

A photograph of a wooden bridge with railings, crossing a river. The bridge is made of dark wood and has a path of light-colored wooden planks leading towards the far end. The river is calm, reflecting the surrounding greenery. Dense trees and foliage line both banks, creating a lush, natural setting. The lighting suggests a sunny day, with shadows cast across the bridge deck.

Longparish Village Design Statement 2025



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1. Introduction

This Village Design Statement (VDS) describes Longparish as it is today. By looking at issues like the evolution of the village, its patterns of settlement, landscape, roads and buildings, we highlight the qualities that local residents value and would like to see in any future development.

The intention is not to prevent change, but to encourage development that preserves and enhances the special character of the village in a sustainable way which also protects the environment.

Who is it for?

Village design statements are supported by the Government and Test Valley Borough Council to allow local communities to help themselves, by participating in and influencing the way the planning system operates locally.

Changes to a village take place not only when new developments are allowed or buildings are constructed, but also in smaller adjustments made by existing residents.

In a village where development is as tightly controlled as in Longparish, these are particularly important. Changes to homes, gardens, boundaries, open spaces, hedges and paths can affect the feel of the village as a whole. A VDS that seeks to influence change positively should therefore be addressed to a wider audience, including:

- Residents, householders and businesses
- Planners, developers and builders
- Designers, architects and highways and utility engineers
- The Parish Council and Test Valley Borough Council
- Statutory bodies, public authorities and utilities

Everyone who is responsible for, or can influence, the design of new buildings, extensions and renovations or wants to make changes to the appearance of a building, its setting or its boundary should read and apply the Village Design Statement.

What is a Village Design Statement?

A Village Design Statement (VDS) is a description and analysis of what it is that makes a village distinctive, and outlines design guidance for further development. Its purpose is to help to guide the design of new development so that the village's essential character can remain. A VDS does not suggest development sites or uses; its sole focus is design.

Purpose

- It is about managing change, not preventing it.
- It gives the local community a chance to appraise the village and influence future development.
- It allows local priorities to be identified and identifies priorities that need to be addressed when developments take place.
- It guides those who build or develop to appropriate design solutions that reflect the character of the village.
- It should be compatible with statutory planning guidance and be suitable for adoption by Test Valley Borough Council as supplementary planning guidance to be used as a tool by Officers at the Council in their decision making.

The VDS, which can also be seen on the Village website www.longparish.org.uk, has been adopted by Test Valley Borough Council as Supplementary Planning Guidance and is for the use of all involved in the development process.

2. Parish History

Longparish evolved from four hamlets: Forton, Middleton, West Aston and East Aston.



Upper Mill



'Middeltune' is mentioned in the Domesday Book, and the whole village was owned by nearby Wherwell Abbey until 1536. The name Longparish has been used since the mid-16th century.

Historically the village economy was based on farming, fishing, and milling. Two mills are mentioned in the Domesday Book and two survive today: Upper Mill (not operational) and part of



another in Lower Mill. Many residents worked on the large estates of Middleton House and Longparish House.

The railway came to Longparish in the 1880s, with one line through Harewood Forest to Longparish station, west of the village, and another on the other side of the valley. Dismantled by the mid-1960s, the embankment, cuttings and bridges are still visible.

During the First World War, a gunpowder factory was built near the station. In the Second World War, munitions were stored in Harewood Forest. An army camp at the top of Southside Hill was demolished in 1985, but the land is still used for training.

3. Consultation

This Village Design Statement was completed following community consultation and active feedback from villagers through a questionnaire, in which photo submissions were invited. The questionnaire was published online, via the village Facebook page, on 1st May 2023 and also in hard copy form.

The questionnaire, to which 73 responses were received, contained agree/neutral or disagree questions and open invitations to say what was most important to each resident under a wide range of theme headings.

Those who responded confirmed the importance of the rural setting and appreciated the role that good, sympathetic, sustainable design has in enhancing the Parish and community.

An initial Open Meeting was held, to coincide with the AGM of the Parish Council on 29th April 2024, in order to obtain further feedback from parishioners to the Test Valley Borough Council approved draft. The final version of the plan, incorporating photographs, was displayed at the village fete on 7th September 2024.

4. Village Context & Landscape

Longparish is one of Test Valley's 59 parishes. The parish's population is 720 (Census 2021) and its population density is 0.33 people per hectare, which is lower than the borough's average population density of 2.10 people per hectare.

Longparish is a linear village in a parish of approximately 2156.02 hectares (5328 acres) which represents 3.43% of the total area of Test Valley; in terms of size, Longparish is Test Valley's fourth largest parish.

The parish lies along the clear waters of the famous River Test, about 5 miles east of Andover. Here, the valley of The Test is over half a mile wide, and the river is braided, running in several chalk streams, fed by springs and small rivulets. Most of the village is on the west side of the river amid the small, flat, grazing fields of the valley floor.



On either side of the valley are low ridges about 80 metres high, fairly continuous, and open on the south side and more broken to the north and west where the village is bounded by Harewood Forest. On the sloping sides of the valley, arable crops are grown in large fields, mainly enclosed by hedges.

Viewed from the ridges, little can be seen of the village which is lost in trees. Looking out from the village, views are bounded by the ridges where not hidden by trees.



5. Access & Approaches

With excellent access to the motorway network via A303 dual carriageway, the village is on the winding B3048 between Hurstbourne Priors and Wherwell. The main access from the east is from the B3400 Whitchurch - Andover Road, and from the west from the A303.

It can also be approached from the A34 along the C165, Nun's Walk, which runs on the opposite side of the valley to the B3048, and from the A303 by the C87 over Southside Hill which provides one of the most evocative views of the village (9 on map).

Another approach to the village, and one of the most attractive, is from the B3400 via the C87, The Middleway, through Harewood Forest.

6. Conservation Area & Other Protections

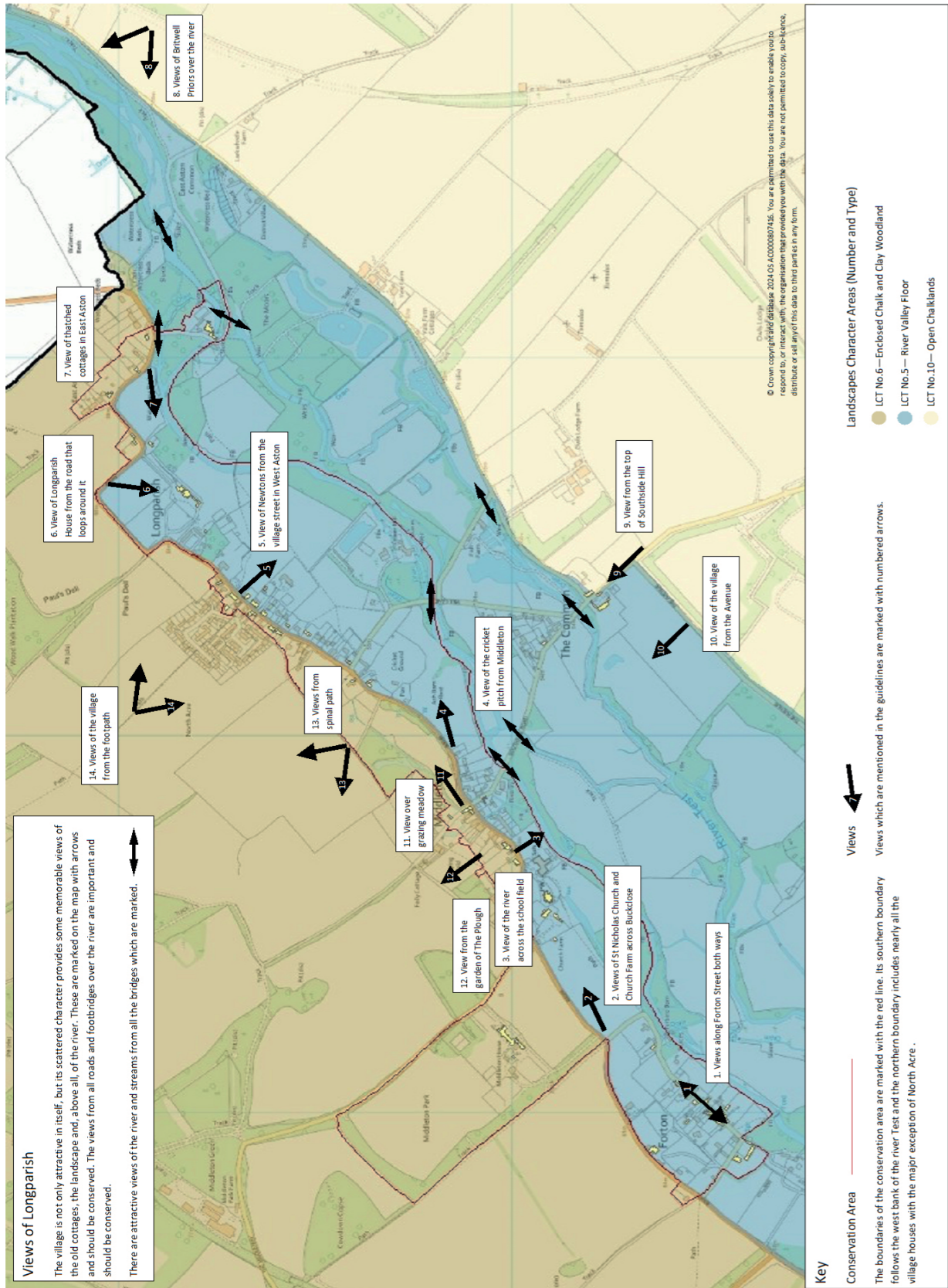
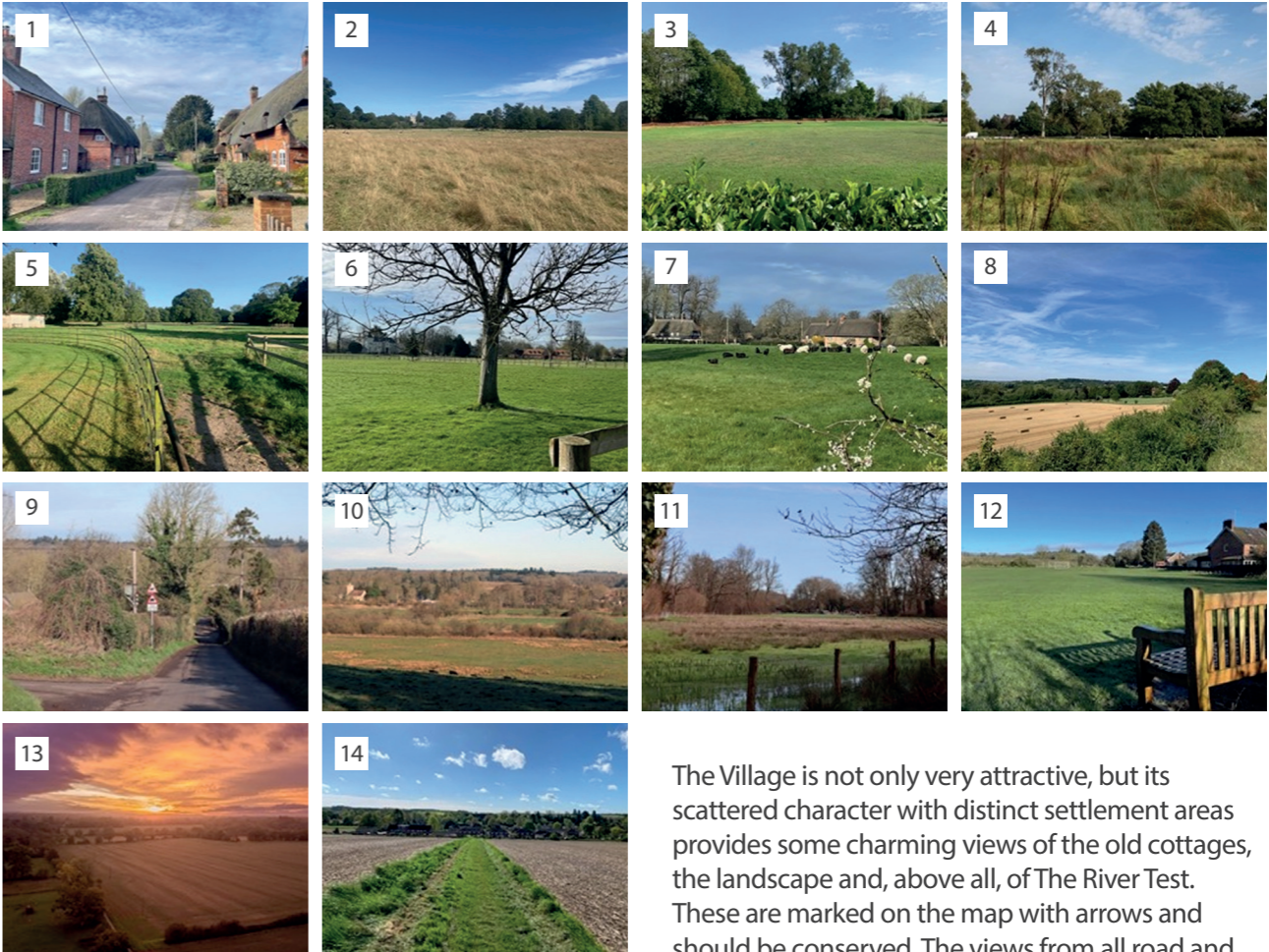


Figure 1



Photos correspond to views on map.

The Village is not only very attractive, but its scattered character with distinct settlement areas provides some charming views of the old cottages, the landscape and, above all, of The River Test. These are marked on the map with arrows and should be conserved. The views from all road and footbridges over the river are important and should be conserved.

There are attractive views of the river and streams from all the bridges which are marked (with two arrows facing in opposite directions).



Open Spaces

These separate the settlements, protect the much valued rural setting of The Village and afford some of the most attractive views.

Conservation area

The boundaries of the Conservation Area, which are also outlined in the Conservation Area Appraisal document (revised July 2009), are marked with a red line as shown in figure 1 (the map). Its southern boundary follows the west bank of the River Test, and the northern boundary includes nearly all the village houses with the major exception of North Acre.

Views

Views which are mentioned in the guidelines are marked with numbered arrows. Longparish Conservation Area was designated in 1983.

The Conservation Area covers almost the whole village: Forton, Middleton (except The Common), West Aston (except North Acre) and most of East Aston and all the open spaces between the settlements as shown in fig 2.

The Borough Revised Local Plan (2016) designates most of the existing open areas of the village as important open spaces, where development would only be permitted if it would not harm their value and contribution to character as important open areas.

Frontage infilling has occurred in certain areas of the village in Forton, Middleton and West Aston, where development or redevelopment is acceptable provided that it would have curtilages similar in size to those in the vicinity and would not harm the character of the area. North Acre is a “built-up area” where development and redevelopment for housing is permitted.

Longparish contains about 70 listed buildings or monuments, including most of the thatched cottages, which are referred to in the Conservation Area Appraisal document (revised July 2009). Alteration or demolition of listed buildings is an offence without listed building consent.



The landscape of Longparish is also protected by many designations. In 1997, The River Test was designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), as was The Cleeves (the common land at East Aston) in 1987.

Since 1988, The Valley of The River Test has been an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) where DEFRA makes grants to farmers who manage the land according to approved guidelines. This ESA was reaffirmed and extended in 1994.

Harewood Forest has been designated as a Countryside Heritage Area by Hampshire County Council; a non-statutory policy supported by Test Valley aimed at sympathetic land management of the area.

Landscape Character Assessments

Local area Landscape Character Assessments (LCAs) within the National Character Area (NCA) Hampshire Downs (No:6), designated for the village, and those for protected landscapes (where applicable), should be cross-referenced as they are a useful tool to ensure that the Village Design Statement makes a positive contribution in terms of design, form and location, to the character and functions of the landscape, and avoids any unacceptable impacts.

7. General Settlement Guidelines

Longparish is not a homogenous village. All new development should respect the local characteristics of the individual settlements.

- It is important to retain the distinctiveness of our four parish hamlets by maintaining a strategic gap between each one.
- Development should reflect the important character of the locality, established by the size, scale, density and design of the surrounding buildings.
- Small houses or terraces can fill the plot; large houses should have space around them.

SUMMARY

- Low street boundaries
- Open style gates & fences
- Low fences & hedges
- Native species
- Dark skies – limited exterior lighting
- Off road parking
- Utilities out of sight

Views

- Notable or important public views into, out of and through the village and hamlets, as identified on the map, should be conserved.

Boundaries

Garden boundaries, especially on the street, are mostly low which gives the parish its open character. In order to preserve the character and street view of the parish, fences, gates and walls should have an open feel.

Close-boarded gates and fencing on the front boundaries of properties should not be supported.

Open picket fences, natural or off-white, low walls in brick or brick and flint, low hedges in box, privet, yew, elm, beech or hornbeam all fit in well and will be supported.

Non native species such as fast growing conifers, such as Leylandii, should not be planted.



Outside Lighting

Dark night skies are a positive feature of the parish and street lighting will not be supported. Security lighting should have timed sensors, be downlit and sensitive to the environment and neighbours.

Parking

- New homes should provide off-road parking spaces to meet the needs of the occupants.
- Garages should be discrete, ideally to the side or rear of buildings, and large areas of hardstanding e.g. Tarmac should be avoided.



Utilities

- Where possible, domestic utilities and appliances e.g. aerials, satellite dishes, dustbins, oil tanks and solar panels should be kept out of view from the front elevation of properties and public rights of way which may be to the front or rear.

8. General Design Guidelines

Buildings

- Suitably designed modern, innovative and sustainable design, which is appropriate to the size of the plot or existing building and compatible with local character and adjoining properties, is supported.



- Different vernacular styles should not be mixed in the same building. For example, the local style in brick and flint is in narrow equal bands, and tile hanging in the older houses is restricted to the gable ends.



- Sensitive redevelopment of redundant farm buildings for mixed commercial or residential use will be supported if preserving traditional materials.



- Buildings should be maintained using sympathetic materials and architectural details, and retaining existing features.
- Detailing not found traditionally in the Parish should be avoided, for example mock-Tudor timbering, and diamond paned windows.
- Render should be in off-white to suit traditional chalk / lime-washed finishes.



Roof Extensions & Loft Conversions

- Roof extensions and loft conversions, should be designed with dormer windows rather than mansard roofs to be more in keeping with local character.



- Roof lights would not be supported in existing buildings if they have an adverse affect on dark skies and should never be used in thatch where they can be seen.

Additions & Extensions

- Additions to existing houses, such as extensions, garages, and conservatories should respect and complement the existing architectural style of the house.



Barns & Outbuildings

- Barns linked to houses, or within garden curtilage, are traditional features and should be preserved. Barns, subject to planning, could be used for residential, ancillary accommodation or sympathetically linked to the house if the location allows.



Porches, Doors & Windows

- New or replacement doors, porches and windows should complement the style and design of the building.



- New porches should be simple tiled, slate or thatched open porches, and Eyebrow rooflines frame windows in thatched properties



- White, Off-White or Pastel coloured window frames, which sympathetically add to the character of the Parish, will be supported.



Chimneys

- Chimneys should be in red brick, either external on the gable ends of houses or internal.



HAREWOOD

The southernmost settlement is separated from the rest of the village by the dual carriageway, A303, which was bridged in 1995. It lies on the edge of Harewood Forest and is well screened by planting.

A small number of two-storey Victorian redbrick homes surround the former railway station. Newer houses have been built in sympathy with the station architecture. They are separated from the Harewood industrial estate by the line of the old railway.

The industrial estate consists mainly of small units to the south of an open green. The visual impact of commercial buildings which break the tree line, have been camouflaged by the use of muted paint and trees.



Around the green are some houses in very varied styles built to accommodate those working on the estate.

On the A303 there is a service station with a shop.



HAREWOOD GUIDELINES

SUMMARY

- Red brick
- Tile roof
- Commercial buildings camouflaged/neutral finishes
- Buildings below tree line
- Low fences & hedges

By the old railway station, the character of the Victorian buildings should be retained in any further extensions or new building. Any buildings should be restricted to two storeys.

BUILDING MATERIALS APPROPRIATE IN THIS AREA:

Matching red brick and pitched tile roofs, and white-painted wooden windows and similar detailing should be used.

New commercial units should be as unobtrusive as possible, camouflaged by neutral finishes. Care should be taken to avoid high buildings that will break the tree line.

Lighting and signage should be kept to a necessary minimum.

Boundaries: should be low fences or hedges.

9. Individual Settlement Design Guidelines

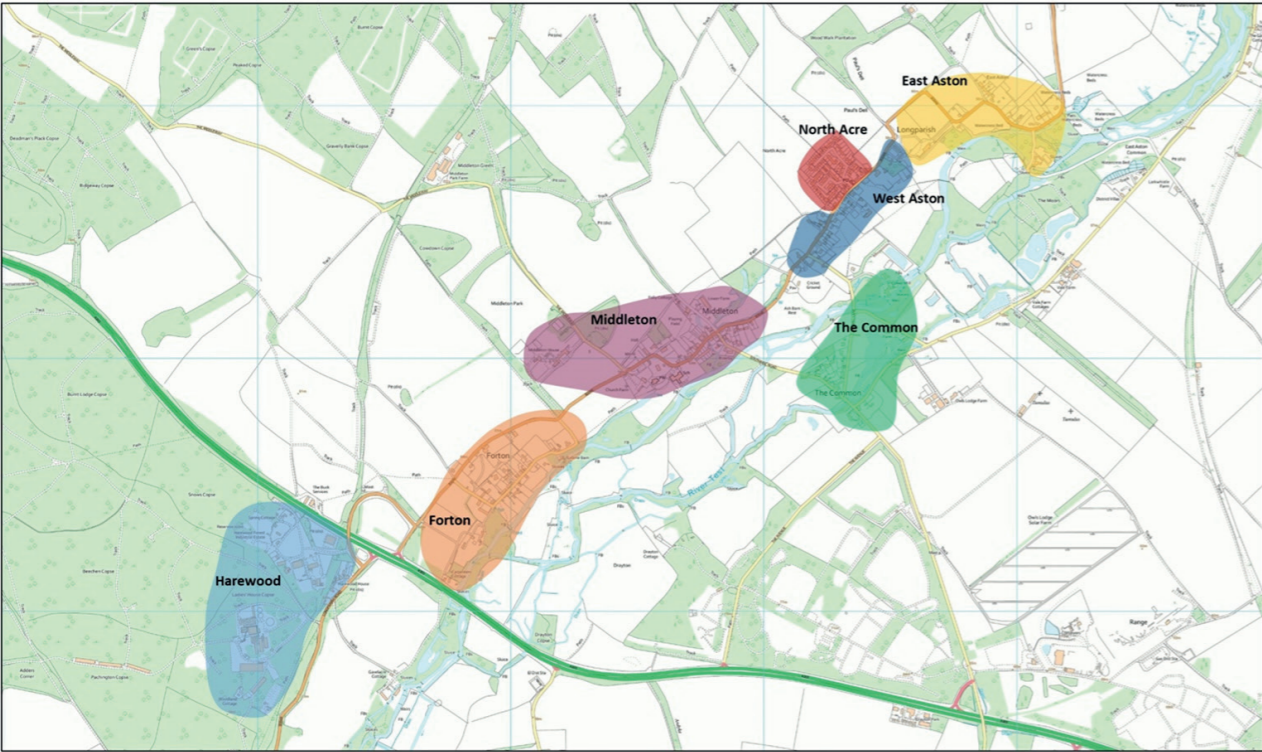


Figure 2

Longparish Character Areas

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FORTON

Forton has an intimate hidden quality. You can drive through Longparish and not know it is there. It lies southeast of the B3048 and Forton Street is close to the river.

On the higher ground are large houses in large gardens, mostly brick with slate or plain tile roofs built in the 19th and 20th centuries, some set back from the road and facing away from it. Forton House, on the main road, is one of the rare three storey houses in the village.

Forton Street is one of the most picturesque parts of the village with small cottages, some of them terraced, on both sides of the road with irregular gaps in between, some of which are protected by the Conservation Area. The orientation of the houses varies either facing the road or side on. The street is well used by walkers, as it is part of the Test Way.



Forton is a relatively densely settled hamlet with a high percentage of pre-1800 thatched, timber framed, cottages. These are built in rich red brick with interesting detail, such as blue headers over the windows. The windows are small with white-painted wooden frames and doors are made of wood. Through the preponderance of long straw thatch gives a low, rounded silhouette to the roof line along the street.



Some houses have small front gardens, softening the impact of the buildings, some are right on the street. Most houses on the southern side of the lane have long back gardens some running down to The Test. On the northern side there is limited backland development.

Boundaries are defined by low picket fences or low hedges, and wooden gates allow a view of the houses. Most houses have off- road parking with gravel drives.

The lane is very narrow with sharp corners and poor visibility, without curbs or lighting, and is unsuitable for through traffic.

Despite the relative density of the settlement, Forton retains the paddocks for grazing animals that are a feature of Longparish. They define the edges of the settlement and are part of the Conservation Area. The open parkland in front of Middleton House separates Forton from Middleton.

FORTON GUIDELINES

SUMMARY

- Red brick with detailing or painted finish
- Thatch, clay tile or slate roof
- Low fences, walls & hedges

To conserve the character of Forton, larger houses in any new development should be to the north or on the periphery.

The smaller houses on Forton Street are predominantly one and a half storey or two storeys high and any new development should respect this.

Further development should comply with parking standards to minimise on street parking and take account of the historic, narrow street pattern.

VARIED BUILDING MATERIALS ARE APPROPRIATE IN THIS AREA:

Walls: Should be in rich red brick with some details in blue brick or in painted render or painted brick.

Roofs: Materials should be in keeping with the existing roofs, mainly thatch, plain clay tile or slate.

Boundaries: Should be low picket fences, traditional style low walls or hedges.

MIDDLETON

Middleton House marks the southern end of the settlement, which is the historic centre of the village with many of the communal buildings.



The view of St Nicholas church, a Grade 1 listed building, and Church Farm on the road from Forton is perhaps the most painted and photographed in the village.

Also in Middleton are the school, The Plough Inn, the village hall with its car parks, the village cemetery, the football field, sewage pumping station and the telephone exchange.

It contains most of the notable landmarks in the village: the stocks by the church, two lychgates, the memorial cross by the school, the War Memorial in the cemetery, the grindstone and Ashburn Rest by the little stream along the village street.



The school field is an important open space giving a view of the river from the road and the boundary hedge should be kept low.

There is a greater diversity of housing styles and sizes here than elsewhere in the village. North of the road many houses are terraced or semi-detached, to the south mostly detached apart from a modern terrace. Nearly all houses are two-storey and mostly grouped according to type.



There are some thatched cottages, some chalk cob houses with low pitched slate roofs and several of brick. The Plough Inn, White Windows and The Cottage make a notable group of brick tile-hung houses with interesting roof lines and chimneys, and The Withies, the 1970s terrace opposite, has fitted in well.

A few houses are right on the road, but most have front gardens with low hedges or walls, or simple open wooden fences, and have long, narrow gardens behind.

At the only crossroads in the village by Stream House, settlement spreads in four directions. Sugar Lane has a mix of modern cottages, a Victorian terrace, and barns associated with Lower Farm. Southside Road has a mix of detached medium density housing, including a converted chapel, two traditional brick and flint thatched cottages and several modern houses built in old coal yards.

Streams along the main and crossroads of Middleton give the area added character. The small stream by the spinney along the village street is much valued and readily cleared by volunteers.

Opposite are grazing fields, which include the village playground, and the cricket field with its thatched pavilion. These spaces and the allotments separate Middleton from West Aston along the main street.

MIDDLETON GUIDELINES

SUMMARY

- Red brick or brick & flint or cob
- Thatch, clay tile or slate roof
- Low fences, walls & hedges

Existing landmarks, including Ashburn Rest, the Grindstone, Village Stocks and Memorial Cross should be preserved.



VARIED BUILDING MATERIALS ARE APPROPRIATE IN THIS AREA:

Walls: red brick, red brick and red tile, red brick and flint in equal bands, cob with slate roof.

Roofs: plain clay tiled roofs, thatch, slate on cob houses at very shallow pitch. In terraces, materials used should be consistent.

Boundaries: Should be low picket fences, traditional style low walls or hedges.

THE COMMON

The Common bounds one side of a triangle of land, separated by the river and grazing fields from the settlements on the B3048, where Mill Lane and Southside Road converge by Southside bridge.

It features chalk cob cottages with slate roofs, with a bungalow and two modern houses at the end. There are older cottages, mostly cob with slate roofs, along Southside Road looking over grazing fields, and Southside barns have been converted into a large house.





Mill Lane is characterised by more modern suburban-type housing facing a paddock and trout ponds. Middlebridge House, which recently replaced a dilapidated wooden bungalow, is a fine example of a Neo-Georgian brick and flint farmhouse style property with attractive modern outbuildings. Lower Mill House is a large house hidden in trees, which was built in the 1920s set in substantial grounds including the river.



THE COMMON GUIDELINES

SUMMARY

- Cob cottages on Southside Road
- Modern mix on Mill Lane
- Low fences, walls & hedges

The two-storey Cobb houses with slate roofs on Southside Road form a distinctive group whose character should be kept in any new development.

Boundaries: Should be low picket fences, walls or hedges.

WEST ASTON

Along the village street the housing is low to medium density, ranging from traditional thatched and timber framed or brick and flint cottages on both sides of the street to modern bungalows and some semi-detached former estate houses.

There are a few substantial houses in red or painted brick, set back from the road with large gardens, mainly on the southern side. The shop with its post office is found here, as is the village's other pub, The Cricketers Inn.



Infilling has taken place over a long period. Some back land development in the long gardens attached to housing along the main road has occurred, in such a way that it does not detract from the settlement character.



WEST ASTON GUIDELINES

SUMMARY

- One or two storeys
- Red brick, painted or timber frame
- Thatch or clay tile roof
- Low fences, walls & hedges

Houses should be one to two storeys.

VARIED BUILDING MATERIALS ARE APPROPRIATE IN THIS AREA:

Walls: Red brick, painted brick and timber frame with plaster for house walls.

Roofs: Thatch or plain clay tile.

Boundaries: Should be low picket fences, walls or hedges.

Tile capped chalk (cob) walls by the road should be preserved and maintained.

NORTH ACRE

North Acre is the only recent large development in the village and is concealed from the village street by a line of mainly thatched cottages. It has one narrow access road branching into two cul de sacs, lined with houses on both sides. It is the only part of the village with pavements (apart from a short length by the school) and with street lighting; features that give it a suburban character. There are two garage blocks, but North Acre has the greatest concentration of on-street parking.

Originally it was a council housing estate built in many stages. Started in 1936, housing was added twice during the 1940s and in 1956. These older houses are built in red brick with grey tiled roofs, mostly semi-detached, although there has been some infilling with buff brick. In 1968, bungalows for the elderly with a warden replaced the prefabs and in 1974 the estate was enlarged with another road added to the left with street lighting. These

newer houses include a high proportion of bungalows, which are in buff brick with plain grey tiled roofs with no chimneys; two storey houses are in the same materials with white timber cladding on the second storey.

Since the right to buy council houses was granted, improvements made to the housing stock are introducing greater variety of character and softening the estate style. Garages, small extensions and porches have been added and this is the only area of the village where picture windows and modern plastic windows are common. These are invariably white. In the older areas there are wooden fences defining the plots; the newer part is mainly open plan in front.



NORTH ACRE GUIDELINES

SUMMARY

- Minimise on street parking
- Use of soft landscaping
- Compatible with neighbouring properties
- Low fences & hedges

Any further development should comply with parking standards to minimise on street parking.

Personalization of North Acre houses, which is compatible with neighbouring houses, and use of soft landscaping are welcome.

Boundaries: should be low fences or hedges.

EAST ASTON

The settlement is separated from West Aston by the open spaces around Longparish House, set in parkland, and has the lowest density in the village.

Cottages line the higher left-hand side of the road out of the village looking over grazing fields and the river. Some houses are cob with slate roofs and some picturesque timber-framed brick or brick and flint thatched cottages, one with distinctive geometric tiling on the gable walls. Some once had barns and a few remain, which should be preserved. Gardens are medium to large.

Woodwalk is a short, unmade track off the main road on which there are two pairs of ex-estate houses, red brick with pantile roofs, recently sympathetically enlarged and a fine example of an attractive white rendered modern house. East Aston House is an enlarged cob house with noteworthy neo gothic windows and a recently constructed barn.



EAST ASTON GUIDELINES

SUMMARY

- Cob or render, brick, brick & flint or timber frame
- Thatch, tile or slate roof
- Hedges or low walls

Barns linked to houses should be preserved.

VARIED BUILDING MATERIALS ARE APPROPRIATE IN THIS AREA:

Walls: Cob or render, brick, brick and flint or timber frame with brick or plaster.

Roofs: Thatch, tile or slate.

Boundaries: should be low brick walls or hedges.

OUTLYING AREAS AND FARMS

Outside the main settlements, there are a number of farms with associated housing. Firgo Farm and buildings date from the 17th century. On Nun's Walk there are a number of farms, watercress beds and associated cottages and barns, as well as fishing lakes. Britwell Priors is an historic red brick building, dismantled and moved from Oxfordshire in the 1920s to its present site with a good view over the river (8 on map).



OUTLYING AREAS AND FARMS GUIDELINES

SUMMARY

- Native hedges
- Timber or metal open style gates

New development should not be allowed to break the skyline on the ridges.

BOUNDARIES:

Garden boundaries on the street should be low hedges, walls or fences.

All householders should avoid planting fast growing conifer hedges on property boundaries.

Gates, with their posts, should be of timber or metal in an open style in keeping with the size and scale of the property.

10. Environment & Sustainability

Protecting the environment and promoting sustainable development techniques are of great importance to village residents, based on responses to the questionnaire.

There is near universal support for protecting existing green areas, views and the river (often inextricably linked), as well as the general dispersed rural nature of the settlement. Residents rightly set high standards for stewardship of the natural environment.

Green infrastructure is also relevant in a rural context, where the use of farmland, woodland and our many wetlands such as The Common, or other natural features, provide services such as flood protection and should be protected.

There is general enthusiastic support for initiatives to safeguard the local environment and increase the sustainability of village life. Important areas of focus include biodiversity, alternative energy sources and

improving the energy efficiency of existing buildings, especially older and listed homes. To take one example, a thermal imaging camera is available to help residents better understand and mitigate heat loss from their property, reducing energy usage.

Longparish seeks to be an example of environmental stewardship and sustainable development in the local area.

Design should respect and, where possible, enhance the village’s local and neighbouring biodiversity resources. Any larger or substantial developments would need to conform with the Government’s Biodiversity Net Gain policy www.gov.uk/guidance/biodiversity-net-gain.

10A SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGIES AND DESIGN

Sustainable design technologies supporting renewable energy sources such as solar panels and heat pumps (both air and ground source) are supported and encouraged. Ideally these should be kept out of street-facing elevations. However, bearing in mind planning regulations, particularly relating to Listed properties and those situated within The Conservation Area, it is recognised that for solar panels in particular this is not always possible in order to maximise efficiency.

Suitable modern, innovative and sustainable design, which is appropriate to the size of the plot or existing building and compatible with local character and adjoining properties, should be encouraged.

This should incorporate the latest technologies and building principles, such as good insulation, double glazing and secondary glazing in listed properties, leading to a net benefit to the area from an environmental sustainability and biodiversity standpoint.

Our historic buildings must continue to change and evolve if they are to both contribute to a greener future and be fit for purpose for the people who live in, experience and care for them. If done thoughtfully and carefully, these changes can achieve the complementary goals of protecting



our heritage and adapting to a changing climate. Historic England has produced an Advice Note to provide clarity on key considerations and to support consistent decision making. This advice note can be downloaded from the Historic England website.

10B TREES and HEDGES

Trees and hedges are important to the character of Longparish. They limit the views and frame the settlement areas. Outside the forest, certain trees and woodlands in Longparish have been described in the Conservation Area as important for the character of the village. No tree within the Conservation Area may be felled, uprooted, lopped or topped without formal permission from Test Valley Borough Council planning department. There are also various trees which have Tree Preservation Orders placed upon them.

A wide range of tree species is found in the hedgerows, fields, along the river or in small spinneys and in gardens. The main species are Poplar, Willow, Alder, Beech, Oak, Hazel, Field Maple, Hornbeam, Horse Chestnut, Hawthorn, Lime and Blackthorn. The most important hedgerow species is The English Elm which marks the historic boundaries thought to be associated with Wherwell Priory whose estate boundaries extended to Longparish.

A long line of deciduous Larch trees is visible to the north of the village; while to the south, the ridge is marked by open farmland with the occasional spinney, such as Big Firs and Little Firs. A fine avenue of Lime trees leads to Longparish House.

When planning any new development or significant changes to existing development where planting

is required, this should encourage wildlife and biodiversity. The village has a strong preference for native species to be planted, but there is acknowledgement that some native species once common (such as Ash) are now vulnerable and limited non-native species can be a suitable replacement.

GUIDELINES

Appropriate tree species are Poplar, Willow, Alder, Beech, Oak, Hazel, Field Maple, Hornbeam, Horse Chestnut, Hawthorn, Lime and Blackthorn.

Important trees shown on the conservation area map should be preserved and replacements considered.

Anyone considering tree work should check with Test Valley Planning Department.

10C DARK SKIES

Preserving dark night skies over Longparish is important for both wildlife and residents. 97% of questionnaire respondents agree that this is a positive feature of the parish. However, their comments suggest that our Dark Skies are under threat, due in part to light pollution resulting from the expansion of Andover and Picket Twenty.

It is more important than ever to preserve darkness in areas. Developments and home/business owners should ensure that security lighting has timed sensors, is downlit and is sensitive to the environment and neighbours.

11. Boundaries

Field boundaries in the village are increasingly post and rail fences. Native species hedges are the alternatives, such as: hawthorn, blackthorn, holly, yew, elm, field maple and hazel.

Street facing boundaries are mostly low and should continue to be so as this gives the village its friendly character and open feel. Open picket fences, wooden post and rail fencing and gates, natural or off-white, low walls and brick or brick and flint or

low hedges in native species are appropriate to the character of the village.

There is a tension between privacy, security, family safety and aesthetic when it comes to personal dwelling boundaries. However, there are many examples around the village where the above measures layered in a complimentary manner satisfy those considerations more suitably than high close-boarded gates and fences, large metal fencing structures or fast-growing conifer hedges which are discouraged.

Owners are advised to ensure that hedges are not planted too close to the road as they grow inexorably outwards as they mature.

12. Highways, Paths, Signage and Street Furniture

Although verges are soft, and sometimes separate the road from small streams, so that traffic does considerable damage to them, concrete curbs, lighting, inappropriate signs and other urban elements are not to be encouraged on the existing village streets, as they are not in keeping with the village character.

There is no street lighting in Longparish apart from North Acre. The only pavements are in North Acre, opposite The Plough Public House to the village school and from the village school to the Village Hall car park.

Longparish is served by an excellent network of footpaths, which are well used, including the village spinal path which runs from North Acre to Sugar Lane and one long distance path, the Test Way. Some of the footpaths are thought to follow old roads. They provide shorter routes linking the settlements and attractive views of the village. Where possible wooden kissing gates should replace stiles to facilitate easier access.

GUIDELINES

Highways, paths, signage and street furniture should suit the local context and rural nature of the village.

The rural character of the village means that any introduction of features such as concrete curbs and lighting should be avoided unless absolutely necessary.

Street furniture (signs etc) should be in keeping with the rural nature of the village.

Footpaths should be preserved and well-maintained.

Where possible wooden kissing gates should replace stiles.

13. Traffic and Parking

With the exception of North Acre and West Aston, off-street parking is sufficient to avoid on street parking by residents. Areas where this is also not the case include Forton and Sugar Lane. Through traffic and the growing number of households with several cars, especially in West Aston, results in a problem to which there is currently no clear solution.

14. What Happens Next?

The guidance in this statement is intended to help homeowners make decisions about changes to their property as well as helping planners to ensure that future development in Longparish enhances the village we love.

The Parish Council now intend that this statement should be the starting point for a new Neighbourhood Plan, territory into which The Working Party have worked hard to avoid straying – comments emanating from The Village Design Statement questionnaire more relevant to a Village Plan were appreciated and noted for this future project.

15. Acknowledgements

The Working Party and Parish Council would like to thank all those who have helped with this Village Design Statement; particularly all members of the working party, who were a great team, for all their hard, effective work and various contributions:

Charles Birtles, who initiated the project, chaired the working party, collated the questionnaire comments, took photographs and wrote the first draft of the VDS and subsequent amendments. **Emma Palmer**, Chair of The Parish Council, who set up the questionnaire email, collated the responses and for her help as Parish Council and Test Valley Borough Council Liaison; **Peter Hull**, Parish Councillor and former Chair of The Parish Council during much of the process, whose many years of life and knowledge of the village, together with his input, was extremely helpful; **Gareth Brearley**, who took many of the excellent photographs, set up the online questionnaire and automated response, produced a brilliant analysis of the responses and whose IT expertise was absolutely invaluable; **Daryl Barnard**, whose practical input and contribution

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Details of Consultation to Date

Date	Content	Channel
June-August 2023	Introductory information sheet promoting the questionnaire to collate residents views on the Village Design Statement	Delivered to all houses via Hill and Valley Magazine in June and July editions. Displayed on all village noticeboards and other public locations. Also promoted via social media. Questionnaire available online via a QR code and in hard copy form at the shop and the two pubs.
September 2023	Questionnaire analysis made available	Promoted via Hill and Valley magazine and village website
April 2024	Draft Village Design Statement text and example photos on display	Displayed in Village Hall over a weekend and at a village lunch. This was promoted via social media. Request was made for villagers to submit their favourite photos of the village and to make comments on the text. This display was promoted via social media.
September 2024	Complete draft Village Design Statement including photos on display	Displayed at the Village Fete. The Village Design Statement had its own tent so villagers could come and review the document. A link was also available for those who wished to review the document at home. This was promoted via social media.



Longparish Village Design Statement 2025

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