

**VALE OF WHITE HORSE LOCAL PLAN 2031**

**PART 1: STRATEGIC SITES AND POLICIES**

**APPENDICES STRIKETHROUGH PLAN JULY  
2016**

**APPENDIX A: SITE DEVELOPMENT  
TEMPLATES**

# 1. INTRODUCTION

This section sets out the Development Site Templates for the sites allocated for strategic housing development in the Local Plan 2031 Part 1. The development site templates identify key objectives for each site and set out requirements relating to issues such as infrastructure provision, urban design, landscaping, ecology and flood risk and drainage.

The development site templates comprise two parts; general requirements (section two) and site specific details (section three). These parts highlight the issues that should be addressed in detail at the planning application stage and should be read together.

Core Policies 8 (Spatial Strategy for Abingdon-on-Thames and Oxford Fringe Sub-Area), 15 (Spatial Strategy for South East Vale Sub-Area) and 20 (Spatial Strategy for Western Vale Sub-Area) explain that the strategic site allocations will be brought forward through a master planning process involving the community, Local Planning Authority and the developer. The core policies go on to state that the sites should meet any requirements set out in the Development Site Templates.

In bringing forward the strategic housing sites the Council will expect to see high quality developments, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework and Core Policies 37 and 38, that are sustainable in the long term, and that integrate with and contribute to the existing settlement.

In order to achieve this we will expect every application for the strategic sites to be accompanied by:

- a Masterplan which identifies the vision for the development and sets out a clear description of the type of place that will be created
- a detailed Design and Access Statement that sets out the vision for the site and demonstrates a commitment to creating a successful place, with well-designed new homes and supporting infrastructure
- an Infrastructure Schedule that sets out the planned infrastructure for the scheme and how it will be delivered
- a Development Delivery Agreement which shows the proposed programme of house building, and demonstrates the number of homes the development will contribute to the district's five year housing land supply, and
- a Statement of Community Involvement that sets out how the Parish Council and other local organisations have been involved in the master planning process.

The council is preparing a Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for the Vale which looks specifically at enhancing local distinctiveness as well as ensuring high quality development. Once adopted, the design guidelines will be treated as material consideration in the assessment of all future planning schemes.

In all housing development areas community involvement and consultation is key to ensuring that the appropriate facilities are identified and designed to meet the needs of those who will use them. Community engagement and involvement is essential for ensuring that new communities integrate with existing communities.

Where there is agreement between the local community and site promoters, the Council will seek to be flexible in how the sites are delivered providing the strategic housing requirement is met and urban design principles and infrastructure provision is not compromised.

Development must comply with all relevant policies in the Local Plan 2031, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The Development Site Templates highlight some of the key requirements for development at each site at the time of writing and do not preclude other requirements being identified at a later date. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) captures this detail and is a live document that should be read in conjunction with the site templates. Where there is conflict, the IDP will be taken to set out the most up-to-date requirements.

Oxfordshire County Council has responsibility for some of the infrastructure or services identified, such as schools and transport. Detailed requirements for these elements will need to be investigated and agreed with the County Council.

## **2. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL HOUSING SITE ALLOCATIONS**

Subject to viability testing, development will be required to meet the following:

### **Key objectives:**

- Contribute towards provision of necessary education services and facilities.
- Contribute to the delivery of strategic transport infrastructure measures, where required.
- Provide 35% affordable housing and a suitable mix of housing in line with core policies 24 and 22.
- Have regard to, and contribute towards, the aims and objectives of any adopted Neighbourhood Development Plans.

### **Utilities:**

- Liaise with Thames Water, gas and electricity providers to ensure that appropriate works are carried out if needed.
- Proposals will need to demonstrate that there is adequate water supply capacity and/or waste water capacity both on and off the site to serve the development and that it would not lead to problems for existing or new users. In some circumstances it may be necessary for developers to fund studies to ascertain whether the proposed development will lead to overloading of existing waste water infrastructure. Developers should enter in to discussion with Thames Water as early as possible to agree a way forward.

### **Access and highways:**

- Create a permeable road network within the site with clearly defined route hierarchies.
- Contribute towards public transport.
- Connect to existing footpaths, cycleways and public rights of way (PROW) wherever possible to enhance pedestrian permeability and connectivity.
- Safeguard PROW.
- A Transport Assessment should be submitted with a planning application to identify the measures that will be taken to adequately mitigate or compensate for any harmful transport impacts (Core Policy 35).

### **Social and community:**

- Contribute towards education capacity (early years, special education needs, primary and secondary).
- Provide public open space and recreational facilities in accordance with the requirements of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP).
- Contribute towards health care and leisure provision, where appropriate, in accordance with the requirements of the IDP.

### **Urban design principles:**

- Design of development should enable a high degree of integration and connectivity between new and existing communities.
- Housing should be designed to a density that is appropriate for the location.
- Development should make a positive contribution towards local character and distinctiveness.

**Environmental health:**

- Investigate potential noise and air pollution impacts and ensure that the land is safe and suitable for the intended use.

**Biodiversity:**

- Habitat and species surveys should be carried out in accordance with the Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment produced by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management and relevant best practice guidance.
- Important ecological assets should be retained where possible. If loss is unavoidable then appropriate mitigation or, as a last resort, compensation measures should be provided.
- Development should achieve a net gain in biodiversity, for example, by incorporating new natural habitats into development and designing buildings with integral bat boxes and bird nesting opportunities, in appropriate circumstances.

**Landscape considerations:**

- Landscape and visual impact assessment or appraisal (LVIA) will need to be undertaken. The LVIA should inform the site design, layout, capacity and mitigation requirements.
- A Landscape Strategy should be submitted with a planning application (Core Policy 44).

**Flood risk and drainage:**

- A Flood Risk Assessment/surface water drainage strategy, based on information available in the Council's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and liaison with the Environment Agency will need to support a planning application (Core Policy 42).
- Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDs) principles and methods should be used to drain the surface water from the development. SUDs features should be designed and managed to provide an ecological and water quality enhancement.

**Historic environment and cultural heritage:**

- Predetermination evaluation of potential archaeological features on the site should be undertaken prior to any planning application being determined, unless it can be demonstrated that such an evaluation is not appropriate for this site. Appropriate mitigation may be required depending on the outcome of that evaluation.
- Development should respect listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens and their settings and look for opportunities to enhance or better reveal their significance.
- Heritage assets should be conserved and enhanced, where appropriate.
- Environmental Impact Assessments, Heritage Statements, Impact Assessments and Conservation Area Appraisals should be undertaken to establish the local character and distinctiveness, and the significance of heritage assets and their settings.

## Key to site template map symbols

	Strategic housing site		Great Western Community Forest		Local Nature Reserves
	Listed buildings		Green Belt		National Nature Reserves
	District Outline		SSSI		Protected Species
	<del>Mineral Consultation Area</del>		Scheduled Ancient Monuments		Special Areas of Conservation
	Local Wildlife Sites		Historic Park and Gardens		Public Rights of Way
	Conservation Area		Ancient Woodland		Flood Zone 3
	AONB				Flood Zone 2