

The Parish of Compton Bishop

Village Design Statement

Exhibition material

December 2001

This booklet comprises the information and displays exhibited to the Parish of Compton Bishop at an open exhibition on December 1st 2001 held in the Memorial Hall, Cross.

The exhibition represents a significant stage of the development of a Village Design Statement (VDS) and is the culmination of 10 months work and preparation, including an individual questionnaire to each member of every household over the age of 11 years. It consolidates the aspirations of The Parish in all matters regarding the character of the Parish and its view on future planning and development.

Please return this booklet to Richard Parker

Introduction

The exhibition was laid out in eight sections :-

1. Definition and explanation of a Village Design Statement
2. The Parish response to a questionnaire
3. Sedgemoor District Council Local Plan and policies
4. Background to our village character
 - 4.1. AONB
 - 4.2. Landscape
 - 4.3. A brief history
 - 4.4. Geology
 - 4.5. Natural History
5. Survey and details of :-
 - 5.1. Houses
 - 5.2. Roofing
 - 5.3. Chimneys
 - 5.4. Origins of the character of Architecture
 - 5.5. Windows
 - 5.6. Walls
 - 5.7. local and hidden history
6. What Happens Next ?
7. Comment board.
8. Acknowledgements

Section 1 - What is a Village Design Statement ?

Objectives of a VDS

The Countryside Commission stated objectives are :-

- To describe the distinctive character of the village and the surrounding countryside
- To show how character can be identified at three levels
 - The landscape setting of the village
 - the shape of the settlement
 - the nature of the buildings themselves
- To draw up the design principles based on the distinctive local character
To work in partnership with the local planning authority in the context of existing local planning policy, and to influence future policies

Sedgemoor District Council set their requirements for a supplementary planning guide to cover :-

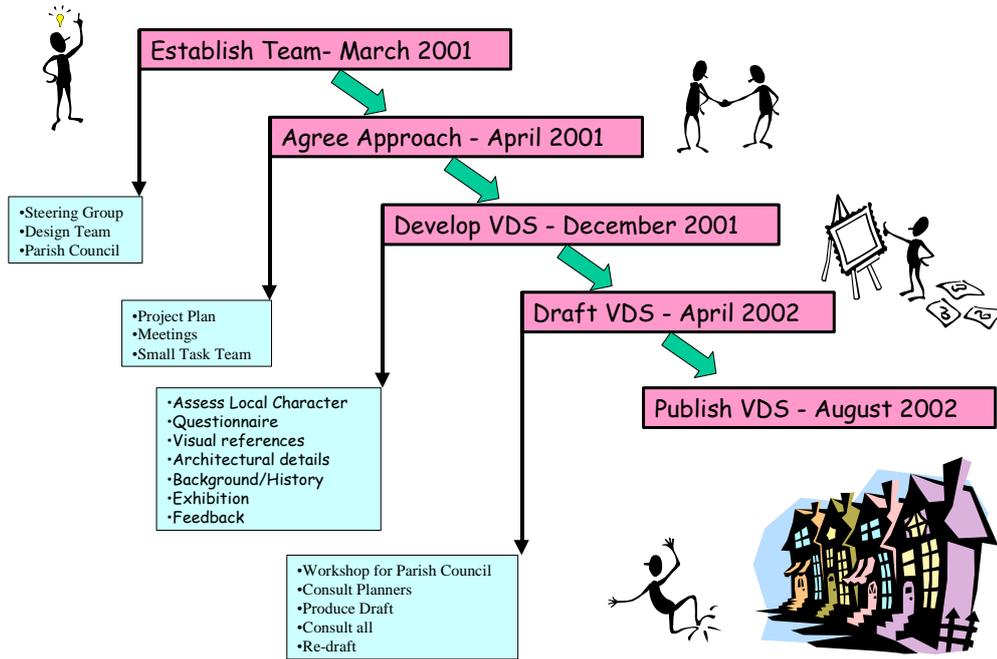
- Design of new development
- Definition of Local Character
- Definition of the Parish Context (history, social, economy, community)

Compton Bishop Parish Council wants :-

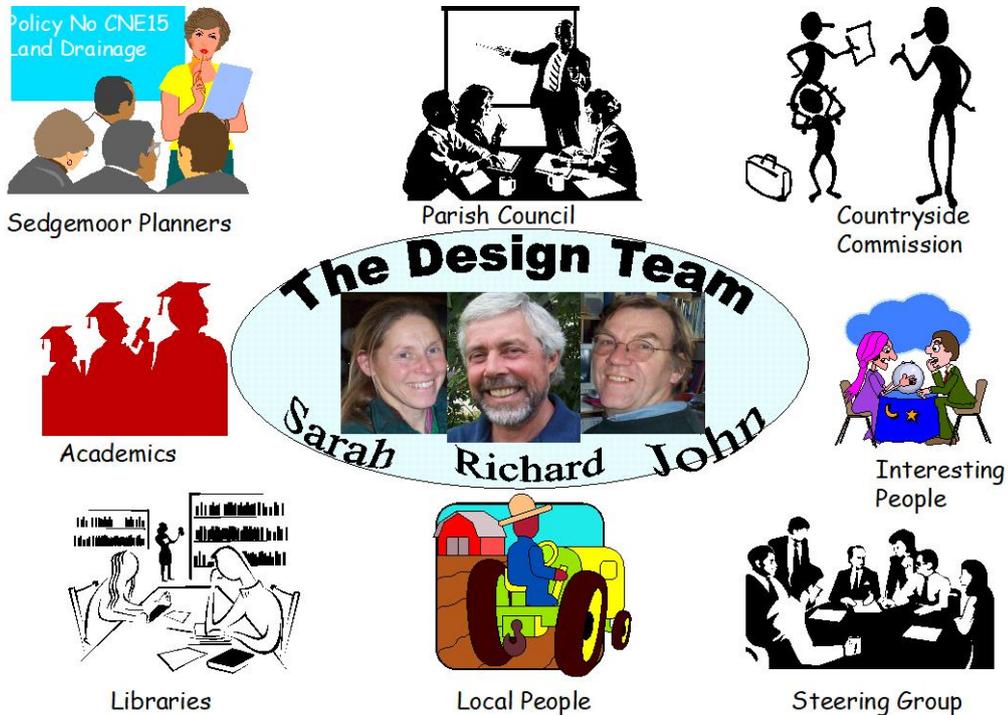
- A process, officially endorsed, which ensures local views on planning requests are fully considered by Sedgemoor Planners - officers and councillors
- An officially accepted local plan which protects the character of the Parish against bad developments decisions

- A statement, from the parishioners, defining their requirements for protecting their chosen environment which provides a template when commenting on planning requests.

Village Design Statement - The Process



Village Design Statement - The Team



The VDS team comprises a core team of Richard Parker, John Buckler and , Sarah Ayling and a Steering Group of fifteen parishioners (Derek Andrew, Sarah Ayling, Jennifer Blower, Peter Blower, Gordon Bubbear, John Buckler, Eleanor Gardner, Bob Jordan, Margaret Jordan, Maggie Pritchard, Mike Rolfe, Patrick Simpson, Ian Tabrett, Jim Warner, Caroline Woolley)

What is a VDS?

A VDS is a document which expresses local opinion on planning matters that affect the parish

How does the system work ?

- The Government prepares national planning policy, eg. Over housing or transport issues
- Sedgemoor implements policy by preparing a framework for planning with their LOCAL PLAN
- The Parish Council and local residents provide local knowledge and opinion on planning in their own VDS

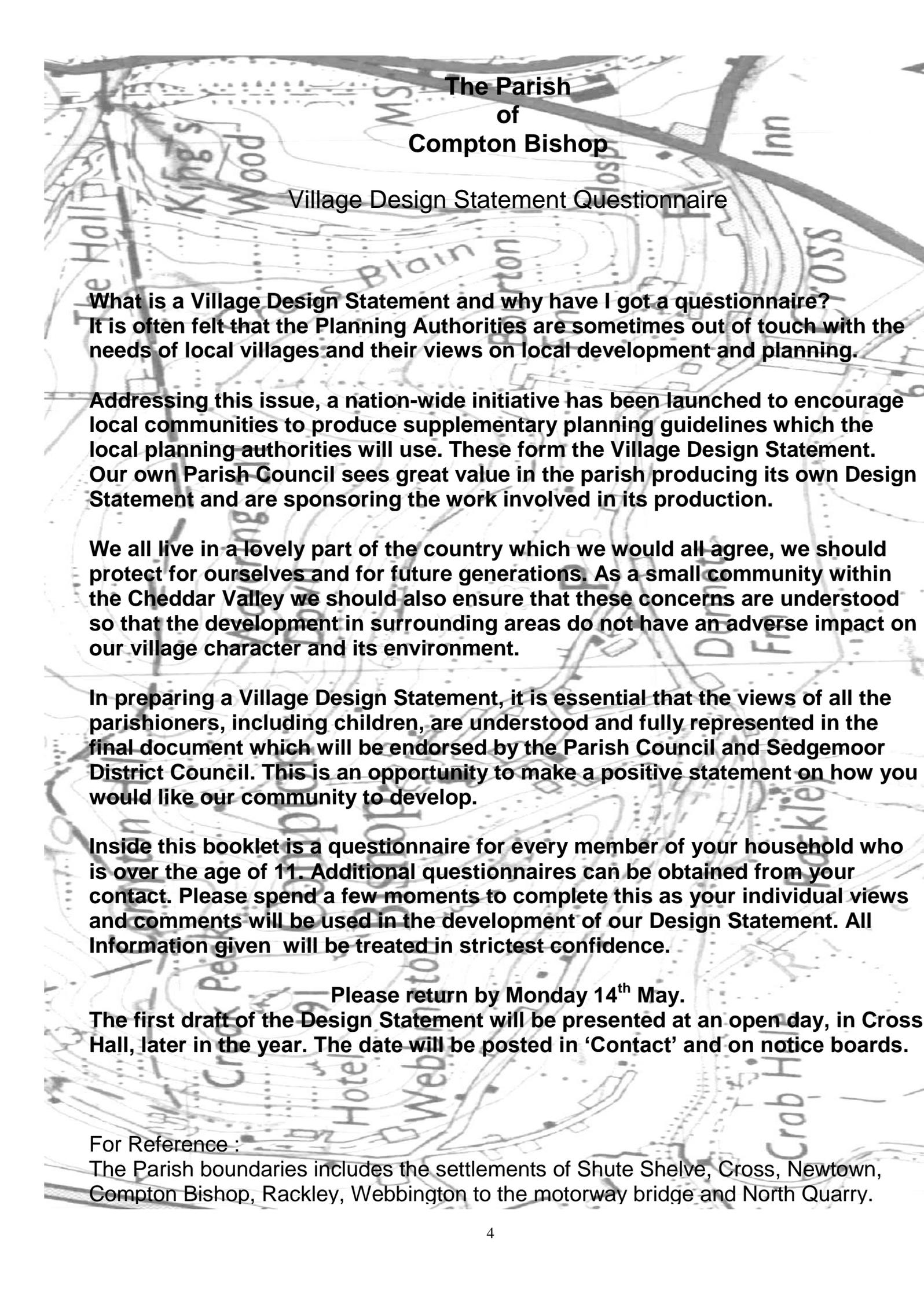
What are the aims of our VDS

- To ensure the protection and enhancement of our villages character and its place in the landscape
- To protect the local landscape
- To provide detailed guidelines on materials and design to help in the preparation of local planning applications
- To provide a framework for planning officers in the assessment of those applications
- To influence local strategic planning decisions on transport, parking, etc.
- To influence amendments to the local plan

VDS Questionnaire

This section cover the questionnaire which was sent to every household in the parish, the results and the analysis of results.

Summary of Questionnaire Returns					
Area	Road	From... to....	Sent out	Received	As %
1	Bridgwater Road	Shute Shelve to Manor Farm and Cross Lane	9	0	0.00
2	Old Coach Road, East	New Inn to Moorland Farm/White Hart	66	12	18.18
3	Cross - Old Coach Road (Middle)	Carpenters Cottage, Springfield Close include The Cedars and Sunny Ranch.	31	10	32.26
4	Cross - Old Coach Road (West)	Havaria/Crossfield to October House/Rosewell Cottage	73	29	39.73
5	Cross - Old Coach Road to Weare	Cornerways/Crossways House (by Cross Hall) to Riverton House	59	11	18.64
6	Webbington Road	Sherwood House west incl Webbington Road to The Barn	55	20	36.36
7	Webbington Road	Big tree, Church Lane to Longbourne and Westover/The Bungalow,	85	17	20.00
8	Coombe Lane	Compton Bishop -Butts Batch, Vicarage Lane, Coombe Lane	23	6	26.09
9	Webbington Road	Dunnett farm, Rackley and Wantsey/Knoll View/White Rock Cottages	15	4	26.67
10	Webbington Road	Webbington Road from Reeve Hay to Webbington Hotel and Barton Road	39	4	10.26
11	Kennel Lane	Kennel Lane	28	2	7.14
	Anonymous			24	
Total			483	139	28.78



The Parish of Compton Bishop

Village Design Statement Questionnaire

What is a Village Design Statement and why have I got a questionnaire?

It is often felt that the Planning Authorities are sometimes out of touch with the needs of local villages and their views on local development and planning.

Addressing this issue, a nation-wide initiative has been launched to encourage local communities to produce supplementary planning guidelines which the local planning authorities will use. These form the Village Design Statement. Our own Parish Council sees great value in the parish producing its own Design Statement and are sponsoring the work involved in its production.

We all live in a lovely part of the country which we would all agree, we should protect for ourselves and for future generations. As a small community within the Cheddar Valley we should also ensure that these concerns are understood so that the development in surrounding areas do not have an adverse impact on our village character and its environment.

In preparing a Village Design Statement, it is essential that the views of all the parishioners, including children, are understood and fully represented in the final document which will be endorsed by the Parish Council and Sedgemoor District Council. This is an opportunity to make a positive statement on how you would like our community to develop.

Inside this booklet is a questionnaire for every member of your household who is over the age of 11. Additional questionnaires can be obtained from your contact. Please spend a few moments to complete this as your individual views and comments will be used in the development of our Design Statement. All Information given will be treated in strictest confidence.

Please return by Monday 14th May.

The first draft of the Design Statement will be presented at an open day, in Cross Hall, later in the year. The date will be posted in 'Contact' and on notice boards.

For Reference :

The Parish boundaries includes the settlements of Shute Shelve, Cross, Newtown, Compton Bishop, Rackley, Webbington to the motorway bridge and North Quarry.

Parish of Compton Bishop - Village Design Statement Questionnaire											
One questionnaire to be completed by each member of the household over the age of 11											
Name :					Leave Name blank if you wish to remain anonymous						
Village or Hamlet :											
Tick as many boxes as you like if you agree with the words. Blank boxes are for your own personal opinions relating to the questions											
What is your age group?	11-15	15-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	71-80	Over 80		
How many years have you lived in the parish?	0-2	2-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-30	31-40	Over 40			
Where do you normally shop for groceries ?	Axbridge	Bristol	Burnham	Cheddar	Weston	Wells	Winscombe	Mobile (Van)			
What do you think is the appearance and character of our village ?	Peaceful			Noisy			Friendly				
	Commuter/ dormitory			Isolated			Picturesque				
	Agricultural			Rural			Set in beautiful country				
	No character			Untidy			Well-kept				
	Historic buildings			Modern houses blend with older			Good variety of houses				
	Any other comment on the character and appearance:										
Future development	Infill with single houses in existing gaps			Groups of houses within village boundary			Extension of village boundary				
	No further development			Respect of privacy for existing houses							
	Should the needs of visitors be considered ?	Yes	Do we have a responsibility to protect the character of the parish for: -			a) Our Children ?		Yes	no		
		No				b) Future generations ?		Yes	no		
						c) Visitors ?		Yes	no		
Any other comment on future development:											
How important is it that new buildings blend with neighbouring properties ?	Very Important			Important			Not Important				
	Any other comment on mix of house styles:										
New buildings should consist of ...	1 or 2 bedroom homes			3 Bedroom Houses			Conversion of existing buildings to :-	Houses			
	4 or 5 Bedroom houses			Small Developments				Flats			
	Bungalows			Business Premises				Maisonettes			
	Any other comment on the type of housing:										
Which materials should be used for new building ?	Local Mendip Stone			Reconstituted stone			Brick				
	Wood			Roof tiles	Slate	Pan					
	Rendered and painted				Double roman		No preference				
	Any other comment on the construction of buildings										
What would you think would improve your village and the parish ?	Shop			Surgery			Post Office				
	Better maintained public footpath and sign-posting			Better footpath to Axbridge			Better bus service				
	Small business premises			Improved village hall			Recreation ground/village green				
	Vehicle restriction on size/weight			Noise screening from A38			Fewer roadside signposts				
	Traffic Calming			Street lights			Visible Policing				
	Removal of overhead power/telephone cables			Concealment of TV aerials and satellite dishes			Better hygiene regarding litter, dogs, etc.				
	Better facilities for teenagers			Play-group			Community support for the elderly				

Design Statement Questionnaire - continued

Use your own words to describe how the village could be improved

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Please return the completed questionnaire by 14th May 2001
to one of the collection points :-

Webbington Hotel Reception
The New Inn, Cross : The White Hart, Cross (use letter boxes out of hours)
John Buckler, Wicken, Vicarage Lane : Kathleen Clements, Wallgate(Big Tree)
Richard Parker, 20 Old Coach Road

If you have any questions or need additional questionnaires please contact: -

Richard Parker
20 Old Coach Road
Tel: 732084
e-mail: richard.a.parker@btinternet.com

If you would like to join the steering group, which oversees the development of the Design Statement, please tick here	
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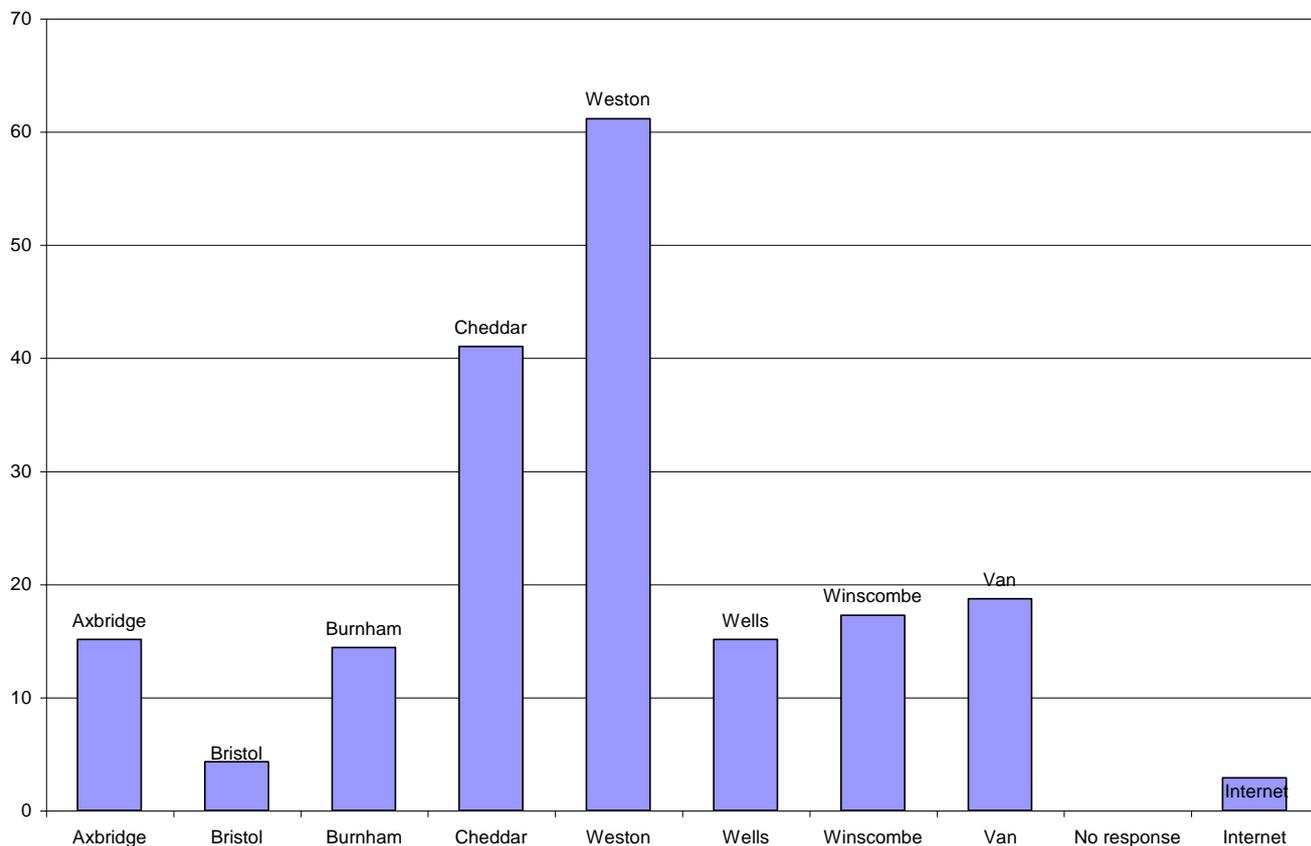
Section 2 - Results of Questionnaire

Note that in the following tables

- The 1st row shows the percentage of questionnaires sent out
- The 2nd row shows the percentage of the questionnaires returned

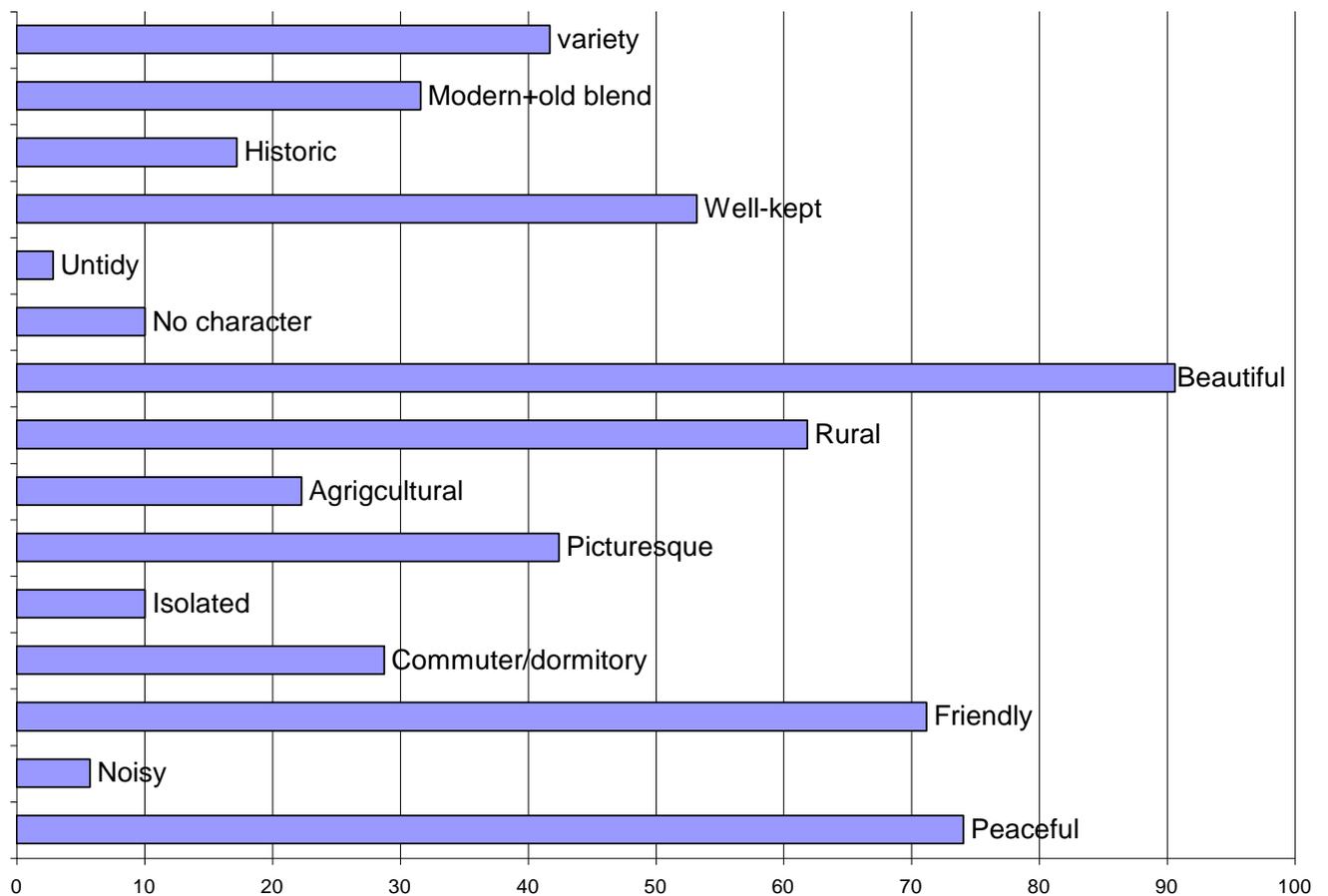
Where do You Shop ?								
<i>Axbrid</i>	<i>Bristol</i>	<i>Burnha</i>	<i>Chedda</i>	<i>Westo</i>	<i>Wells</i>	<i>Winscom</i>	<i>Van</i>	<i>Interne</i>
4.16	1.19	3.96	11.29	16.83	4.16	4.75	5.15	0.79
15.11	4.32	14.39	41.01	61.15	15.11	17.27	18.71	2.88

Main Shopping Area



What do you think is the appearance and character of our village ?							
<i>Peaceful</i>	<i>Noisy</i>	<i>Friendly</i>	<i>commuter/ Dormitory</i>	<i>Isolated</i>	<i>Picturesq ue</i>	<i>Agricult ural</i>	<i>Rural</i>
20.40	1.58	19.60	7.92	2.77	11.68	6.14	17.03
74.10	5.76	71.22	28.78	10.07	42.45	22.30	61.87
<i>Beautiful</i>	<i>No characte r</i>	<i>Untidy</i>	<i>Well-kept</i>	<i>Historic Buildings</i>	<i>Modern blend with older</i>	<i>Good variety of houses</i>	
24.95	2.77	0.79	14.65	4.75	8.71	11.49	
90.65	10.07	2.88	53.24	17.27	31.65	41.73	

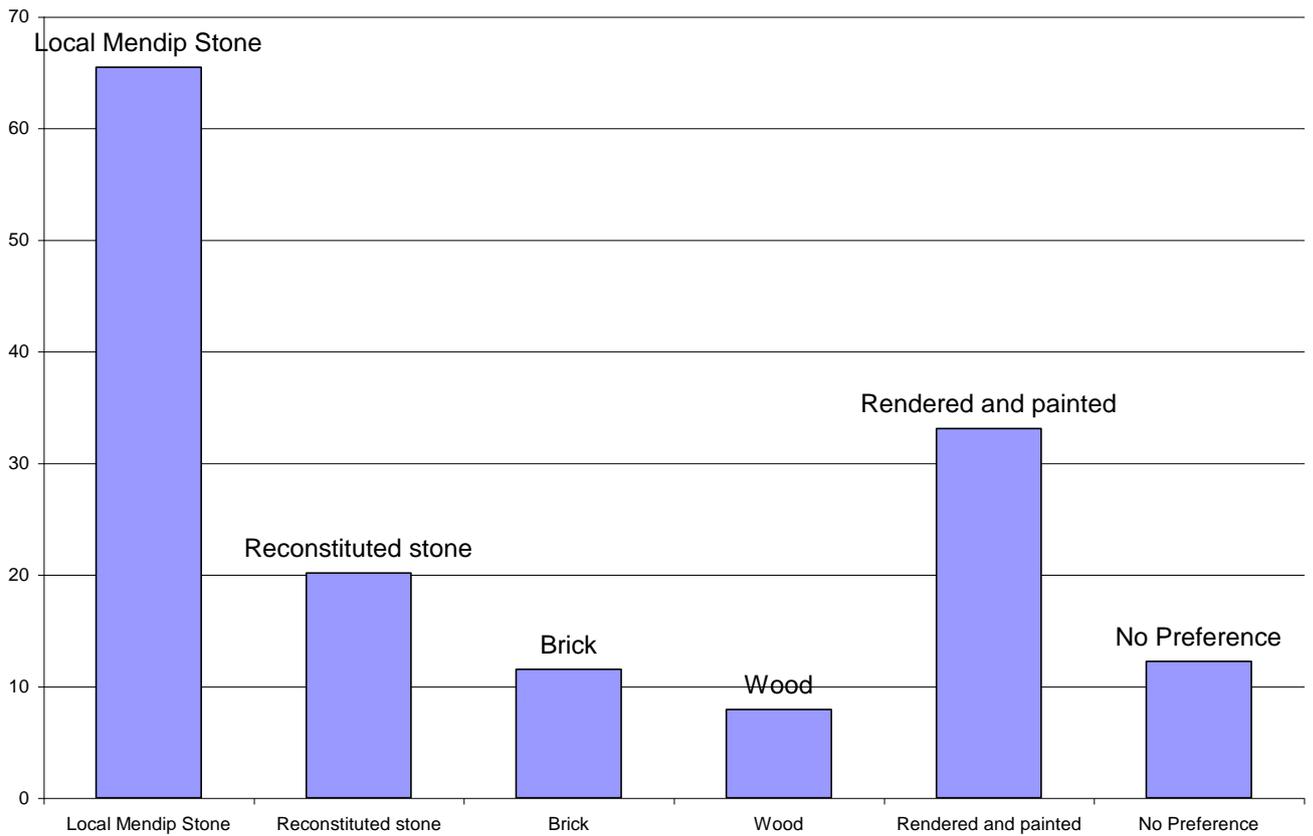
Appearance and Character of the Village



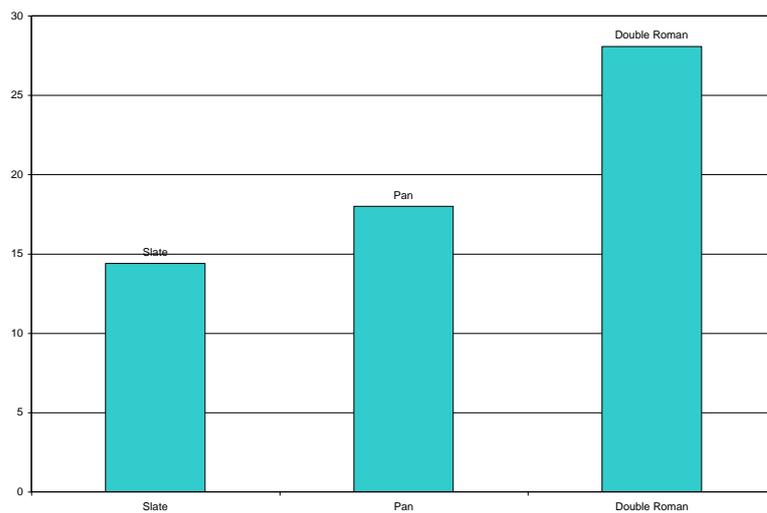
Which materials should be used for new building ?

						Roof tiles		
Local Mendip Stone	Reconstituted stone	Brick	Wood	Rendered and painted	No Preference	Slate	Pan	Double Roman
18.02	5.54	3.17	2.18	9.11	3.37	3.96	4.95	7.72
65.47	20.14	11.51	7.91	33.09	12.23	14.39	17.99	28.06

Building Materials

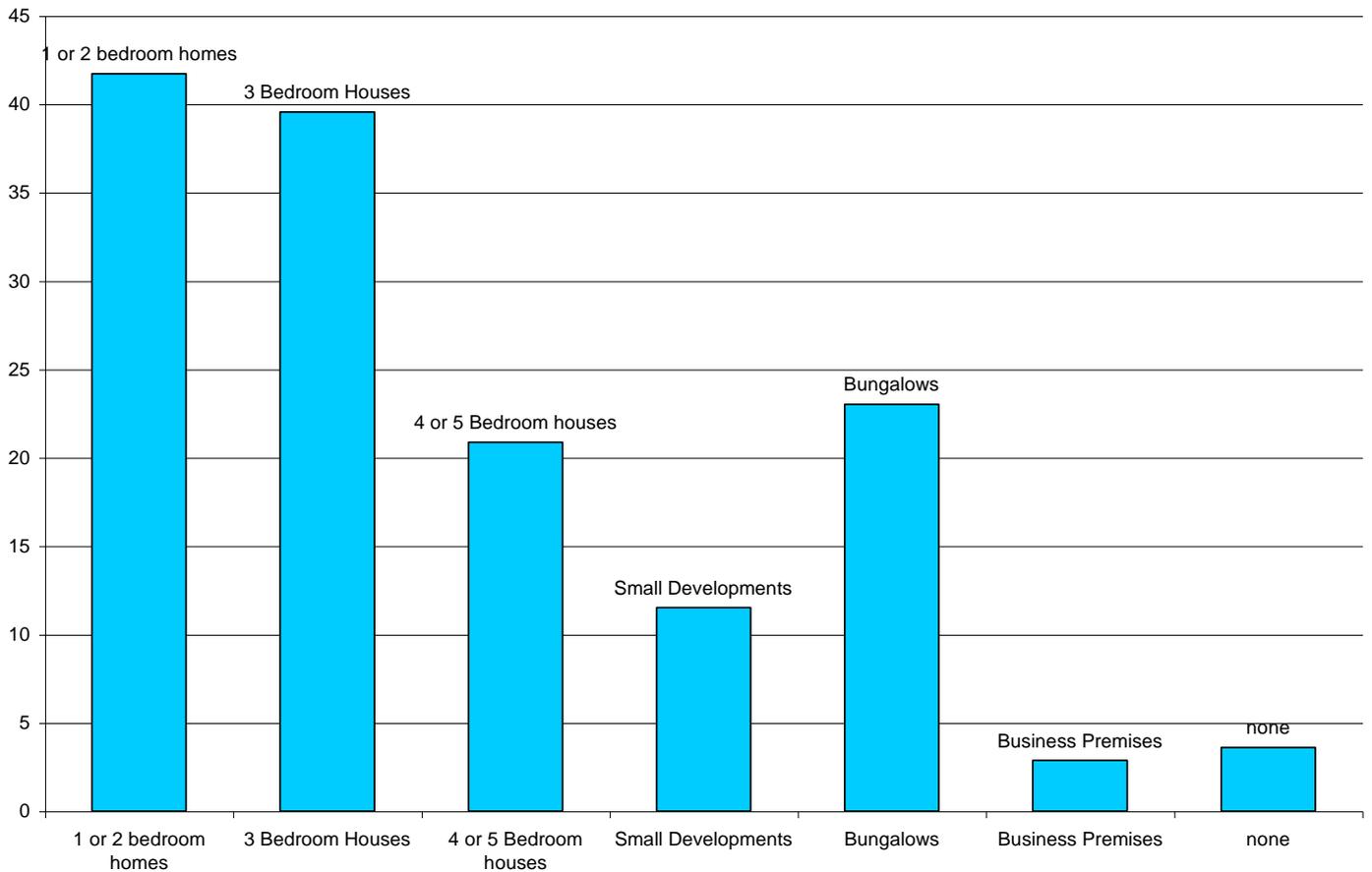


Roofing Materials



<i>How important is it that new buildings blend with neighbouring properties ?</i>		
<i>Very Important</i>	<i>Important</i>	<i>Not Important</i>
18.42	6.14	1.39
66.91	22.30	5.04

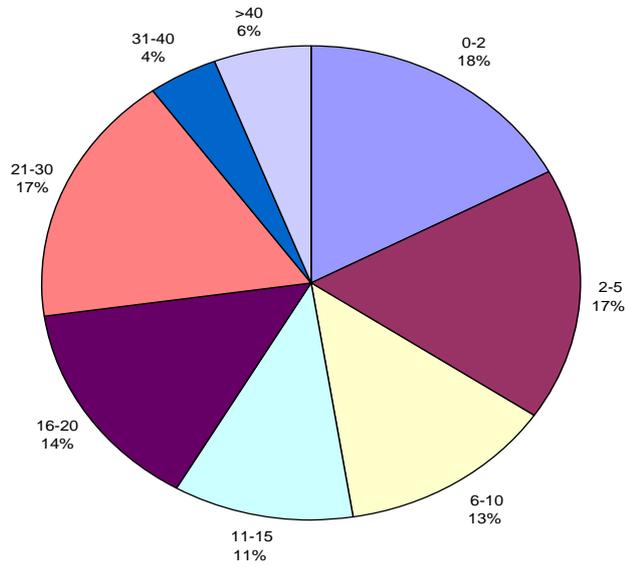
New Buildings



<i>New buildings should consist of ...</i>								
						<i>Conversion of existing buildings to</i>		
<i>1 or 2 bedroom homes</i>	<i>3 Bedroom Houses</i>	<i>4 or 5 Bedroom houses</i>	<i>Small Developments</i>	<i>Bungalows</i>	<i>Business Premises</i>	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Flats</i>	<i>Maisonettes</i>
11.49	10.89	5.74	3.17	6.34	0.79	9.50	2.97	1.98
41.73	39.57	20.86	11.51	23.02	2.88	34.53	10.79	7.19

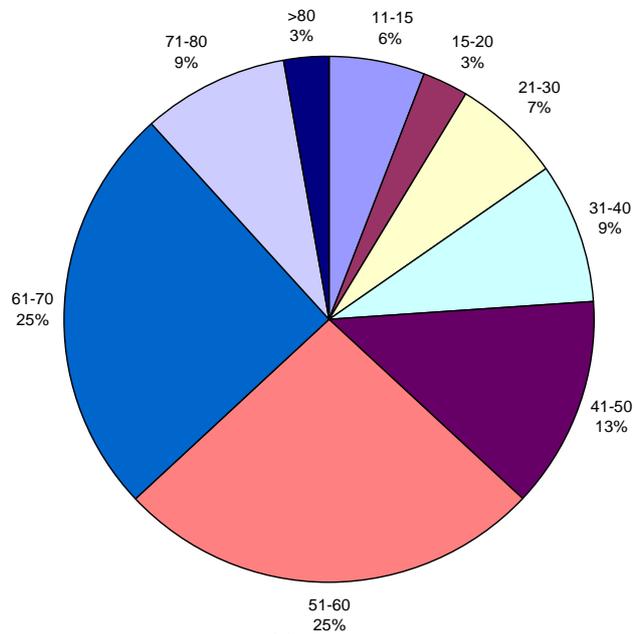
How many years have you lived in the Parish							
0-2	2-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-30	31-40	>40
4.75	4.75	3.56	2.97	96	4.75	1.19	1.58

Years of Residency



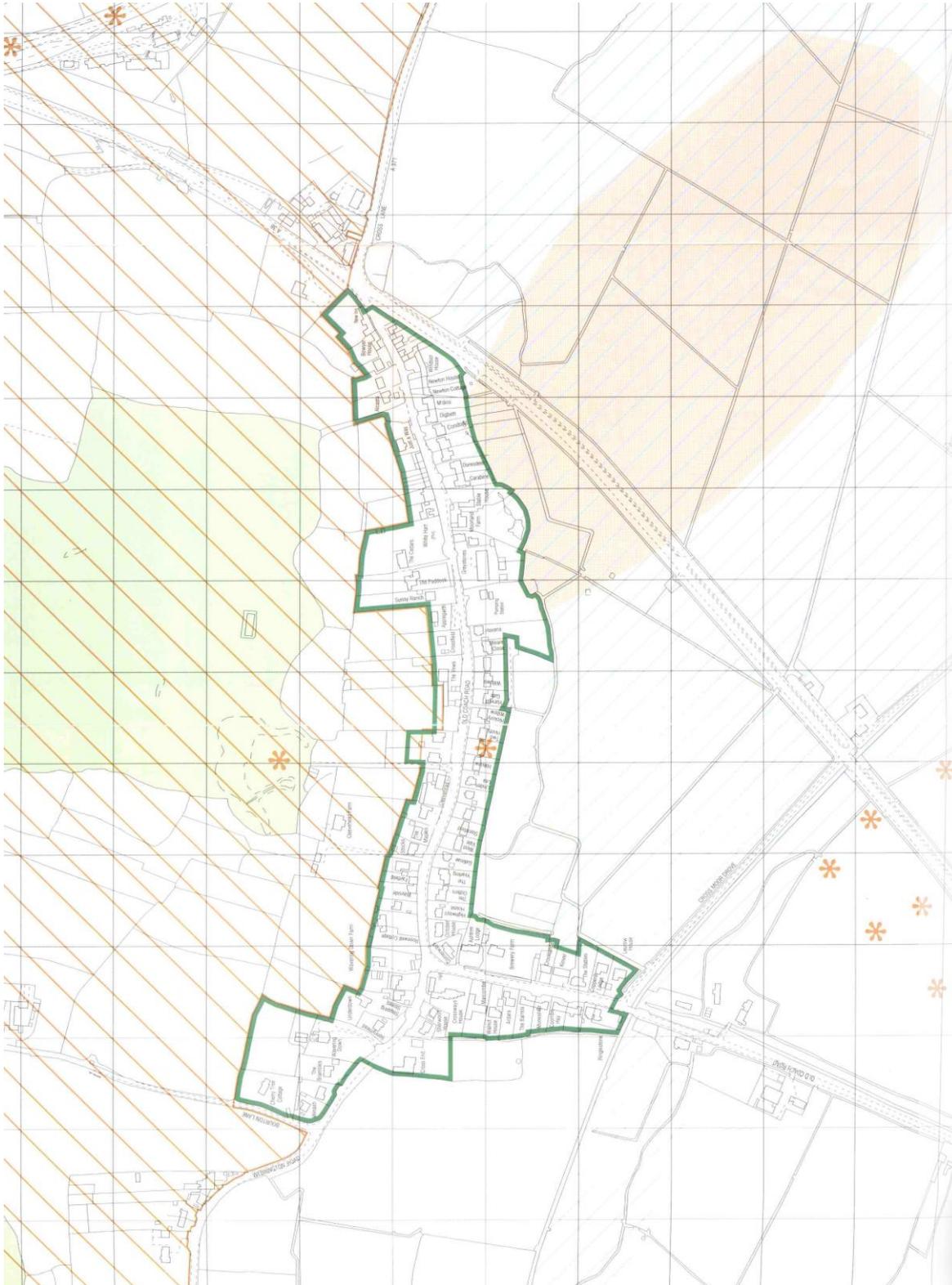
17.27	17.27	12.95	10.79	14.39	17.27	4.32	5.76	
What is your Age Group								
11-15	15-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	71-80	>80
1.6	0.8	1.8	2.4	3.6	7.1	6.9	2.4	0.8
6	3	6	9	13	26	25	9	3

Responses - Age ranges



There were 173 additional (personal) comments which are grouped in order of response :-	
No.	Comment
18	No development, Cross is saturated. No extension of village boundaries
17	Traffic speed controls, but not speed humps or signs
17	Affordable homes for old and young
13	Houses to blend but not to be uniform
13	Central village green/meeting area
12	Better car parking off road, New Inn and Church
11	Strict Planning controls to prevent 60's developments and preserve character
8	Inadequate infrastructure for more development, need to improve poor drainage
6	Need to cater for non drivers - shops and better access to Axbridge (+ Farmers market)
6	Develop within strict boundaries
5	High and increasing Road noise needs reduction programme
5	Better cleaning and maintenance of verges
4	Protect the landscape providing screening where appropriate
3	Roadside signposts are visually unacceptable and should be reduced
3	No street lights/less public lighting
3	No small or large 'estate' type developments
3	Better access to Axbridge by footpath or cycleway
2	Plant trees along the road in Cross to narrow road and reduce traffic speed.
2	Maintain the separation of hamlets
2	Post boxes should be renovated
2	No extension to village boundary, protect Linear development
2	Look after our historical links - Lime Kiln, Coaching, Pump station, etc
2	Footpath through Cross
2	Footpath from Compton Bishop to Cross
1	Develop south of Bourton Lane and South of Riverside Farm
1	Install street Light
1	Provide skateboard area
1	Improve Rackley junction
1	Promote community involvement
1	Promote harmony with children
1	Preserve rural nature of area
1	Number the houses in Old Coach Road
1	No telecommunications mast
1	No business developments - use cheddar/Badgeworth
1	Provide a hearing aid loop in hall
1	Lights at A38 Junction

Section 3 - Sedgemoor Local Plan - Proposals Map No 22

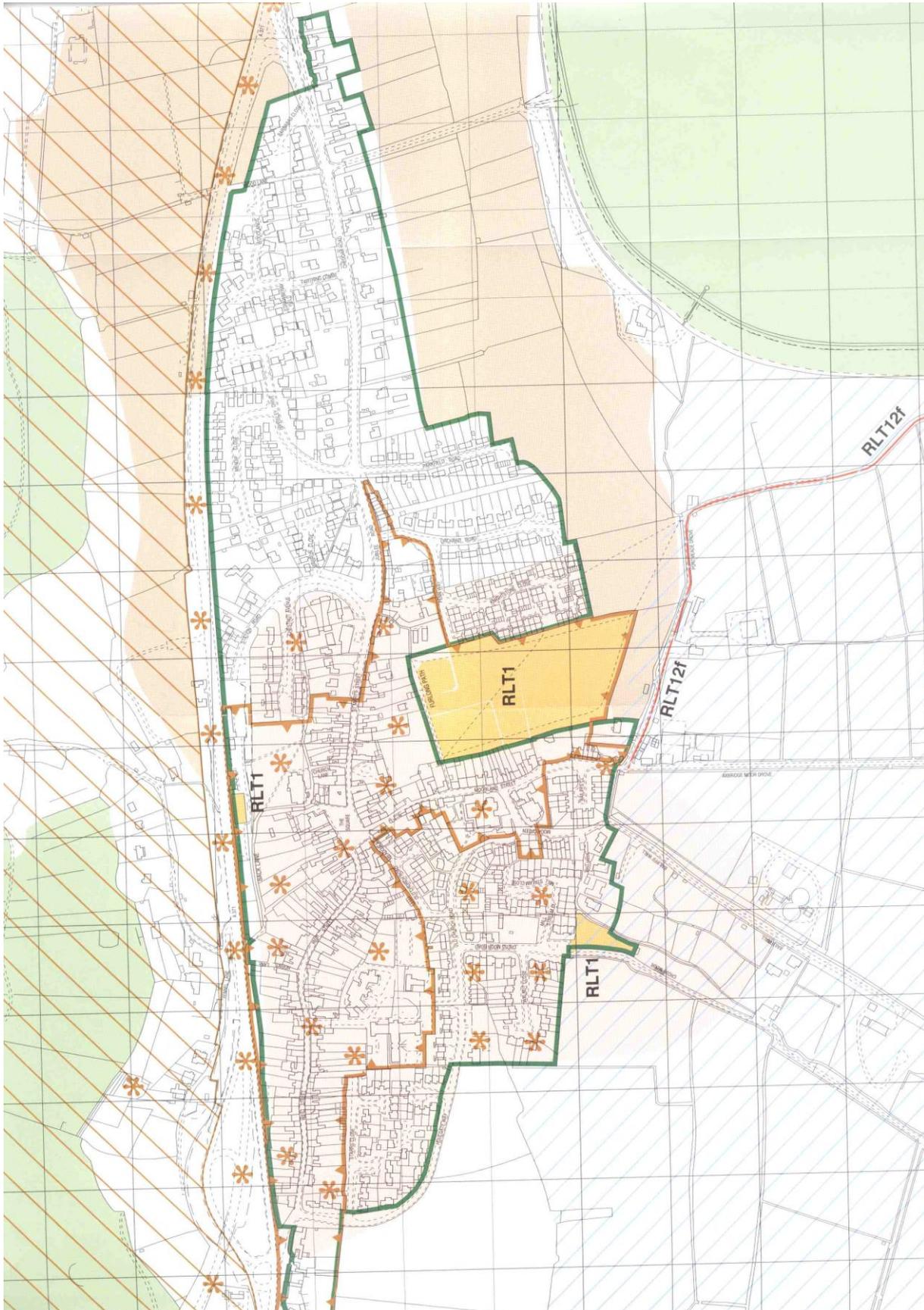


Here we show the Proposals Map for the North Sedgemoor area. The smaller maps show :-

- Cheddar - our nearest defined 'Rural Centre'
- Axbridge - our nearest defined 'Village'
- Cross - the only defined 'Village' in the Parish of Compton Bishop

Note : Other settlements in our Parish are defined as 'Outside Developments' where development shall be strictly controlled

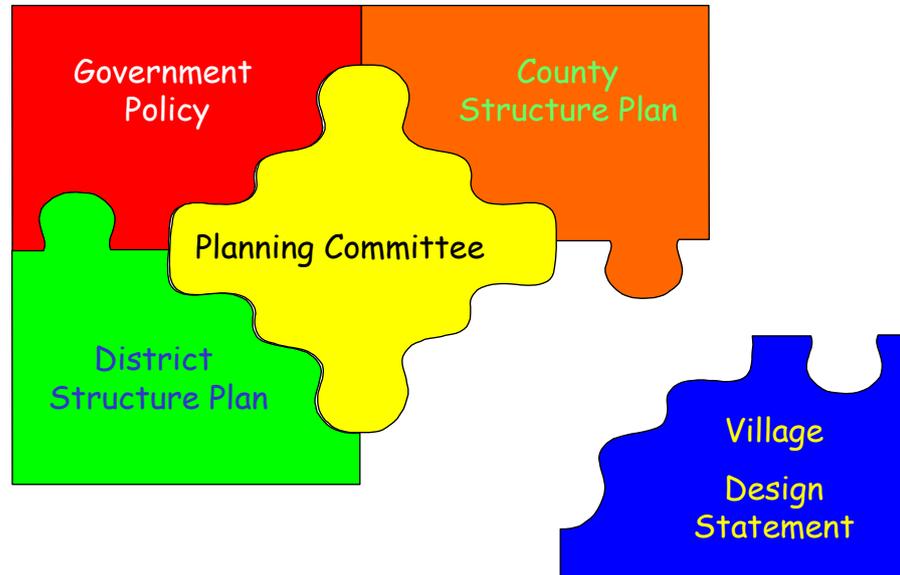
Section 3 - Sedgemoor District Council Local Plan and Policies



Axbridge Inset Map No. 89 - Our nearest defined Village

The Planning Process

The missing piece of the Planning Puzzle



Planning is driven by Central Government which defines future Housing and Industry needs. In the past local needs have largely been ignored. The order of the planning process is as follows :-

- Government Policy - defines UK needs based upon demographics and infrastructure to support these projections.
- County Structure Plan - defines the quantity & distribution of housing in Somerset.
- District Local Plan - defines the specific sites for development in Sedgemoor.
- Planning Committee - receives planning applications, uses the policy & planning documents to approve or reject applications.

Parish councils have not had a strong voice in this process, the Village Design Statement will become a supplement to the local planning policy by adding information about the character and visual aspect of villages - developed by local people, not Bridgwater people. This formal document will complement the planning process.

The Local Plan includes policies and proposals for the development and other use of land, measures for the improvement of the natural and built environment and the management of transport. It identifies land for development. It also provides a framework within which other development proposals will be considered. It is also the basis for co-ordinating this development with the provision of essential infrastructure and services. The Plan covers the period 1992 - 2011.

The Draft document was produced in 1992, changes are being reviewed by a Planning Inspector and modifications will be available for further public consultation. Once Sedgemoor District Council decides there are no further modifications, the Plan will be adopted replacing all existing Local Plans.

We have to understand the process of defining needs, by Central Government, through to the local planning authority.

The Sedgemoor Local Plan has defined the parameter within it will work :-

- The Statement of purpose
- The Strategy

Sedgemoor District Local Plan - Statement of Purpose

The Sedgemoor District Local Plans will :

- Safeguard the valued characteristics of the area, including its natural, built and archaeological heritage.
- Promote sustainable quality development, which meets local needs and which supports local enterprise.
- Promote the preservation and enhancement of the District's unique character to reinforce its sense of identity and place.
- Encourage diversity by promoting an appropriate mix of high quality development, services and facilities aimed at helping local communities thrive and prosper.
- Encourage inward investment and tourism through supporting existing local enterprises and the establishment of new desirable ventures, which are sensitive to the local distinctive characteristics.
- Have regard to the desirability of reducing the consumption of non-renewable natural resource, reducing pollution and protecting key natural assets so that needs and expectations of younger and future generations are safeguarded.

Aims of the Local Plan

Necessary Development

Meeting the community's present and predicted needs for housing, employment, transport, shopping, recreation, leisure, social and community facilities.

Sustainable development

Conserving natural environmental resources and minimising waste and pollution while promoting levels, location and forms of development designed to avoid adverse environmental impacts. This is to ensure that where development is necessary, it will contribute towards improving the quality of life of present and future generations who live, work and visit the District.

Quality Development

Where new development is both necessary and sustainable, it will also protect and enhance Sedgemoor's distinctive environmental characteristics. The Council will expect excellence in architecture, urban and landscape design and transportation planning, to ensure new development responds to its local context and creates a sense of identity and place.

Sedgemoor District Local Plan - Strategy

Bridgwater is the principal focus of new development over the plan period

- The Local Plan identifies rural centres and villages on the basis of facilities, accessibility as a result :
 - Axbridge was changed from its previous status as a rural centre to a village.
 - This recognised the role that Cheddar played in this area as a local centre for retail, employment and education.
 - Four former Villages were deleted due to the extremely limited facilities and poor accessibility by public transport:
 - Downend
 - Greinton
 - Sutton Mallet
 - **Compton Bishop**
- Identification as a rural centre or village does not in itself mean that the settlement will be suitable for further development. Development should be such as to sustain or enhance their role, also be commensurate with their size and accessibility, and appropriate to their character and physical identity.
- Outside of identified settlements, Policy STR3 seeks to protect the countryside for its own sake. New development is to be strictly controlled/restricted to that which benefits the local economy and maintains or enhances the environment.
- Conversion of rural buildings for employment use and some affordable housing schemes may be appropriate. However, given the poor accessibility of countryside locations, general residential development will not be appropriate.

Location of new development

The policy now prioritises the release of brownfield sites that are close to existing or proposed public transport corridors ;

- within identified settlements
- in the countryside - only where a countryside location is essential.

Where there is insufficient brownfield land available, greenfield sites will be assessed for their suitability for housing in the following order :

- Bridgwater
- Burnham-on-Sea/Highbridge
- Cheddar
- Rural Centres and Villages which have the greatest range of facilities and are most accessible by means other than the car.

Rural Areas

Previous Local Plans identified a range of housing allocations within rural centres and villages. This strategy failed to prevent the loss of local services such as shops, post offices or primary schools. It also failed to provide housing that was generally accessible to local persons. However, as the new strategy seeks to concentrate development in towns :

- Allocations in villages should generally be avoided unless a specific local need has been identified.
- No further residential development is proposed in rural centres.
- Cheddar is the largest rural settlement with a population of approximately 5,000 and a good level of local services including primary and secondary schools. There are also local employment opportunities. The Deposit Draft Local Plan suggested a greenfield housing allocation to the south of the River consistent with Policy STR4 that identified Cheddar as the third choice for further

development. *Following the adoption of the Structure Plan with the lower housing provision, there is no requirement to identify sites at Cheddar and the proposal has therefore been deleted.*

- Within the remaining villages there are only three small housing allocations - Puriton, Westonzoyland and Cossington

Sedgemoor District Local Plan - Housing Provision

As at April 2001 the residential land availability data was as follows:

Structure Plan Requirement

During the period 1991 - 2011, 50,000 dwellings are planned for the south-west with 44,300 allocated for the County of Somerset and 9,100 for Sedgemoor. This has now been increased to 44,800 due to second and holiday homes provisions with 9,200 required within Sedgemoor.

The details are :

- Completions (land with planning permissions and land under construction 1991 - 2001) - 4,653
- Land with planning permission - 1,842
- Under construction - 160
- Existing commitments - 0
- Brownfield sites - 1,316
- Additional capacity sources
 - subdivision of housing - 100,
 - flats over shops - 60
 - Intensification of existing areas - 100
- Rural windfall (realistic opportunities for re-development on previously unlikely sites) - 305
- Non-implementation allowance. Where sites are not implemented as anticipated, alternative sites will be sought - 371
- Greenfield Requirement - 1,061

Sedgemoor District Local Plan - Housing Development

The overall volume of housing will be assessed against :

- Structure Plan Policies
- Provisions of the Local Plan
- Other material considerations

Cheddar (as a Rural Centre)

- Suitable Infill
- Small scale development
- Appropriate conversion of redundant buildings

In the countryside outside development boundaries of Towns, Rural Centres and villages development will be controlled and limited to :

- Genuine agricultural or appropriate local need
- Conversions to residential use where the building could not provide use compatible with its countryside location
- Appropriate development for local needs housing outside, but adjoining, development boundaries

Planning permission will only be granted for residential developments that provides affordable housing to meet local needs. This will be negotiated on a site by site basis and sought on housing sites :

- Outside Cheddar in housing developments of 15 or more dwellings on residential sites of 0.5 hectares
- The criteria for assessing proposals for affordable housing recognises :
 - The need for close proximity to local services, facilities and public transport
 - Particular costs associated with development of the site

Whether affordable housing would prejudice the realisation of planning objectives that need to be given priority in the development of the site.

Sedgemoor District Local Plan - Transport and Movement

- The region's population is geographically dispersed.
- Public transport in rural areas is generally inadequate to meet all needs and for many the car will remain essential
- Bus services in the rural areas are relatively poor. Services are often infrequent and limited to the daytime
- Car ownership rates in Somerset are high (1991 Census), yet there are still a large number of households that do not have access to a private car:
 - 48% of households had 1 car
 - 30% of households had 2 or more cars
 - 22% of households had no car
- Traffic growth in Somerset is higher than the average national rate.
- The Sedgemoor District Local Plan (SDLP) aims to focus the majority of development on Bridgwater to enable more convenient use of :
 - better public transport
 - cycling
 - walking provision
- The Local Plan has been prepared to enable transport and planning to work together to support more sustainable travel choices and to reduce the need to travel.
- Development should be focused upon locations where there are realistic prospects of it being serviced by a choice of transport modes
- The District for this plan includes the towns of :
 - Bridgwater
 - Burnham-on-Sea
 - Rural centres of Cheddar and North Petherton, and other villages.

Sedgemoor District Local Plan - Technical Planning Framework

National Planning Policy Guidance (PPG)

There are currently twenty-five PPGs covering a wide range of issues. The following PPGs contain advice relevant to the role of transport :

- PPG 1 General Policy and Principles 1
- PPG 3 Housing - identifies the relationship between reduced travel need, travel choice and site location as one of the key elements of housing sites
- PPG 4 Industrial and Commercial Development and Small Firms emphasises the need for employment land to be well located for markets and suppliers and to offer genuine alternatives to car travel for the journey to work.
- PPG 6 Town Centres and Retail Development recognises the importance of
- accessibility by a choice of means of transport and the need for a coherent
- town centre parking strategy

- PPG 7 The Countryside - Environmental Quality and Economic and Social -focusing a range of developments at each development location so as to minimise the need to travel from new housing to employment and local facilities.
- Development 5
- PPG 12 Development Plans advises on the form and content of development plans, including the role of transport policies
- PPG 13 Transport clearly guides development away from car dependency

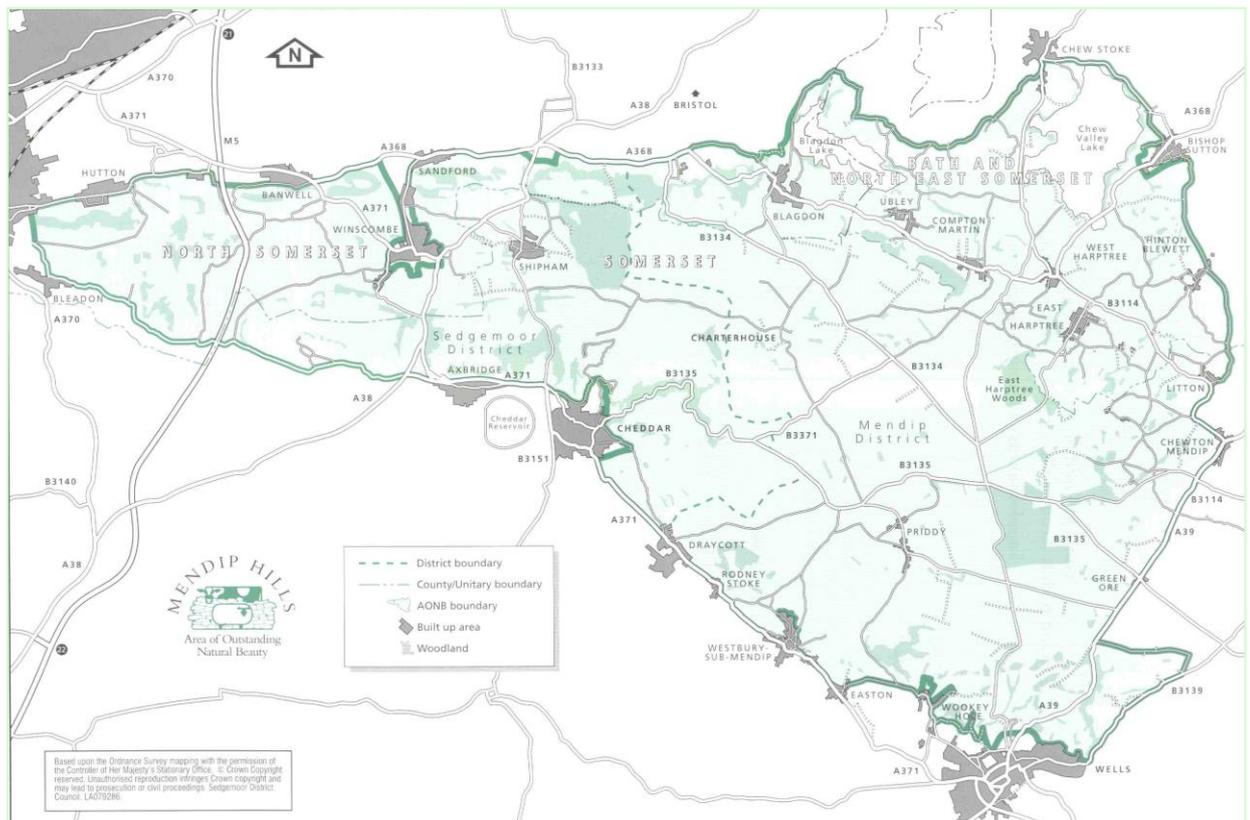
London to South West and South Wales Multi-Modal Study

A regional transport study, the London to South West and South Wales Multi-Modal Study (SWARMMS) commissioned by central government, is assessing the transport needs of the region. The study is addressing all forms of transport but is concentrating on road and rail regional connections. The outcome will be available for this plan.

Section 4 Background to our villages character

4.1 Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

“Designated in 1972, the Mendip Hills AONB..... is recognised as being of national importance for its landscape beauty”.



Influence of AONB on our village.....

Some Aims

Landscape and the community

- Encourage local communities to understand the value and nature of the historic environment, and to manage and maintain it.
- Encourage more effective protection of AONB landscape through effective operation of the planning system.
- The Mendip Hills AONB management should work closely with local people, especially Parish Councils.
- Encourage the development of villages with local services surviving with pubs, shops and post offices.
- Encourage affordable housing schemes.

Farming

- Encourage a return to more extensive farming
- Encourage acquisition of land by organisations who will conserve its wild character.
- Protect and conserve field boundaries for their landscape, wildlife and historical values.
- Enable access by the public and education groups.
- Encourage appropriate replanting by owners
- Set up an AONB deer management group
- Where new farm buildings are required, encourage good design appropriate
- Identify opportunities for appropriate re-use of redundant farm buildings.

Transport and Access

- Seek to protect the verges from vehicle damage and to manage them for maximum wildlife value
- Accommodate a wide range of recreational uses
- Protect rights of way
- Seek to enhance public transport and reduce the use of private cars
- Encourage sustainable tourism to address local needs and protect the landscape
- Encourage awareness of wildlife importance of redundant quarries
- Address transport problems faced by local communities.

[Notes taken from Mendip Hills AONB Management Plan]

4.2 The Landscape



The landscape dominates our village. Its existence depended on the particular geography of the hills above us. Its great beauty has made it precious to walkers, riders and artists from all parts of the world. As residents we may take it for granted, but it is worth remembering that people have chosen to live here since neolithic times. We are surely privileged to continue to do so.

Today, almost all industry once associated with the village has gone and most aspects of traditional rural life. The parish first became "gentrified" and then "suburbanised" like most of those in the Cheddar Valley, a dormitory for those of us who work or shop in other parts of the county or beyond.

Noted for its peace and tranquillity, it has become a highly desirable place to live, which is reflected in its high land and property values. Pressure on the landscape now comes from both the authorities and developers keen to meet housing targets and make profits.

There is a responsibility that any changes that are made enhance the parish by considering the scale of any changes and the appropriateness of the materials that are used. The latter should blend with existing housing and with the particular features of the landscape.

4.3 A brief history

Pre 7000 BC	Old Stone Age. Evidence found on Mendip
7000 - 3500 BC	Middle Stone Age. Evidence in Cheddar caves
3500-1800 BC	New Stone Age [Neolithic] Evidence found at Picken's Hole
1800-500 BC	Bronze age bracelet found on pumping station, Cross [1898]
500 BC	Upper slopes of our hills already stripped of forest
500-50BC	Iron age field bank on Wavering Down. Crook Peak from 'Cruk' Iron age word meaning 'pointed hill'
50-300AD	Romans used Drove roads over Wavering Down to transport lead possibly to Rackly Port, probably to Uphill.
800AD	Saxon Manor boundary along crest of Wavering Down currently being re-built. Saxon boundary still clearly visible above Shute Shelve.
1189AD	Rackley given port charter [eventually used for shipping cargoes such as Welsh coal]
1236	Compton Bishop parish church dedicated
1100-1550AD	Parish owned by the Bishop of Bath and Wells, hence the name [also known in the past as Compton Episcopi or Compton Magna]
1586	Crook Peak a beacon site to warn of the Spanish Armada
16 th Century - present day	Wealthy landowners own most of the land with tenant farmers. [mixed arable and dairy with sheep on higher land]
16th-17th Century	Extensive drainage work on levels below the village
17 th Century	Manor Farm, Compton Bishop built
17 th -18 th Century	Development of road links between Bristol and the Southwest. Cross a significant staging post. Associated industries flourished [smithies, carpenters, inns]
Mid 19 th Century	Newtown Built
19 th Century	Quarrying important for building, road stone and lime
19 th Century	Development of railway and of market gardening [significant for orchards, strawberries, peas and potatoes]
1930's	Cross by-pass built
1930-80's	Significant presence of convalescent homes
1963	Closure of railways
1950's	End of quarrying
1960's	Building and opening of M5 motorway
1970's	Dutch Elm disease
1972	Declaration of AONB
1975	Planning 'envelope' designated for Cross
1982	End of 800 year Church ownership of land
1986	National Trust purchase Crook Peak
1990's	Closure of last market garden, last dairy farm, pumping stations, post offices, shops and council yard 15% increase in new housing speed cameras, traffic calming on A38
2001	Tourism/hospitality only significant industry remaining in parish.

4.4 Geology and Climate



- Key:
- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| | Alluvium | | Keuper marl [red clay, giving red topsoil] |
| | Peat | | Cheddar limestone |
| | Burrington oolite | | Black Rock limestone |
| | + Draycott Stone [Dolomitic Conglomerate [often used for gateposts] | | |
| | + Red sandstone | | |

In the past, the landscapes geology and climate provided the very reason for our villages existence and development with :-

- Limestone quarries for building and employment
- Rich market gardens and orchard land
- Dry higher slopes, providing plentiful water with many springs issuing on lower slopes (particularly after heavy rains)
- The easiest passage through The Mendips for southbound coaches [Shute Shelve]
- Easy access to the wild upper slopes, where clean air and mild weather was the basis for a flourishing tourist industry
- Plentiful rain for the grass required for dairy farming [Cheddars 800mm a year to Bedfords 600mm]

Today :

- This and the areas great natural beauty provided the reason for the National Trust purchase in 1985
- The hills still protect us from the cold north-westerly winds
 - Our closeness to the coast gives us mild winters and cool breezes in the summer.

4.5 - Natural History



Natural History

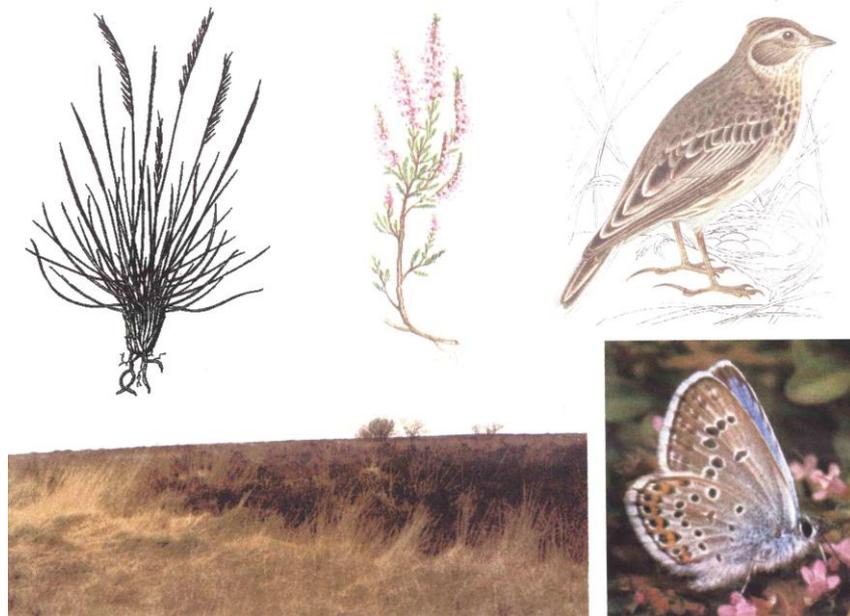
Compton Bishop parish covers an area of 860 hectares (2,125 acres); within this small area there are at least 10 distinct habitats.

This means that there is an enormous variety of plants, animals and fungi; including many that are nationally scarce, such as Honewort (*Trinia glauca*) -the smallest member of the Umbellifer family, bee orchid (*Ophrys apifera*), Dartford Warbler (*Sylvia undata*), nightingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*), wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*), 4 of the 6 species of reptiles found in UK and at least 4 of the 6 species of amphibian.

The habitats can be divided into three groups ; those on the limestone escarpment to the north of Webbington road/Old Coach Road, those to the south of the road in the valley of the river Axe, and edges.



Habitats of the limestone escarpment



- Calcareous grassland - this dominates the landscape and is one of the reasons that this area is classed as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The short springy turf is composed of fine-leaved grasses such as Sheep's fescue (*Festuca ovina*), Red fescue (*F. rubra*) and small herbs. Many of these plants are found only on chalk and limestone: Quaking grass (*Briza minor*), rock roses (*Helianthemum nummularium*), small scabious (*Scabiosa columbaria*), dropwort (*Filipendula hexapetala*), pyramidal orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*), milkwort (*Polygala*

vulgaris)

- Limestone heath - on pockets of acid soil developed where acid humus had built up. Characterised by lime-hating plants such as bent (*Nardus stricta*), heather (*Calluna vulgaris*). These plants are able to excrete acids that modify the soil, to produce the acid conditions that they need, and help to dissolve the underlying limestone.

Together these provide ideal feeding and breeding sites for many butterflies, and for birds such as skylark, wheatears, stone chats, the many anthills are a good source of food for woodpeckers and small mammals, such as voles and shrews.



Ancient managed woodland - King's Wood is nationally important as an example of hazel coppice with standards (fully grown trees), and for its avenue of small-leaved lime (*Tilia cordata*). It has a rich understorey of shrubs and herbs, including ransomes (*Allium ursinum*) and wood anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) which form a spectacular white carpet in the spring.

- Regenerating woodland and scrub - mostly at the boundary between the open hillside and farmland. Hazel, dogwood, hawthorn, bramble and blackthorn, elder scrub with ash trees.



These woodlands are full of birds; tits, warblers, woodpeckers, kestrels, robins, jays, cuckoo, there is a large rookery in ash trees at Compton Bishop.



Badgers and dormice are relatively common, but nationally rare, foxes and deer shelter in the woodland and feed on the open grassland and farmland surrounding it.

- Bare rock and scree - essential basking sites for adder and common lizard, in this area many rocks are covered by lichens (a good indicator of clean air), or in

wet places by blankets of mosses and liverworts.

- Farmland at the base of the hills - the open fields are valuable feeding site for flocks of rooks, starlings and pigeons, and for winter migrant birds such as fieldfare and redwings.



Habitats in the valley of R.Axe



- Moorland - lowlying land, waterlogged for much of the year. Beds of reed grass (*Phalaris arundinacea* and *Glyceria maxima*), with teasel and water parsip, provide habitat for white throats, reed warblers, reed buntings. Many insects, including dragonflies, and amphibians.
- Summer pasture - much of the moorland has been drained. Many of the fields are waterlogged during the winter and in spring have a beautiful display of flowers, lady's smock (*Cardamine*

pratensis), dandelions, marsh and spotted orchids (*Dactylorhiza* spp.), greater spearwort (*Ranunculus flammula*), meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*). This attracts butterflies and other insects, which in turn attract birds and small insect-eating mammals such as the shrew (*Sorex araneus castaneus*) and mole. Hawks and owls use the willow trees that are found beside the rhyes as vantage points from which to hunt these small mammals. In winter these fields can attract wading birds such as snipe and redshank. Ditches and rhyes - waterplants such as water crowfoot (*Ranunculus aquatilis*), duck weed (*Lemna* spp.) feed small fish and water fowl such as mallard, garganey, coots and moorhens. The small fish are eaten by larger fish, such as pike, and birds, such as herons and kingfishers. Water voles nest in the banks and graze on the waterside vegetation. Poplar trees and pollarded willows along-side the rhyes provide nest sites for birds and small mammals, help to stabilise the banks and in the past were a valued source of timber



Edge habitats

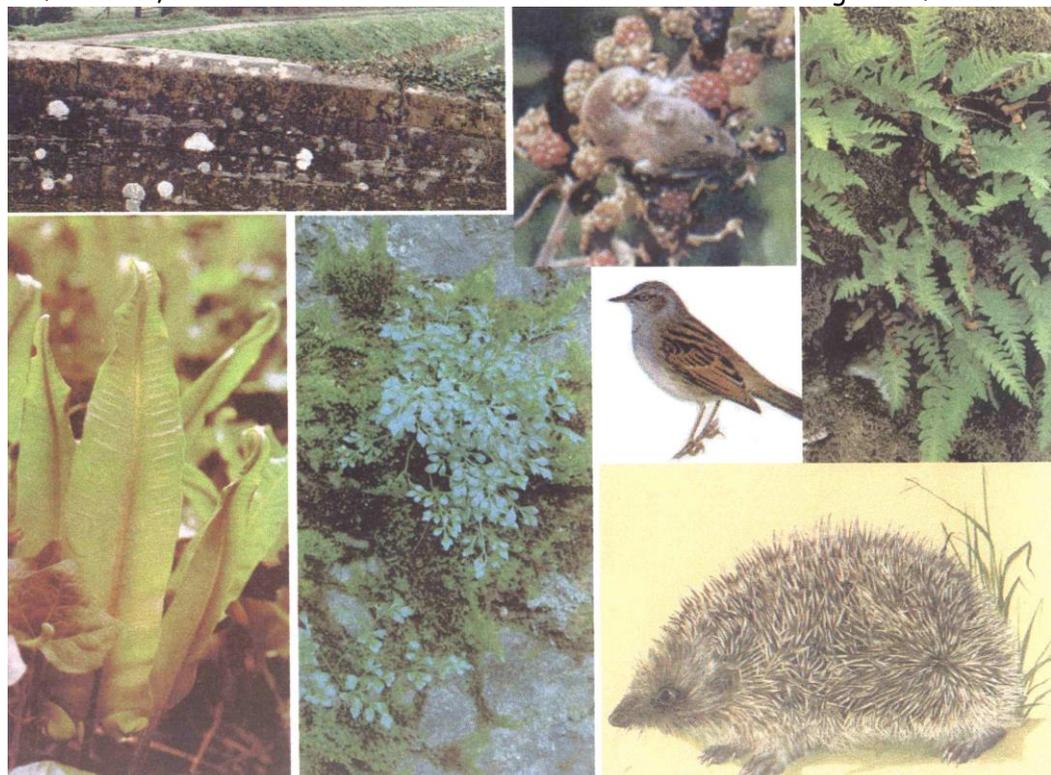


- Hedgrows - the mixture of shrubs and small trees, including hawthorn, blackthorn, field maple, act as woodland margins and support many woodland birds, insects and small mammals. The presence of a rich herb layer at the base of hedge with plants like Dogs mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and mature trees, particularly ash or lime, often indicates that the hedge is very old.
- Road and track verges - the plants here, such as

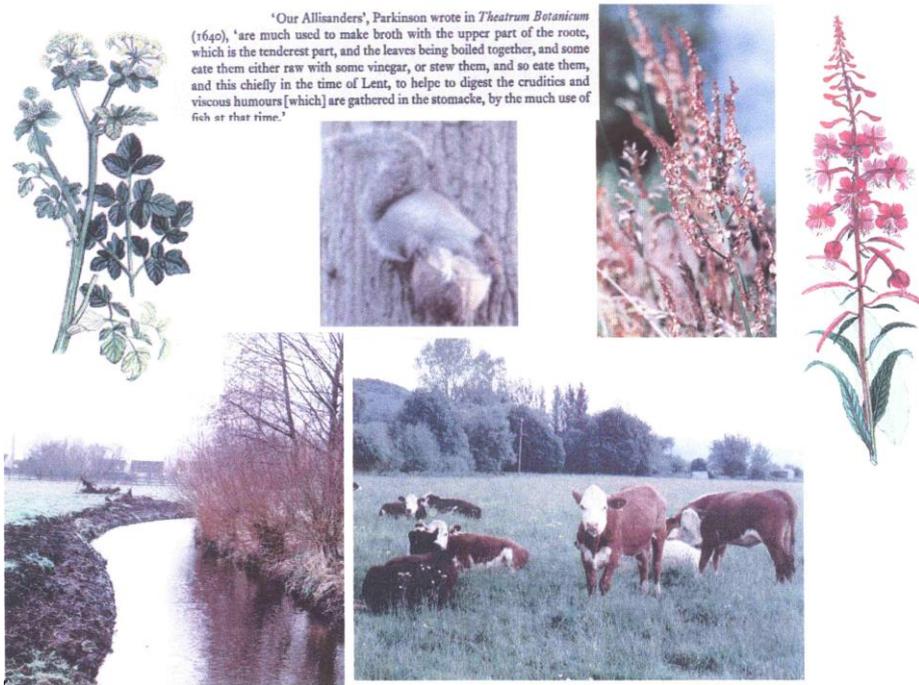
creeping buttercup (*R. repens*), plantains (*Plantago spp.*), had to be able to withstand trampling. This is changing now fewer people walk to work.

- Walls - the massive limestone walls found in the parish are an ideal site for a wide variety of plants, especially ferns, including maidenhair spleenwort (*Asplenium trichomanes*), rusty-back fern (*A. ceterach*), hart's tongue (*A. scolopendrium*), wall rue (*A. ruta-muraria*) and common polypody (*Polypodium vulgare*). Each face of a wall has a different aspect, thus moisture loving plants and those tolerant of desiccation can be found close together.

Together these are important for birds, insects and small mammals that shelter within the edge but feed in the open.



All of these habitats are man-made.



Forest was the natural vegetation. During the Neolithic period (~3,000 B.C.) pollen records show a fall in abundance of *Ulmus* pollen (known as the Elm Decline). This coincides with the domestication of animals by man. Elm leaves are very nutritious and were used as fodder for sheep and cattle, and continued to be used in this country until C19. This would have produced a pattern of small temporary clearings. Extensive and permanent clearance of woodland in Somerset did not occur until the late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age (around 400 B.C.). Throughout the historical period human activities have modified

the natural environment.

From C13 onwards drainage works gradually changed flooded moorland into the rich summer pastures that now comprise Cross Moor and the flood plain of the Old River Axe.

Alexanders (*Smyrniolum olusatrum*) was introduced by the Romans as a pot herb, grey squirrels were deliberately released from Regent's Park Zoo in the mid-C20.

Changes in landuse have changed the abundance of many species.

Fireweed (*Epilobium augustifolium*) was a major component of the late glacial vegetation (10,000 B.P.) but had a relatively restricted distribution until the second world war when bombing and the subsequent expansion in road and house building recreated the open disturbed conditions it requires. In recent years

there has been a spectacular increase in the numbers of birds of prey such as buzzards and sparrowhawks, coinciding

with decreased use of certain pesticides and decline in the number of gamekeepers. On Cross Plain the spread of gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), and bracken is almost certainly due to fewer sheep grazing and less winter burning of the hillside.



Section 5 - Survey and Details

5.1 Architectural Details - Buildings



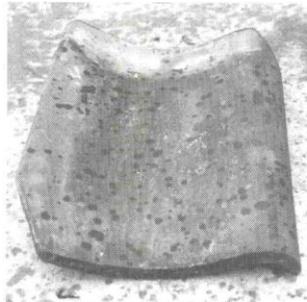
5.1 - Architectural Details - Buildings



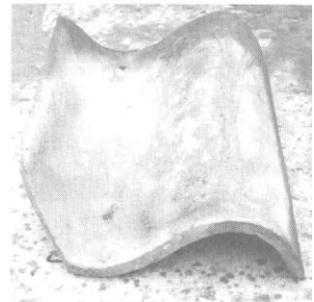
5.2 Roofing - Tiles



HANDMADE PANTILE



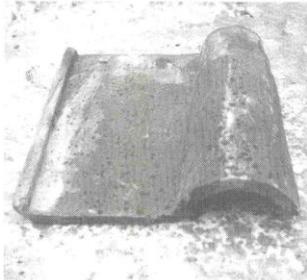
MACHINE MADE Pantile



BOLD ROLL Pantile



SINGLE ROMAN Tile
(comes in a range of widths and heights)



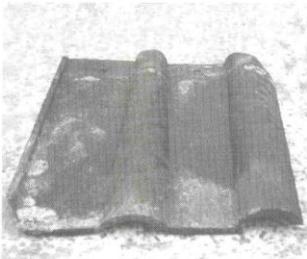
BOLD ROLL Single Roman or BAMBINO



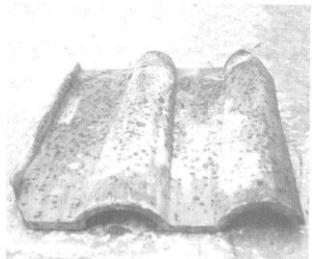
EXTRA WIDE Single Roman



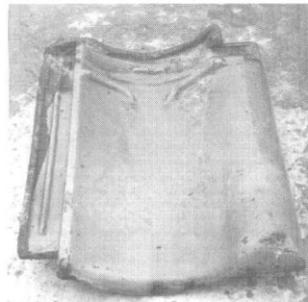
DUTCH INTERLOCKING Glazed Pantile
(colours - Light Green, Dark Green and Turquoise)



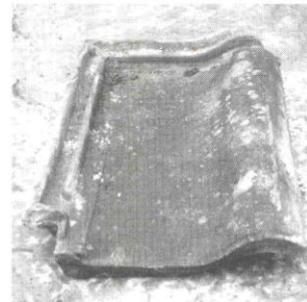
John Browne COUNTY Interlocking Pantile



GLAZED Pantile (pre-formed slots for glass also occur in Double Romans and others)



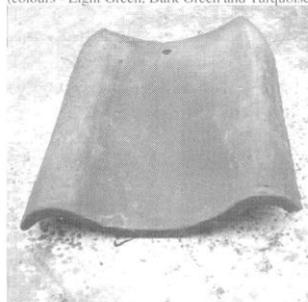
BARGEBOARD Pantile (for meeting verges)



Major JUMBLE I - straight water bar
Interlocking Half Bond Double Roman



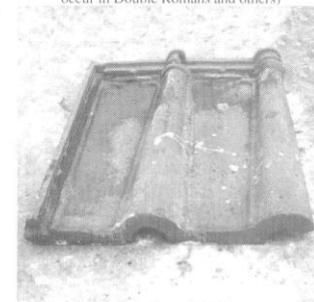
Major JUMBLE II - curved water bar
Interlocking Half Bond Double Roman



DOUBLE ANGLE Tile



John Browne Patent WATER BAR



HALF BONDED Double Roman

5.2 Architectural Details - Roofs



Originally roofing would have been thatch probably and single Roman, replaced by slate for the 'up-market' house and pan-tiles for others.

Later Double Roman tiles would be fitted to most houses but as the pitch of the roof lessened the value of pan tiles and meant no more drifting rain or snow in the house. Traditionally tiles would be clay, probably made locally at Weare, Cheddar (where the clay pits are still visible) or Bridgwater..

5.3 - Architectural Details - Chimneys



While essential and a status symbol of houses in the past, modern houses have little need for them.

Roofing Materials: Thatch



Thatch was formerly so universal a roofing material that the dialect word 'thack' is still applied to any roof covering. Although a great deal of thatch still remains—about 50,000 thatched buildings in England according to a recent estimate—replacement of thatch by Welsh slate, plain tile, and corrugated asbestos conceals the former use of the material over virtually the whole country.

The principal materials used were reed, straw, and heather, though other materials including turf and ling have been used at times. The best reed came from beds specially cultivated in Norfolk. Straw was usually wheaten, and combed wheat straw has similarities in use with reed, but rye straw was sometimes used. Heather was available in moorland areas where straw long enough for thatching was scarce. Threshing machines ruined straw for thatching purposes and there was presumably some relation between the spread of threshing machines in the north and west where other roofing materials were available, and their slow adoption in the east and south.

Thatch is a relatively light material, does not need a particularly massive roof construction, and can be used with poor walling materials such as mud or chalk. Often two courses of stone tiles were used at the wall head as a damp proof course over the most vulnerable part of the construction. The ridge was given extra protection by a further thickness of straw, often scalloped at the edge, and brought to a decorative peak at the apex. Hazel spars were used to give a great variety of decorative patterns at ridge, verge and eaves.

The nature of the material allowed valleys and dormers to be incorporated in the roof, and the soft, all-embracing lines of a thatched roof cannot be equalled in any other material.

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Thatch in our village and its impact on roof design in the past

Our ancestor's houses will certainly all have been thatched, particularly as it is likely that there was an ample supply of reed thatching material available close by.

Thatch required a steep pitch to throw off rainwater, perhaps important in our own area of relatively high rainfall. It was, however, expensive, requiring replacement every generation.

The pantiles which eventually replaced it, were probably the plastic double glazing of their day, providing a cheap durable alternative to a traditional but costly material.

Thatch was also a light material and it was relatively easy to produce the complex woodwork required for dormer windows in order to make best use of the of the high roof space.

The time line shows that the introduction of clay tiles coincides with the decline in the widespread use of thatch.

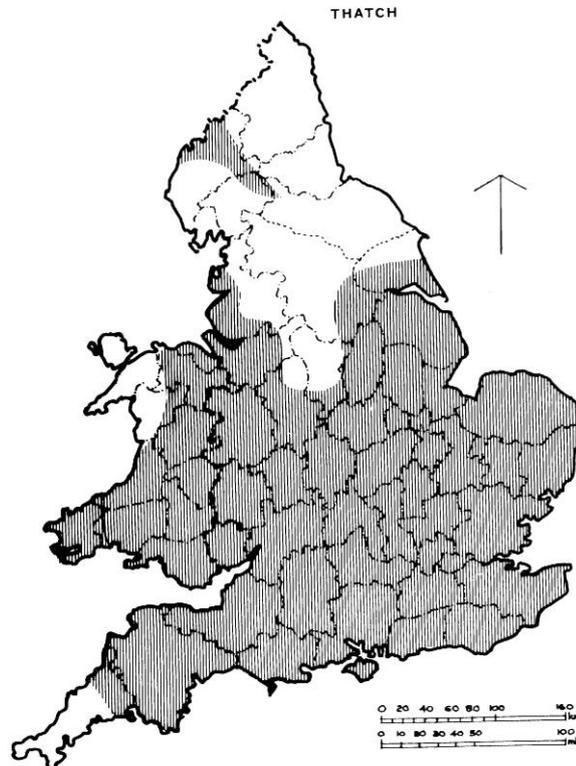
It is likely that all of our steep roofed older houses, now with pantiles, [or other design] were once thatched. Those older houses with shallower pitches and pantiles were likely to have been tiled from when they were built.

COPINGS/PARAPETS

Another roof detail which is found locally is the widespread use of coping and/or parapets at gable ends. It was once used to contain and trim thatch and continued to be useful to finish pantiled and other single-lapped tiled roofs. These may be found on many of our houses and are often made of a stone eg Bath or Ham]which is easier to work than Mendip limestone.

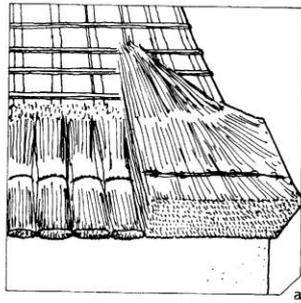
This tradition has been continued in the design of the roofs of the new Shute Shelve development.

Roofing Materials: thatch

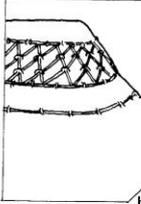


thatch roofing—though varying in density, most parts of the country retain some thatched buildings.

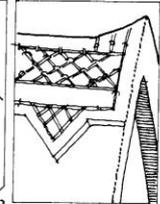
Roofing Materials - Thatch



a. The diagram shows various stages in thatching a roof with Norfolk reed. The basis having been formed with rafters and laths, a bunch is laid at the corner of the verge at 45° , other bunches are placed along the eaves, butt down, and, after tying, fixed with hazel sways. The brow course is neatly dressed into position.



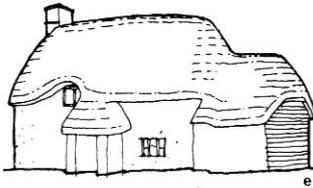
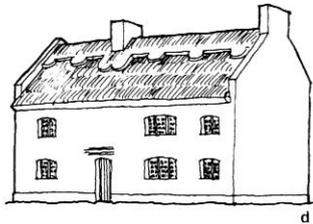
b. A detail at the apex of a hipped roof in long straw.



c. A detail at the apex of a gabled roof in Norfolk reed with a scalloped edge and pattern of sways.

d. A thatched roof trapped between brick parapets.

e. A thatched roof over a cob building showing the easily swept shapes over a complex plan.



Roofing Materials: Pantiles



The Pantile resembles the plain tile in material and manufacture but differs in form and use. The size of a pantile, $13\frac{1}{2}$ in. by $9\frac{1}{2}$ in. by $\frac{1}{2}$ in., was fixed during the reign of George I, pantiles having been imported from Holland, certainly towards the end of the 17C., probably before, and local manufacture having started at the beginning of the 18C. They quickly spread over the whole of the Eastern Counties north of London right up to the Scottish border. Except for a strong tradition in Bridgwater, Somerset, pantiles are virtually unknown in the western half of the country.

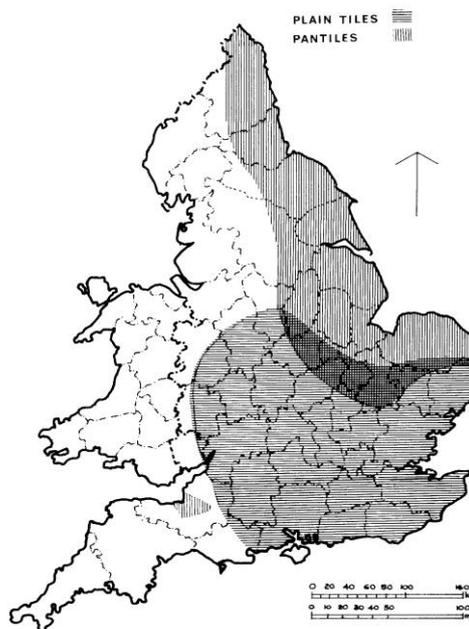
Pantiles are single lap tiles in the sense that each tile laps over only one tile beneath, but the side joints, so vulnerable in plain tiles, are protected by a sideways lap, permitted by the flat S section of the tile. They could be laid to a low pitch of 30° – 35° , provided a lightweight roof and required a relatively insubstantial roof structure. The underside of the pantiles was usually torched with clay to reduce snow penetration.

The bold form of a pantiled roof is best used in simple shapes as hips and valleys and small roof sections generally are difficult to form; the verge of a pantiled roof is often protected by a low parapet.

Other forms of single lap tile, such as Roman and Spanish tiles, have not formed any significant part of the British vernacular tradition.

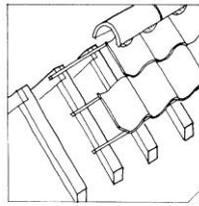
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Roofing Materials: plain tiles and pantiles

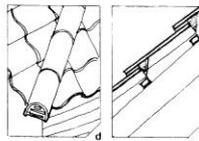
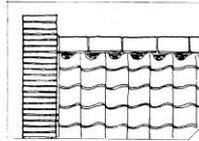
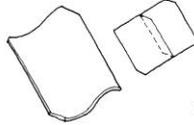


Pantiles and plain tiles—the former are generally confined to the east and north east, the latter to the south-east, south, and Midlands of England.

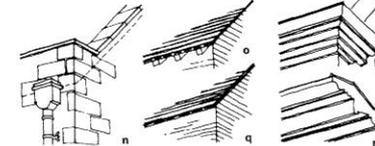
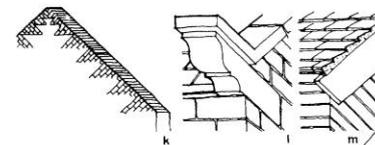
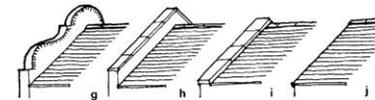
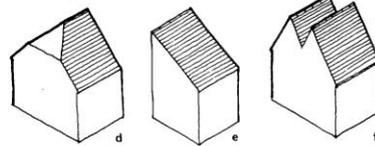
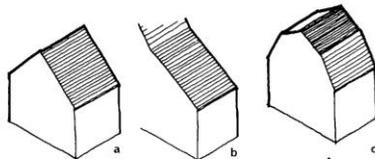
Roofing Materials - Pantiles



- a. The cutaway diagram shows rafters halved at the ridge, widely spaced laths, and pantiles lapping sideways and at each course, together with half-round ridge tile.
- b. detail of the pantile and the sideways lap.
- c. detail showing gable carried up as a parapet and half-round ridge tiles with galletting of small pieces of plain tile.
- d. hip with half-round ridge tiles.
- e. detail of torching.



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Gabled roof family

- a. gabled roof.
- b. gabled roof on a projection.
- c. gabled gambrel (mansard) roof.
- d. half-hipped roof.
- e. gabled single pitch roof.
- f. gabled M-shaped roof.

Some Variations at the gable

- g. 'Dutch' gable.
- h. parapet at gable.
- i. coping at gable.
- j. plain close verge.
- k. 'tumbling' in at gable.
- l. 'kneeler' forming a termination at the eaves of a parapet or coping.

m. barge board.

Some Variations at the eaves

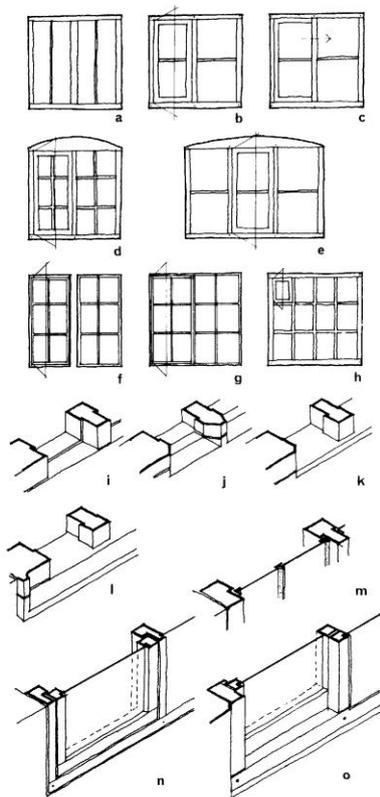
- n. parapet at the eaves with rain-water head serving a concealed gutter.
- o. exposed rafters at eaves.
- p. cornice returned at gable.
- q. plain close eaves.
- r. wooden cornice serving as a gutter.

Our Windows

- In houses with high ceilings tall windows were the most suitable.
- In houses with low ceilings low wide windows were used.
- As glass manufacturing improved from the mid-19th century, fewer glazing bars were required, until today's situation where picture windows are found in newer housing.
- The use of plastic and the need for double glazing have further increased the range of possible design.
- Wood, too, has been revived as the most suitable for cottage architecture with advances in double glazing.

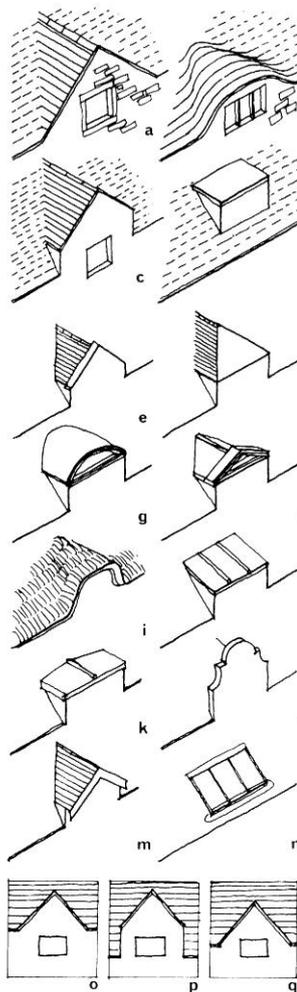
Dormer windows

- As noted a long established solution to the problem of the best use of a steeply pitched roof space.
- Authentically they are also steeply pitched with straight unadorned gable ends with their windows wholly in the roof space.
- Recently they have become a design statement with a passing reference to their local origins.



- a. square opening of two lights with vertical bars.
- b. square two-light opening, one side-hung wooden casement, single horizontal wooden glazing bars.
- c. as b. but with 'Yorkshire' horizontally sliding sash.
- d. as b. but small panes under brick arch.
- e. three-light window, wooden frames, centre light a side-hung casement, all under a shallow brick arch.
- f. two-light window with square-cut stone mullion, wrought-iron frames, one side-hung one fixed, small panes.
- g. as f. but in one square opening.
- h. fixed window of small panes in wooden frame and with one small opening pane.

i. square-cut mullion and jamb adapted for glazing by lattices applied from the outside. j. chamfered mullion and jamb adapted for inside glazing. k. square-cut mullion set back from chamfered window opening. l. as k. but window has simple architrave surround. m. wrought-iron side-hung casement. n. wooden side-hung casement. o. wooden horizontally sliding sash.



- a. gabled dormer, window above eaves.
- b. eyebrow dormer at eaves.
- c. gabled dormer window partly below eaves.
- d. dormer wholly in roof space.
- e. gabled dormer with plain coping.
- f. hipped dormer.
- g. segmental pediment to dormer.
- h. triangular pediment to dormer.
- i. thatched hood to dormer.
- j. sloping lead roof to dormer.
- k. flat lead roof to dormer.
- l. 'Dutch' gable to dormer.
- m. bargeboards to dormer gable.
- n. sloping rooflight.

o., p., q. distinguish between dormer windows below, above, and across the eaves line.

Our Walls

Stone and brick

Each geographical area that uses stone for building has its own method of building walling according to the properties of the stone used.

There are as many styles as there are types of stone.

For example Bath stone is yellow, soft and relatively easy to cut and so in Bath even the humblest terraces may be made of neatly trimmed masonry.

Mendip Limestone

Our local stone most frequently used on our buildings and our stone walls. Its colours range from grey-white through pink with occasionally deep rust coloured patches.

It is a durable material which is difficult to fashion and so has been traditionally laid in irregular courses.

At places in a building where precision is required eg at corners, door lintels, window reveals and chimneys, orange-red brick has traditionally been used. Occasionally, the same local handmade brick has been used to repair a stone wall with no great visual ill-effect.

Brick

As noted, our local brick is hand-made and of a red/orange colour. Its surface is matt and weathers well. Modern machine-made examples which match the colour usually have a hard surface which weathers poorly.

In the village, there are no examples of walls made entirely of our traditional brick.

Rendering [originally Stucco]

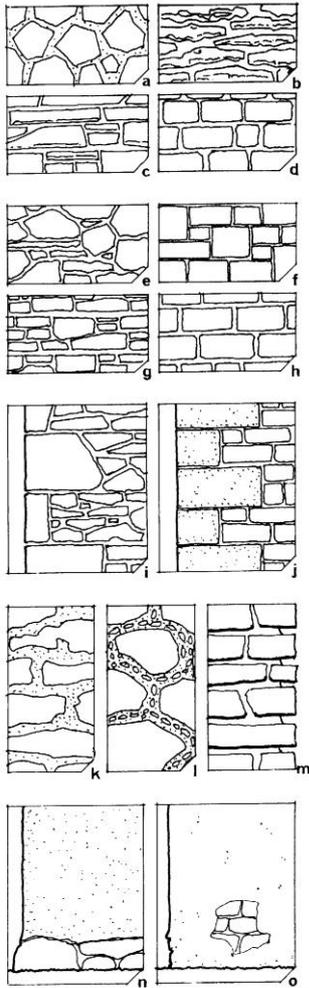
A wall covering of smooth cement [plaster in other parts of the country]

Once used to conceal and weatherproof rough stone walling.

Often associated with larger houses, whose corners were then made of a more easily worked stone [Bath or Ham stone].

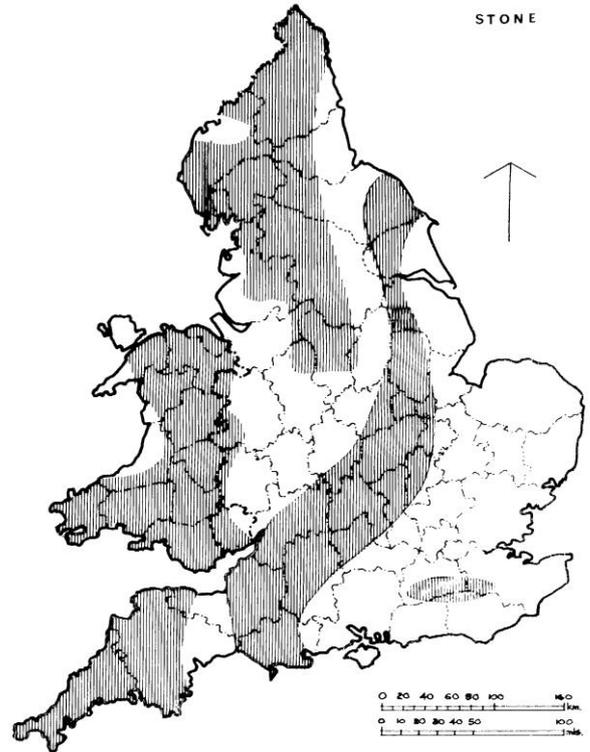
Today the same technique is being used to mask construction using concrete blocks, now widespread.

The traditional local colour was once a **pale salmon pink**. This is disappearing with the advent of a wider range of colours of masonry paint, now freely available.



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Walling Materials: stone



stone walling—shows the Pennine and Welsh mountain districts, the moorlands of South West England, the limestone belt, and the Weald, but there are many other smaller patches of use.

5.5 Architectural Details - Windows



The older houses had window styles which reflects the status of the owner. Convenience, soundproofing and visibility are becoming a priority for many people. Older windows are being replaced with PVC picture windows which will affect the character of the dwelling



5.6 - Architectural Details - Walls

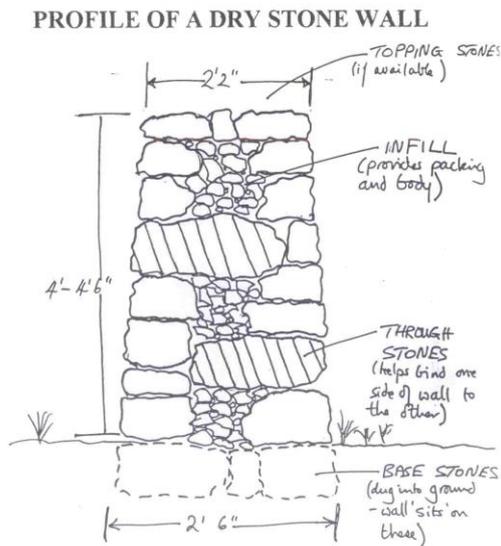


Natural stone walling has been standard to this area. However, some new developments have banded this feature using wood panelling and wire fencing. Capping on walls have generally been large stones rather than structured or ornate capping, except for the higher quality homes

5.6 - Dry Stone walling - Crook Peak

DRY STONE WALLING ON CROOK PEAK

The restoration of the wall began in 1987. It is over 900 metres long. Every metre takes one ton of stone. Most of the stone has had to be replaced. The new stone is mostly obtained from an ex-working quarry in Sandford. Over the years many people have worked on the wall; National Trust wardens, volunteers and, since 1992, contractors. The National Trust wardens spend about 2-3 days a month gathering, sorting and transporting stone for the wall. The wall is almost finished now, there are about a further 65 metres to go.



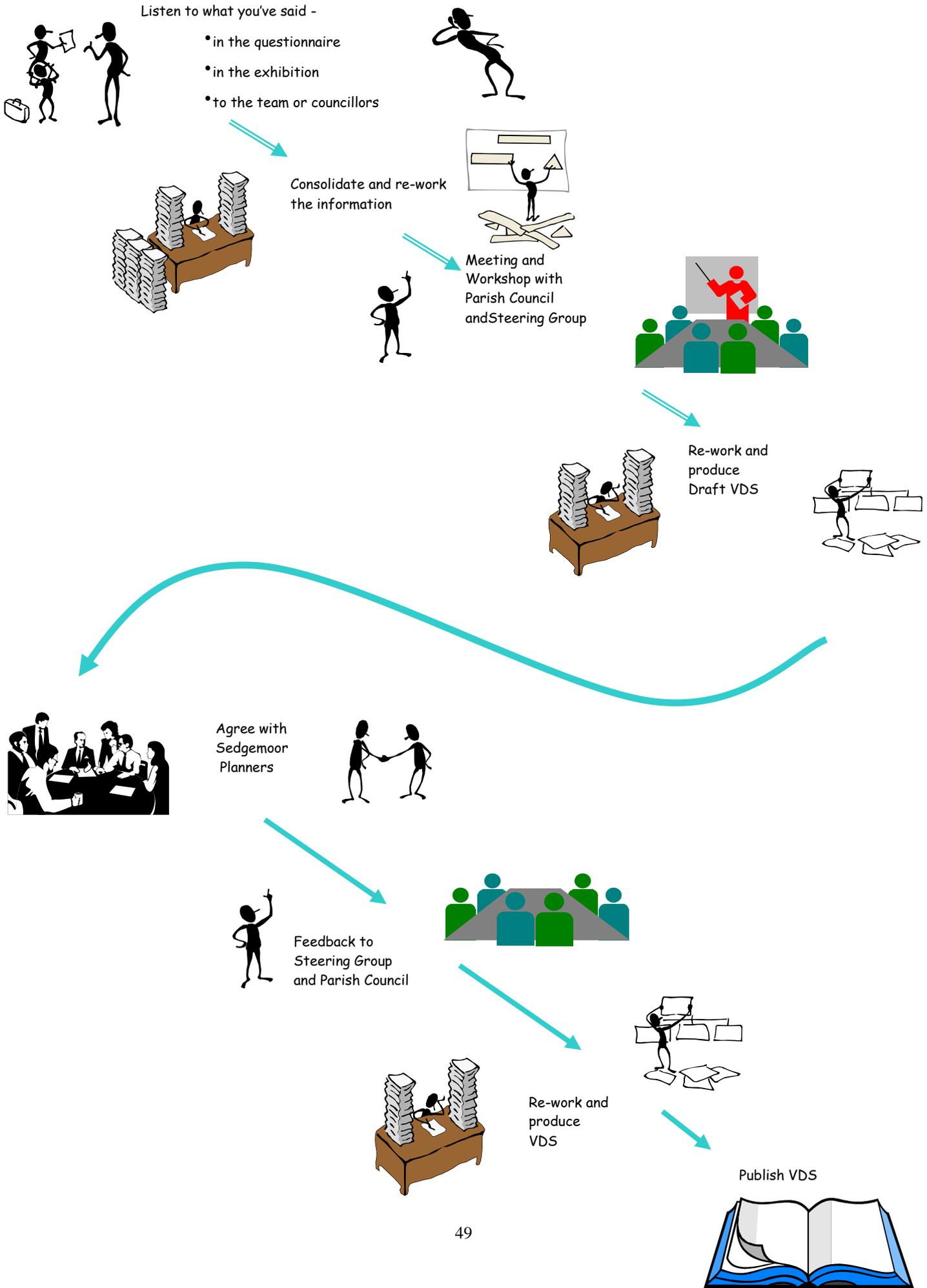
Section 5.7 - Hidden History



Hidden History



Section 6 - What happens next ?



Section 7 - Comments from Parishioners

- Too many dogs allowed to foul pavements and fields
- Dog litter - I have picked up about half a super-market bag of mess on a weekly basis at the Bourton Lane entry to the National Trust area. Would be nice if we could find a way by signage to encourage people to help.
- It would be helpful if there were bins for dog mess - strategically placed
- To reduce traffic along Old Coach Road - turn it into one-way eastbound with west access via the southern end of Old Coach Road. This would also reduce the hazard of the A38 junction. Sound deadening asphalt on the A38 with good hedgerows will also reduce the noise level. (Note that SCC were to put tree screening in when the bypass was built. Still being chased by PC and papers in 1974 - still no action !!)
- Please can the verges be left uncut on the A38 when flowers are at their best (especially the chicory)
- Bring back the red telephone box
- Go back to our beautiful green and cream road signs (not the current black plastic ones)
- Look after the fronts of our post boxes
- Puddles in road in adopted layby - lack of maintenance

Acknowledgements