



Longstock Village Design Statement

revision 4

November 2009

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foreword

This Design Statement has been prepared by a group of interested residents, including some members of the Parish Council, following a detailed information gathering and consultation process with the residents of the village (see appendix 1).

It describes the qualities of the village that the community treasures and sets out how these can be preserved and enhanced. It also identifies the developments that the community would like to see to improve the village and its environment.

Each section consists of a general description of a key quality or characteristic, supported where appropriate by a guidance or action statement and sources of relevant advice and information.

The Design Statement has several functions.

- It provides a source of information about the village; its history, demographics, residential and commercial building stock, physical characteristics, wildlife and agriculture, amenities etc.
- It provides guidance to landowners, householders and prospective developers, either directly or by reference to government or other guidelines and publications. (Throughout the document the terms 'developer' and 'development' have been used to describe the person or business planning to build or alter a property within the village.)
- When adopted by the Test Valley Borough Council, it will become a Supplementary Planning Document that will be used to assess the quality and appropriateness of the design of any de-

velopment requiring planning permission or listed building consent (see appendix 2).

- It provides a framework against which the village can assess proposed developments, whether as part of the statutory planning process or as part of a community consultation process.

It is intended that this document will be reviewed at regular intervals and updated to address the changing role of local government in development control and the chang-

ing context within which the village finds itself.

Reference to PPS (planning policy statement) and PPG (planning policy guidance) refer to guidelines published by Communities and Local Government, the ministry responsible for planning. Reference to TVBC *Env 02* refers to the Test Valley Borough Council Local Plan 2006 with appropriate policy reference. Both are available on the organisation's web site or in hard copy at the local planning office.





1 summary

The key qualities that the community treasures and would like to preserve and enhance can be summarised as follows:

- Rural setting
- Working village
- Informal linear structure interspersed with open spaces
- Diversity of building ages, styles and types

From these a range of objectives have been developed which form a framework for the long-term maintenance of a sustainable rural community.

N.B. Within the remit of this document only those relating directly to design matters should be considered as recommendations.



rural setting

Maintain and enhance Longstock's rural qualities.

Wherever possible the loss of tranquillity and light pollution of dark skies should be avoided.

Maintain the quality of the landscape through good stewardship.

population and housing

Encourage the provision of a broad mix of dwelling sizes, tenure and types.

village structure

Maintain and enhance the existing relaxed rural character of the village through appropriate layout and locations of development.

roads and footpaths

Avoid excessive street furniture, signage, fixed kerbs and overhead cables.

development density and open space

Retain and enhance the open spaces between and behind developed areas and within groups of buildings.

Develop at a density appropriate to the area in the village.

building form and scale

Respond to the form, scale and orientation of the immediate and general context.

Reinforce the sequence of spaces through the village.

Enhance the diversity of building ages, styles and types.

materials and detailing

Use natural indigenous materials and where appropriate their traditional detailing.

Contemporary buildings should respond to the vernacular but might also add to the diversity of building stock by reflecting broader stylistic influences.

conservation area and listed buildings

Preserve and enhance the existing setting of listed buildings and the conservation area.

nature conservation

Manage and develop land and buildings in a way that maintains and enhances the bio-diversity of the village and surrounding countryside.

trees boundaries and residual spaces

Use appropriate native species and boundary treatments that reflect the rural traditions of the area.

sustainable development

Encourage new development and alterations and extensions of existing buildings to the highest practical levels of sustainability.

2 the village

The key qualities that the community treasures and would like to preserve and enhance can be summarised as:

- Rural setting
- Working village
- Informal linear structure interspersed with open spaces
- Diversity of building ages, styles and types

Longstock has developed gradually over many centuries, mostly along or adjacent to the lane running north-south through the village. The overall density of development is very low and is arranged in clusters and groups of various sizes. This enhances the rural nature of the village but also fragments the population into several separate enclaves.

There are a number of working farms and estates in the village which provide employment for a significant number of residents, both directly and indirectly. In addition, the large secondary school, Test Valley School, and the Public House offer local employment opportunities and several residents own and run businesses outside the village, but within the immediate region.

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A number of residents commute a significant distance to work. Further village amenities include the church, war memorial, playing fields, playground area and village hall. These are situated in the main 'heart' of Longstock, near the intersection of Longstock Road with Church Road and The Bunny

The architectural qualities of the building stock reflect the local region but there are a number of features related to the layout, massing and materials that give the village a distinctive character. Similarly, the lack of pavements and kerbs and the style of boundaries and ancillary buildings all give the village a distinct rural quality.

These qualities and how they can be preserved and enhanced are reviewed in more detail in the following sections.

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2 the village

3 location

Longstock nestles in the northern part of the Test Valley in the county of Hampshire in Southern England. It is about 64 miles south west of London and 20 miles north of Southampton, 5 miles south of Andover, sitting midway between the cities of Winchester and Salisbury, 13 miles to the east and 17 miles to the west respectively. The nearest mainline railway stations are in Andover and Winchester, with the nearest local shops in Stockbridge, 1 ½ miles away. There is a paucity of public transport, making villagers of all ages dependent on cars, bicycles or walking.

Longstock as the name suggests is an elongated village which extends for a considerable distance, with most development on either side of the lane that runs on the western slope of the Test Valley, parallel with the river. Longstock begins in the upper part of Houghton Road, just across the bridge from Stockbridge, and ends some 2 ½ miles (4km) north, at Longstock Park. Within this spread, there are two main concentrations of development. At the southern end, this is around Houghton Road, lower Longstock Road, Salisbury Hill and Roman Road, where Test Valley School is also located.

At the northerly end of Longstock Road the development area runs from Bottom Road to Longstock Park. This is considered by many residents to be the historic and social 'heart' of the village, with the Church, public house (The Peat Spade) and Village Hall.



4 history

Longstock is steeped in a rich and varied history, with archaeological evidence of very early settlements. The first known recording of the village is in AD 982 as 'stoce', believed to derive from the Old English word 'stoc' meaning a dependent farm. The village appears in the 1086 Domesday Book as 'Stoche', where mention is made of '1 lordship, with 4 smallholders and 1 slave'.

However, there is far earlier evidence of man in the area: a copper 'celt' or axe head found in the parish has been dated by the British Museum to 1800 BC, and is believed to originate from Ireland, where copper mines were worked. There are ancient burial mounds within the parish and a few yards beyond the boundary at Danebury Hill lies one of the finest early Iron Age hill forts in the country with evidence of pre-Roman civilization. A Saxon charter also mentions an enclosure with pits at Meon Hill, where evidence has been found of a late Saxon execution cemetery and of Roman occupation. The Romans came to this part of the country in 43 AD and there are the remains of a Roman villa or farm near the Salisbury Road, reflecting the flourishing agriculture of the time.

Centuries later the Danes built a ship maintenance and construction yard in Longstock for their long ships. This site, situated behind Charity Farm, has been dated back to the 10th century and carries the status of Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM No.46), protected under the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Acts, 1979*. There is a suggestion that it may have Iron Age origins. The 'Danish Dock' or 'Naust' comprises a roughly square earthwork, with a bank and ditch on 3 sides, and the River Test forming the fourth side. It is believed the dock is related to the fighting in this area between Cnut and Edmund Ironside.

Records from 1233 name the village 'Langestok', and from 1524 show that the village had 45 taxpayers and 66 houses by 1665. Today, Longstock has 41 listed buildings, several of which date to the medieval period. It is known that an important road from Salisbury to Danebury Ring continued on to cross the river near the site of the Danish Dock, possibly following the current Church Road.

'The Manor of Longstock', now known as Longstock House, was held by Edward the Confessor in 1086 by Hugh, son of Osmund and it changed hands many times over the years until passing to the Crown again when Henry of Lancaster became Henry IV. Various leases of the site were made by late

kings, James I granting it to the trustees of the Earl of Southampton. Through marriage and descent the manor was conveyed to the third Duke of Portland: the story being that the Duke frequented an inn in Andover but never settled his account in cash and to discharge his debt to the landlord he parted with Longstock. It was bought by the Beddington family in the early part of the twentieth century, and by John Spedan Lewis in 1946. Between 1946 and 1952, Spedan Lewis developed the Beddingtons' 'bog garden' into the now internationally-renowned 'Longstock Water Gardens'. His interest in natural history and the countryside continues to be reflected in the 'environmentally-friendly' approach adopted by the Estate, where wildlife of all kinds is able to flourish.



In former times, peat was dug near the river, and at one time the Lord of the Manor allowed his labourers to take as much peat as they could in one day's digging. The Peat Spade pub and a large, water-filled hole, now enjoyed by ducks, are the only remaining tributes to this tradition. The valley once provided the raw materials for the rush mats, baskets and moses cradles woven at Longstock up until the time of the Second World War.

Records from 1865 show that Longstock had two inns, two beer retailers, two blacksmiths, a wheelwright, a horse trainer, a bricklayer, two builders, a flour mill (which employed 30-40 men until its closure in the mid-1940s) and two shops, one of which was a baker and grocer. The thatched cottage opposite the Peat Spade used to be a Post Office, and there was a village school (closed in 1924), two chapels and a church. In the late 19th century, Longstock and Stockbridge also boasted a fine and fashionable horse-racing track on the downs at Danebury, but this was closed in 1901 reportedly because the new owner Mrs Barker-Mills, did not approve of racing. To-day, only the pub and church remain, though a new village hall, a secondary school and a red telephone box were added in the 20th century. The nearest shopping facilities are now in the neighbouring villages of Stockbridge and Leckford, with poor public transport service and poor footpath access.



5 rural setting

Longstock runs alongside the River Test, at a point where the river has divided in many separate channels. The natural beauty of the river, valley and downs are renowned, providing a varied livelihood for the farming community as well as a range of sporting activities.

The north-western slope of the valley forms a backdrop to the village, sheltering much of the housing from the prevailing winds. To the east, the village is bordered by the wide river valley, where the unploughed water meadows provide a rare habitat for a rich diversity of flourishing wildlife. There are several registered Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in the valley bottom, and a fine south-facing chalk bank which has been preserved in Longstock Park.

The downs and most of the old meadowland are now cultivated, although there is very little soil in some places. There are some pockets

of clay and ploughed fields are dotted with flints of all shapes and sizes, known by locals as 'Hampshire diamonds'. The farmland is a mixture of arable and livestock with some conspicuous coppiced and woodland areas.

There is a thriving livery and training centre on Bottom Road, with stabling and several fields for the horses to graze.

At 'The Bunny', the River Test is split into several streams over which the road passes. There is a shallow area near 'The Willows' which is rumoured to have been used for washing down horses and carriages, and the large pool area on the carrier behind 'Moat Cottages' was used as a bathing pool by young villagers until the 1970s. Most of the river frontage in Longstock is owned by Leckford Estate and is used primarily for dry fly fishing, with some trout reared for stocking,

with an annual trapping of eels. Towards the southern end of the village, the Houghton Fishing Club manages the river. The River Test is an SSSI, and the river valley is an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA).

This rural setting provides the key qualities that the residents of the village have identified as being most precious to them:

quietness / peacefulness
night time darkness
rural landscape setting

Further information is included in sections 16, 17 and 18.

Maintain and enhance Longstock's rural qualities.

Wherever possible the loss of tranquillity and light pollution of dark skies should be avoided.

Maintain the quality of the landscape through good stewardship.

useful information

PPG 24 Planning and noise

TVBC AME 01 privacy and private open space
TVBC AME 03 artificial light intrusion
TVBC AME 04 noise and vibration
TVBC DES 01 landscape policy

Guidance notes for the reduction of light pollution
Institute of lighting engineers 2003.

DEFRA Stewardship guidelines.

Test Valley Community Landscape Project 2004
<http://www.testvaley.gov.uk/tvlcp>



6 population

The population of Longstock has gradually grown over the centuries.

The entry in the Domesday book suggests a population of around 45 people.

By the census of 1841 the population was in the order of 500 split between farm labourers and their families, artisans and the gentry. This remained fairly constant throughout the 19th and 20th centuries.

The current population is 451 although households have become smaller and there is now an average of 2.3 per dwelling against a national average of 2.4 and an average in 1861 of over 5.

The current age profile is similar to the national average (shown in brackets)

Working households with children	34% (29%)
Working households without children	39% (45%)
Retired households	27% (26%)

The proportion of working households without children appears low as the national average includes households with adult children still living at home. If a reasonable adjustment is made for this then the demographics of Longstock almost exactly mirror the national averages.

The Longstock population is almost exclusively white Anglo-Saxon as is common in southern rural villages. While some of the residents can trace their residence in the village back more than three generations, many are first generation incomers drawn to the village for its physical and social qualities.

Most newcomers integrate easily into the village and having done so many express a desire to remain here.

The impact of these demographic trends on the housing and employment stock is identified in the following sections.

Useful information

1841—1891 census information available for free on internet

2003/4 local census information

2001 national census information



7 housing

Most buildings in Longstock are residential, with some public facilities, agricultural barns and stabling. Only approximately 55% of Longstock houses are privately owned against a national average of 70%. The remainder are split between 11% council and social landlord housing and 34% being rented housing belonging to Leckford Estate, local independent farmers and private landlords.

The housing stock is largely detached semi-detached and terraced housing with only 5% being flats or maisonettes. As a result the average size of the dwellings is generous for the typical household size (average 6.11 rooms per dwelling). There is currently a clear shortage of 1 and 2 bedroom dwellings and of social housing for young couples and older members of the community.

The medieval heart of village housing is on The Broad, from the church northwards to 'Corner Cottage', with a cluster of thatched, half-timbered houses near the intersection of The Bunny and Church Road with Longstock Road. Some houses dating back to medieval



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and Tudor times are dotted along the road towards Stockbridge.

35% of the village housing stock pre-dates 1900 with another 26% built between 1900 and 1945. The remaining 39% were built after the Second World War, reflecting the national trend towards smaller households during the post war period.

A number of thatched houses and ancillary buildings were demolished in the 20th century and replaced by more commodious but architecturally less distinctive dwellings.



Some 20th century housing is clustered in cul-de-sacs on Roman Road, Southside Cottages and New Cottages, whilst other clusters have been built in neat rows parallel with Longstock Road, for example, Verlynch and Little Manor Cottages. In general, the building line in Longstock is very close to the road, with many houses abutting the road.

Individual modern houses have mostly been built on the sites of former houses and farm buildings that had fallen into disrepair. Some barns and the Wesleyan Chapel have been converted to housing in recent years.

There are limited opportunities for such development though there are a small number of

identifiable infill sites in the village which might be suitable for commercial activity, private and affordable housing, although respect should be paid to the prevailing plot sizes. The community has identified a need for smaller dwellings in the village for younger and older members of the community.

In any future development, great care should be taken not to distort further the original pattern of the village in terms of layout, spacing, design and planting.

Many Longstock houses are dependent on Leckford Estate for their water supply from underground aquifers, and consideration should be given to how to avoid increasing the strain on these services through the use of technologies such as rainwater harvesting and grey water recycling.

Encourage the provision of a broad mix of dwelling sizes, tenure and types.

Useful information

PPS 3 Housing

TVBC SET 03 development in the countryside
TVBC SET 06 frontage infill policy areas in the countryside

Leckford Estate 10 year plan 2005

8 village structure

Longstock is an extended village, stretching from the Houghton Road and Roman Road estate to the south to Longstock Park at the most northerly end. The historic centre of the village is located round the junctions of The Broad, Church Road and The Bunny, where the church, the pub, the old post office and the oldest cottages are located. Buildings include detached, semi-detached and terraced units with the predominant building line following the main south-north road that runs through the village.

The original cottages were isolated buildings in large plots built hard onto the road. This was followed in the 19 Century and 20 Century with a number of small scale estate and local authority built housing developments and individual houses. Some of these were semi-detached or terraced, parallel with and set back from the lane, to provide private front gardens and more recently off-street parking areas.

The buildings in the village exhibit a wide range of styles and materials and a similarly diverse relationship to the road and adjacent buildings. This diversity, along with the rural



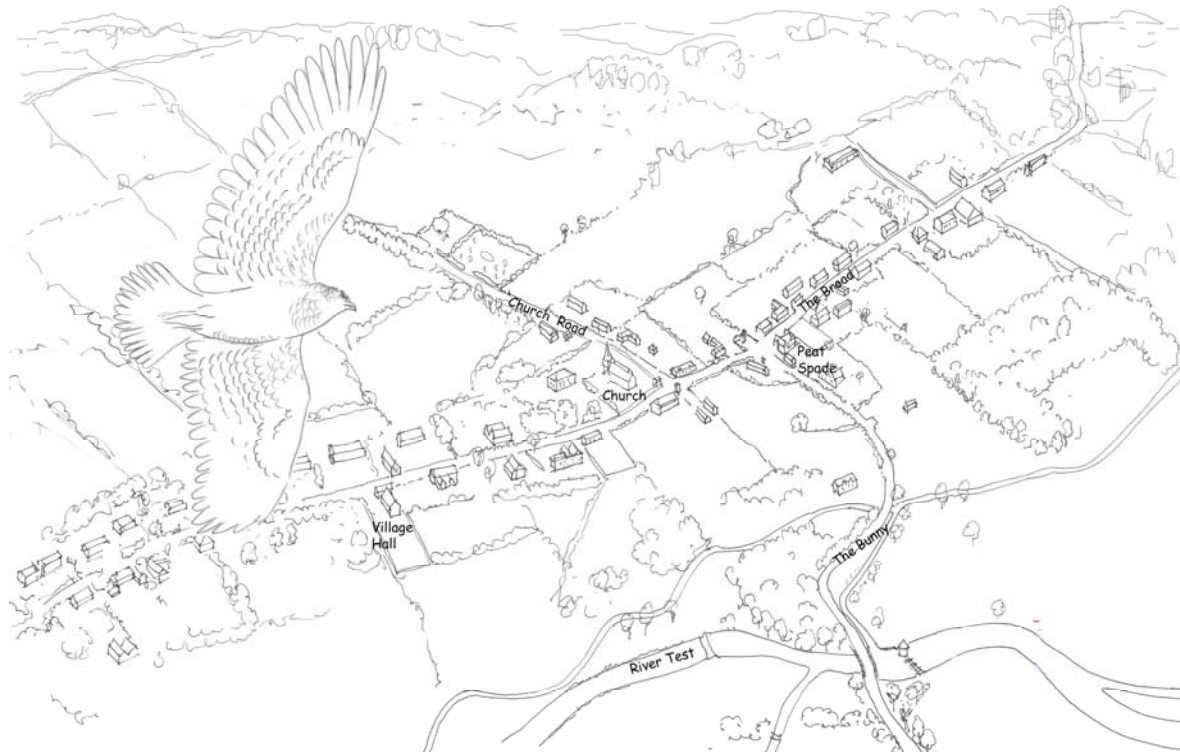
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nature of the detailing of roads, verges, boundaries, and ancillary buildings, gives the village its relaxed and rural character.

Where planned and repetitive development has occurred, this rural quality has in some instances been eroded, imposing a suburban character onto the otherwise rural nature of the village.

New developments of more than two houses should strive to include a degree of diversity in arrangement and materials. New developments should be small and be integrated into the village to avoid the segregation of different forms of tenure.



Maintain and enhance the existing relaxed rural character of the village through appropriate layout and locations of development.

Useful information

PPS 7 Sustainable development in rural areas

19

9 roads and footpaths

The road network in the village is limited: the A30 cuts across the parish at the southern end; the C17 runs south to north; the C91 follows the western boundary of the parish (linked to the C17 by Bottom Road); Church Road and The Bunny run west to east across the valley and the centre of the parish.



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With the exception of the A30 and the C91, these are country lanes used primarily by local traffic and for recreational purposes such as cycling, walking and horse riding. They have a number of bottlenecks and chicanes which (sometimes) slow the traffic and remind



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drivers that these are roads on which to take care.

However, there are identified traffic 'troublespots', such as: the C17 being used as a cut-through by commuters at certain times of day, often travelling over the speed limit; a high volume of cars and buses travelling to and from Test Valley secondary school through the Roman Road estate, with regular congestion in the bus bay; on-road parking near Longstock Mill and the Peat Spade Inn.

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There are limited street lamps along Longstock Road and this reduces light pollution. The village survey revealed that many villagers regard this as an important feature of the village, and there was a strong view that further street lighting should be discouraged.



Avoid excessive street furniture, signage, fixed kerbs and overhead cables.

Useful information

TVBC DES 04 route networks

Local footpath maps

'Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000
Natural England's Environmental Stewardship scheme

10 development density and open space

The plot sizes in the centre of the village range from 280 m² for one of the smallest terraced houses to 5-6000 m² for some of the larger houses. The average plot, excluding adjacent amenity land, is 594 m². This relatively low density helps create the rural feeling of the village by allowing open space to exist between the houses.

The single lines of housing on the main road are interspersed with open spaces, which enhance the rural atmosphere and tranquillity of the village. These open spaces help to preserve much of the character of the village and also offer habitats for local wildlife.

The maintenance of this open space is an objective of the Local Plan as well as being strongly supported by the respondents to the Parish Plan survey, conducted in 2004. Planning policy SET 07 identifies that frontage infill developments, as is the case here, should have a plot size similar to those in the immediate vicinity .

Some of the open space areas are used as paddocks or grazing for cattle, and some have been left 'wild', providing a vital habitat for local flora and fauna. Some open spaces 24

are designated SSSIs.

There is a very strong feeling amongst villagers that the open spaces throughout Longstock are a distinctive feature of the village which should be maintained. Wherever possible new development should not impinge on important views.



Retain and enhance the open spaces between and behind developed areas and within groups of buildings

Develop at a density appropriate to the area in the village

Useful information

PPS 7 Sustainable development in rural areas

TVBC SET 06 frontage infill policy areas in the countryside



11 building form, siting and orientation

The form and massing of the houses and other buildings in the village is generally very simple. The oldest cottages are single storey with rooms in the roof space lit by hooded dormer windows. The roofs are thatched with full or hipped gables. The roofs of most 17th and 18th century housing are made with local tiles, often with several gables.

There is a trend for some single houses, barns and other buildings to be built gable end to the road with simple pitched roofs. This responds to access requirements but also to the north-south alignment of the road and the desire for southerly orientation of principal rooms and gardens.



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The result is a number of visual pinch points through the village creating distinct groups of buildings through the village that give structure and rhythm to the linear settlement.

A number of 20th century developments were built set back at some distance from the main road, or in terraces which are at right angles to the road. These have introduced new building lines to the traditional layout of houses and further developments of this nature would be out of keeping with the rural

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setting. The more suburban aspects of existing developments could be softened with tree and hedgerow planting.



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Roof pitches also play a significant part in the appearance of the village. Historically they are largely dependent on building material. Thatched buildings are generally over 50 degree, plain tile roofs will be between 47.5 and 40, degrees while slate, concrete tile and sheet metal roofs will be between 35 and 15 degrees.

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With the exception of the regency style houses, shallow roof pitches tend to be connected with more modern developments and a more suburban appearance. The use of steeper roof pitches regardless of material will assist in enhancing the traditional character of the village.



Respond to the form, scale and orientation of the immediate and general context.

Reinforce the sequence of spaces through the village.

Enhance the diversity of building ages, styles and types.

Useful information

TVBC DES 02 settlement character
TVBC DES 05 layout and siting
TVBC DES 06 scale height and massing

12 building character, materials and detailing

Vernacular

As previously described, the earliest buildings are timber frame structures with chalk cob (or clunch), wattle and daub, brick or rendered infill panels and thatched roofs. A limited number of cob buildings survive though presumably there were more in the past.

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was followed by more diverse brick types and a wide variety of slate, concrete plain and interlocking tile roofs.

Similarly there was a progression from leaded timber windows through cast iron, steel and aluminium to hardwood and UPVC window frames. As a result there is no single dominant vernacular style in the village.

By design

The more important buildings in the village tend to follow stylistic fashion rather than pragmatic pressures. Most notable are the houses of the more affluent members of the community, the vicar, the farmers and land owners, and the places of worship and the pub. These were designed with more consciousness of projecting a sense of individual

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identity.

In the early 19 Century the style was predominantly Regency. Later Victorian buildings such as the Peat Spade Inn show a distinct arts and crafts influence. Early 20 Century houses reflect the move towards a more conscious concept of the vernacular, using brick, flint and thatch.

By the middle of the century this was superseded by more contemporary designs reflecting changes in public taste.



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This style was superseded, with the arrival of the railways and later road transport, by more pragmatic responses to the most economical and efficient building method. Thus, local brick, flint and tile followed timber frame and

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Most recently the style pendulum has swung back two hundred years with the completion of a grand neo Georgian house on Bottom Lane.

Roofs

Thatch
Metal sheet (including corrugated iron)
Slate
Clay plain tiles
Concrete plain tiles
Concrete interlocking tiles
Timber shingles

Windows

Leaded lights in timber frames
Plain glazed painted timber
Cast iron
Crittall steel windows
Aluminium
Hardwood double glazed
UPVC

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An extremely diverse range of materials has been used in the construction of the village with no single material dominating.

Walls

Timber frame with brick or render infill
Chalk cob on brick and flint plinth
Flint
Brick and flint panels
Plain brick of different origins
Render on brick or rubble
Tile hanging
Timber boarding

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To prevent the gradual shift to a suburban character preference should be given to natural and indigenous materials such as red brick, flint, timber boarding and shingles, clay tile, thatch, natural slate, lime render and stucco in preference to modern urban materials such as imported or concrete bricks and roof tiles, aluminium and UPVC windows, plastic verge and soffit details, and 'stick on' decorative features.

Combinations and colour

Most of the buildings in the village have a very limited palette of external materials, usually only two or three, mostly of a natural hue.



This is to be encouraged in new developments.

There are a significant number of buildings which have a common material or common colour for the upper walls and roof. This might be tile hanging and clay tile roof, red brick and clay tile roof or timber and slate. This gives those buildings a notable solidity.

Despite the range of materials there are two underlying colours to the village. Weathered 43
thatch, timber boarding, tiles, shingles etc share a silver brown colouring which together with the use of red clay tiles and red brick gives consistency to the overall appearance of the village.



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Details

Inevitably along with such a diversity of materials goes a wide range of detailing. Over the centuries the approach has changed in response to construction trends and fashion. 44



Older properties tend to have flush facades with windows on the face of the building and few sills under deep overhanging eaves. Newer developments tend to have recessed windows with distinct sills and shallower guttered eaves.



Use natural indigenous materials and where appropriate their traditional detailing.

Contemporary buildings should respond to the vernacular but might also add to the diversity of building stock by reflecting broader stylistic influences.

Useful information

TVBC DES 07 appearance details and materials

13 conservation area and listed buildings

The first impression of Longstock is of a village left relatively unscathed by the ravages of time. Entering the heart of the village from the northern end, the visitor passes through a leafy tunnel on the approach to Corner Cottage to be greeted by a delightful range of gently undulating thatched cottages on The Broad, with views of the river valley beyond.

Surprisingly only 25% of the housing stock predates the Victorian era. Most of these older houses are now listed properties, and each is a unique example of the skills and craftsmanship of the age in which it was built. Local materials were used, including long straw to thatch the roofs, with some window and ridge details in reed from the riverbed. Long straw roofs need to be steep for water run-off, and form deep overhangs to protect the wattle-and-daub in filled walls beneath them.



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Many of the timbers used to form the frame for these houses show water marks as they came from disused ships, believed to have been brought up the Test from Southampton Water. Other timbers show marks where they have been re-used from former houses. Al-

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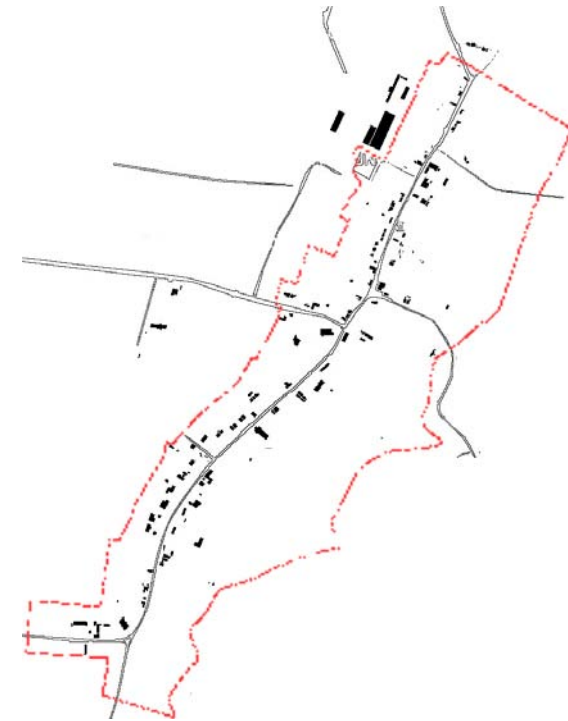


Any development in areas close to these old cottages should take particular care with the choice of style, size and materials.

The heart of the village is designated as a conservation area, which provides some additional controls over the upkeep of existing buildings, open spaces, hedging and trees.

Preserve and enhance the existing setting of listed buildings and the conservation area.

though many Longstock houses may date back to the 15th and 16th centuries, the timbers used to build them could be hundreds of years older! Over the centuries, flint and bricks have been used to infill panels where the wattle and daub has started to disintegrate.



Useful information

PPG 15 Planning and the historic environment

TVBC ENV 12 Demolition of Listed Buildings
TVBC ENV 13 Alteration to and Changes of Listed Buildings
TVBC ENV 14 Demolition in Conservation Areas
TVBC ENV 15 Development in Conservation Areas
TVBC ENV 17 Settings of Conservation Areas
Buildings, Archaeological Sites and Historic Parks and Gardens

TVBC leaflets

Conservation areas1: An Introduction

Listed Buildings1: An Introduction

Listed Buildings 2: Ownership Responsibilities

14 nature conservation

The village contains within it a wide diversity of wildlife habitats from chalk stream and associated reed beds and marshes to down land, ancient meadows bordering drove roads, woodland and coppice. Most is cultivated and managed and a little is left wild. As with much of the Test Valley, this provides a level of biodiversity amongst the broadest in the south of England.

Trout, eels, water vole, otter and numerous other animals flourish in the River Test, which is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest. Badgers, foxes, rabbits and other small mammals inhabit the ancient earthworks, lane



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side hedgerows and un-cultivated downland escarpments, and native roe deer continue to roam across much of the agricultural land, woodland and park land, despite the advent of muntjac deer which can threaten their habitat.

In some places wild flower meadows, seasonally grazed by horses, support a huge diversity of flowers and grasses in turn supporting a wide range of insect life. Numerous wild birds inhabit the gardens, hedgerows, woodland and down land from the humble wren to the stately buzzard.

Wild fungi, sloe, damson, crab apple, bramble, rosehips and other 'wild' food can all be collected along the village footpaths and lanes while, with the appropriate licence and fishing fee, trout of considerable size can be caught in the river.

Much of the land in the village owned by local farmers is now farmed organically, and benefits from an environmental agreement funded with grant support from Natural England's Environmental Stewardship Scheme (NEES). Land owned by Leckford Estate is farmed according to integrated farm management principles as promoted by Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF).

NEES has provided new footpaths and bridleways, with circular walks and rides between Danebury Hillfort and the picturesque villages of Stockbridge and Longstock, affording fine views of the open Hampshire Downs countryside.

Alongside the tracks are areas of farmland put down to grass, which is protecting important Iron Age burial systems from damage by ploughing. The rare summer visiting stone curlew can sometimes be seen here, encouraged by the land owner having established fallow plots in the middle of his fields. Across the farmland birds, brown hare and butterflies are being supported by planting wildlife mixes and flower rich field margins.

In the river valley the important flower-rich water meadows are being managed by extensive grazing to benefit wildflowers and protect the River Test. There are many farmland birds to be seen, such as lapwing and grey partridge, with rare sightings of corn buntings.

Manage and develop land and buildings in a way that maintains and enhances the biodiversity of the village and surrounding countryside.

Useful information

PPS9 Biodiversity and geological conservation

Hampshire County Council List of environmental consultants.

Natural England web site

Defra web site



15 trees, boundaries and residual space

The mature trees in Longstock are an essential feature of the village. There is a fine stand of beech trees along Longstock Road near Lower Manor Farm, with Millennium plantings of beech and ash between Lower Manor Farm and Bottom Road.

There are many ancient yews in the village, along with fine copper beech, oaks, ash, willows, sycamore, limes, walnut and many specimen trees, including two fine ginkgos in the church yard and old Rectory. Many of these stand near the road in private gardens, with a particularly fine yew in the Churchyard. Some have tree preservation orders and trees within the conservation area are also protected. Longstock Park has a fine arboretum of native and imported trees, a beautiful sight in all seasons.

High deciduous and coniferous trees not only provide a backdrop to the house silhouettes, but also provide homes for our treasured wildlife. A walk through Longstock in the dark is usually accompanied by the sound of barn, tawny and little owls very close by! Tall, mature trees are a characteristic of the village. Existing trees should be vigorously protected, and any felled trees should be replaced without delay. The planting of indigenous trees is to be encouraged.

The traditional rural property boundary, hedgerow and verge treatment have in places been replaced by suburban materials and construction to the detriment of the character of the village. This trend should be discouraged and where possible the rural structure restored.

The use of natural materials for property boundaries in the village should be encouraged: traditional hedging of mixed and single

indigenous species; boundary walls of flint, brick and flint, clutch or cob and metal and timber post and rail fencing. The use of pre-fabricated timber panel or close boarded timber fences should be avoided where possible, or softened by planting, as they bring a suburban style to the rural setting.

Consideration should be given to the height of boundaries around properties to avoid excessive overshadowing and loss of views. However there is a tradition in the village of taller walls to gardens abutting the lanes which might be an appropriate approach in some instances.

Use appropriate indigenous species and boundary treatments that reflect the rural traditions of the area.

Useful information

TVBC DES 08 trees and hedgerows
TVBC DES 09 wildlife and amenity features



16 gardens

Longstock's gardens vary in size and design, mostly in keeping with the houses they surround, and many contain areas where wildlife flourish.

Creating a wildlife friendly garden promotes biodiversity and can be achieved with a carefully selected combination of formal and informal features and planting.

Hedges are one of the most important features for wildlife and the choice of material is important. Plant with native species like hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel and holly with spindle

as the base. interplant with native climbing and flowering species such as wild honey-suckle, ivy, dog rose or clematis. These can be trimmed just once a year out of nesting season ideally leaving plenty of seeds and berries for the birds. The base should be left broad and not too tidy, leaving seed heads and leaf litter to attract insects, small mammals and hedgehogs.

Consideration should be given to planting specimen trees either indigenous species or those of particular arboreal quality to replace

the gradual loss of road side and garden trees.

Longstock Park has a fine arboretum which is occasionally open to the public. Indications as to how different species of tree will develop locally can be seen here.

Plan gardens in new and existing development that will promote the bio-diversity of the area.

Useful information

PPS9 Biodiversity and geological conservation

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds web site
www.rspb.org.uk



17 sustainable development

Each year the residents of Longstock release the equivalent to 4000 tons of carbon in heating and general electrical use and around 1500 tons of carbon through the use of vehicles. This is fairly typical of rural communities and reflects the low efficiency of an aging building stock and poor local amenities and public transport facilities.

These concerns are the subject of much recent government legislation. This has resulted in a significant change in government policy and resulted in the introduction of many new initiatives: energy ratings for existing and new homes; differential taxation of motor vehicles; enhanced energy efficiency required by building regulations and associated legislation.

By 2016 all new homes will to be required to be zero carbon. A similar target will soon be introduced for commercial buildings. This will impact on the location, orientation, massing, construction methods and materials and heating and lighting systems used in new and existing buildings

In many local authority areas, elevated sustainability requirements are being imposed by local authorities using the Code for Sustainable Housing and Breeam rating system as planning conditions. Test Valley does not yet impose such conditions but Building Regulations and public funders are regularly increasing the standards on a regular basis.

Over time this will have an effect on the local vernacular style. Different methods of construction will become more common with associated changes in preferred external materials and details. This need not conflict with guidance given in previous sections regarding

materials and detailing, indeed there is a strong case for the imaginative use of traditional local materials as part of a sustainable development plan.

Where possible materials for construction should be obtained from managed sources using materials that capture rather than emit carbon in production and construction.

Where new houses or major refurbishments are being considered the inclusion of low and zero carbon technologies that exceed minimum government requirements should also be encouraged.

Care should be taken that 'eco bling' (solar panels, wind turbines, passive ventilation stacks etc.) does not detract from the character of the village particularly in the conservation area.

While existing property owners should be encouraged to improve the thermal performance of their properties, this should be balanced with the impact on the fabric and appearance of listed buildings and the conservation area; e.g. solar panels on a thatched roof might not be an appropriate response.

Village initiatives for the provision of energy from renewable resources such as farm waste and solar energy should be encouraged

Where possible new development should be accessible to public transport and local facilities.

Encourage new development and alterations and extensions of existing buildings to the highest practical levels of sustainability.

Useful information

PPS 01 Delivering sustainable development
PPS22 Renewable energy

'Renewable Energy Resources for the Longstock Parish Study 2005'; Reading University

'Longstock Renewable Energy Village—options assessment 2006'; Enviro Consulting for DEFRA

Code for Sustainable Housing 2008 - Communities and Local Government

BREEAM Building Research Establishment Energy Assessment for non residential buildings.

Appendix 1

Information gathering and consultation

The preparation of the Village Design Statement has developed from the Parish Plan process started in 2003.

05/12/03	The first meeting of the parish plan committee, parish plan steering committee was formed. First outline item status report put together.
14/01/04	Election of officers
16/03/04	First general meeting held in village hall - 78 people attended
29/04/04	Leckford Estate 10 year Plan Open meeting
15/05/04	Focus group meetings held throughout the village and comments returned
17/05/04	Summary feedback from focus groups
20/05/04	Pilot questionnaire ready
06/04-07/04	Main Questionnaire printed and distributed on two colours white for adults, yellow for under 18s
08/04-09/04	141 households (80% response rate). All questionnaire comments compiled in statistical and narrative formats.
02/11/04	Open village meeting
15/03/05	1 st draft of LPP Action Plan
15/06/05	Action Plan taken to the Parish Council for approval
July 2005	Action Plan given to Countryside Agency by end of July 2005
13/09/05	Initiation of Village Design Statement development. VDS sub committee established.
17/07/06	First draft VDS prepared
18/01/07	Second draft VDS prepared
20/03/07	Open village meeting to report on progress and seek input on Village Plan and Village Design Statement over 60 people attended.
04—06/07	Second draft issued to every household in Longstock
08/07	Responses received and reviewed
03-04/08	Final draft reviewed and endorsed by PP steering group and Parish Council
09/08	Comments received from TVBC
11/09	Revised draft completed for submission to TVBC

The process of developing the Village Plan and Village Design Statement has involved a substantial amount of freely donated time from a large number of people in the village led by:

David Burnfield
Graham Evans
Rosie Flewitt
Jan Greep
Charles Grieve
Paul Jenkins
Dane Oliver
John Pritchard
Richard Robinson
Carrie Ross
Simon Taylor
Sophie Walters

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Paul Jenkins for the design of the VDS and for many of the photographs of the village and the explanatory diagrammes.

Appendix 2

Village Design Statements as Supplementary Planning Documents

Village Design Statement

Under the Natural England and TVBC guidance the VDS should describe the countryside and landscape setting, form of settlement and details of buildings and spaces.

Its use as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is limited to addressing details of design and materials. It should not address whether or where future development should take place. These are matters covered by the Local Plan and Local Development Framework (LDF)

Development Plan

As defined by section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 this comprises;

- **Test Valley Borough Council Local Plan 2006**
(to be replaced by TVBC Local Development Framework)
- **Hampshire County Structure Plan 1996-2011 (Review)**
(to be replaced by South East Plan)
- **Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton Minerals and Waste Local Plan 1998**
(to be replaced by Hampshire Minerals and Waste Local Development Framework)
- **Regional Planning Guidance for the South East (RPG9) 2001** (to be replaced by South East Plan)

National Planning Guidance

This is set out in

- **Circulars**
- **Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) and**
- **Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPGs)**

Planning Acts

- **Town and Country Planning Act 1990**
- **Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990**
- **Planning (Hazardous Substances) Act 1990**
- **Planning and Compensation Act 1991**
- **Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004**