

# **The South Wonston Village Design Statement**

Community Workshop

28/10/2025





# What is a village design statement and why is it important to South Wonston?

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A **Village Design Statement (VDS)** is a community-led planning document that describes what makes a village special — its landscape, layout, buildings, and local character — and sets out **design principles** for how future development should happen.

It's not about stopping development but about **guiding it in the right way** — so any changes respect what local people value and protect the things that make the place unique.

Once adopted by the local council (in our case, **Winchester City Council**), the VDS becomes a **Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)**. That means it must be taken seriously in planning decisions — it becomes a formal part of how planning officers and developers assess proposals

# What are the benefits or challenges if we don't have a VDS for South Wonston

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## WHY DO WE NEED ONE FOR THE VILLAGE?

- To make sure new homes, extensions, or buildings fit in with the village's character
- To protect local views, green spaces, wildlife, and history
- To help residents influence how South Wonston evolves
- To support better design, not just more development
- To help ensure that change benefits the whole community, not just developers

## WHAT HAPPENS IF WE DON'T HAVE ONE?

- Developers have more freedom to propose designs that don't reflect the local area
- Planning officers have less guidance to push for good design or reject poor-quality proposals
- The village's identity is more vulnerable to change over time
- We lose a key tool for shaping the future, rather than just reacting to it

# The Village Design Statement will open in a familiar way and set the scene

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## INTRODUCTION

The introduction will explain what the Village Design Statement (VDS) is and why we're creating one. It will describe how this document will help shape planning and design decisions in the future.

- What concerns or hopes do you have about how South Wonston might change in the future?
- Do you think it's important for local residents to influence how development happens in the village? Why?

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

This section will explain who contributed to the VDS and how we gathered feedback from residents. It shows that this is a community-led process.

- What's the best way to involve residents in shaping the future of the village?
- Are there any local groups, schools, or organisations that should be involved?

# The VDS will then explore our geographic & environmental make-up

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## LOCATION & LANDSCAPE

This will describe where South Wonston is located, what the surrounding landscape is like, and how it contributes to the village's rural character and identity

- What parts of the local landscape do you value most (views, fields, woodlands, paths, etc.)?
- Are there any features you think should be protected from development or change?

## BIODIVERSITY & ECOLOGY

This section will cover wildlife, green spaces, trees, hedgerows, and the overall ecology of the parish. It helps guide how development should protect or enhance the natural environment.

- What kinds of wildlife or green features do you see or care about locally?
- What could be done in future development to make South Wonston better for nature and biodiversity?

# It then considers the villages history and localised economic activity

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## ARCHAEOLOGY, HISTORY & DEMOGRAPHY

This part gives an overview of South Wonston's history, its older features and population make-up. It helps explain the context of the village today.

- Are there any historical features or stories about South Wonston that you think should be recognised or protected?
- Do you think the needs of different groups in the village (e.g. families, older residents, military families) are changing?
- What aspects of the village's past do you think are most important to preserve?

## LOCAL ECONOMY

This part considers local employment, services, and economic activity in the parish. It helps to understand how people live and work here, what facilities exist, and how the community's economic needs may evolve.

- Are there enough services and local businesses to meet your day-to-day needs?
- Do you work locally or commute elsewhere? challenges or benefits of this?
- What types of businesses or amenities would you like to see more of in South Wonston?

# Exploring the pattern of the village and the built environment is then next

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## SETTLEMENT PATTERN

This explains how the village is laid out — where and how housing has developed over time. It considers the shape and spread of the village, open spaces, and how different areas relate to each other.

- How would you describe the overall layout of the village? Are there distinct parts or zones?
- Are there places where you think development would feel out of place or too intrusive?

## BUILT ENVIRONMENT

This covers the types of houses and buildings in South Wonston — their design, materials, scale, and how they sit within their plots. It helps shape the design of future homes and extensions

- Are there any features of local buildings that make South Wonston feel distinctive?
- What do you think is a good example of well-designed housing in the village?
- How do you feel about things like loft conversions, dormer windows, or solar panels?

# Exploring the pattern of the village and the built environment is then next

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## ROADS AND OTHER ROUTES

This section will look at how people move around South Wonston — by foot, bike, car or public transport — and how streets, pavements and paths connect different parts of the village

- Are there any road safety or traffic issues you think should be addressed?
- How easy is it to walk or cycle around South Wonston? What would improve this?

## DESIGN GUIDELINES

This is one of the most important parts. It will set out principles for how any future development or changes should be designed, so that they fit with the village's character and respect what local people value.

- What should all new buildings in South Wonston have in common — or avoid?
- What principles would you expect to be followed when someone builds a new home or extension here?





# **Wrap up and any final points**

Thank you