:

“Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, is indivisible

from good planning and should contribute positively to making places better for people.”
– paragraph 56“

Permission should be refused for development of poor design that fails to take the opportunities available for improving the character and quality of an area and the way it functions”
– paragraph 64

3.2.2 However given the broad nature of the national policies it is imperative that guidance at a local level is provided to ensure new development meets these requirements.

South Worcestershire Development Plan

3.2.3 The South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP), which was adopted in February 2016, contains policies that either directly or indirectly seek to promote good design. The Vision in the SWDP states:

“High quality development has incorporated innovative, environmentally friendly solutions that have helped to reduce resource consumption, achieve sustainable communities and lessen the effects of extreme climatic impacts”.

The relevant SWDP objectives are:

- B Stronger Communities
- C A Better Environment for Today and Tomorrow
- E Communities that are Safe and feel Safe

SWDP 21 Design

3.2.4 Policy SWDP21 Design encourages higher standards of design. All proposals for new buildings must demonstrate a high standard of design and make a positive contribution to the visual quality of the environment. In the consideration of development proposals, the following design aspects will be taken into account:

- Siting and Layout
- Relationship to Surroundings and Other Development
- The Settings of the City and Towns
- Neighbouring Amenity
- Settlement Character
- Mix of Uses
- Flexible Design

3 Preparing and submitting a planning application

- Scale, Height and Massing
- Links, Connectivity and Access
- Detailed Design and Materials
- Appropriate Facilities
- Landscaping, green assets and biodiversity
- Public Realm
- Creating a Safe and Secure Environment
- Advertisements

However the SPD is also relevant to the following additional SWDP policies:

- SWDP4 Moving around South Worcestershire
- SWDP5 Green Infrastructure
- SWDP6 Historic Environment
- SWDP10 Protection and Promotion of Centres and Local Shops
- SWDP13 Effective Use of Land
- SWDP14 Market Housing Mix
- SWDP16 Rural Exception Sites
- SWDP18 Replacement Dwellings in the Open Countryside
- SWDP19 Dwellings for Rural Workers
- SWDP20 Housing to Meet the Needs of Older People
- SWDP22 Biodiversity and Geodiversity
- SWDP23 The Cotswolds and Malvern Hills Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- SWDP24 Management of the Historic Environment
- SWDP25 Landscape Character
- SWDP27 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy
- SWDP29 Sustainable Drainage Systems
- SWDP30 Water Resources, Efficiency and Treatment

AONB Management Plans

3.2.5 South Worcestershire is covered by two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), across the Malvern Hills and Cotswolds. Section 89 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) states that AONB Management plan “formulate local authority policy for the management of the AONB and for the carrying out of the local authority functions in relation to that policy”. Therefore the respective management plans are a material consideration in planning and this is recognised by SWDP23. This states that development proposals should have regard to the current AONB Management Plan. In the case of the Malvern Hills the AONB Board have also published guidance on building design. http://www.malvernhillsaonb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/MalvernBuildingDesignGuideLoRes_000.pdf

3.3 Design and Access Statements

3.3.1 A Design and Access Statement is a concise report accompanying and supporting a planning application to illustrate the process that has led to the development proposal and to explain the proposal in a structured way. The statements are important as they can provide a way for applicants to set out how an application has evolved and to justify the design details of their proposal. This enables planning officers, statutory consultees, local communities and other interested parties to better understand the impacts and implications of a proposal.

3.3.2 Design and Access Statements are now only required for certain types of development. With regard to residential development this is where the number of dwellings is in excess of 10, the site area is 0.5ha or above. In other types of development where the floor space is 1,000 square metres or more, or the site area is 1ha or above.

3.3.3 The SPD can be used to inform the process for creating Design and Access Statements and assist in achieving higher standards of development that have considered the social, economic and environmental impacts that are intrinsic to achieving sustainable development. Please note that applications for householder extensions are not required to provide a Design and Access Statement unless they are within a conservation area or require listed building consent.

3.4 Heritage Statement

3.4.1 Heritage statements are required where a development may affect a designated or undesignated heritage asset. They should fulfil the requirements of the Framework (para.128), whereby “local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting”. Heritage statements should include sufficient information to understand the potential impact of proposals on the significance of any heritage assets affected; the level of detail should be proportionate to the asset’s importance. As a minimum the relevant Historic Environment Record should be consulted (Worcester City or Worcestershire County Council). Guidance on the content of a heritage statement should be sought from the relevant SWC.

3.5 Building for Life 12

3.5.1 The Building for Life 12 standard (2015) continues to be supported and endorsed at a national level by Design Council CABE, Home Builders Federation, and Design for Housing and is considered to be an appropriate standard to apply when assessing the design quality of new homes and residential development. As such the SWC encourage the use of this

3 Preparing and submitting a planning application

standard to assist in the assessment of residential applications. CABE design reviews, endorsed by the Design Council, are invaluable in independently assessing design quality and sustainability of important and/or sensitive schemes.

3.5.2 The Building for Life standard comprises 12 questions that can be used as a basis for writing development briefs, and can be used by officers and members to assess the quality of residential developments. It is important that applicants consider all of the questions when submitting their design and access statements particularly in schemes of 5 dwellings or more. Applicants with smaller schemes will also be encouraged to respond to these questions.

3.5.3 As set out in the Reasoned Justification to SWDP21 the SWC will seek higher standards through Building for Life 12 and use it to assess the quality of proposed designs. It should also help to speed up the processing of planning applications. For further guidance on this standard and examples of well designed schemes please see the Design Council website (<http://www.designcouncil.org.uk/resources/guide/building-life-12-third-edition>).

3.5.4 In the case of affordable housing development there are a number of additional specifications/standards that need to be met as a prerequisite of any affordable housing grant funding received from the Homes and Community Agency. These are set out in the 2007 Design Quality Standards and include reference to Housing Quality Indicators, and Building for Life. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/design-and-quality-standards>

3.6 Design Review

3.6.1 Design Review is a tried and tested method of promoting good design and is an effective way to improve quality and its use by both local planning authorities and developers is reinforced by the Framework (para. 62). The Design Review process provides impartial expert advice to applicants and local authorities on design issues in relation to important new development schemes and proposals for public spaces. Schemes can include minor applications, major planning applications and pre-application development proposals. A panel will comprise of a group of independent, multi-disciplinary construction professionals working in the field of the built environment. Panel members must not have a prejudicial interest in schemes they are assessing.

3.6.2 The panel recommendations can be used to improve design quality in proposals and have as much value to emerging schemes prior to submission of a planning application to a review of a 'live' application in advance of any determination to grant permission. A proposal that has been through the Design Review process is far less likely to be refused planning permission on the grounds of poor design and therefore its use is encouraged.

3.6.3 The Midlands Architecture Centre (MADE) provides an independent Design Review service and more details on this can be found via the following link <http://made.org.uk/design-review>.

4 Achieving good design in new development

4.1 The Design Process



Malvern Community Hospital

4.1.1 Clearly inspirational and creative ideas form the basis of good design, but equally this must also be based on a full understanding of the site, locality and specific needs of the users. Therefore, the design process can be broken down into three stages which if followed should ensure that residential developments achieve a high quality of design appropriate to their context and setting, and deliver sustainable and durable buildings for the future.

- Context Analysis
- Developing the Design Concept
- Detailed Design

4.1.2 Each development presents a unique opportunity to design a scheme, which makes positive use of the site characteristics and the local context. Developers are encouraged to seek design solutions appropriate to each site taking into account the location, type, size and density of development proposed.

4.1.3 The **key objective in designing for new development is the creation of buildings and places that are sustainable, attractive, safe and convenient to live in.** To achieve this, careful consideration must be given to all the constituent elements making up the whole **environment** including the:

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- internal and external design of the buildings.
- surrounding uses.
- spaces between the buildings.
- streets that provide access.
- historic environment, landscape and ecology; and
- how these relate to each other.

4.2 Context Analysis

The design process begins with a full analysis of the site and the context in which it is set. Any application needs to demonstrate a clear understanding of the existing situation, including the surrounding land and land uses. The information gathered at this stage is crucial to informing the design concept and final detailed design for a scheme. From all of this initial work a thorough understanding of the area will emerge with regard to the type(s) and magnitude of potential constraints and opportunities on and off-site. The information collected at this stage will form a basis for establishing priorities and objectives and generating initial design concepts.

4.2.1 In order to give development identity and maintain the existing character of the locality, the overall design of any scheme should address the desired relationships between existing built or landscape features and the new development. Consequently, an understanding of the local context is fundamental to achieving good design. There are essentially two stages in undertaking a context analysis:

- Site Appraisal – an understanding of the nature of the wider context that surrounds the site in terms of both the natural and built environment; and
- Site Analysis – covers site specifics and how this relates to the wider context.

4.3 Site Appraisal

4.3.1 The starting point of every development is a detailed study of its physical context. Architects, urban designers and developers need to understand the specific physical characteristics of the site being developed. The design concept for each site will vary depending upon these characteristics. Equally important is that every development site forms part of a wider context and therefore should never be seen in isolation.

4.3.2 It is important to establish how the proposed site relates to surrounding land, and the site appraisal forms a key part of that process. This applies to whether the design relates to housing, commercial, retail, or public realm. This stage should involve the collection of qualitative and quantitative information to establish a comprehensive profile of the site and the locality through the combination of information gathering, survey and analysis, i.e. desk appraisal and site survey. Existing environmental assets on the site may also be important and should wherever possible inform and complement the new design.

Desk Appraisal

4.3.3 This can be divided into two types of work. The initial desk appraisal is a routine research process which focuses on information gathering that is publicly and easily accessible. The second requires specialist technical input, e.g. from those with ecology, landscape, environmental, archaeological, built heritage, transport, and public health expertise.

Standard Appraisal – the following steps should be undertaken as part of the desk appraisal:

1. Review of all national and local policy documents and guidance forming part of the Local Development Framework.
2. Previous and current land use/buildings, planning history, access, Tree Preservation Orders, heritage assets/archaeology, landscape, geodiversity and biodiversity (especially including, but not exclusive to, protected species and habitats).
3. Phase 1 Desktop Study for Contaminated Land.
4. Connections to neighbouring and existing communities and settlements.
5. Wider assessment of the site can make reference to historical records/maps and aerial photographs to assess the type of activities carried out.
6. Finally information should be gathered on the local services, site capacity/densities, land ownership, ground conditions and legal issues.

Technical Material – outlined below are those studies that are more likely to be required to support certain types of development:

4.4 Environmental Impact Assessment

4.4.1 This is a legal requirement, usually only for very large development or if development will impact on a sensitive location. It provides information about the likely environmental effects of a proposal as required by The Infrastructure Planning (EIA) Regulations May 2017. Details of what can be required are set out in the regulations and the scope of the Environmental Statement should be discussed with the local planning authority at the pre-application stage.

4.4.2 However, a summary is provided below:

1. A description of the proposed development including information about the site, design size or scale.
2. Data necessary to identify and assess the main environmental effects of the development.
3. A description of the likely significant impacts, both direct and indirect of the proposals by reference to a range of environmental indicators.
4. Description of any measures to mitigate any significant adverse effects.
5. A non-technical summary of all the detailed technical reports.

4.5 Landscape and Visual Impact

4.5.1 In accordance with SWDP25 Landscape Character, development proposals must take into account the latest Landscape Character Assessment and guidelines. Proposals should conserve, and where appropriate, enhance the primary characteristics and important features of the Land Cover Parcel, and take the available opportunity to enhance the landscape.

4.5.2 SWDP25 also requires a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) for all major development proposals and other proposals where they are likely to have a detrimental impact on a significant attribute; irreplaceable landscape features, or landscape as a resource. In assessing character individual landscape elements should be identified; which are of inherent exceptional or high landscape value and which should be retained; areas within the site which have some landscape character or elements that are important but that could accommodate some development; areas with little or no existing landscape structure and that need positive improvement or enhancement to create a new landscape or improvements to existing landscapes.

4.5.3 Further information on the landscape character of south Worcestershire can be found in the County Landscape Character Assessment on Worcestershire County Council's website via the following link: http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20014/planning/1006/landscape_character_assessment

4.6 Historic Environment

4.6.1 Development proposals within the context of the historic environment should adhere to the policies in SWDP6 Historic Environment and SWDP24 Management of the Historic Environment. All sites have historic character although the significance of this will vary. The historic environment and historic character should form part of any site appraisal. Buried archaeological remains may form part of the site character though these are most usually addressed through investigation of archaeological potential via assessment or field evaluation as part of a planning application.

4.6.2 Encouragement is given for more detailed analysis of the site as the design process evolves, but for initial appraisal for design purposes, online resources may provide sufficient information. These include:

- Historic England, National Heritage List for England (details of all designated heritage assets apart from conservation areas).
- Heritage Gateway (provides partial access to the Worcestershire and Worcester City Historic Environment Records (HER)).
- Local Lists of heritage assets: Worcester; Malvern Hills and Wychavon.
- Conservation area listings, designation reports and appraisals.

4.7 Ecology/Biodiversity/Geologically

4.7.1 Development proposals should be supportive of SWDP22 Biodiversity and Geodiversity. Wildlife habitats adjacent to the site must be identified at a very early stage to assess the short and long-term effects of development. The desk appraisal and pre-application discussions with the relevant officers will establish the ecological and geological sensitivity of the site and its surroundings locality, e.g. if known:

- Internationally designated or proposed sites. South Worcestershire currently contains two Special Area of Conservation (SAC); Bredon Hill (within Wychavon) and Lyppard Grange, Worcester.
- National designations, e.g. Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).
- Regionally significant sites containing viable areas of threatened species
- Locally significant nature conservation sites range from high value sites, e.g. ancient semi-natural woodland, local nature reserves, Local Wildlife Sites, and other potentially undesignated sites of value, for example those contributing to Green Infrastructure.
- Regionally important Local Geological Sites and SSIs designated on geological grounds.
- Habitats and species of principle importance listed under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC) as these will also be valid considerations in development design.

4.7.2 Where appropriate, an ecological appraisal should be undertaken to identify key habitats and species on site and the immediate vicinity and establish the key constraints to development of the site and opportunities for potential habitat improvements. Where a proposed development site is surrounded by nature conservation designations, off-site adjoining areas should be investigated in the context of nature conservation policy constraints.

4.7.3 Useful information can be accessed via the Worcestershire Biological Records Centre <http://www.wbrc.org.uk/> and the Geological Records Centre at the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust <http://www.earthheritagetrust.org/>

4.8 Land Contamination/ground conditions/air quality

4.8.1 Development proposals should be supportive of SWDP31 Pollution and Land Instability. Where it is considered that the land could be contaminated by previous uses, or were former landfill sites, detailed historical information for the site, and for the surrounding area, should be reviewed. In these instances the environmental setting needs to be assessed for any potential environmental risk posed by past or current operations at or in the locality of the site. This should include:

- Reviewing the relevant contaminated land register.
- Appraisal of geological and hydrological conditions.
- Local borehole and ground/surface water flow conditions.

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- Review of data held by British Geological Survey.
- Request for supplementary information from the Environment Agency.
- Phase 2 Intrusive Site Investigation for Land Contamination if required.
- Certain developments will require an Air Quality Assessment (AQA) to be carried out particularly if it is in or near an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) or it is a large development which could potentially effect air quality.

4.9 Transport Assessment

4.9.1 Development proposals need to satisfy SWDP4 Moving Around South Worcestershire, in particular the need for all development proposals to minimise demand for travel, as well as a Travel Plan and Transport Assessment Strategy for all major development. Therefore a Transport Assessment may need to be carried out and this can be raised with the county council as the highway authority early on at the pre-application discussion stage. Where required, a Transport Assessment would need to include the following aspects and use a methodology and strategy that is appropriate to the scale of development:

- An assessment of trip generation and distribution by all different modes of transport.
- A detailed study of access by all modes of transport and to key services and facilities.
- A catchment area assessment.
- A passenger transport solutions plan for up to 20 years.
- A Safety Assessment.
- A Traffic Impact Assessment, including an assessment of emissions and air quality.
- An assessment of the geographical scope of the proposal and impacts on the surrounding and adjoining areas.

4.9.2 Further information on preparing a transport assessment and the minimum requirements can be found at: <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/pdf/wcc-ht-ltp-v2-requirements-for-transportassessment10.Pdf>

4.10 Health and Wellbeing (Health Impact Assessment)

4.10.1 As part of the design process, applicants or prospective applicants should be guided by the Planning for Health SPD to undertake a Health Impact Assessment where developments meet the suggested threshold levels. Health Impact Assessment (HIA) ensures that the effects of development on both health and health inequalities are considered and addressed during the planning process.

4.10.2 HIA is undertaken to predict the health implications on a population of implementing a plan, policy, programme or project, and in doing so aids the decision-making process. HIA should aim to enhance the potential positive aspects of a proposal through assessment, while avoiding or minimising any negative impacts, with particular emphasis on disadvantaged sections of communities that might be affected.

4.10.3 Linking this process up when considering design could provide a key opportunity to assess and/or find solutions to any design and health implications/impacts at an early stage. For further information relating to the Planning for Health SPD and HIA, please see the SWDP website.

4.11 Site Analysis

4.11.1 New development must relate well, functionally and visually to the site and its setting. This relationship can be achieved if the site is analysed and recorded to identify the elements on or around the site that have a valuable or potentially detrimental impact on the proposed development.

4.11.2 The site analysis will look in detail at the existing characteristics of the development site, examples of features to note being:

i) Existing characteristics

- Existing entrances – vehicle, pedestrian, cycle etc.
- Existing routes through the site – public footpaths, ‘desire’ lines, safeguarded routes and links to wider access and transport networks.
- Boundary treatments.
- Historic layouts and uses.
- Existing buildings – assessment of quality, heritage significance and the desirability of retention within any development.
- Landscape features within the site, e.g. trees, hedges or water features and the desirability to retain and manage within any development.
- Existing and potential wildlife habitats.
- Green corridors/amenity/recreation opportunities.
- Views in to and out of the site.
- Orientation for solar gain.
- Changes in ground levels.
- Natural drainage.

ii) Position of the development site

- Is it an entrance to a settlement or a gateway site.
- Is it or should it be a focal point.
- Is the site in a prominent location.
- Architectural form of surrounding buildings.
- Is the site within or adjacent to a listed building, designated area or area of special character e.g. a conservation area, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), Special Landscape
- Area, Parks and Gardens, Schedule Monuments, and archaeological remains.

iii) Movement networks / accessibility

- The layout and hierarchy of surrounding roads and footpaths or cycle ways.
- The location of public transport.
- The accessibility of the site in terms of the location of any services and facilities.
- Adjacent land uses.
- The location of visible landmarks.

iv) Building layouts

- Patterns in road and car park layouts (grid sizes and arrangement).
- The arrangement of buildings – perimeter block sizes and shapes.
- Treatment of road hierarchy, e.g. width, building lines, length of front gardens.

v) Streetscape

- The use of materials.
- Relationship between buildings and streets vistas.
- Prevailing patterns in building design.
- Distinctive features in building design (vertical and horizontal rhythms).

vi) Natural landscape assessment

- Topography and changes in ground levels.

- Views and vistas into and across the site.
- Surrounding landscape features.
- Open spaces, footpaths and green spaces.
- Identification of existing and potential wildlife habitats, protected species and green corridors with potential ecological value, as well as amenity use.
- Geological sites or geodiversity interest.

vii) Detailed building design

- The design and appearance of surrounding buildings in terms of features such as:
 - Form
 - Scale
 - Materials
 - Roof, window and doorway design

4.11.3 It is recognised that in some locations the surrounding environment will provide few contextual clues or positive features where any attempt at integrating the development could mean reinforcing the mediocre or worse. In these instances designers should draw inspiration from the wider context and aim to create an innovative and visually attractive development that will make a positive contribution to development in the locality, leading the way for better development in the future.

4.12 Identifying Local Needs and Communities

4.12.1 Effective collaboration between planners, investors/developers and the local community for significant development, and indeed for any proposals in general is critical to the design, approval and successful implementation of new development. The planning and development management process involves early and effective engagement and consultation with key parties and local communities.

4.12.2 In the first instances reference should be made to the SWC Statement of Community Involvement <http://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/?s=SCI>. This sets out what is expected from applicants in terms of consultation on development proposals over and above the basic statutory requirements. It includes the best practice methods, identification of key stakeholders and matches appropriate techniques to the scale of particular proposals.

4.12.3 Crucial to any process of engagement, on larger sites and especially significant urban extension is to produce a consultation strategy at the outset. It should be noted this process is more than publicity and awareness raising, rather a two-way exchange of views

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and opportunities for all groups involved to influence design outcomes, understand how decisions have been reached and to try and achieve a consensus around a development proposal.

4.12.4 Therefore a consultation strategy should set out:

- Who will be delivering the process?
- The aims, benefits and risks associated with the process.
- Identification of key groups.
- Stages at which it will be carried out.
- Type of techniques to be used, appropriate to the scale of development.
- Integration to a parallel communication/publicity or marketing strategy and feedback.

4.12.5 The Statement of Community Involvement provides some guidance on this and it will vary dependent on the complexity of the development proposals. A complex site, with a range of interests groups will require a different approach compared with a relatively straightforward development.

4.12.6 Central to the process is that differing objectives need to be reconciled in order to achieve good design outcomes and inevitably compromise is part of this. That said, local knowledge of the site, or surroundings and awareness of issues and needs held by the community is a valuable source of knowledge and should be sought out early in the process to avoid initial nonviable solutions.

4.12.7 Typically, workshop style events to gather information early on, or develop a 'vision' followed by more hands on design forums, e.g. Enquiry by Design or Planning for Real® to explore options and refine development proposals with a range of stake holders would be appropriate for significant schemes. These are time consuming and require careful planning but can pay dividends in setting out principles and getting people on board. Alternatively, simple communication of information is needed for different groups, investors and local politicians at an early stage to gain support for the proposals.

4.12.8 With the introduction of neighbourhood plans and the potential for these to allocate sites for development there are opportunities to work with local communities to formulate site development briefs and masterplans that can form part of a final adopted neighbourhood plan.

4.13 Local Character and Distinctiveness

4.13.1 Local distinctiveness is what shapes the personality of a place. It is the combination of characteristics and qualities that combine to give a place its own particular identity and atmosphere and provides people with a sense of pride in where they live, work or spend their leisure time. Specifically it is about:

- How a place looks and feels.

- Its architecture and detail.
- Rhythm of buildings (the pattern and flow of the street frontages).
- Local materials.
- Boundary treatments, e.g. enclosure patterns, historic plot boundaries and hedgerows.
- Landscaping and biodiversity.
- The pattern of characteristics that contribute to landscape character.
- The turning and marking of corners.
- Public open spaces.
- Views and Vistas.

4.13.2 These factors are important in attracting people to live, work, visit and invest in a locality. However, increasingly these qualities are being eroded; by globalisation e.g. many high streets contain the same national retailers; loss of local character; by use of standard designs; and erosion of the connection between people and their local environment. Consequently it is important that any new development recognises and responds to its setting. A full understanding of the neighbourhood and the local context of the site is vital to ensure that new development integrates successfully into the community.

4.13.3 New development proposals must demonstrate a full appreciation of the local area to assist in nurturing local distinctiveness. This includes identifying and responding to the local climate, urban form, culture, landscape character topography, local architecture, built form and materials that are characteristic of the area, e.g. local stone usage. This should be used to inform the Design and Access Statement if required.

4.13.4 By understanding the history of an areas growth and expansion, and the ways in which these patterns are layered on the landscape it is possible to inform future design in a positive way. The county council has information about historic landscape character to assist with defining different village types in the rural areas of south Worcestershire, the county and city; HERS include Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) coverage of the whole area. In the case of conservation areas there are a number of detailed conservation area appraisals available via the relevant SWC webpages.

4.13.5 The SWC do not wish to promote pastiche developments (i.e. imitations of existing styles or replicas), instead by understanding the context and setting there is an opportunity to reinforce local character and to create places with a sense of identity. This is particularly applicable to larger schemes where a sense of identity and place is critical. Smaller infill schemes provide the opportunity to add to the character and quality of an area and further enhance the context and setting.

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4.13.6 It may not always be appropriate for the applicant to provide an extremely detailed analysis of the context of an area, for example where the existing design and built form is poor in quality. On the other hand development in conservation areas will require a thorough understanding of the local context and this should be addressed in the Design and Access Statement and Heritage Statement if required.

4.13.7 In analysing the character of the surrounding context it is important to consider:

- Layout of streets and spaces (this could include the use of a figure ground plan).
- Block size and shape.
- Streets and other routes.
- Relationship of buildings to streets.
- Relationship of buildings and streets to topography.
- Scale, height and massing of buildings.
- Building types.
- Materials and detailed designs.
- Landscape character.
- Historic character.

4.13.8 The character appraisal is the way in which local distinctiveness will be analysed and applicants will be expected to provide evidence that both the existing pattern of development and its special qualities have been examined and the detailed design solution, whether contemporary, or otherwise positively responds to these findings.

4.14 A Role for Modern Architecture and Contemporary Design

4.14.1 The SWC support the use of innovative design, which enhances the overall quality of the townscape and landscape either in established core areas, or as extensions to more recent development. Consequently the SWC wish to encourage the best of contemporary design and leave a legacy of architecture for future generations to value. National planning policy does not allow local planning authorities to prescribe an aesthetic when achieving good quality contemporary architecture, but the SWC are committed to work with architects and designers in a positive manner at both masterplanning stages and when schemes come forward in order to achieve good quality design.

4.14.2 It is not always easy to introduce modern architecture into a city setting or adjacent to historic towns, villages and conservation areas. Often the inclination is to imitate the existing styles that can lead to a poverty of ambition and failure to match the quality of design and craftsmanship of the surrounding buildings. Likewise, in terms of recent large-scale residential development the tendency has been to deliver 'off the peg' design solutions that are often variations on the Victorian vernacular, neo-Georgian theme, or pastiche of early to mid 20th

century housing types that more or less mimic the residential areas within the locality. Such development can often display a lack of affinity with established buildings, layouts and street patterns as well as a trend towards uniformity with development in other parts of the country.

4.14.3 In design terms for most of the 20th century, architectural styles drew on a range of influences that led to the exploration of many new technologies including combinations of flat roofs, steel, glass and concrete. Although popular opinion has characterised some architecture from this period with a negative image, good examples have led to architectural styles clearly characteristic of a particular era, as distinctive in many ways to preceding buildings from Edwardian, Victorian, Georgian and earlier periods.

4.14.4 All these styles were contemporary in their day, and contemporary design is that which makes best use of the most up-to-date materials and ideas in both the technical and aesthetic sense as well as incorporating sustainable building principles to a high standard. The fact that it may draw on past styles, to a certain extent grounds the building or buildings as locally distinctive.

4.14.5 Town and city centre redevelopment and regeneration sites can be the most challenging locations to bring forward successful schemes for a variety of reasons, including finding the most appropriate design solution. These locations however can also offer the potential to secure increased value through contemporary and innovative design. High Streets often contain the widest variety of architectural styles from the late medieval to the late twentieth century. Development in these locations should aspire to the highest design standards and secure landmark development that has the potential to be the built heritage of the future. A number of opportunity zones are identified within the SWDP (SWDP44). These are the areas which could most easily be re-developed to secure an increased density of development with a much wider variety of uses than exist at present. Parts of these opportunity zones have a design context, e.g. the former Vulcan Engine Works at Shrub Hill while other parts, e.g. the former town gas site between Tolladine Road and Rainbow Hill have very little existing built form to guide the design of any proposed re-development. Early engagement with heritage officers at the city council is advised after any initial appraisal of these sites and before a design solution reaches an advanced stage or agreement between developer and architect.

4.14.6 As such a contemporary design can involve new materials and technology used in a traditional format; the use of traditional materials in a new and innovative design or it can be a combination of both. In any event it will enable originality and utility in the building or new development, although unlikely to look much like existing buildings in the vicinity, can sympathetically fit and also is an expression of the time. Where adventurous new designs have been tried they can become valued local landmarks and make a positive contribution to the locality including through higher land values. Innovative designs can be particularly successful when integrated into conservation areas or as an extension to historical buildings and do not need to be confined to areas outside of these designations.

4.15 Recognising Good Design

4.15.1 Promoting and acknowledging good design is an important part of the process and for a number of years Wychavon District Council have been running a biannual Building Design Award that recognises excellence of design in a number of categories, including heritage, residential (new build and extensions), sustainable buildings and community

architecture. The Awards are for building projects that show real design quality, craftsmanship and sustainable building practice. Judging is by an independent panel and the process has been supported by MADE since 2012.

4.15.2 A number of examples of the successful winners at the beginning of each section are included, along with selected developments from Malvern Hills and Worcester, that are considered to show best practice in design.

5 Developing the Design Concept - Design Principles

5.1 Connecting Places



Veridis House, Hawford

5.1.1 Having completed a full analysis of the site and character of the area the next stage is to develop a design concept which needs to be based on established urban design principles. The most successful designs explore all the options available in order to establish the most suitable design solution for a site. It is important when designing any new development that consideration is given to how the development connects both visually and physically with its surroundings. There are two key principles that need to be considered under the theme of connectivity:

1. A development should be well integrated and connected to its surroundings and the existing network of streets.
2. A development should have good levels of connectivity and ease of movement through the site itself, which is particularly relevant for larger schemes.

Existing routes and connections

5.1.2 It is important that new development has good links to existing or proposed public transport facilities and service centres. This is fundamental to achieving more sustainable patterns of movement and to reducing reliance on the car.

5.1.3 A well integrated network of green routes (which includes Green Infrastructure) can also assist in providing alternative routes for pedestrians and cyclists as well as providing health and wellbeing benefits and protection/enhancement of wildlife and biodiversity.

5.1.4 Applicants will be required to submit a masterplan, or scheme layout for smaller scale developments, that demonstrates that the proposal is well integrated with existing facilities. Sites that are not well linked will have been identified at the site appraisal stage and are unlikely to be appropriate for residential development without significant investment in infrastructure.

5.1.5 Close consultation and liaison with Worcestershire County Council as the Highway Authority is recommended from a very early stage to ensure that connectivity is fully maximised. Where the provision of links to existing routes and facilities is restricted developers will be expected to enhance or subsidise public transport facilities. Any upgrades to public rights of way will need to be undertaken at the developers expense i.e. surfacing, lighting etc. and will require consultation with, and the agreement of the county councils Public Rights of Way team.

5A. Principles that should be followed to successfully connect developments to existing networks

1. New development should create a designed sequence of spaces.
2. New development must connect with and relate to the pattern of spaces already present to provide continuity and links to the existing street network and facilities in the area.
3. It is important that new development overlooks existing routes.
4. Existing public rights of way need to be identified and the level of usage recognised so that suitable links are incorporated into new schemes. These can provide an opportunity to encourage more sustainable forms of transport through improved pedestrian and cycling access.
5. Green corridors should be incorporated into schemes to benefit wildlife and to provide access routes for pedestrians and cyclists which in turn help to promote healthier lifestyles.
6. These should link effectively to any existing or proposed Green Infrastructure beyond the site boundary. Where possible the creation of new links into GI outside the site boundary in a sensitive manner should be sought.
7. Established desire lines should be integrated into the new scheme, e.g. views along the street.

8. Consider heritage assets and the wider historic environment and how they can be successfully incorporated within the layout and access considerations of the site.
9. On a larger scale long distance views of distinctive features within the skyline, or views of a significant landscape or architectural features e.g. Worcester Cathedral, Malvern, Evesham and Pershore Abbey and views of and from The Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Bredon Hill in the Cotswolds AONB should be integrated.

Ease of Movement

5.1.6 It is important that movement within a proposed site is carefully planned and that priority is given to the most sustainable forms of transport to help reduce car dependency and to satisfy the needs of pedestrians and cyclists. The table below demonstrates how pedestrians and cyclists should be considered first, followed by consideration for other road users.

5.1.7 Disability legislation also requires that the needs of disabled people should be considered before any other road user so all applications need to demonstrate that all routes through a development are accessible to all.

5B. Principles that should be followed to enhance ease of movement through a site

1. New routes may include pedestrian and cycle only paths, open spaces and green corridors, and more traditional streets where there is provision for motor vehicles.
2. Provision of secure cycle storage.
3. It is important that routes connect with places that people want and need to visit, e.g. schools, shops and open spaces, so that all homes are well connected throughout the scheme.
4. Reflecting best practice where possible access to a range of services should be walkable, i.e. within a 10 minute walk (approximately 800 metres) to enable comfortable access on foot and to minimise car dependency.
5. It is desirable for dwellings to be within 250 metres of a bus stop to access facilities further afield.
6. In residential development cul-de-sacs, if used, should be short and straight and part of a linked layout, however alternative layouts are preferable.
7. Routes must be accessible to all, including those with disabilities to ensure that they can easily and comfortably negotiate their way around the development. Provision of benches and level access can assist in delivering this principle.

5 Developing the Design Concept - Design Principles

8. Pedestrian routes should not be isolated; walkways and cycle routes should be overlooked to encourage natural surveillance.
9. Where vehicular access is required measures need to be incorporated to reduce traffic speeds along new streets to assist in creating pedestrian friendly environments.
10. The maximum design speed should be 20mph through residential areas so it is imperative that traffic calming is considered from the outset and not added as an afterthought. Please note that the Highway Authority do not accept vertical changes in alignment (ramps) as a means of achieving this. For further information please see http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/downloads/file/1847/highways_design_guide and the county council's draft Streetscape Design Guide.
11. For larger schemes, street design could be developed using the concept of shared space where there are fewer street signs, road markings or edge of pavement barriers and the same space is designed to be used by a range of different users. Please see the Department for Transport's Manual for Streets and Manual for Streets 2 for further information.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/manual-for-streets-2>
12. For most large schemes a safety audit / risk assessment may be necessary to ensure that the street design is safe for all users, and in some cases it will be necessary to carry out a wider quality audit to ensure the design is meeting the needs of the potential future users.
13. It is important that the design is able to accommodate access for emergency and waste service vehicles, as well as providing sufficient parking for those that live in the development.
14. Parking provision should be overlooked to encourage natural surveillance but there should not be large clusters of car parking e.g. garage courts, instead smaller parking areas should be dispersed through the scheme (see para. 5.7 covering Amenities).
15. For larger schemes applicants are required to include a Travel Plan to clearly demonstrate how sustainable transport measures have been incorporated into the scheme. Please see the following link to obtain information on preparing travel plans.
<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/transport-and-streets/transport/plans-and-strategies/travel-plans.aspx>

5.2 Creating Mixed Use and a Range of Dwelling Types

5.2.1 In order to assist with delivering sustainable development it is important to consider mixed use development where residential, commercial, retail, leisure and other uses are developed alongside each other. This type of development is typical of many urban and suburban areas and where appropriate can be very successful. It is also imperative in these types of schemes to incorporate a mix of dwelling types and tenures to help to create socially diverse communities. Further guidance on this for Wychavon and Malvern is provided in the Annexe Note 2: Market Housing Mix Position Statement (2017).

5.2.2 There are many benefits to mixed use developments as they provide easy access to services and facilities and can help to create vibrant and diverse places to live and work. They offer the opportunity to have an improved quality of life with convenient access to facilities, resulting in reduced commuting and congestion, and greater opportunities for social interaction. Streets and facilities that are well used throughout the day and evening can also provide safer feeling communities and are generally more desirable places to live. Further benefits can be experienced through improved energy efficiency with buildings having shared uses, and in urban areas where land is limited, space and buildings can be put to use more effectively and efficiently, e.g. 'living over the shop'.

5C. Principles that should be followed to successfully deliver mixed use schemes

1. Create schemes that have a mix of type, size and tenure. Include family housing where possible and affordable housing to assist in achieving a mixed and sustainable community, these should usually be well dispersed to avoid clustering.
2. On larger scale sites it may be appropriate to follow a design approach where affordable housing is delivered in 'smaller' dispersed clusters of 10-12 units in line with guidance in the Affordable Housing SPD.
3. Provide a mix of units that allow people to stay within the development but change the size of their accommodation should the need arise.
4. In city, town, district and neighbourhood centre developments make full use of the upper floors and consider using the ground floor for commercial, retail or cultural activities. Developments that ignore the potential for additional floors for uses separate from the ground floor use are unlikely to be supported.
5. Where possible and appropriate residential developments are situated above other uses, they should have a separate access from street level, for safety reasons and to ensure that each use has its own address.
6. The compatibility of different uses within a development and how they interact with, and support one another needs to be carefully considered. Where there are conflicts between different uses, mitigation measures must be in place to reduce the impact, for example by the use of screening, building orientation and noise insulation.
7. Separate refuse and recycling facilities should be provided for the commercial elements of the development to the residential.
8. Within larger developments developers should consider providing facilities that benefit both resident and non-residents such as shops, café's, gymnasiums etc.
9. Retail and commercial uses benefit from being sited along main routes so they have the opportunity to attract passing trade making them more viable.
10. Create walkable neighborhoods, ensuring that residents can reach a range of services on foot, or at least gain quick and easy access to public transport (see Connecting Places chapter for acceptable distances).

5.3 Appropriate Residential Density

5.3.1 For new residential development it is important that consideration is given to the density of the proposal. In some locations it is appropriate to build to higher densities, and in some instances increased development density can enhance economic viability, support public transport and social amenities and improve the vitality of an area. Equally there will also be instances where low density development sits more comfortably with the existing street scene, hence the importance of achieving appropriate density.

5.3.2 In terms of determining the appropriate density and design for new development it is important to respond sensitively to the scale, form and massing of existing development. This can be identified through the context analysis (see Section 4.2). This is of greatest significance in conservation areas and areas of heritage value, where compatibility with existing scale and massing is essential. In terms of making the best use of land density levels should be guided by SWDP13 Effective Use of Land.

5.3.3 As well as considering the existing built form in determining appropriate density, it is also important to consider landscape features and where necessary provide buffers to protect existing habitats and features of importance. In addition to this, developments should allocate sufficient space for green infrastructure, in accordance with SWDP5 Green Infrastructure standards, within and around the edge of developments. This will have a corresponding impact on the density of development.

5.3.4 Delivering higher densities does not mean that all the housing has to be the same; instead a range of dwelling types needs to be incorporated so that the varying designs can cater for people at different stages of life. With good design it is possible to achieve higher densities without overcrowding, congestion and loss of residential amenity.

5D. Principles that should be followed to achieve appropriate density in varying locations

1. Developments in town centres or in public transport corridors where there is access to good facilities and services can normally cater for higher density developments.
2. Higher density developments must have good quality insulation between dwellings.
3. Higher density developments require some usable private outside space, such as balconies or patios.
4. Surrounding building heights and styles need to be responded to sensitively.
5. Create a varied streetscape.
6. Ensure that adequate parking provision is made without dominating the street scene or creating large garage courts.

7. Space should be allocated for green infrastructure within and around the edge of developments.
8. Density should respect local character as far as possible, and this may be especially important in rural areas and village locations.

5.4 Sustainable Design

5.4.1 This section deals with the design issues that need to be considered as a result of climate change including guidance on adapting to climate change, energy efficiency, resource management, sustainable building techniques, flood risk and water management.

5.4.2 As a result of climate change it is predicted that the UK will experience changing weather patterns, including rising sea levels and increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events leading to hotter and drier summers and milder and wetter winters. South Worcestershire could see more severe flooding episodes and increased occurrences of heat waves and drought events, all of which have negative social and economic impacts. It is important that we create homes of the future that are durable and can deal with these changing demands.

5.4.3 Predicted growth will undoubtedly put an additional strain on resources including water and energy supply, so it is critical that we create buildings that are water and energy efficient and do not put further pressure on finite resources. Further detail on this aspect of design is set out in the Renewable and Low Carbon Energy SPD and the Water Management and Flooding SPD.

Adapting to Climate Change

5.4.4 It is vital that the effects of climate change are given full consideration in terms of the lifetime of a new development in particular in the choice of location, design; the type of materials used and to ensure that ecological integrity, i.e. a measure of how intact or complete an ecosystem is, can be maintained. As climate change effects occur during the development lifetime (significant changes will occur for example in the next 50 years and most schemes would expect to last that long at least) the scheme must be able to withstand those changes in the way it is designed, and also so that it does not have an adverse effect on ecology and the environment over that time.

Energy Efficiency

5.4.5 Reducing the demand for energy and improving energy efficiency is an important starting point for achieving sustainable design and can assist in reducing fuel poverty in new developments. This can be achieved by introducing a number of measures into the scheme, and these are especially important for industrial/employment uses.

5.4.6 Designs should incorporate and maximise the use of renewable energy sources and demonstrate energy efficient methods of heating, lighting and ventilation. This can be achieved by using **passive solar design** features to harness renewable sources of heat and light without relying on energy consuming technologies such as pumps.

5.4.7 Natural daylight can be used to light and heat a building, and as such careful consideration should be given to the orientation of a building and the position and size of windows. Correctly positioning buildings can also maximise solar gain from any solar devices incorporated into a scheme. In the summer months where solar gain can be excessive there are design techniques that can be used to minimise this. Options include wide overhanging eaves or sun louvres, or brise soleil, to block out the sun when it is high in the sky in the summer, whilst allowing the low winter sun to penetrate.

5.4.8 In order to maximise solar gain and reduce overshadowing the space between buildings needs to be considered. General principles that should be followed to avoid overshadowing are detailed in the following table along with the principles to follow to optimise passive solar gain.

5E. Principles to follow for optimising passive solar gain

1. Buildings should be orientated so that the elevation with the most glazing faces within 30° of due south to take advantage of sun exposure and absorption of heat by the building.
2. Larger windows should be carefully sited to the south of the building to assist in reducing the demand for space heating, although designs should try to minimise solar gain in the summer.
3. Natural daylight should be exploited wherever possible to reduce the demand for artificial light. This can be achieved through the installation of sun pipes as well as conventional windows and glazed doors.
4. In residential development living rooms and bedrooms are best placed to the south of buildings to benefit from solar gain. Bathrooms are better placed to the north side of buildings as they benefit little from sunlight.
5. Buildings should be located to minimise overshadowing from other buildings and structures.
6. Minimise shading by locating taller buildings to the north of a site or to the south of car parks, road junctions or open spaces.
7. To prevent overshadowing avoid projections from the south elevation and staggered siting of buildings as this can prevent sunlight getting to parts of the building.
8. Consider the height and pitch of the roofs, lower pitched roofs reduce overshadowing.
9. Tree planting should be carefully considered, any trees that will grow and overshadow buildings should be deciduous so that they provide shade in the warmer summer months but allow sunlight to penetrate through the branches in the winter.

10. Incorporate wide overhanging eaves brise soleil or sun louvres to block out the high summer sun, whilst allowing the low winter sun to penetrate.
11. Parking and garaging is best placed to the north of housing as these do not benefit from exposure to sunlight.

5.4.9 Prevailing wind direction needs to be taken into account when orientating buildings as it can also have an impact on the energy efficiency of a building as well as affecting how comfortable the living environment can be.

5F. Principles to follow for effectively managing airflow in design

1. Building layout should seek to harness the positive effects of airflow and mitigate against the negative impacts.
2. New buildings should be designed to maximise *natural ventilation* so that during the summer warm breezes can assist the ventilation of a building and the outside environment. This can be achieved through positioning windows or air vents on opposite walls to draw fresh air through the building.
3. Thermal buffering needs to be considered in the design e.g. atriums, porches and integral garages, as cold winds in the winter months can increase the loss of heat from a building.
4. Within larger developments and urban extensions the layout, design and mix of buildings needs to deter wind funneling and the creation of 'eddies'. For example widely spaced buildings force winds downwards potentially making open spaces uncomfortable and can result in heat loss, especially if there is an isolated taller building. It is better to use integrated street patterns of low dense developments so that wind passes smoothly over buildings, rather than between structures.
5. Taller buildings and higher densities are better sited to the north of a site to help provide shelter from the colder north winds in the winter.

5.4.10 Part L1A and L2A (2016) Building Regulations, applied by Building Control currently works to ensure that energy efficient measures are implemented at the construction stage. However, consideration of climate conscious aspects of design at the planning application stage can ensure that more opportunities are exploited to maximise the energy efficiency of buildings.

Additional opportunities for maximising energy efficiency

- It is critical that walls, floors and roofs are insulated to 'best practice' specifications. Where possible developers should use dense materials to absorb solar gains and to even out temperature swings making new buildings more efficient to run and saving on energy costs.

5 Developing the Design Concept - Design Principles

- Consideration at the design stage should also be given to the installation of energy efficient appliances and the amount of space needed to accommodate them. The Energy Saving Trust is an excellent source for the latest information on these types of appliances including high efficiency condensing boilers.
- In achieving higher levels of insulation it is important that ventilation is carefully considered in the design. To avoid significant energy loss it may be appropriate to install Mechanical Heat Recovery Ventilation (MHRV).
- Smart Grid / smart energy should be incorporated and facilitated for the future where possible.

Further guidance can be sought on this from both Building Regulations or from the Energy Saving Trust website. <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/>

Renewable Energy

5.4.11 Development proposals should adhere to the policies in SWDP27 and the guidance in the Renewable and Low Carbon Energy SPD. The location and scale of a development will influence the success of sustainable energy solutions as different technologies are better suited to certain situations. It is important that applicants have regard to the opportunities and constraints that different sites offer and develop an approach that maximises energy efficiency and production, again this is very important for commercial schemes.

Green Roofs and Walls

5.4.12 A green or living roof can be defined as a system where vegetation is incorporated into a roof, usually supported by a growing medium, filter sheet, drainage/reservoir layer, root barrier and waterproof membrane. There is a spectrum of different types of green roof, broadly ranging from intensive to extensive, a reference to the degree of maintenance they require. Intensive roofs (roof gardens) consist of lush vegetation on a comparatively deep and relatively nutrient rich substrate which can accommodate shrubs and trees. Load bearing capacity should always be checked and some management may be required, however green roofs are a good sustainable solution for both domestic and larger industrial buildings, with several excellent examples in the county. They can also assist in sustainable drainage schemes.

5.4.13 Extensive roofs often have a shallow to medium depth substrate and are designed to be relatively self-sustaining. They require minimal maintenance and often only initial irrigation for establishment purposes. In addition, there are numerous permutations for intermediate treatments typically referred to as semi-intensive or simple-intensive green roofs.

5.4.14 Native green roofs are also good for biodiversity (for example especially when incorporating pollinator species), and useful in certain locations to assist delivery of Green Infrastructure. They can be used to assist the setting when integral to building design in combination with compatible choice of other materials. Green walls are another effective solution, either as part of a building, a retaining structure or free standing wall. There are

many types and they can assist in the setting and appearance of a building, provide biodiversity and also help with insulation, albedo and microclimate around a sustainable scheme. More information on green roofs can be found via the following link.

<http://www.greenroofguide.co.uk/>

Water Management and Conservation

5.4.15 Development proposals should adhere to the policies in SWDP28, 29, 30 and guidance in the Water Management and Flooding SPD. Any proposed development must consider the implications it may have on flood risk and include effective measures to manage the water cycle. All applications for development are required to submit a water management plan. It is important that sustainable drainage principles are adhered to, and applicants are encouraged to integrate the re-use and recycling of water into proposed schemes. Applicants are advised to refer to the Water Management and Flooding SPD for further guidance on this issue, as already vulnerable communities must not be put under any further pressure from flood risk whether it is from surface water run-off or existing water courses.

5.5 Residential Adaptability

5.5.1 New homes need to be designed so that they can be readily adapted in the future. An adaptable home is one that can be changed or modified to suit the changing needs of the occupants. These changes can include the need to run a business from home, the provision of a workshop or garage, a growing family, caring for relatives or adapting a home to maintain mobility and independence. An adaptable home can remove the need to relocate to alternative accommodation.

5G. Principles that should be followed to ensure homes are adaptable

1. Wider doorways and level entrances to allow for wheelchair access, and stairways should also be wide enough to allow for a lift or stair lift to be fitted should the need arise.
2. Where appropriate there should be scope to extend either backwards or upwards into the roof space should the occupant require more space.
3. Provision of a suitably sized garden for new houses should allow for the addition of a conservatory in the future whilst retaining sufficient outside space.
4. External walls of houses and apartments should carry the structural loads allowing the internal layout to be flexible, this enables occupants to add or remove partitions to suit their needs.
5. Room sizes should be sufficiently large to ensure that they can be used for a range of uses and not restrict the occupant, for example the room could be a workspace, a bedroom, a playroom or a study.

6. Incorporate broadband and cabling to facilitate future assistive technology.
7. Homes should conform where practicable to the sixteen Lifetime home principles which support future adaptation should the need arise. Please see the Lifetime Homes Guide (2011) at www.lifetimehomes.org.uk

5.6 A Safe Environment

5.6.1 Designing out crime should be considered as early as possible within the development process. This allows for an integrated approach with density, layout, massing, access and other primary design decisions being made with consideration of their potential to reduce crime. This can help reduce problems such as remote isolated spaces, unobserved alleyways, illegible routes and inappropriate housing layouts that cannot be easily reversed once implemented.

5.6.2 The layout of streets, buildings and public spaces can have an important influence on pedestrian activity. In general, layouts that provide clear, direct and well-overlooked routes and spaces allowing for natural surveillance make neighbourhoods safer as well as more attractive places in which to live. Badly designed footpaths, roads and spaces have the potential to aid the criminal and create fear in the public that are using connecting routes.

5.6.3 Landscape design plays an important role in creating an attractive environment that reinforces identity and enjoyment of a place, as well as generating a sense of pride and ownership. Poor landscape design can compromise the safety and security of its users and the surrounding properties. A higher standard of external space design is essential.

5H. Principles to follow to create a safe environment

1. A clear definition between public and private spaces helps to increase the awareness of intrusion.
2. Public realm should be accessible, attractive and have a clear function to avoid becoming neglected and a target area for crime.
3. In residential schemes (as required by SWDP 14: Market Housing Mix) a mix of housing types help create the opportunity for a cluster of homes to be occupied at different times during the day; encouraging community interaction, control and surveillance of the area by the residents.
4. Development blocks should be designed so that they enclose (internally) essentially private activity whilst providing a clear 'active' frontage to public routes.
5. Housing should overlook each other without interrupting personal space. Access routes to properties should be kept to a minimum and be as straight as possible.

6. Additionally defined ownership space (where possible) such as extra frontage and driveways can help to minimise the confusion over space management and maintenance.
7. Houses with gardens that share back-to-back common fencing with greenery can act as a subtle barrier to intruders.
8. Flat roofs on porches, extensions or garages where they can be used to gain access to the upper floors of buildings should be avoided.
9. Security measures taken to prevent crime should not result in a poorer urban environment, for example increased wall heights that enclose and impose on spaces and create blank elevations.
10. Quality doors and windows and their associated locks should be fitted from the outset and if seeking Secured by Design accreditation <http://www.securedbydesign.com/> should comply with the 'Police Preferred Specification' scheme.
11. Where appropriate good quality lighting provision can help to improve the quality of the built environment and increase pedestrian activity after dark, as well as increased levels of natural surveillance.
12. It is essential that landscape design is considered at the start of the project and that safety, ownership and maintenance issues are addressed.
13. Where possible car parking built within the curtilage is preferred, as this encourages more effective control and ownership of the vehicles.
14. Where resident parking is designed between dwellings, a window placed in the gable end of one of the units is recommended providing a view over the parked vehicles. Suitable (automatically switched) lighting to cover this space is required.
15. Communal garage blocks should be avoided. Past experience shows that they become play areas for younger people particularly if the garages have flat roofs.
16. Rainwater downpipes should be designed so they cannot be used as climbing aids.
17. Where a garage or parking space is positioned at the end of the back garden, the boundary fence should be 1.8 metres high with a viewing panel at a suitable height to allow observation from the dwelling by the owner.
18. Where detached garages are provided and space is available, the entrance should be positioned so that the resident and/or neighbours have an unrestricted view over the parking area.

5.7 Residential Amenities

5.7.1 It is important that sufficient outdoor space is provided for in the creation of new development. This amenity space helps to create an attractive environment in which to live and must be usable. This space can be for communal use, particularly in the case of apartments, but also for individual use and is an essential requirement in enhancing the occupants' quality of life.

5.7.2 The type and level of provision of outdoor space will vary according to the characteristics of the development, the site and its context. It should be an integral part of the design rather than an optional extra, and especially not be the space left over following all other aspects of a layout.

5.7.3 In a residential context access to outdoor space is required for a number of purposes all of which need to be catered for e.g. drying space for washing, play areas for children as well as areas for sitting and relaxing outside.

5I. Principles to follow to successfully integrate private amenity space

1. All development must provide some form of private amenity space, whether it is communal or individual, accessible to its residents.
2. All new build dwellings must have access to at least one area of usable private amenity space; this can include front or back gardens, roof gardens, decks or balconies. These should not be overshadowed, directly overlooked, steeply sloping or awkwardly spaced and in the case of balconies must be wide enough for seating. As far as possible this space should be protected from noise, air pollution and overlooking.
3. All outdoor private spaces need to be safe and secure.
4. All family homes require a private garden that is sufficiently sized to allow for seating and play.
5. Developments of 10 or more dwellings need to consider the play needs of children (SWDP39) either through the provision of a play area on the site or through contributions to an adjacent facility.
6. There must be a clear distinction between public and private amenity space, this can be achieved through the use of railings, hedges, low walls and fences that do not obstruct the natural surveillance onto a street.
7. Where there are existing hedges and walls these should be retained as far as possible to contribute to the character and sustain the biodiversity of the site.

8. Such spaces must be considered from the outset and adequate mechanisms and resources must be put in place to ensure the satisfactory future management of all communal spaces.
9. Have regard for safety and be positioned to allow for natural surveillance from the development.
10. Offer a variety of facilities for residents including space to play, seating, bedding and lighting and should be designed to allow for a range of uses by different types of users.
11. Depending on maintenance arrangements areas that are to be used for play should be landscaped so that growth will not interfere with natural surveillance.
12. Developments of 10 or more dwellings should provide allotments, either on or off site, (SWDP39). The allocation, subdivision, and future maintenance of allotments will need to be considered.

5.7.4 Other amenities and facilities that need to be included in design are concerned with parking and management of services for example dealing with refuse and recycling.

5.7.5 Access and parking for cars, bicycles and service vehicles is an integral part of any development. There are several ways in which car parking can be successfully managed within a scheme.

5J. Principles for successfully integrating residential parking

1. For larger schemes a mix of parking layouts should be used that provide sufficient spaces per dwelling as required by the county council's 2016 parking standards. <https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/documents/10586/1811948/APPENDIX+-+Interim+Parking+Standards+Adopted.pdf/e603f396-028a-4db1-ba09-9f9326076b77>
2. Avoid car parking courts of more than 12 spaces and ensure they are integrated into the public realm and well overlooked.
3. Minimise the impact of cars parked within the curtilage of a dwelling. This can be achieved by providing spaces between properties and integral garaging where there is sufficient space.
4. Off-site garaging should be avoided.
5. On street parking should be clearly defined and well landscaped to offset the visual impact. On street car parking can help to slow vehicle speeds in low traffic areas.

6. On street parking can run parallel to housing, but where there are space restrictions and in the interests of landscaping it may be beneficial to look at positioning the spaces perpendicular to the built form and using wider street plans and planting to create an attractive public realm.
7. The distance from the car parking space to the home should be kept to a minimum and should be level or gently sloping.
8. In terms of the width of a car parking space, where only the minimum requirement is met there must be scope for extending these should the need arise to allow for disabled access.
9. All new dwellings must provide space to securely store bicycles (SWDP4).
10. Electric vehicle charging points should be provided on schemes within town centres and throughout south Worcestershire where considered appropriate.

5.7.6 Another amenity consideration in the design of access to, from and around new developments is the provision of sufficient space for occupants to neatly store and sort refuse, including recycling and composting facilities. Requirements for bin storage should be considered before the detailed design work to ensure that suitable provision can be made.

5K. Principles to follow for dealing with waste disposal in residential development

1. The location of bin storage should be easily accessible and secure.
2. Bin storage areas, both communal and individual, should be screened so they do not have a negative impact on the street scene.
3. For housing there should be sufficient space for 2 wheelie bins.
4. In apartment developments applicants should provide communal recycling and waste disposal facilities which will need to be agreed with the relevant waste collection service.

6 Respecting the Natural and Historic Environment

6.1 Introduction



Overbury First School

6.1.1 Development in south Worcestershire needs to respond to and respect the natural and historic environment. The environment is a valuable and fragile resource that needs to be considered sensitively when planning and designing both large and small residential schemes. Accordingly development proposals should adhere to the policies in SWDP5, SWDP22, SWDP23, SWDP24 and SWDP38.

6.2 Natural Environment

6.2.1 The quality of the natural environment is an important factor in achieving quality of life and for maintaining and improving health (the NPPF); as such it is extremely important that the local environment is a key consideration in development proposals. A network of green routes and spaces should be considered from the outset. The county is rural in nature with urban areas set within this broad character. Developments should respond to the wider green infrastructure it is set within, and also in many cases have integral Green Infrastructure (GI) within and part of the development (linking effectively with external GI). The larger the scheme the more important this will be. The built environment can also provide an important function for nesting and roosting so promoting biodiversity.

6.2.2 Worcester displays a coherent GI which has been defined to sustain both biodiversity and linked green spaces intended to contribute good quality of life in a small urban district. Having evolved as a city, Worcester is predominantly built over but has significant green

6 Respecting the Natural and Historic Environment

assets including remnant areas of rural character, woodland and other open green areas. Some are designated at local and national level; some are not, but in total forms the coherent city green network as per the NPPF.

6.2.3 Beyond the city, the districts of Malvern Hills and Wychavon are predominantly rural with a rich and diverse natural environment and are home to a wide variety of species of flora and fauna. This is supported by a number of designated sites that are recognised at a local, regional and national level. The Malvern and Bredon Hills and the Cotswold Edge are distinctive landscapes because of the nature of the rocks that form the hills and that these rocks are visible at a number of protected/designated sites which display England's outstanding geological heritage, some of it of national importance.

6.2.4 It is critical that new development responds to the physical environment including the ranging topography, views and expanses of open space that are characteristic of the area, as well as ensuring that biodiversity and the quality of the natural environment is conserved and where possible enhanced. In order for development to become more sustainable the landscape needs to be a fully functioning system as well as a visual resource. Applicants are advised to consult the county council's Landscape Character Assessment Supplementary Guidance (2012) to ensure that the natural environment is a major consideration in the design of a scheme.

Issues that will need to be considered include:

- Areas of open space should be incorporated into schemes in line with SWDP5 to improve quality of life and to provide opportunities for wildlife habitats to be established.
- An ecological survey will normally be necessary, to different levels depending on the site concerned. A minimum level, i.e. 'preliminary ecological appraisal' will be required to ensure protected species and habitats are not adversely affected, all the way up to a full (phase 2) ecological survey.
- Designated geological sites should be protected, including incorporation in development design since they cannot be relocated (see examples at <http://www.englishgeodiversityforum.org/>)
- Incorporating biodiversity enhancement measures such as nest boxes for birds and roosts space for bats.
- A tree survey will be necessary if there are trees on the site and any Tree Preservation Order (TPO) will need to be adhered to.
- Instances where trees are not covered by TPO any existing trees or groups of trees should be considered site assets and incorporated in the design. For example they could form part of a focus for required open space, site GI, or to sustain/enhance biodiversity.
- Wildlife corridors must be retained, enhanced and where necessary created, including hedgerows and ditches; a wide green corridor on one side of an access route is preferable to two narrow corridors on both sides.

- Any new planting must be sympathetic to the surroundings and native species should be used. Views both into and out of the site and the visual impact of development on the surroundings should be considered.
- Any valued landscape features need to be retained, conserved and enhanced.

6.2.5 Long distance views to proposed new buildings and their landscape setting is an important planning consideration. This is particularly so in the context of the long distance views to and from the Cotswolds (including Bredon Hill) and the Malvern Hills Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. In the case of the latter regard should be had to the key views in the 2009 report 'Identification of Key Views to and from the Malvern Hills AONB'. In all cases sensitive design and careful selection of appropriate building materials and colour of cladding and roofing is necessary in order to mitigate the visual impact of development.

6.3 Landscape Design

6.3.1 Landscaping is a vital consideration for all development and should form an integral part of any proposal. Landscaping can create a high quality setting, help integrate new development into its surroundings and assist the promotion of biodiversity through the use of native species or other species characteristic of a particular area.

6.3.2 As well as an effective way to enhance and sustain the natural environment, the landscape design of a scheme is fundamental to its character and sense of place. 'Greenery' in general is appreciated by the public as adding to the quality of life, and is proven to have benefits to mental and physical health, especially in urban areas. Therefore all proposals should demonstrate high quality, properly funded landscape design from the outset and never as an 'add on' if affordable. This applies to all schemes ranging from a single dwelling to multiuse commercial developments and employment uses.

The following will be important to consider:

- The choice of plants appropriate for the site and local area, and their robust quality for public areas.
- The balance of colour and texture as well as seasonal variation and consideration of aspect.
- How to influence local microclimate with planting.
- Climate change adaptability and contribution to ameliorative effect.
- Provision of biodiversity and wildlife habitat.
- Definition and quality of open space.
- Manageability.
- Local distinctiveness, including both existing and inherited landscape character.
- Historic landscape character.

6 Respecting the Natural and Historic Environment

- The setting of new architecture within its surroundings; and
- Importantly to allow enough space in the design and layout for the above to be effective.

6.4 Historic Environment

6.4.1 Development proposals should adhere to the policies in SWDP6 and SWDP24. In addition the SWC are also supportive of a range of approaches and initiatives that support and promote good quality design and endorse the following principles, from Historic England's The Building in Context Toolkit. These provide a basis for delivery, particularly in a historic setting; development schemes are more likely to be successful where the proposal:

- Is based on an assessment of the value of retaining what is there.
- Relates well to the geography and history of the place and lie of the land, e.g. Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens, and Registered Battlefields.
- The character and form of the design and identity are appropriate to its use and context.
- Sits happily in the pattern of existing development and the routes through and around it.
- Respects the important views.
- Respects the scale of neighbouring buildings.
- Employs material and construction methods which are at least as high in quality as existing.
- Adds value to the townscape by creating new views, add variety and texture to the setting.

6.4.2 These principles should not be seen as a checklist, and it should be noted that design solutions are by definition related to a specific locality or site and they may not be readily transferable. The key design requirement is for a solution which addresses each characteristic of an individual site appraisal.

6.4.3 Through the use of common materials it is possible to create harmony with existing old buildings and the street scene whether this is part of a contemporary or more traditional design. There may also be some circumstances where traditional designs need to be followed very carefully; this can be the case in conservation areas or with extensions to listed buildings. Additional advice can be sought from the relevant SWC heritage and conservation teams and further guidance is provided in Part 2 on detailed design and local distinctiveness and a forthcoming Historic Environment SPD in 2018.

7 The Public Realm and Urban Design

7.1 Introduction



Cathedral Square, Worcester | Credit: Kevin Shaw

7.1.1 Good public realm design will emerge from a creative response to site analysis and context appraisal. It should display a network of sheltered, safe, accessible spaces with different functions and a clear definition between public, semi-public and private space. Existing landscape features will be maintained to reinforce these aspects and will give the development a sense of place and local identity.

7.1.2 For significant residential, mixed use development, and regeneration schemes a public realm strategy must be integral to, and a guiding aspect of any spatial masterplan. Essentially this should allow for a clear interpretation and understanding of what the public spaces – the streets, squares, and greenspaces – will be like and how they will be connected to each other. Further guidance is provided through Manual for Streets 2 and the county council's draft Streetscape Design Guide.

7A. Principles for successfully delivering a public realm strategy

The aim of a public realm strategy, and these principles are equally relevant to smaller developments, are described below:

1. The public realm should provide structure and a sense of identity to a development.

7 The Public Realm and Urban Design

2. These spaces should be easily navigable and provide a network of linked open spaces that are organised in a logical hierarchy. For example the scale of these spaces should increase towards the local or neighbourhood centre.
3. The public realm may include major access avenues or 'boulevards', tree-lined streets and nodal points (e.g. where foot, vehicle, and cycle/public transport routes meet such as public squares).
4. Elements of the space may include structural planting, a range of formal and informal spaces including public and private spaces and can be complimented by landmark features such as public art where appropriate.
5. Water features and waterways can also be used to define space.
6. Each area within the development should have its own identity so that people know and recognise where they are within the site.
7. Existing landscape features and natural elements can provide shape and structure to the public realm, for example wildlife corridors and linear parks/play spaces can improve connectivity between areas of open space as well as providing usable open space. Geological features can be incorporated, e.g. within a new wall or as a backdrop to a public garden.
8. The spaces provided should be appropriate to their function, with respect to size, location, orientation, shelter, and management.
9. Public spaces that are too large or poorly designed can be unwelcoming and instill a sense of unease by those using them. In some instances smaller, higher quality spaces are more favourable, but this depends on the context. Enclosed spaces that are well overlooked and have multiple uses provide a friendly place where people can meet and relax and reduce the fear of crime through natural surveillance.
10. Concentrate activities at focal points as activity and a varied mix of building or land uses can increase footfall past shops, businesses and services and ensure vitality and viability.
11. Public spaces must be accessible to all with consideration given to all disability groups. Consultation with potential future user groups can provide information essential to the delivery of a successful scheme.
12. Accessibility can effect decisions on length of pedestrian routes, gradients, level changes and shelter. Signage and other methods of information and hazard warning are also important.
13. The public realm should provide the opportunity for play and relaxation as well as attractive and lively meeting places to ensure that a wide range of people and activities are catered for.
14. Public spaces can be designed for an individual use or to accommodate a wide range of users. Integrated seating, visibility and lighting is crucial and can be developed with several end user groups in mind.

15. Integrated public art can double for informal play opportunities with seating arranged for good observance, safety and interaction. Public art and interpretation 'panels' can also help to reinforce an areas local distinctiveness.
16. Spaces can also allow for performance activity, either delivered as part of a civic event, or informally by such activities as skateboarding or 'busking'. When not in use these areas contribute to a sense of place and add visual interest and variety to the street scene.

7.2 Street Design

Access

7.2.1 Ease of movement by all modes is essential to successful places; the forced segregation of modes should be avoided in all but exceptional circumstances. Access by more sustainable modes of travel and pedestrians should be prioritised in street designs over ease of movement by motor vehicles.

Trees

7.2.2 All new streets with the exception of local access roads should include street trees in there design. The type of tree selected should when fully grown be appropriate to the location. All new trees should be planted with appropriate root barriers if required, in order to minimise future damage as the tree matures.

Materials

7.2.3 Materials used in the construction of new streets or the refurbishment of existing streets should contribute to a sense of place. The use of different materials to signify entry to a place and re-enforce way finding is essential in all new development.

Layout

7.2.4 The design of streets should reflect the planned function and the design of the planned development. The development should lead the street and road layout design. Place making should not be compromised by an inflexible or overly engineering approach to highway design and layout. Residential and town centre streets should be designed for low speeds, less than 20mph and not to allow motor traffic to achieve the maximum speed limit applicable in any particular location. Layouts should use the minimum number of design features necessary to allow the street to work.

Maintaining a high quality public realm

7.2.5 Any necessary changes to the streetscape (e.g. raised or lowered kerbs and repaving) associated with a development will be paid for by the developer and completed before first occupation of the premises.

Parking

7.2.6 The ability to park safely at both ends of a car trip is a significant factor in determining mode choice. Parking provision within new development should discourage car use for short trips (less than three miles). Where there are adequate public parking facilities such as within town centres no parking provision (other than essential operational parking) should be included within new commercial premises. Travel plans should contain measures to both limit and control the number of trips by car and the creative management of car parking provision to discourage car use. All development proposals should include the provision of secure cycle parking facilities.

Parking for larger commercial and retail schemes

7.2.7 Where this is required, given all other policy issues for sustainable transport, large car parking areas (e.g. supermarkets) should be sensitively designed and incorporate high quality landscaping design including tree planting to soften large areas of cars and tarmac surfacing. Trees both add visual amenity value, biodiversity and shared opportunity in a time of climate change, as well as air purification qualities especially in such areas of high emission concentration. Consideration can be given to incorporating biodiverse soft SUDs in combination with trees, and sensitively designed SUDs can do a great deal to soften and enhance large scale car parks.

Way Finding and Legibility

7.2.8 Permeability, Connectivity, Route Choice and Desire Lines. Every opportunity to increase the permeability of south Worcestershire settlements should be included in new developments. An increased choice of routes and the ability to follow desire lines increases the opportunities for short trips. Short trips are more likely to involve more sustainable modes. A rigid adherence to local road hierarchies should not be a reason to limit permeability for any mode.

8 Note 1: General Design Principles for Extensions

8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 Extensions to existing dwellings are required usually because of the changing space requirements of the occupants. However, these additional space requirements need to take into account fully the amenities of adjacent householders and the appearance of the extended property. The aim of this guidance is to direct applicants, architects and designers to consider the design principles which help achieve suitable extensions.

8.1.2 The standards which apply to new residential development with respect to spacing, privacy, garden provision and parking are not always applicable to home extensions. Therefore this guidance will be used to evaluate planning applications for residential extensions.

8.1.3 The guidance in this note will help to ensure that applications for extensions are considered favourably by the relevant council, but before submitting a planning application:

- Check with the planning department that planning permission is required as some extensions and alterations to existing dwellings may not require planning permission and are 'permitted development'.
- Discuss proposals with a planning officer, and if living within a conservation area or a listed building the council's conservation officers.
- Seek professional help from an architect and/or building surveyor.
- Consult with neighbour(s) as potential problems could be addressed before being identified by the neighbours or planning officer.

8.2 General Design Principles for Extensions

8.2.1 There are a number of general principles which constitute good practice when extending a dwelling, as well as a number of issues which arise with particular types of extension. Therefore many of the principles that are set out in Part 1 of the SPD can be applied, however there are some specific principles that help deliver good design that respects the existing building and reflects the character of the surrounding area.

8.2.2 The following design points will help achieve extension design which does not adversely affect both the character of a street/area and the original dwelling and which does not compromise the privacy of neighbouring households. The following points should therefore be considered when creating the detailed design:

- The type of housing in the locality.
- The positioning of the dwelling within the locality.
- Ground levels e.g. normally greater impact if ground level higher than neighbouring properties.
- The design of the proposed extension in relation to the dwelling and characteristic features of neighbouring dwellings.

8 Note 1: General Design Principles for Extensions

- The plot's existing landscape features e.g. important trees.
- Consider natural habitats and incorporate biodiversity enhancement measures such as nest boxes for birds and roosts space for bats as appropriate.
- The proposed extension's impact on parking provision.
- Look at the proposed extension from the viewpoint of neighbour(s) i.e. would you object if a similar extension was built next to your property?

Proposals which do not fully reflect these design points are unlikely to be acceptable.

8.3 Specific design considerations

8.3.1 All extensions should adhere to the relevant design principles in Part 1 of the SPD, but in addition the following specific considerations will apply.

Size and style

8.3.2 The character and style of an extension are important design points as they determine whether the extension fits in with neighbouring dwellings and whether the privacy of neighbouring dwellings is significantly reduced.

Fig. 1 demonstrate that size alone may not determine an extension's environmental impact as the following design elements need to be considered:

- Extensions should be subordinate to the host dwelling.
- Where visible from public vantage points design breaks should be used between existing and proposed built form.
- A cumulative negative impact of extensions either to an individual building or locality.
- Positive consideration should be given to the introduction of design breaks.
- Roof heights should normally be lower than original.
- Roof pitches should normally be the same as the original.
- Eaves details should be replicated wherever possible.
- Windows should complement the original and be of similar proportions.
- Materials should in general match the existing unless used as a design feature and justified within supporting documentation.
- Car parking extensions should not reduce on site car parking capacity to less than the standards set out in the county council's guidance on parking. It may be necessary to provide additional car parking where extra bedrooms are being provided.

8.3.3 The extension should be visually subordinate to, and not dominate, the original dwelling, and have similar or complimentary design elements. Design breaks e.g. step backs **Fig. 1** can help prevent an extension appearing as a disproportionate addition over and above the size of the original dwelling. It can also serve to disguise different brick course heights, avoids damage to bonding with an existing face and maintain the separation of eaves detail.

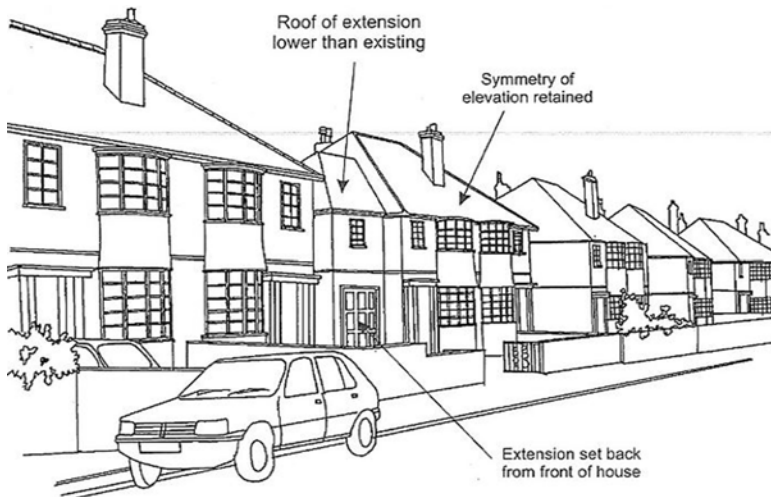


Figure 1

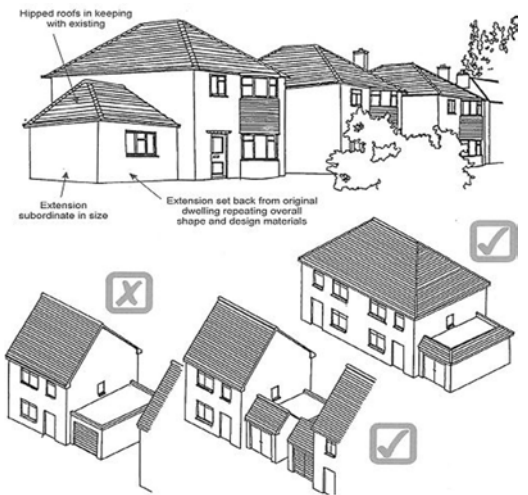


Figure 2

8.3.4 Merely incorporating design breaks, however, may not resolve fundamental difficulties and there will be situations where it is not possible to design an extension which would satisfy the criteria. Any extension should reflect, in its design and materials, the character and style of the original dwelling as shown in **Fig. 2**. Unsympathetic additions can often spoil the proportion and balance of the original dwelling and, consequently, have a visually detrimental impact. Roof extensions and dormer windows are two common areas where poor design can easily have a visually unsatisfactory result. For example, large horizontally proportioned dormer windows as shown in **Fig. 8** are likely to detrimentally impact on the character of the dwelling and will look out of place.

8.3.5 Any extension should reflect, in its design and materials, the character and style of the original dwellings shown in **Fig. 2**. Unsympathetic additions can often spoil the proportion and balance of the original dwelling and, consequently, have a visually detrimental impact.

8.3.6 Conversely there may be circumstances where an appropriately designed extension can lift or enhance the appearance of an ordinary host dwelling and this can be considered as a positive design solution if the opportunity arises.

Types of Extensions

Front extension

8.3.7 It is the front elevation of a building which is usually the most vulnerable to unsympathetic extension. Front extensions can be prominent and therefore require a particularly sensitive design which relate in scale and size to the existing dwelling. They should have a positive impact on the street and not look out of place to make them acceptable.

8 Note 1: General Design Principles for Extensions

Generally only small extensions which are in keeping with the character of the existing building will be allowed. It may be a more acceptable solution to incorporate a front extension where there is no obvious building line.

8.3.8 Front porches may require planning permission and the general design principles in section 2 of the main guide should apply. Furthermore where a building has a bay window, porches should be separated from it in order to retain the integrity of the bay.

8.3.9 Similarly any features on the building, e.g. decorative lintels, should not be partially covered by extensions, either the feature should be entirely covered or left wholly exposed. Decorative features, such as projecting brick string courses, corbelling or dentil courses should be repeated on the extension at the appropriate level **Fig. 3**.

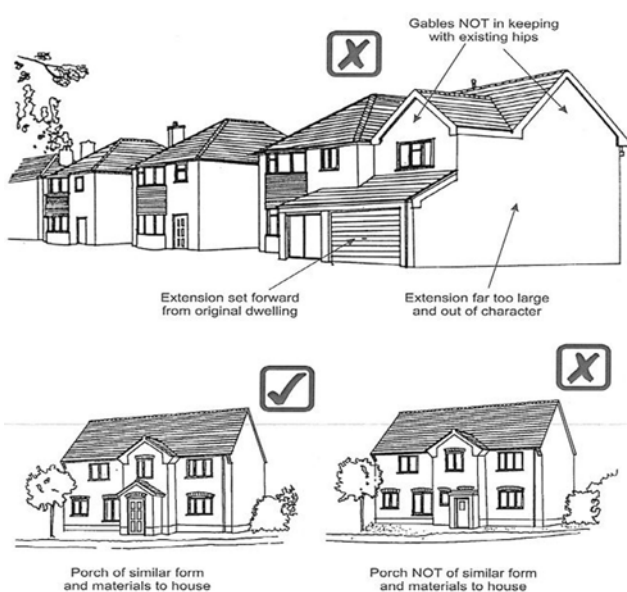


Figure 3



Figure 4

Side extension

8.3.10 Side extensions to a house can mean existing rooms remain unaltered, and a non-centrally located staircase provides access to any first floor. The width of the front elevation of the extension should be proportionate to the host dwellings front elevation.

8.3.11 Extensions to the side of detached and semi-detached buildings can produce a 'terraced' effect, as shown in Fig. 4, because of the loss of the visual gap between adjacent dwellings. To protect the character and amenity of detached and semi-detached dwellings the council will normally require that side extensions should be set back and be at least 1 metre off the shared boundary at first floor level.

8.3.12 Also important here is the relationship of the proposed extension to the boundary and the adjoining property. Building on or close to your boundary/common wall could make future maintenance access difficult and also have legal implications. Reference should be made to The Party Wall Act 1996.

Rear extensions

8.3.13 The privacy of neighbouring properties is important and therefore any extension incorporating rooms (other than toilets/bathrooms with glazed windows) with a window should respect this privacy by maintaining a minimum distance of 5 metres per storey between the window and an adjoining private shared boundary. A distance of approximately 12 metres should be maintained to a blank gable wall for rear extensions.

8.3.14 The distance required on flat sites between a first floor extension window and neighbouring direct facing windows should be at least 20 metres. The actual separation distance required will depend on several factors notably the differences in ground levels, the relationship between the buildings and design features incorporated which minimize the impact on window to window privacy.

8.3.15 Extensions which overlook a neighbouring private garden are likely to be refused. Non-opening obscure glazed windows could minimize the impact to a more acceptable level. Extensions can intrude on the privacy of neighbours. In order to avoid situations which diminish the privacy of neighbour's property the council will resist balconies, first floor conservatories and flank windows which permit views into private amenity areas. Oppressive extensions, on or close to shared boundaries, which are visually dominant and impact on amenity levels of neighbouring properties will be resisted.

8.3.16 Private garden spaces (usually to the rear of a property) are a positive part of a dwelling's amenity and generally should be sufficient to meet the likely needs of the occupiers (current and future). Garden space should be compatible with the overall size of the property, for normal domestic activities, such as bin storage, clothes drying, sitting out and playspace. This space should enjoy a high degree of privacy from surrounding gardens or properties, the public street and from any other public places. In order to ensure that a usable garden space is retained a standard of 20 sq. metres per bedroom (inc. rooms identified as study/hobby rooms at first floor levels) is set. Therefore for extensions to a 3 bedroom dwelling there should be at least 60 sq. metres of private garden area remaining following construction. Clearly this may not be achievable in all instances, e.g. in town centre schemes where it may only be possible to achieve a yard or patio, and therefore the loss of private space should be proportionate to the scale of the extension and host building.

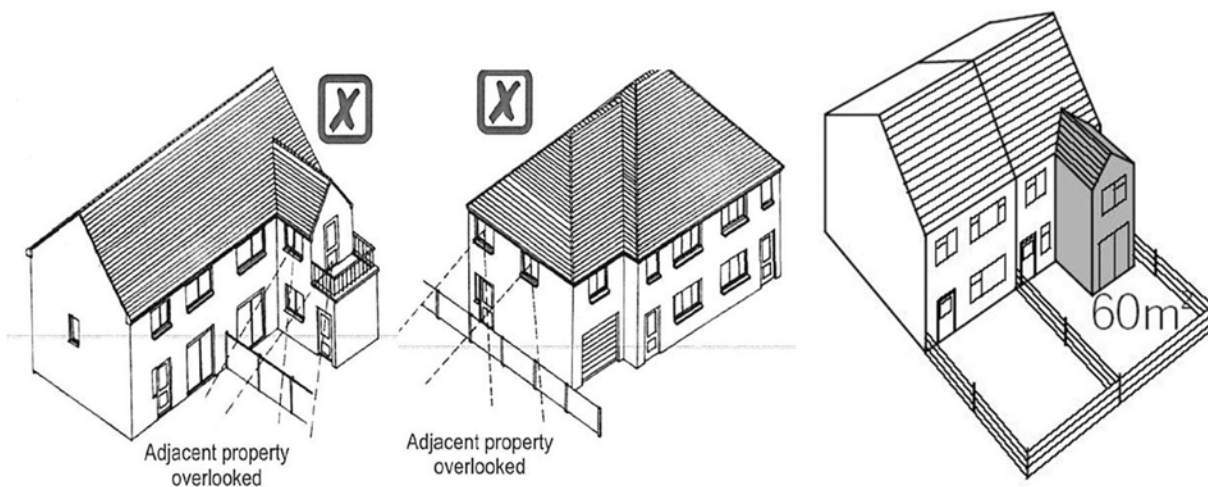


Figure 5

Daylight and Sunlight

8.3.17 Extensions can significantly reduce the amount of daylight and sunlight received by the host property and neighbouring properties. Daylight and sunlight are valuable in improving a dwelling's amenity as they help provide a satisfactory living environment. In assessing extension proposals, the council will use the Building Research Establishment's report 'Site Layout - Planning for Daylight and Sunlight, a Guide to Good Practice'.

8.3.18 The 45° code shown in **Fig. 6** will be used to help assess the impact of proposed extensions on adjacent dwellings. The code is designed to protect the amenities of dwellings from over-shadowing or obstruction of outlook which can be caused by extensions on or close to a boundary. The amount of overshadowing will depend on the length and height of the extension, its orientation, and any difference in ground levels.

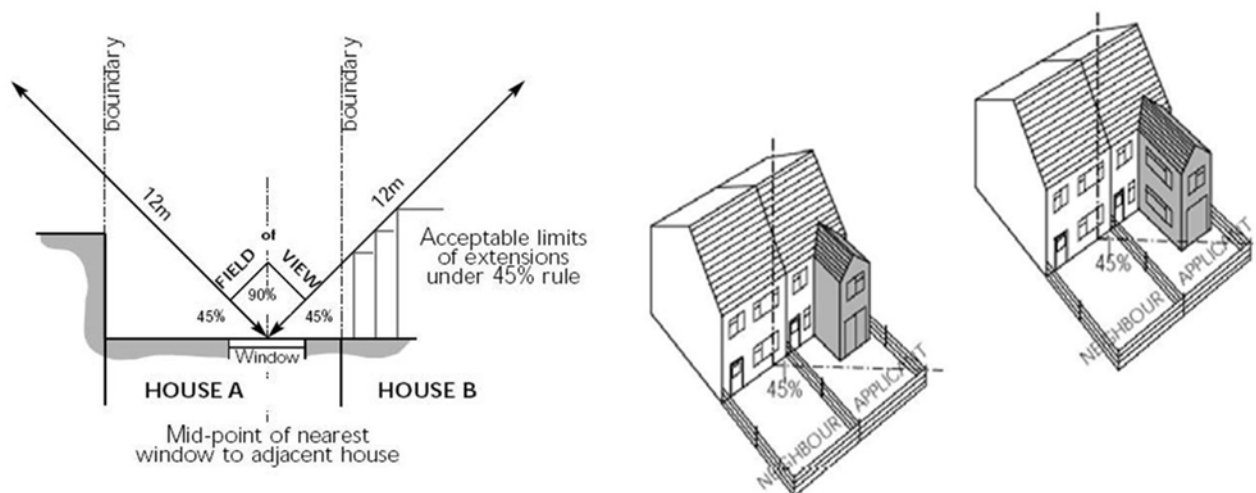


Figure 6

8.3.19 For single storey extensions, the code works by drawing an imaginary line at an angle of 45° degrees from the mid point of the nearest habitable (normally excludes bathrooms, halls, landings and garages) room window which would be affected by the proposed extension.

8.3.20 If the nearest window is a bay or bow window the measurement is taken from the mid point at the back of the window where it joins the main wall. The proposed extension should not cross the 45° line for a distance of 12 metres.

8.3.21 For two storey extensions the line is drawn at an angle of 45° from the closest quarter point from the nearest room window. The impact of a two storey extension is normally greater than of a single storey, particularly on narrow fronted properties, so even though a proposal satisfies the 45° rule it could still be unacceptable because of its impact on the adjoining property.

8.3.22 For side extensions the 45° Code is applied if the extension protrudes beyond the front or back of the neighbour's house.

8.3.23 Conservatories are subject to the 45° rule. The amount of 'see through' materials in the proposal will influence the extension's impact on neighbouring properties. If the neighbouring property has an extension principally constructed from 'see through' materials

the 45° line will be drawn from the centre point of the original window opening in the wall. **Satisfying the 45° Code does not necessarily make a proposal acceptable as it must satisfy the other design principles in this guide.**

8.3.24 The SWC will also use the 25° Code, as shown in **Fig. 7**, in order to assess applications to see if they would cause a significant reduction in daylight and/or privacy to/of adjoining properties. The 25° line should be taken from the mid point of the lowest window, or 1.6 metres from ground level in the case of 'French windows' or patio doors.

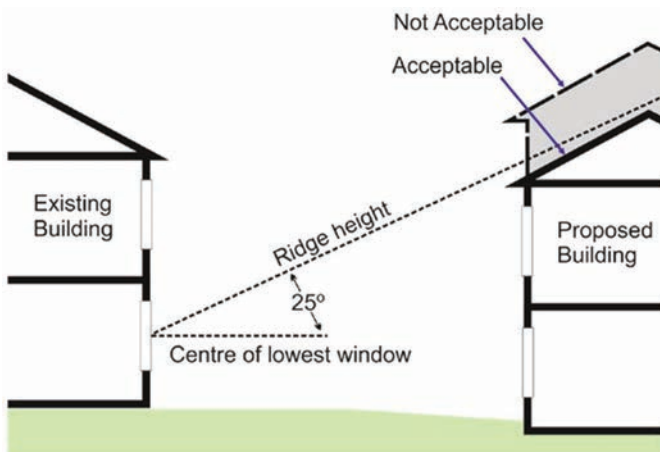


Figure 7

Other considerations

Roof extensions

8.3.25 Dormers should generally have pitched roofs, be physically small and set into the roof slope and reflect traditional styles of the locality. Where they are less visible larger additions may be acceptable but over dominant box-like extensions can visually detract from the overall appearance and character of the dwelling.

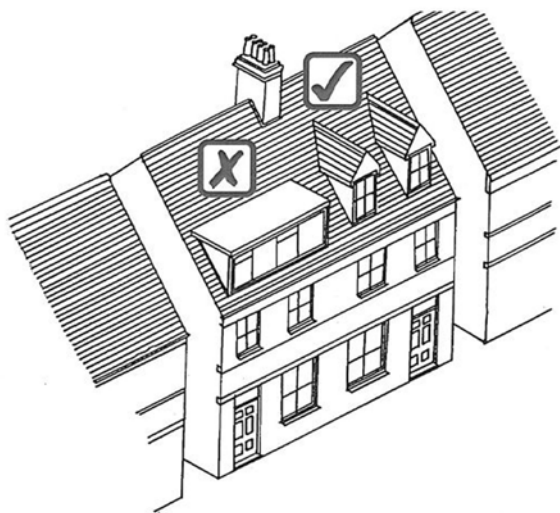


Figure 8

Dependent relative (Granny Annexe)

8.3.26 An extension or alteration to a dwelling to provide further accommodation for use by a dependent relative is usually acceptable provided that the proposal meets the requirements of the extensions design guidance, and it is designed to demonstrate dependency on the host property. The form and layout should be such that the development could be used in future as part of the main residential property. Ancillary accommodation should only provide limited accommodation and it should share facilities with the main property (e.g. kitchens, outside amenity space, parking) and be physically linked.

Garages and outbuildings

8.3.27 Buildings within the residential curtilage, such as, garages, shed and greenhouses can often require as much care in siting and design as works to the existing residential property. They should be subordinate in scale and similar in style to the existing property, taking account of materials, the local character and the level of visibility of the building from surrounding public areas (**Fig. 9**)

8.3.28 Garages and/or outbuildings wholly located in front gardens or those that extend in front of the established building line can over-dominate the front of the property and detract from the street scene and will therefore need careful consideration. Garages must also be set back a minimum of 6 metres from the back of the pavement to allow a car to pull clear of the highway prior to opening the garage door.

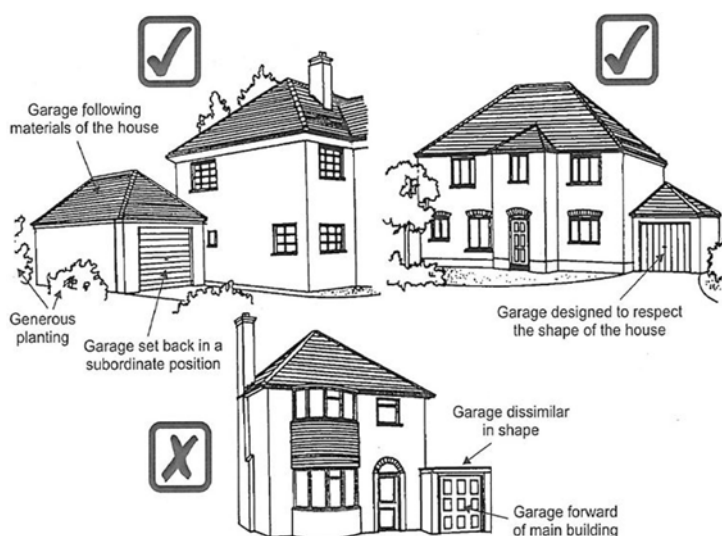


Figure 9

8.3.29 As well as adhering to the general design principles for outbuildings/garages, the building should be sited close the main residential property, have a size and scale to reflect its ancillary function, have a shared curtilage and shared facilities and it should be designed in a way to allow it to be used as part of the main dwelling at a later date. In addition the occupant should have a connection with the main dwelling (e.g. relation or be employed within the site) an outbuilding which could viably operate as an independent dwelling will not be acceptable.

8.3.30 Any outbuilding proposed particularly outside of adopted settlement boundaries will need to be considered carefully to ensure it does not result in a proposal which could effectively be creating a new independent dwelling. In rural areas, ancillary buildings should be designed as part of the overall layout to result in an integrated group of buildings in close proximity to the dwelling house. As such the conversion or construction of a new outbuilding to be used as a residential annexe will generally be resisted unless a clear ancillary use can be demonstrated.

Glazing

8.3.31 All extensions should incorporate windows of the same proportions, materials, glazing pattern, cill and lintel treatments as are in keeping with the period of the building and match in design the shape, size and alignment of openings. This is important to ensure that they respect the scale and character of the original dwelling.

Boundary treatment

8.3.32 Walls and fences, particularly in front gardens, can also have a significant effect on the appearance of the property and streetscape. Only in exceptional circumstances will built boundary treatments over one metre in height be appropriate adjacent to a public highway. When erected beside driveways or on corner sites they can have an impact on sightlines and traffic safety. Therefore both the visual and road safety aspects of a wall or fence will be assessed when proposals are being considered. Materials should always complement the character of the property and the neighbourhood. Expanses of close-board fencing bordering public areas are visually unacceptable and have a negative impact on the street scene and public realm. It should be noted that some walls or fences may be permitted development.

Parking and dropped kerbs

8.3.33 Car parking space dimensions are 2.4metre x 4.8metre and 2.4metre x 6metre in front of garage doors. Vehicles need to enter and leave onto a classified road in a forward gear and as such the site will require sufficient turning area which has an appropriate surface along with threshold strip. Frontages should incorporate appropriate levels of landscaping to minimize the visual amenity of harsh built form and allow for surface water disposal, whenever possible, within the site.

Landscaping

8.3.34 Proposals for landscaping should therefore always be considered as part of any application for an extension. The retention of existing trees, hedges and other significant landscape features will often be an important element in this and will usually help to reduce the impact of an extension on the character of the surrounding area more readily than walls or fences. Where important trees and landscape features exist within a site, care should be taken that extensions are not sited too close to them, or too close to the mature size, space for which must be allowed.

8.3.35 Where it is proposed that existing trees or significant landscape features are to be removed, the layout plan should indicate proposals for compensatory planting, and however replacement must never be the sole justification for removal.

8.3.36 Under permitted development it is possible to turn front gardens to hard standing for parking or householders may choose to redesign their front gardens to harder landscape to limit maintenance etc. However the loss of softer landscaping to the front of dwellings can have a detrimental impact on the street scene and in considering the redesign of front gardens thought should be given to retaining mature planting and trees, and where possible part of the original boundary treatment, e.g. wall or hedge to maintain a defined edge to the street. Further information is provided by the RHS front garden guide. <https://www.rhs.org.uk/communities/pdf/Greener-Streets/rhs-front-garden-guide.pdf>

Security

8.3.37 When undertaking any building work in a home, it is important to consider how this could affect security. Indeed planning for such works provides an ideal opportunity for householders to review security measures for their entire property and this can help promote a more secure residential environment

8.3.38 Incorporating sensible security measures during the extension or refurbishment of buildings can reduce levels of crime and the fear of crime. By bringing the crime prevention experience of the police more fully into the planning and design process, a balance can be achieved between safety and security. The police service has a specially trained officer who can advise on Crime Prevention and how to Design out Crime.

9 Note 2: Market Housing Mix Position Statement (May 2017)

9.1 Introduction

9.1.1 The statement informs developers, local communities and council officers about Malvern Hills and Wychavon Council's current position on housing mix for market housing on new development proposals of 5 or more units in accordance with the South Worcestershire Development Plan (the adopted local plan) Policy SWDP14: Market Housing Mix. This document, which is an update of the 2013 version, will be used as an information tool in the determination of planning applications and during pre-application discussions and will be reviewed periodically. The previous version of the MHMPS was successfully used to encourage developers to produce a market homes mix to reflect that in the position statement. It was also successfully used at an appeal for a reserved matters application at Allesborough Hill, Pershore (W/13/00693/RM - APP/H1840/A/13/2203524).

9.1.2 The statement identifies the relevant aspects of the NPPF, NPPG and the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP). Reference is also made to relevant sources of information such as the Worcestershire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA, 2012), its updates and other evidence e.g. from ONS and DCLG. For the avoidance of doubt this statement does not apply to applications in Worcester City.

9.2 Policy Context

South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP)

9.2.1 The SWDP is a joint local plan for Malvern Hills, Worcester City and Wychavon and was adopted on 26 February 2016. Policy SWDP14 Market Housing Mix applies to sites of 5 units or more. It requires developments to contain a mix of types and sizes of market housing which are informed by the latest SHMA and other local data including Neighbourhood Plans, Parish Surveys, Parish Plans and assessments submitted by developers. The location, site size and scheme viability may also be taken into account to help determine the final mix.

9.2.2 The reasoned justification to the policy recognises that the evidence from the SHMA (see below) indicates a substantial growth in one-person households which will increase demand for 1 and 2 bedroom properties, many of which will need to be suitable for older people, but that there is also a sustained demand for larger family homes too. The MHMPS suggests that the focus for new residential development should therefore be on the provision of 1, 2 and 3 bedroom dwellings to help meet this identified need, with other bed sizes provided in lesser amounts. It is recognised however that 1 bed units will usually only equate to a few percent on each site and indeed may not be viable or suitable in all locations.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

9.2.3 Twelve core planning principles are set out in para 17 of the NPPF which should underpin both plan-making and decision-taking. These include to objectively identifying and meet the housing (business and other) needs of an area and to creatively find ways to enhance and improve the places in which people live their lives.

9.2.4 Section 6 – ‘Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes’ para 50 requires local planning authorities to plan for a mix of housing based on current and future trends and the needs of different groups in the community and identify the size, type, tenure and range of housing that is required in particular locations, reflecting local demand.

9.2.5 The chapter on plan making requires local planning authorities to use an up to date and proportionate evidence base to inform their policies, including the preparation of a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA).

National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)

9.2.6 This explains that the primary objective of identifying housing need is to:

- identify the future quantity of housing needed, including a breakdown by type, tenure and size.

Need for housing in the context of the NPPG refers to the scale and mix of housing and the range of tenures that is likely to be needed in the housing market area over the plan period and should cater for the housing demand of the area and identify the scale of housing supply necessary to meet that demand.

9.2.7 Need for all land uses should address (both) the total number of homes (or quantity of economic development floorspace) needed based on quantitative assessments, but also on an understanding of the qualitative requirements of each market segment.

9.3 Statistical Evidence from DCLG, ONS and Worcestershire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA)

9.3.1 The Worcestershire SHMA was published in February 2012. It was updated by the Worcestershire County Council’s Research and Intelligence Unit in 2013 and, where available, these updates plus more up to date information from ONS and DCLG are referred to in this statement. The SHMA is part of the suite of documents forming the evidence base to the South Worcestershire Development Plan. <http://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/Main-SHMA-Report-February-2012-Final-Nov-Correction.pdf>

An overview for Malvern Hills District and Wychavon District on both the current and future housing market is provided in Appendix 3 and Appendix 6 (respectively) of the SHMA.

Household Size

9.3.2 Table 19 below shows that the average household size has fallen in Worcestershire from persons per household in 2001 to 2.32 persons in 2011. In Wychavon it has fallen from 2.38 to 2.34, and in Malvern Hills from 2.32 to 2.25 persons per household. This pattern is not true at a national or regional level, where average household size has largely stayed constant over the ten year period. The local trend is likely to be due to the higher proportion of older people in Worcestershire, who are more inclined to live in one-person households or smaller households. Table 427 (DCLG live tables) indicates that this reduction in household size has continued and is forecast to do so over the next few years at least.

Table19: Change in Average Household Size, 2001-11 (Source: SHMA, 2013)

	2001	2011	Change 2001-11
Malvern Hills	2.32	2.25	-0.07
Worcester City	2.36	2.30	-0.05
Wychavon	2.38	2.34	-0.05
Worcestershire	2.39	2.32	-0.07
West Midlands	2.41	2.40	0.01
England & Wales	2.36	2.36	0.00

Table 427: Change in average household size, local authority districts and England, 2014- 2039 (Source: DCLG Live Tables, 2014, 2017)

	Average household size 2014	Average household size 2019
Malvern Hills	2.23	2.20
Worcester City	2.30	2.27
Wychavon	2.33	2.31

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-household-projections>

9.3.3 Table 420 shows the size of households in 2014, rounded to the nearest thousand and indicates that 60% of households in Wychavon are either single (26%) or couple households (34%). In Malvern Hills 63% are either single (30%) or couple (33%) households. Information in Fig 6.28 and Fig 6.29 of the SHMA 'Projected Change in Broad Household Types (2006 - 2030) indicate that the majority of growth will be in single and couple households as evidenced in part by the reduced average household size shown above. It is anticipated that generally 1, 2 and 3 bed homes would be the usual size of housing to accommodate such households.

9.3.4 A reduction is projected for all other household types over this same period. This supports the focus for new residential development on the provision of 1, 2 and 3 bedroom dwellings to help meet this identified need, with other bed sizes provided in lesser amounts. The provision of a range of types of good quality 1, 2 and 3 bed properties may also encourage residents, including older ones, to downsize and release their family-sized homes to others in the housing market. In addition, the SHMA recognises that different types of dwellings should be provided for smaller households and that their aspirations will not be solely for e.g. flatted properties (para 6.113).

Table 420: Household Projections by type and District 2014 - 2039 (Source: DCLG Live Tables, 2014)

	One person households 000s (%)	Couple and no other adult 000s (%)	Couple and one or more other adults 000s (%)	Households with dependent children 000s (%)	Other 000 (%)
Malvern Hills	10 (30%)	11 (33%)	2 (6%)	8 (24%)	2 (6%)
Worcester City	14 (33%)	11 (26%)	3 (7%)	12 (28%)	3 (7%)
Wychavon	13 (26%)	17 (34%)	4 (8%)	13 (26%)	3 (6%)
England	6896 (30%)	5848 (26%)	1730 (8%)	6555 (29%)	1717 (7%)

9.3.5 The given % have been calculated by the councils and do not feature in the original DCLG 'live' table and do not necessarily add up to 100% for each LA because of rounding.

Dwelling Size

9.3.6 The release of 2011 Census data has enabled analysis of the breakdown of properties by size; number of bedrooms and rooms. Previously, the 2001 Census had only asked a question on the number of rooms. As indicated in Table 7 below the majority of homes in Wychavon are detached (41.3%) and semi-detached (29.6%). Table 8 demonstrates that of the total housing stock 39.5% have 3 bedrooms and 28.7% 4 or more bedrooms. Only 23.2% have 2 bedrooms and 8.3% 1 bedroom. In Malvern Hills, 43.8% of dwellings are detached, and 30.6% semi-detached. Table 8 shows that only 24.8% have 2 bedrooms, and 8.4% 1 bedroom- a similar pattern to Wychavon's. This suggests that there is a shortfall in the quantity of smaller properties to help meet the rising need of single and couple households.

Table 7: Housing Stock Type by District, 2011 (Source: SHMA, 2013)

District	Detached	Semi-detached	Terraced	Flats	Other
Malvern Hills	43.8%	30.6%	11.0%	13.4%	1.3%
Worcester	21.9%	34.7%	23.0%	20.2%	0.2%
Wychavon	41.3%	29.6%	16.9%	10.7%	1.6%
Worcestershire	33.4%	33.0%	18.6%	13.8%	1.2%

Table 8: Percentage of Bedrooms by District, 2011 (Source: SHMA, 2013)

District	All Households	1 Bed	2 Bed	3 Bed	4 Bed	5+ Bed
Malvern Hills	32,212	8.4%	24.8%	39.1%	20.2%	7.4%
Worcester	42,042	12.0%	25.2%	44.4%	14.6%	3.6%
Wychavon	49,466	8.3%	23.2%	39.5%	22.2%	6.5%
Worcestershire	239,717	9.5%	23.1%	43.6%	18.4%	5.2%

9.4 House Prices, Household Incomes and Affordability Ratios

9.4.1 Tables 24, 2, 576 and 40 below show the lower quartile house sale prices by property type, affordability ratios and the annual household income required to afford to purchase or rent homes within south Worcestershire. These tables show that the annual household income required and the cost of purchasing properties in Wychavon and Malvern Hills is higher than the UK average, thus the provision of more modest sized homes should help both more people to get on the housing ladder and those who cannot afford the larger properties. Although it is appreciated that continued restrictions on mortgage lending and the large deposits required are challenging for many potential buyers, there are several Government incentives to encourage home ownership e.g. Right to Buy.

9.4.2 It would be simplistic to assume that the size of a household necessarily equates to the size of the dwelling it occupies and purchasing decisions may be based on affordability (and many other factors) rather than simply size. Many people may aspire to live in the largest property that they can reasonably afford; others may be able to afford a larger property but choose a smaller one because they wish to, for example, minimise utility costs, maintenance costs or garden sizes etc. It is therefore essential that schemes provide a range of property sizes primarily because of affordability issues but also to accommodate these other lifestyle choices.

Table 24: Lower Quartile Sale Prices by Property Type and District, 2011/12 (Source: SHMA 2013)

District	Detached	Semi-detached	Terraced	Flat/ Maisonette	All Sales
Malvern Hills	£225,000	£153,125	£121,500	£99,000	£153,500
Worcester	£192,625	£133,875	£125,000	£86,000	£131,250
Wychavon	£225,000	£150,000	£120,900	£84,750	£148,000
Worcestershire	£205,000	£135,000	£113,500	£83,500	£132,000

Table 2 ONS: Lower Quartile House Prices for Local Authority Tables 2a – 2e (combined) for Q2 of 2016

	All Housing: 2016 (Q2) £	Detached Housing: 2016 (Q2) £	Semi-detached Housing: 2016 (Q2) £	Terraced Housing: 2016 (Q2) £	Flats, Maisonettes: 2016 (Q2) £
Malvern Hills	176,000	248,000	175,000	149,000	120,000
Worcester City	144,995	225,000	159,950	142,000	92,500
Wychavon	178,000	263,000	179,100	143,000	94,500

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/datasets/lowerquartilehousepriceforationalandsubnationalgeographiesquarterlyrollingyearhpssadataset15>

Table 576: ratio of lower quartile house price to lower quartile earnings by Local Authority, 2009 to 2015 (Source: DCLG Live Tables)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Malvern Hills	7.98	9.67	8.83	8.40	8.29	9.15	9.24
Worcester City	7.22	6.81	7.73	7.28	7.26	7.35	7.44
Wychavon	7.36	8.71	8.92	8.64	8.66	9.34	8.77
England	6.97	6.69	6.57	6.58	6.66	6.95	7.02

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-housing-market-and-house-prices>

Table 40: Affordability Benchmarks – Annual Income Required (Source: SHMA, 2013)

District	Purchase LQ (3.5 *income - 0% deposit)	Renting Average 2-bed (25% income)	Renting Average 3-bed (25% income)	Affordable Rent (80% Market Rent) 2-bed (25% Income)	Affordable Rent (80% Market Rent) 3-bed (25% Income)	Social Rented 2-bed (25% income)
Malvern Hills	£39,471	£26,928	£32,448	£21,542	£25,958	£17,056
Worcester	£33,750	£28,272	£33,072	£22,618	£26,458	£15,392
Wychavon	£38,057	£28,224	£34,896	£22,579	£27,917	£16,640
Worcestershire	£33,943	£27,168	£31,536	£21,734	£25,229	£16,016

9.5 Implementation of SWDP14

As demonstrated above, the evidence from the SHMA, its update and other statistical sources e.g. ONS and DCLG indicate that Wychavon and Malvern Hills District Councils should encourage the provision of a greater number of 1, 2 and 3 bed market homes on development sites to help meet the identified need and increasing number of smaller households. In light of the ageing population, the provision of 1, 2 and 3 bed market bungalows will be particularly welcomed. It is recognised however that 1 bed units will usually only equate to a few percent on each site and indeed may not be viable or suitable in all locations.

The affordability ratio was 8.77 in Wychavon for 2015 and 9.24 for Malvern Hills (Table 576 above) which is higher than the national average of 7.02. Many people of working age would benefit from the provision of well-designed 1, 2 and 3 bed properties because of this high affordability ratio which means that many are struggling to afford even a small dwelling.

The provision of good quality 1, 2 and 3 bed properties may also encourage residents, including older ones, to downsize and release their family-sized homes to others in the housing market.

It is noted that some house builders are proposing schemes with studies or offices at first floor and the Councils are concerned that these 'studies' could be used as bedrooms, thereby skewing the housing mix towards larger units. It is suggested that studies at first floor are avoided in properties of 3 or less bedrooms. Where a developer insists that the study should be provided at first floor in properties of up to and including 3 bedrooms, the study should not exceed 7.5 m² and should be less than 2.15m wide so that it is not suitable to use as a bedroom. Based on 2015 DCLG: Technical housing standards – nationally described space standard.

Similarly, some developers are including large en-suite bathrooms or dressing rooms at first floor and the resultant property size is subsequently greater than would normally be expected. Often this has been done to simply try and prove a unit, that clearly is of a size to accommodate say four or more bedrooms, is only a three bedroom dwelling and therefore in accordance with the housing mix position statement. The Councils will scrutinise schemes to ensure that dwellings of 3 or less bedrooms are of an appropriate size and do not compromise the negotiated market housing mix, policy SWDP14 and this position statement. In accordance with SWDP14 it is considered that the following proportions should apply to planning applications on sites of 5 or more but the final mix will be subject to negotiation considering issues such as local need, viability and character of the area.

1 and 2 bedroom dwelling – 35% of the total number of market homes

3 bedroom dwelling – 35% of the total number of market homes

4 and 4plus bedroom dwelling – max 30% of the total number of market homes

For residential development proposals that are clearly in conflict with the above mix and therefore in conflict with SWDP14, the developer will need to justify, to the satisfaction of the LPA, why a different mix is more appropriate.

9.6 Affordable Housing Mix

9.6.1 The provision of affordable housing will be sought in accordance with policy SWDP15, the adopted Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Oct 2016 and the local affordable housing needs in the area. Policy SWDP16 allows for the provision of affordable housing on rural exception schemes.

For further information on Advice Note 2 please contact:

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10 Further Reading

There is a range of advice and guidance on design in the built environment including spaces and streets, either published or endorsed by the government.

National Guidance

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)

Useful further references setting out best practice

Biodiversity by Design: A Guide for Sustainable Communities, TCPA, 2004

Building for Life 12 - Design Council CABE, 2015

Building in Context - New Development in Historic Areas, Historic England / CABE, 2002

By Design - Urban Design in the Planning System - Towards better practice, DETR, 2000

Civilised Streets, CABE, 2008

Climate change adaptation by design. A guide for sustainable communities, TCPA, 2007

Technical housing standards – nationally described space standard, DCLG, 2015

Delivering Great Places to Live, Building for Life, CABE, 2005

Delivering Quality Places Urban Design Compendium 2, English Partnerships / Housing Corporation, 2007

Design and Access Statements Explained, Thomas Telford, 2008

Living Roofs, Natural England, 2007

Living Places - Caring for Quality (Urban Research Summary No. 15), ODPM, 2004

Making Design Policy Work, CABE, 2005

Malvern Hills AONB Guidance on Building Design, Malvern Hills AONB Board

Manual for Streets, Department for Transport, 2007

Manual for Streets 2, Department for Transport, 2010

Passive Solar Estate Layout, GIR27, Energy Saving Trust, 2006

Safer Places: The Planning System and Crime Prevention, ODPM, 2004

Secured by Design - New Homes, Association of Chief Police Officers, 2010

The Lifetime Homes Design Guide, The Lifetime Homes Foundation, 2011

The Value of Housing Design and Layout, Thomas Telford Ltd, 2003

10 Further Reading

Urban Design Compendium, English Partnerships / Housing Corporation, 2000

Web based material:

English Geodiversity Charter, 2013 <http://www.englishgeodiversityforum.org/Downloads/GeodiversityCharterforEngland.pdf>

Geological Conservation Techniques and Good Practice, 2011
<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/83048>

Historic England advice including Conservation Principles, Good Practice Advice Note 2 and Good Practice Advice Note 3, 2015

<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/planning-system/>

Examples of residential design best practice

Development Location	Nos. Units	Key Features
Hanham Hall, near Bristol http://www.barrattdevelopments.co.uk/showcase/hanham-hall-bristol	161 varying sized dwelling units	Low energy housing; mix of affordable and market housing on the site of a former hospital. The original main building now being converted for community use.
Spring Hill, Stroud http://cohousing.org.uk/group/springhill-cohousing	30 apartments	A co-housing scheme offering communal kitchen, dining and sitting room accommodation plus allotments etc. as well as independent living in apartment units.
The Whintles, Bishops Castle http://thewintles.info/content/external/thewintles.pdf	34 varied housing units	Innovative low energy, architect-designed housing. Each dwelling is distinctive but within an overall design approach.
Lawley Village, Telford http://www.lawleyvillage.com/	Housing development of 2,000 + units	Multiple developer led large-scale scheme. Includes shopping centre, primary school and other facilities.

<p>Cranbrook, near Exeter</p> <p>http://www.exeterandeastdevon.gov.uk/Cranbrook/</p>	<p>8,000 units planned, and 2,000 already built</p>	<p>Part of the Exeter Growth Point project. Regional economic development as well as housing objectives. A variety of housing types and styles and an innovative 'education centre' for primary and secondary school age groups, plus town centre and community centre</p>
<p>Clarence Park Village, Malvern</p> <p>http://www.clarencepark.org/</p>	<p>101 apartments for the over 55s</p>	<p>An 'assisted living' scheme in a single block on three floors with a range of communal leisure facilities and carefully designed to a high specification for senior citizens with a range of assisted living needs.</p>

11 Glossary

Accessibility A term often used interchangeably with inclusive design to describe the extent to which a product or environment can be reached and is usable by the widest range of people.

Adaptability The capacity of a building or space to be changed so as to respond to changing social, technological, economic and climate conditions.

Building for Life 12 A measurement of the quality of development initiated by the Design Council CABE.

Building Line The line formed by the frontages of buildings along a street. The building line can be shown on a plan or section.

Conservation Area An area of special architectural and/or historical interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. It is a recognition of the value of a group of buildings and their surroundings and the need to protect not just individual buildings, but the character of the area as a whole.

Contemporary Following modern ideas or fashion in style, design, techniques or materials.

Context The area surrounding a development site. This can be the immediate area in terms of the site context, or can be at a more strategic level and be town-wide.

Density A measurement of residential development that offers a means of assessing the intensity of development within an area. For planning purposes density is usually calculated in either dwellings per hectare (dph) or habitable rooms per hectare (hrh), excluding land for other uses and major or strategic roads and landscape.

Desire Line An imaginary line linking facilities or places, which would form a convenient and direct route for pedestrians and cyclists.

Energy Efficiency The extent to which the use of energy is reduced through the way in which buildings are constructed and positioned on site or through the installation of equipment that uses renewable energy sources.

Focal point A building or structure that stands out from its background due to its height, size or some other aspect of its design.

Layout The way building routes and open spaces are placed in relation to each other.

Legibility The level to which a place can be easily understood or navigated.

Lifetime Homes A dwelling designed to meet some of the needs of disabled people now, and being capable of adaptation at a later date to meet the future needs of occupiers.

Local Distinctiveness the positive features of a place and its community which contribute to its individual character and sense of identity.

Massing The combined effect of the arrangement, volume and shape of a building or group of buildings.

Mixed Uses A mix of different uses (for example retail and residential) within a building, on a site or within a particular area.

Movement People and vehicles travelling through buildings, spaces and place.

Natural Surveillance The deterrence of nuisance and wrong doing by the presence of passers by or the ability of people to be seen from surrounding windows.

Passive Solar Gain The orientation and arrangement of buildings, spaces and windows to control the heating and cooling of rooms within a building in order to reduce the need for electrical, gas or oil heating or air conditioning.

Public Realm The space between and within buildings that is publicly accessible, including streets, squares, parks and open spaces.

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