Abbots Morton
Conservation Area Appraisal

July 2005
WHAT IS THIS APPRAISAL FOR?

A Conservation Area is an area of special architectural or historic interest, usually the historic part of a town or village, where we wish to preserve or enhance its character or appearance. Part of Abbots Morton is a Conservation Area. This appraisal identifies the special interest of the Abbots Morton Conservation Area, and provides guidance on how the preservation or enhancement of its character or appearance can be achieved.

In making a decision on an application for development in a Conservation Area, we must, under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, give special attention to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of the area. While this should ensure that harmful change is not allowed, some changes, normally not requiring planning permission (known as “permitted development”), can still damage the special qualities of a Conservation Area. We can make directions to limit the permitted development rights of residential properties and have done this in the Abbots Morton Conservation Area.

We also have to review the boundaries of our Conservation Areas from time to time. The Abbots Morton Conservation Area was first designated in November 1969. The boundary was reviewed in 2005 during the preparation of this appraisal. The current Conservation Area boundary is shown on the attached appraisal map.

Abbots Morton: a settlement with a medieval plan overlaying saxon origins
ABBOTS MORTON CONSERVATION AREA

ITS SPECIAL ARCHITECTURAL & HISTORIC INTEREST

The special architectural or historic interest of a place depends upon more than just its buildings. The layout of streets, spaces between buildings, views, ground surfaces, boundary treatments and trees are also important. The uses of buildings and spaces contribute to the special interest of a place, and the level of noise and activity, such as traffic, will also contribute or detract from that special interest.

The special interest of Abbots Morton is:

• Its long history, still evident in the layout of the village, in its buildings and in visible archaeological remains
• The survival of a clear demonstration of historic social hierarchy within the village, evident in the size, design and siting of buildings
• The survival of the historic form of buildings, plots and village layout.
• The number of historic buildings.
• The significant contribution of the natural environment in trees, gardens, open spaces, hedges and water.

The Conservation Area boundary is drawn to reflect this special interest.

LANDSCAPE SETTING

Abbots Morton is sited within a shallow linear depression amidst a gently undulating farmed landscape of large fields of pasture and crops defined by native hedgerows. It flanks both sides of a quiet country lane, well away from any busy roads.

The village is partially concealed in this open landscape by its low lying site, perimeter hedgerows, and by the numerous trees planted throughout and along its fringes, so that the trees themselves and limited glimpses of buildings, are the only indication of its presence in the landscape.

ARCHAEOLOGY

The well preserved earthwork remains of a moated site and associated enclosure, pond, hollow ways and medieval ridge and furrow, are clearly visible to the north of St Peter’s Church, and are a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

Abbots Morton: Partially hidden within the landscape

The church exceptionally stands slightly elevated on higher land at the western edge of the village, although largely concealed in the landscape by surrounding trees.
and is bounded at its eastern side by a clay lined pond, along its southern boundary by a shallow ditch, and along its western side by a hollow way. The hollow way continues along the western boundary of the churchyard and links to a second hollow way, connecting the moated site to the main street of the village.

Medieval ridge and furrow is also visible in fields flanking the southern fringe of the village.

These visible remains are tangible evidence of settlement and agricultural activity at Abbots Morton in the medieval period and earlier.

**Origins and Development**

Abbots Morton has Saxon origins, known in the 8th Century as Mortun or Mortune.

The moated site of the Scheduled Ancient Monument was acquired in the 8th Century for Evesham abbey and has a documented pre-Conquest foundation of a building from this period. The earthwork remains that are visible today date from the early 13th Century and are the remains of a new house built for the abbots of Evesham. This house is believed to have been the favoured retreat of the abbots prior to the dissolution of the monasteries in the 16th Century.

The church also has Saxon origins, although rebuilt in the 12th Century by the Normans. Norman masonry survives in the north wall of the nave.

The majority of the present buildings in the village date from the 17th and 18th centuries, with three, The Old Rectory, Lilac Cottage and High House Cottage, dating from the 15th Century. The church, however, exhibits several phases of development from the 12th, 14th, 15th, 17th and 19th centuries, suggesting that Abbots Morton may have been continuously occupied since its Saxon origins.

The form of the present village, with its cottages and houses sited in long, roughly rectangular plots set at right angles to both sides of a central road, suggests a planned settlement, probably dating from the 13th Century, at the time of the construction of the abbots’ new house. The direct link between the holloways and the alignment of the village road, and the presence of the medieval ridge and furrow so closely related to the present layout of the village, would seem to confirm this early development.

Other than the church there are no surviving buildings from this period. These earliest buildings would have been flimsy constructions and it is unusual for anything other than more substantial constructions to survive from this date. It is very likely, however, given the layout of the village and its relationship with the abbots’ house site and the ridge and furrow, that many of the current buildings have replaced earlier buildings as the settlement became more established.

During the 18th and 19th centuries the village passed through several ownerships. Most of the farm buildings and the later cottages in the village date from this period, as do many of the alterations to the earlier buildings, suggesting that this was a fruitful period in the village’s history, reflecting a general prosperity in farming during this period.
The layout of the village was already well established by the end of the 17th century, illustrated by the locations of early surviving buildings & features.
The 1883 Ordnance Survey plan shows the village much in the form as it is today. The most apparent changes are the disappearance of cottages at its eastern end, the amalgamation of plots and adjustments to or loss of plot boundaries, and the loss of orchards. The 1883 plan show extensive orchard planting in the rear of plots, much of which has since disappeared.

Other changes in the village are the change in use of some of its buildings. The village shop and post office, and some of the farm buildings, are now in residential uses. Despite the change in use of these buildings, their former uses and historic roles within the village are still apparent in their form and fenestration, or in the reference to their earlier uses in their names.

There is very little modern development in Abbots Morton. Bank Cottage and Christmas Cottage date from the early 20th Century. Three new houses have been built opposite Manor Farm, and a new house has been very recently constructed next to Bank Cottage. These newer buildings are the exception in the village, which is otherwise dominated by historic buildings. This lack of intrusion by modern development is one of the striking features of the Abbots Morton Conservation Area.
CHARACTER AND APPEARANCE

The character of the Abbots Morton Conservation Area is that of a small, quiet, unspoiled, rural village comprising a mix of residential and farming uses, set within an historic framework of buildings and large plots. Its remoteness from principal roads, the lack of through traffic and its proximity to surrounding farmland, are key contributors to its quiet rural character.

Farming has historically played an important role in the development of the village and the continued presence of active farms within the village makes a significant contribution to its rural character.

While some of the former farm and village buildings have been converted in recent years to residential uses, much of the earlier form and built fabric of the village has survived to the present day and is prevalent throughout the Conservation Area.

Between the buildings, trees, hedgerows, gardens, open spaces and the surrounding countryside are frequently visible, and make a significant contribution to the rural character of the Conservation Area.

Notably, modern intrusion in the form of road markings, signage, street lighting and wide hard surfaced pavements, is largely absent from the village, and the absence of these features contributes to its rural character.
The old village shop on a quiet lane

DETAILED ASSESSMENT

Layout

The village is laid out along both sides of a single lane on a gently curving south-west/north-east axis, with some development flanking a narrow track which crosses the lane half-way along its length in a north-south alignment.

Individual houses and cottages are scattered along the lane and track in a framework of large linear plots which are set at right angles to the lane. The majority of buildings front the lane and the track, with their ridges carried in approximate alignment. A few depart from this pattern and present their gables to the lane. Most are set back behind front gardens of varying sizes. There is no uniformity in spacing between buildings, or in the distance of set back from the lane or track, so that there is no hard delineation of a consistent building line.

The only exceptions to this pattern of linear frontage development are farm buildings at High House Farm which stretch away from the lane into the rear of the plot, the church which is offset from the lane at the south-western end of the village, and occasional ancillary buildings in the rear of individual plots.

The larger historic houses are located at the west end of the village in proximity to the church, with the smaller cottages concentrated in the centre and scattered towards the eastern end of the village, reflecting in location the relative social status within the village of their former occupants.

This historic hierarchy of the village has not been affected by modern development, is still very much evident and is an essential part of the character of the Conservation Area.

A notable feature of Abbots Morton is the presence and the survival of the historic framework of large linear plots. These are most evident in the frequent views between buildings and from the footpath which parallels the rear of the plots on the north side of the lane and those which approaching the village from the south. Of equal note is the survival in most part of the rears of these plots as open space.

Open space is also a particular feature of the eastern end of the village where fields stretch down to the lane side, giving significant gaps between development as the village gives way to open countryside.

While modern development has introduced some changes to Abbots Morton the village retains its well defined linear and historic plot form, hierarchy of buildings, and open spaces, and the retention of these features make a significant contribution to its special interest, character and appearance.

Architecture

The majority of buildings in the Conservation Area are modest buildings, built from local materials, of the form and type that are typical of the local Worcestershire tradition.

• Cottages

These vernacular buildings, dating from the 15th, 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, are simple in form with a rectangular plan and limited spans dictated by historic building construction methods. They are very modest in size and scale, primarily one and a half to two storeys in height on a small footprint.

Roofs are simple, steeply or moderately pitched with single ridges and gables, reflecting the simplicity in plan of the individual buildings. Gable verges are shallow or non-existent, with no barge boards. Eaves are shallow with no fascia boards and, in brick buildings, detailed with dentilled coursing.
A simple linear form, with footpaths and tracks linking the lanes and hollow way to the surrounding fields.
Dormers are an occasional feature. Most are eaves mounted, with some contained within the slope of the roof. All have pitched gabled roofs. Rooflights are noticeably absent. Chimneys, with corbelled cappings, are a feature of all buildings.

Within these modest vernacular buildings the fenestration is typical of their period. Windows in the earlier cottages are mainly side hung casements in small squarely proportioned openings arranged in a random pattern and fitted flush to the wall with minimal cills and flat heads. Within the later cottages casement windows are more carefully arranged on principal elevations in a symmetrical composition, typically with cambered brick heads.

Doors are mainly solid and vertically planked, or panelled and part glazed, some with modest open timber, or enclosed timber and glass, porches.

- **Houses**

  The larger houses date from the 15th, 17th and 18th centuries, and their building style is typical of their periods and materials.
Abbots Morton Conservation Area Appraisal

15th century house with simple rectangular plan and prominent chimney

In contrast, The Old Manor and Manor Farmhouse, which were both altered in the 18th century, have hipped roofs, are two and a half storeys in height and have “U” shaped plans. The eaves on The Old Manor are more pronounced. Both have large prominent chimneys, those on The Old Manor being particularly ornate with two shafts of a 6-point star plan.

17th century house, ‘U’ plan with hipped roof

Within these larger houses the fenestration is generally more ordered, with a careful arrangement of larger casements on principal elevations, with timber panelled or vertically planked doors, some with modest hoods on brackets or more recently added open porches. Dormers are the exception and there is a notable absence of rooflights, barge or fascia boards.

• Farm Buildings
Barns and farm buildings at High House Farm, Manor Farm, Home Farm and Whites Close, are other notable building types within the Conservation Area. These are grouped around yards close to their respective houses and are typical of the Worcestershire vernacular, with simple rectangular plans, simple plain gabled or half-hipped roofs, and walls with minimal openings.

17th century house, ‘U’ plan with hipped roof

Historic farm buildings in the heart of the village

Larger modern farm buildings are also present, with similar characteristics of simple plans and plain elevations.

17th century house, ‘U’ plan with hipped roof

Historic and modern farm buildings are prominent in the conservation area

• Other Building Types
The Church of St Peter displays architectural features from its several periods of development, including a crenellated west tower, a north transept, a three bay nave, a two bay chancel.
The Church of St Peter, spanning several centuries of development

Many of the buildings in the Conservation Area are “listed” for their architectural and/or historic interest. There are others which, while not included in the list, are in the style, form and materials of the local vernacular, are of local significance and make a positive contribution to the character and appearance of the area.

Materials

The use of building materials in the Conservation Area reflects what would have been locally available at the time, with materials only being transported long distances for very expensive, high status buildings.

Timber frame, brick and tile

All of the houses and the earlier cottages are timber framed, with wattle and daub or later brick infill panels, on stone and brick plinths.

The framing pattern is predominantly box frame construction, with square panels. There are examples of close studding and cruck frame construction in the earliest buildings. Timber framed barns are clad in weather boarding.

Cottages, farm buildings and alterations from the 18th and 19th centuries are in brick, of the rich red/orange of the area, occasionally painted, particularly on brick infill panels to timber framed buildings. Brick is the prevalent material for chimney construction in all periods of buildings and for boundary walls.

Brick farm buildings

The prevalent roofing material is plain red clay tile on most periods of buildings, in the same rich red/orange colour as the local brick. The use of the same roofing tile throughout the Conservation Area is a unifying thread amongst buildings of various ages and styles. There are also examples of surviving thatch on timber framed buildings.

Timber frame and thatch
Doors are painted timber. Casement windows are a mix of painted timber and wrought iron with timber cills.

Cast iron gutters and downpipes are present on numerous buildings throughout the area.

The church is sandstone ashlar with local lias. Sandstone is also found in the plinths of the earliest buildings and in occasional boundary walls.

This pattern of materials use in these different building types is typical of the Worcestershire vernacular.

The more recent houses opposite Manor Farm, and other occasional buildings, are roofed in concrete tiles. The use of these materials is the exception and is at variance with the presence of traditional materials within the Conservation Area. There are occasional examples of windows which have been replaced with uPVC or stained timber, sometimes incorporating lead strips in imitation of leaded lights. These materials and finishes, and some of the details of these windows, are inconsistent with the traditional window design and finishes of the Conservation Area.

The public highway is surfaced in tarmac with concrete kerb stones at the edge of the footway. Private drives and yards are generally surfaced with loose gravel, giving a softer surface finish appropriate to a rural village Conservation Area and a characteristic feature of the Abbots Morton Conservation Area.

**Local Details**

The red telephone box on the green opposite Corner Thatch is a familiar village feature that contributes to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area, and which is listed for its historic interest. A stone mounting block at the side of the lane in front of “Littlewood” is a tangible reminder of a past era.

**Boundary Treatments**

Boundaries are an important feature throughout the Conservation Area, making a significant contribution to its character and appearance.
Boundaries are mainly a mix of hedges and walls of local brick and stone, with occasional example of low timber wicket fences, often incorporating wrought iron or timber wicket pedestrian gates. With the exception of an occasional hedge, these boundaries are low, permitting views of buildings, and into gardens and beyond. The materials of boundaries tend to relate to the relative status of the buildings, with hedges and wicket fences being prevalent in association with modest cottages, and brick and stone walls prevalent in association with larger houses.

Timber wicket fences, brick walls and five-bar gates: low boundaries permitting views through the conservation area

This differentiation of boundary features is an important element of the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.

The retention of these boundaries is important to the quality of the area.

Natural Environment

The natural environment makes a significant contribution to the quality of the Abbots Morton Conservation Area. Trees, orchards and hedges provide a green, soft edge to the village and setting for its buildings, as well as being present throughout the Conservation Area. They make a significant contribution to its rural character as appreciated from within, and in views to and from, the area.

The natural environment makes a significant contribution to the rural character of the conservation area
There are a number of particularly significant individual and groups of trees within the village, most notably the mature group of trees around the church and the fine individual specimen trees in the front garden of High House Farm.

Trees make an essential contribution to the rural street scene

Of equal importance to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area is its open spaces. Most apparent from the lane are the large front gardens of High House Farm, The Old Rectory and The Barn, the prominent corner garden of Corner Thatch, the green open spaces that reach down to the lane side at High House Farm, the fields at the eastern end of the village and the green opposite Corner Thatch. The open spaces of the church yard, the Scheduled Ancient Monument and adjacent field, and the large open areas at the rear of individual plots, are apparent from the footpaths through and around the village. All of these spaces make a significant contribution to the rural character and appearance of the Conservation Area.

Private gardens remain undeveloped and continue in use as gardens. Although not always entirely publicly visible these are important as undeveloped open spaces in the Conservation Area. While these private gardens may not be entirely publicly visible, the lack of interruption by buildings and presence of planting, contributes to an impression of openness, and these are important to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.

Green grass verges are present throughout the Conservation Area, providing a soft edge to the lane and contributing to its rural character and appearance.

Green open space at the rear of plots makes a significant contribution to the character of the conservation area

Glimpses of gardens contribute to the impression of openness

Ponds contribute to the quality of the natural and historic environment
There are several ponds within the Conservation Area which contribute to its historic interest and the quality of its natural environment. The ponds are survivors of the past and reminders of the history of the village. Of particular historic significance is that associated with the remains of the abbots’ house next to the church.

Views

There are frequent views throughout the Conservation Area into the surrounding countryside and into the open plots at the rear of properties. This constant visual link with the countryside and open space makes a significant contribution to the rural character of the Conservation Area. Of particular note are the views around the Scheduled Ancient Monument, the views from the track which dissects the area north-south, the views through High House Farm from the lane and the several views between buildings along both sides of the lane.

The countryside setting of the village is ever present in views between buildings

Open plots at the rear of the street frontage are seen in views from footpaths

The gentle curve of the central lane gives shorter and medium distance views along the length of the village, from which individual and groups of cottages, houses and buildings are visible on both sides of the lane.

Negative Factors

Much of the Conservation Area remains unspoiled by inappropriate development. There are only occasional features that compromise or detract from its character and appearance. These are:

- replacement windows and/or doors in uPVC or stained timber. Window and door replacements with new ones of a different design, detail, materials or finish, erodes local building detail, which is an essential part of the distinctive character and appearance of the Conservation Area
- removal of front boundaries, providing an open frontage to buildings where boundary features are characteristic
- high solid metal fencing and temporary buildings at The Chalet
We would welcome the opportunity of discussing with owners the scope for improving these features.

Neutral Areas
There are some parts of the Conservation Area which in their present form neither enhance or detract from its character or appearance. Arden Cottage, Hathaway Cottage and Hathaway Three are a modern development of three small houses which, although exhibiting some different design characteristics to the established characteristics of the area, are set in large plots which softens their visual impact and they do not intrude.

We would welcome the opportunity of discussing the scope for enhancing their appearance with owners. We will also be careful to guard against these properties becoming too dominant through future additions or alterations.

PRESERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT

New Development
It is our aim that the existing character and appearance of the Abbots Morton Conservation Area should be preserved or enhanced.

Preservation will be achieved by:

Refusing permission for:

- the demolition of any building or structure if its loss would damage the character or appearance of the Conservation Area;
- the extension or alteration of a building where the change would damage the character or appearance of the Conservation Area;
- development which would be harmful to the setting or character or appearance of the Conservation Area;
- development which would adversely affect or result in the loss of important views, open spaces, tree cover or boundary features within the Conservation Area.

Design Guidance
The designation of the Conservation Area is not intended to prevent change, especially that which would enhance the character or appearance of the area. It does, however, seek to ensure that future development is appropriate to the character of the area. Any proposed development should therefore be in accordance with the following guidance:

- New buildings or extensions should reflect the general pattern of building within the area, especially in scale, form, proportion and detailing, although there may be scope for some architectural invention provided that this is sympathetic to the existing architecture of the place.
- Materials used should be in accordance with those traditionally used in that particular part of the Conservation Area, and should maintain a similar mix. Extensions to buildings should be in materials that are sympathetic to the existing building.
- Any new buildings or extensions should be located on their sites in a similar way to the general pattern of building in that part of the Conservation Area.
- Boundary walls, railings and hedges should be incorporated in the development in a similar way to those already in existence in that part of the conservation area, and these should use similar materials and detailing, or species.

Listed Buildings
There are 24 buildings within the Abbots Morton Conservation Area included in the List of Buildings of Architectural or Historic Interest. Other buildings and structures attached to, or pre-dating 1st July 1948 and forming part of the curtilage of, these identified buildings, are also listed by association. While the aim of the listed building legislation is to preserve these buildings for their own sake, any changes affecting them will also be considered in terms of the effect on the Conservation Area.

Buildings and structures which are listed by association with those buildings included in the List are shown on the appraisal map where they
have been able to be identified. The information shown on the map is not definitive. The Council’s Heritage Team should be contacted for advice on whether a building or structure is listed by association before any works are carried out to potentially listed buildings or structures.

Unlisted Buildings
Although many alterations to all types of buildings can be controlled by planning permission, changes can still take place to unlisted dwelling houses and their sites which can damage the character and appearance of the Conservation Area, but which are “permitted development”, i.e. they do not ordinarily require planning permission.

There are many buildings in the Abbots Morton Conservation Area which, although not listed, have qualities of age, style and materials which are locally distinct and which make a positive contribution to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area. That many of these properties retain much of their original character and appearance is to the credit of those owners who have carefully preserved them. There is, however, no guarantee as to their future and these properties are vulnerable to future change.

Article 4(2) Directions have been made in the Conservation Area which will provide long-term protection against unsympathetic alterations. The effect of the Directions is that certain alterations which formerly did not require planning permission now need permission, but only where the change affects those parts of a property fronting a highway or public open space. There is no fee for applications required because of these Directions.

Those properties affected are:

Appletrees
Bank Cottage
Blackberry Cottage
Cartref
Christmas Cottage
Church View
Home Farm
Mulberry House
The Barn
The Old Shop
Whites Close

The works for which Planning Permission will be required are:

Removal of, new or replacement windows and doors at

Appletrees
Bank Cottage
Blackberry Cottage
Cartref
Christmas Cottage
Church View
Home Farm
Mulberry House
The Barn
The Old Shop
Whites Close
Removal or alteration of boundary walls, fences, railings and gates which front a road or public footpath

at

Cartref

The laying of hard standing at

Bank Cottage
Cartref
Christmas Cottage
The Old Shop

Our Heritage team can advise where there is uncertainty over what may be covered.

Trees

All trees over a certain size are protected in the Conservation Area. Written notification must be given to the Council before carrying out any works to these trees. Our Landscape Team can advise on which trees are protected, the type of works which would need to be notified, the procedure and the likelihood of getting consent for the works. The contribution of the tree to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area will be a factor in the consideration of a notification.

Scheduled Ancient Monuments

These are protected by law. Consent is needed from the Secretary of State for any works affecting a monument.

Enhancement Opportunities

There are some opportunities within the Conservation Area for enhancing its character and appearance, and improving on some of the negative and neutral features.

1. Reinstatement of traditional windows and doors. The reinstatement of traditional window and door designs, details, materials and finishes, would restore traditional building features where they have been lost to modern replacements

2. The reinstatement of front boundaries. The re-introduction of front boundaries would reinstate characteristic boundary features of the Conservation Area

3. The removal of the metal fencing and temporary buildings at The Chalet. The removal of these would remove inappropriate and uncharacteristic features from the Conservation Area.

4. The re-introduction of orchard planting. The reintroduction of orchard planting would restore a lost village feature

We are willing to work in partnership with the Parish Council and residents in the consideration of schemes which would enhance the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.

NOTE

Although it is intended that this Statement should highlight significant features of the Conservation Area which are important to its character or appearance, omission of a particular feature should not be taken as an indication that it is without merit and unimportant in conservation and planning terms.

REFERENCES

Victoria County History

FURTHER READING

This Statement should be read in conjunction with the most recent versions of the Wychavon District Local Plan, the Worcestershire County Structure Plan, national planning policy statements, especially Planning Policy Guidance note 15 – “Planning and the Historic Environment” and the guidance leaflets “Conservation Areas” and “Listed Buildings” produced by Wychavon District Council.

USEFUL WEBSITES

Wychavon District Council:
www.wychavon.gov.uk
English Heritage:
FURTHER ADVICE & INFORMATION

For further guidance and information please contact:

The Heritage Section
Planning Services
Wychavon District Council
Civic Centre
Queen Elizabeth Drive
Pershore
Worcs. WR10 1PT

Tel. 01386 565565
e.mail: planning@wychavon.gov.uk
web: www.wychavon.gov.uk

Credit: this appraisal has been prepared with the assistance of the Abbots Morton Parish Council


(b) Any person aggrieved by the SPD may apply to the High Court for permission to apply for judicial review of the decision to adopt the SPD.

(c) Any such application for leave must be made promptly and in any event not later than 3 months after the date on which the SPD was adopted.

Wychavon District Council
Planning Services
Civic Centre
Queen Elizabeth Drive
Pershore
Worcestershire
WR10 1PT

July 2005
ABBOTS MORTON CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL  
SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT  
STATEMENT OF CONSULTATION  

1. **Introduction**  

1.1 This statement is a summary of consultation undertaken by Wychavon District Council in respect of the Supplementary Planning Document, Abbots Morton Conservation Area Appraisal.  

1.2 The content of this statement has had regard to the provision of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development)(England) Regulations, 2004.  

2. **Background**  

2.1 A report to the Council’s Development Control Committee on 17th March 2005 explains the reasons for preparing a Conservation Area Appraisal for the Abbots Morton Conservation Area. Specifically, the Conservation Area Appraisal is drafted in accordance with the requirements on Wychavon District Council imposed by the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, to:  

- keep its Conservation Areas under review;  
- prepare policies and proposals for the preservation and enhancement of the character or appearance of its Conservation Areas; and  
- pay special attention to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of the Conservation Area in exercising its planning functions.  

2.2 The preparation and publication of Conservation Area Appraisals is a key step in the Council fulfilling these duties.  

2.3 The Draft Supplementary Planning Document has had regard to the Sustainability Appraisal in the Wychavon District Local Plan to ensure that the Appraisal contributes to sustainable development.  

3. **Consultation**  

3.1 The Consultation period began on 18th April 2005 and ended on 31st May 2005. The following documents were available for public consultation between these dates:-  

- Draft Supplementary Planning Document, Abbots Morton Conservation Area Appraisal  
- Appendix I Statement of Consultation  
- Appendix 2 Sustainability Appraisal
4. **Availability of Documentation**

4.1 The above documents were available for public inspection at the following locations:

- Planning Reception Wychavon District Council, Civic Centre, Queen Elizabeth Drive, Pershore, 9.00 am - 5.00 pm Monday to Friday.
- All libraries in the District;
- The Council Website [www.wychavon.gov.uk](http://www.wychavon.gov.uk)
- The Abbots Morton village hall, village open evening on 19th April 2005

5. **Consultees**

5.1 This Draft Supplementary Planning Document was forwarded to the following:

- Members of the District Council representing the Inkberrow Ward
- Worcestershire County Archaeological Service
- Worcestershire County Council
- Abbots Morton Parish Council
- Abbots Morton Residents' Association

Residents of the Abbots Morton Conservation Area were informed through the publicity of where the document was available for inspection.

6. **Publicity**

6.1 Notice of the consultation period will be given by way of:

- local advertisement in the Worcester Evening News and Evesham Journal
- local advertisement in the Abbots Morton parish newsletter
- local advertisement in the Abbots Morton Residents' Association news bulletin
- local advertisement on the Abbots Morton village notice boards
- information forwarded to other consultees
1. Introduction

1.1 This statement is a summary of the Sustainability Appraisal undertaken by Wychavon District Council in respect of the Supplementary Planning Document “Abbots Morton Conservation Area Appraisal”.

1.2 The content of this statement has had regard to the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development)(England) Regulations, 2004.

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3. Sustainability Appraisal

3.1 The Abbots Morton Conservation Area Appraisal has regard to Policy ENV13 of the Wychavon District Local Plan (First Deposit) and Worcester County Structure Plan Policies CTC.19 and CTC.20.

3.2 The Wychavon Local Plan Review (Supporting Document) Sustainability Appraisal, Revised Deposit July 2003, considers the impact of individual policies, including Policy ENV13, against a range of sustainability criteria. A sustainability matrix highlights the extent to which different policies contribute to the different facets of sustainability. The impact of policies on each of the sustainability criteria has been limited to their effect at a local level, rather than on a regional, national or global scale. The performance of policies over time will be evaluated against the sustainability criteria to ensure the Plan’s sustainability objectives are being met and to indicate where a policy may require further consideration.

3.3 The matrix shows that the Wychavon District Local Plan Policy ENV13 either moves towards sustainability or has insignificant impact.
4. Further Information

4.1 A copy of Wychavon District Local Plan Review Supporting Document Sustainability Appraisal, July 2003 is available to view at Wychavon Planning Services.

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