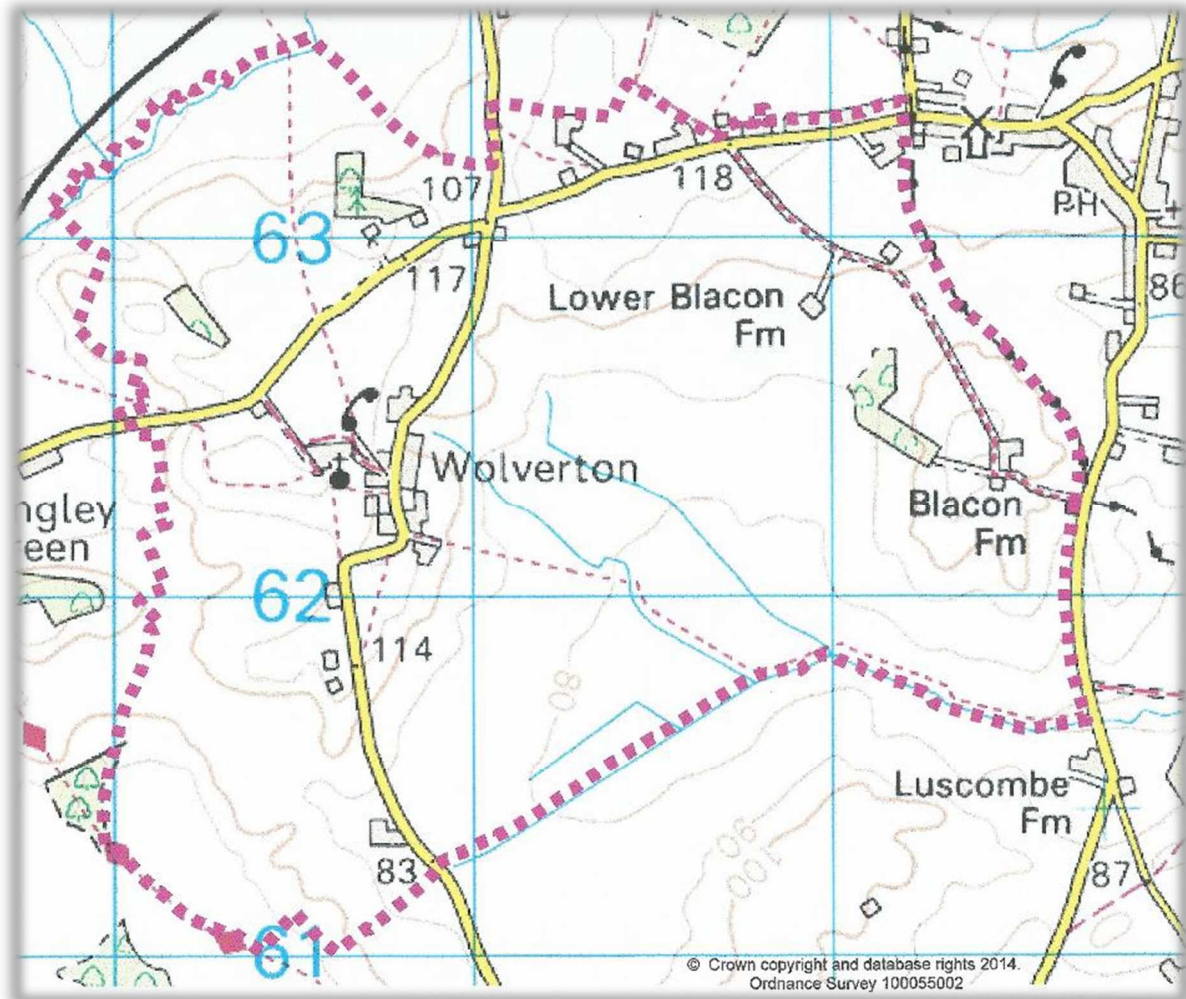




The Wolverton Parish Plan 2014

WOLVERTON PARISH



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2. Executive Summary

1. Why a Parish Plan?

Welcome to Wolverton Parish Council's first Parish Plan.

It is the culmination of a year's work by parish councillors, volunteers and residents of Wolverton, working together to shape the future of the Parish. It is based in large part on the Parish survey questionnaire completed by 90% of households in 2013 and analysed independently by Warwickshire Rural Community Council (WRCC).

Hopefully, it is a good picture of life in Wolverton today and represents an accurate reflection of residents' aspirations for the future of the Parish.

The specific aims of the Plan are to:

- Consider what residents have said about the needs of the Parish;
- Promote features of village life that people value;
- Identify and address key local challenges and issues;
- Set a context for considering the future development of housing in Wolverton;
- Provide Action Points to achieve the changes parishioners want.

As a first Plan, it provides a range of contextual information: how the Plan was put together and consulted upon; some history; description of the character of the Parish; demographic information - These together help set the scene for thinking about the future of the Parish.

The full Parish Plan is available to view on the Parish website - www.wolvertonpc.org.uk, or a hard copy is available, on request, from the Clerk to Wolverton Parish Council. The key parts of the Plan for people not wishing to read the entire document are this Executive Summary; Section 4, Future Development; and Section 9 which sets out the Action Plan, through which the Parish Council, with local residents, will lead the delivery of agreed actions. These parts will be published as a separate document and distributed to each household in the Parish.

2. The BIG issues

Overall, parishioners value greatly many aspects of life in Wolverton - the countryside and open aspect; its church, its school, its social fabric and neighbourliness; dark skies; peace and quiet.....

BUT.....there are some key areas in which things could be better. It is upon these that we focus here – including the thorny issues of development and housing which are of most concern to most parishioners.

○ **Planning and development - the Wolverton perspective**

Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Core Strategy, (pending) sets the stage for new housing in the District until 2031. Once approved, it will provide the criteria against which development will be determined – meantime the National Planning Policy Framework is the benchmark document.

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The thrust of the Core Strategy is to meet housing need mainly in existing towns or new settlements, and in larger 'Local Service Villages', which already have the infrastructure necessary for sustainable development – such as Snitterfield, Claverdon and Bearley. Small, rural villages, like Wolverton, are not designated as sustainable locations for development due to lack of infrastructure and services. Here, only limited infill and small-scale, community-led schemes that meet a need identified by the local community would be permitted.

Wolverton Parish is in the Green Belt where to protect the openness of the countryside development is severely restricted. Any development in the Parish, including new-build, infill, redevelopment or extensions, will be assessed against its impact on the openness and character of the area. Wolverton also lies within the Arden Special Landscape area where it is considered that smaller villages and the landscape features within them contribute to the quality of the area. This means the Special Landscape designation will also be taken into account in the consideration of development proposals.¹

The Parish has not stood still in recent times however and has grown significantly, mainly via conversion of farm buildings. This has enabled growth whilst also retaining the character of the Parish. Looking to the future, broadly speaking, parishioners support the idea of some housing development - *provided* it is small scale, sustainable, based on evidence of local need and not detrimental to the environment.

The Survey suggested that there might be a need for local housing with some support for additional housing for the young and elderly. A subsequent Housing Needs Survey in April 2014 explored local requirements in more detail. This showed no demand for affordable housing and just one specific need for a single, 2 or 3 bedroom home for local market ownership.

○ **Services**

Action to improve broadband speed and mobile phone coverage is a top priority and an issue that should be addressed by developers, if there was to be any significant new building in the Parish.

Low broadband speeds risk digital exclusion, hampering such activities as online banking and shopping and severely restricting the ability to watch catch-up TV, download or stream films or carry out videoconferencing. Without significant broadband improvement, the Parish will become unattractive to young families, people working from home and any significant business activity, which would be of major concern. With Government and local authority funding, the Coventry, Warwickshire and Solihull (CWS) broadband project, which aims to improve regional broadband speeds, offers hope of higher speeds over the next three years.

Meanwhile, the Parish Council will establish a sub-group to carry out a range of actions intended to ameliorate the communications infrastructure, pending the roll out of the CWS broadband project, including exploration of community funded alternatives.

Parishioners would value the re-establishment of Wolverton Neighbourhood Watch if volunteers can be identified.

¹ Proposed Submission Core Strategy – 12 May 2014.

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There was strong support for the purchase of a defibrillator for Wolverton village – to be taken forward by local volunteers as part of a further Parish Council sub-group.

○ **Infrastructure**

Housing in the Parish is centred on two areas situated on single carriageways. It is important for access that both roads are properly maintained and kept unobstructed. The number and range of comments on highway matters indicates that this is an area of concern to parishioners. Some of the problems impinge directly on safety. Overgrown hedges lead to walking in the road, overhanging trees cause vehicles to drive in the middle of the road and uneven pavements are a trip hazard.

The Parish Council will undertake an inspection of Parish highways, verges and roadside hedges to identify problem areas and bring them to the attention of local authorities or relevant landowners. In addition, the Parish Council will prepare a Verge Protection Plan to improve future verge maintenance.

○ **Environment**

This relates to the parish's general environment - a quiet rural area, which parishioners value greatly. Issues concern dog fouling, poor hedge maintenance, damaged paving and verges, fly tipping, fly posting, noise pollution, speeding, lack of parking, and congestion outside the school. In addition, people do not want street lighting or other development that is unsympathetic to the Parish.

Parishioners are keen to maintain the natural environment, the flora and fauna of the parish including tree conservation and safeguarding protected species.

A range of proposals are outlined in the Action Plan to address these concerns and protect the local environment. This includes a review of local flora and fauna, to establish the presence of protected species - and to identify any resultant implications for development.

○ **Amenities**

Parishioners place much value on parish amenities – school, village green, church, church hall, and parish magazine. There is no demand for significant new amenities, such as a village shop, surgery or playground given proximity to such facilities in nearby villages.

The introduction of the Parish Council website is a potential welcome addition and aims to provide a useful communication tool for the whole Parish.

The Action Plan sets out ideas for strengthening the amenity infrastructure, including extending the use of the church hall.

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3. Getting things done.

Wolverton Parish Council is committed to taking this Plan forward, with the ongoing help and support of parishioners. The Action Plan provides a comprehensive, prioritised account of proposed action to deliver against the issues that have been raised during the creation of the Plan.

The large number of actions mean that volunteers from the Parish will be needed to assist our small Parish Council in making timely progress. The Action Plan will be ongoing and the Parish Council will formally review progress on an annual basis and report upon it to parishioners at the Annual Parish Meeting.



Wolverton Village Main Street

3. Introduction and Methodology

At the Annual Parish Meeting in 2012 the Parish Council held a discussion on “Wolverton Past, Present & Future” which covered a brief history of the parish, its development over the years, the level of services, current concerns and the implications of Stratford-on-Avon District’s draft planning framework on local development.

The Parish Council posed the question ‘What, if any, are the needs of the Parish?’ and explained that they were proposing to undertake a Parish Plan to answer this important question.

A parish plan “reflects the local vision of how local residents would like to see [their] area change in coming years.... This optional document iscommunity led and can reflect the needs of an individual town or village and surrounding countryside....Parish plans give [residents] an opportunity to get involved in planning in [their] town or village and surrounding countryside.”²

A Parish Plan aims to:

- give all residents the chance to say what is needed and how this might be met
- identify which features and local characteristics people value
- identify local problems and possible solutions
- provide the opportunity for residents to have a say on how they want the parish to develop in the future, and
- prepare a plan of action to achieve this vision.

A Steering Group, made up of volunteers from around the Parish that came forward at the 2012 meeting, or subsequently, was set up to take the plan forward. Their first step was to prepare, with the guidance of WRCC, a Parish survey questionnaire, which included the points raised by residents at the 2012 meeting.

Sufficient questionnaires were hand delivered, in early May 2013, to each household to provide for everyone over the age of 18. Questionnaires for younger occupants were offered and provided on request. The questionnaires were collected by 21st May. Of 176 questionnaires distributed, 138 were returned, which equates to an individual response rate of 78.5%, and represented a return from just over 90% of the households, thereby ensuring that the views expressed were truly representative of the whole community.

Data input and independent analysis of the questionnaire was undertaken by WRCC during July 2013. The Survey report is published in full on the Wolverton Parish website.

Web link to Wolverton Parish Council website: <http://www.wolvertonpc.org.uk/>

² www.planninghelp.org.uk

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The Steering Group reviewed the results and findings of the Survey, including the free format comments, and prepared a first draft Parish and Action Plan. This was presented to the Parish Council on 10th February 2014. Leaflets were then delivered to each household to invite residents to a drop-in and open public meeting on 27th February 2014 for further discussions.

Following the public meeting the Steering Group prepared an unillustrated draft which was approved by the Parish Council and submitted to Stratford-on-Avon District Council (SDC). The Plan was adopted by SDC, on 14 July 2014, as a material consideration in determining planning applications and as an important source of local information.

The Parish Council will seek to engage residents in delivering the Action Plan and will keep the document under regular review to take account of changing circumstances. Any amendments to the Plan will be based on future needs, identified through a similar consultation.

Running concurrently with the preparation of the Parish Plan, the Parish Council, in collaboration with WRCC, undertook a Housing Needs Survey 2014. This was to determine in detail if there was a local housing need and, if so, identify the types and sizes of homes that may be required. Findings of the Housing Needs Survey are summarised in Section 4 and published in full on the Parish Council website.



Wolverton Fields looking West towards the School

Note:- Development on the right is well screened

4. Findings - Future Development

Development in the parish is constrained by National Green Belt policy, which aims to maintain the openness of Green Belts by avoiding new build except in very special circumstances. We have noted that Wolverton is in the West Midlands Green Belt and is not identified for development in the District's local plan (Section 2). Only limited development for local community needs, limited infilling or 'brownfield' development is allowed, with the proviso that it does not adversely impact on the openness and character of the area.

What are the needs of the local community? In the survey, Q4, 82% of respondents (110) stated that they would have no housing need in the next 5 years, but 16% (22) might, Fig. 1.

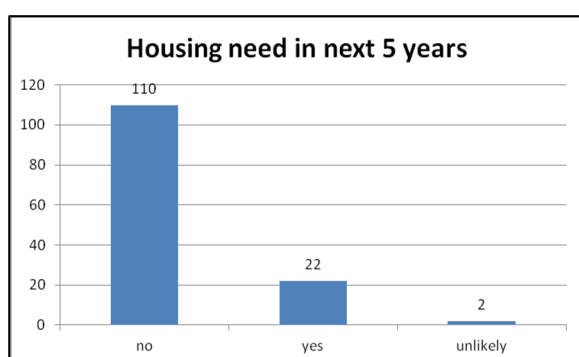


Fig. 1

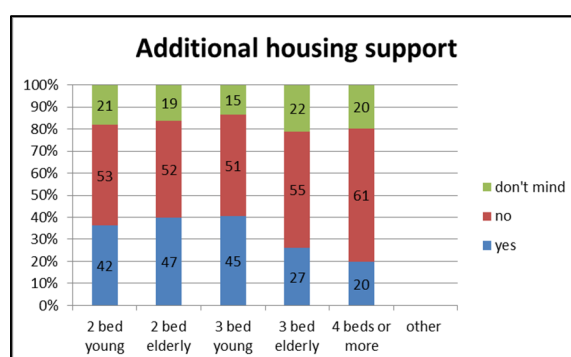


Fig. 2

Asked whether they would support additional housing, Q5, Fig 2, a small majority of respondents (54-55%) stated that they would, or didn't mind, provision of additional 2-bed housing for the young or elderly. Support for 3-bed properties was approximately 50:50 but a majority (60%) were opposed to larger housing. From individual comments, those in favour tended to note a perceived need to cater for young families and for the elderly wishing to downsize. Those against were concerned with the impact of development on the character of the parish and the effect on the green belt and often commented on the lack of facilities and poor infrastructure to support new development. To explore the potential need further the Parish Council commissioned WRCC to conduct a detailed housing needs survey. This identified no requirement for any affordable housing but a local market housing need for a single 2 or 3 bedroomed dwelling. WRCC concluded that a scheme to develop a single property to meet this specific need would not be financially viable. The detailed results of the 2014 Housing Needs Survey are available on the Parish website. It is recommended that the Housing Needs Survey is repeated every 3 to 5 years to ensure it remains up to date and changes are identified.

What does the local community like about living in the parish and what concerns them most? In the Survey, Q29, respondents were asked to rate various aspects in order of priority with 1 being the most important and 10 being the least. Parishioners ranked the friendly/social community spirit, peaceful environment, beauty of open countryside and attractiveness and small size of the village all as important, Figs 3 - 6.

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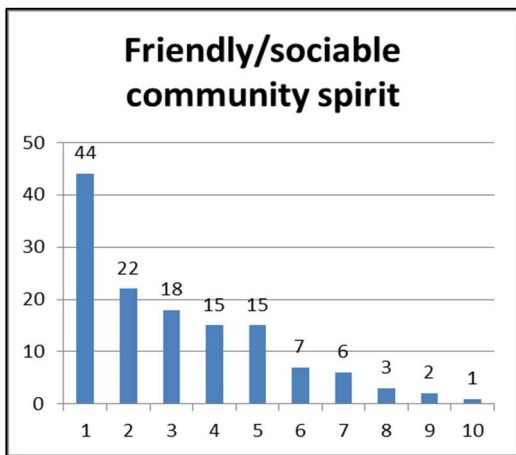


Fig. 3

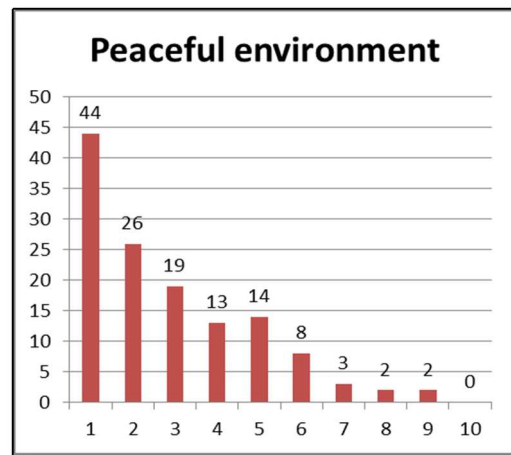


Fig. 4

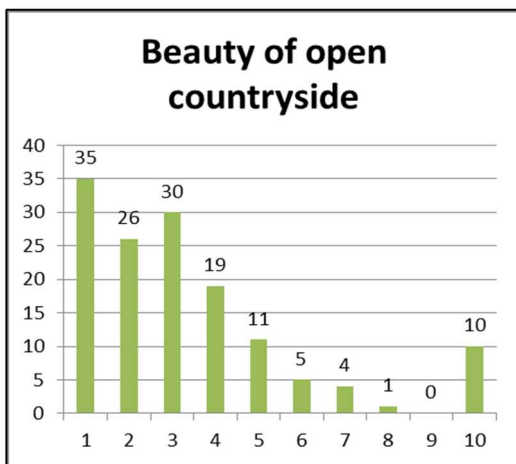


Fig. 5

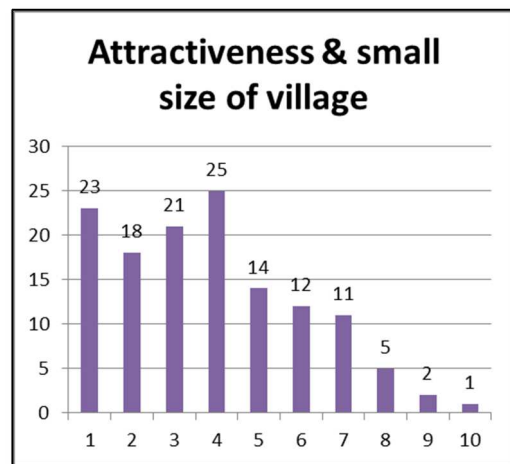


Fig. 6

Their main concerns, Q30, were erosion of the green belt followed closely by development in excess of local need, Figs. 7 & 8.

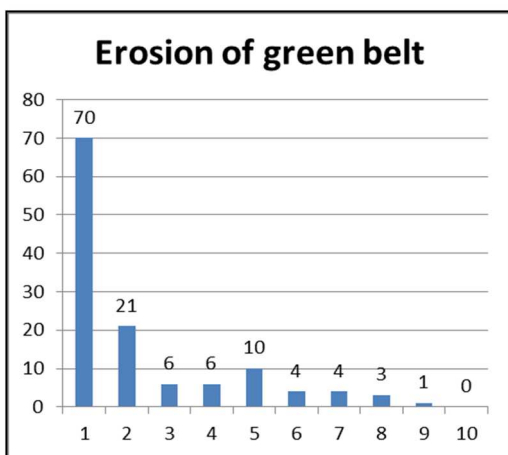


Fig. 7

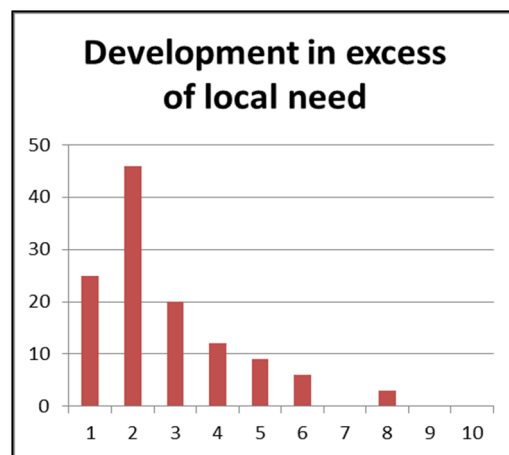


Fig. 8

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Asked if there were specific areas of the parish that should not be developed, 52 comments related to Wolverton parish, with 77% of these referring to the green belt, farmland or anywhere (all of which amount to the same thing). Others referred specifically to the village and immediate surroundings.

In recent years the majority of additional housing has been provided through conversion of redundant farm or other buildings. This has given the benefit of additional residences whilst;

- preserving the architectural heritage of the parish,
- maintaining the social mix of the parish and
- no loss of open space.

Opportunities for further conversion are limited but survey Q7 suggests that most respondents would favour conversion to affordable or market housing rather than commercial or other uses, Fig. 9.

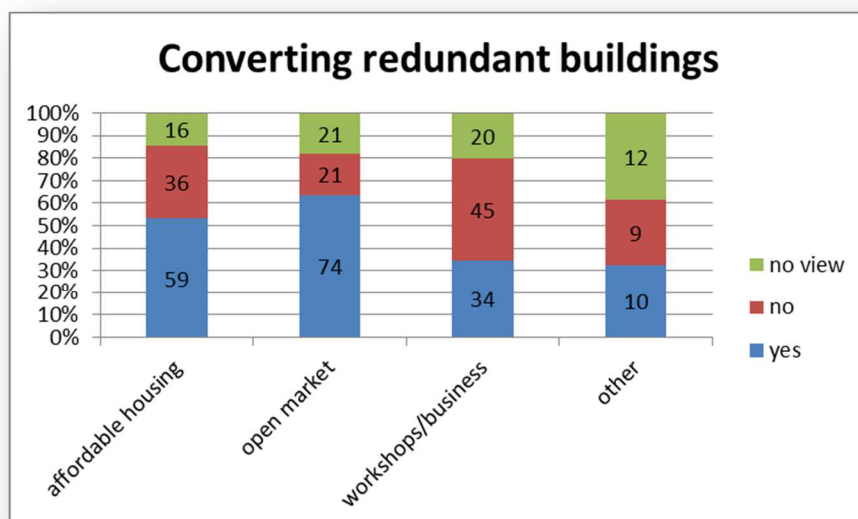


Fig. 9

In Appendix 3 it is demonstrated that the demographic structure of the parish is changing in line with national trends in terms of age profile. However, given the rise in the number of retirees in the parish between 2001 and 2011 and the likely life expectancy profile, there may be a potential future need for different types of housing provision unless people relocate to communities with better local service provision.

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Is there household turnover in the parish? During the last 19 years the following house sales have occurred, Table 1.

Table 1 – Historic House Sales in the Village 1995 –2013³

	Sale to occupier	Average per year
Conversion	2	
Terrace	1	
Semi-detached	17	
Detached	8	
Flat	1	
Total	29	1.53

Similar turnover was also found in the rest of the parish. There are, at the time of writing, seven houses for sale in the parish offering a range of size and style of property that, taken with the above, indicates a continuing healthy turnover of housing stock. This turnover also means that most respondents to the survey were in the category of having lived in the parish for less than 10 years (Q3), Fig. 10.

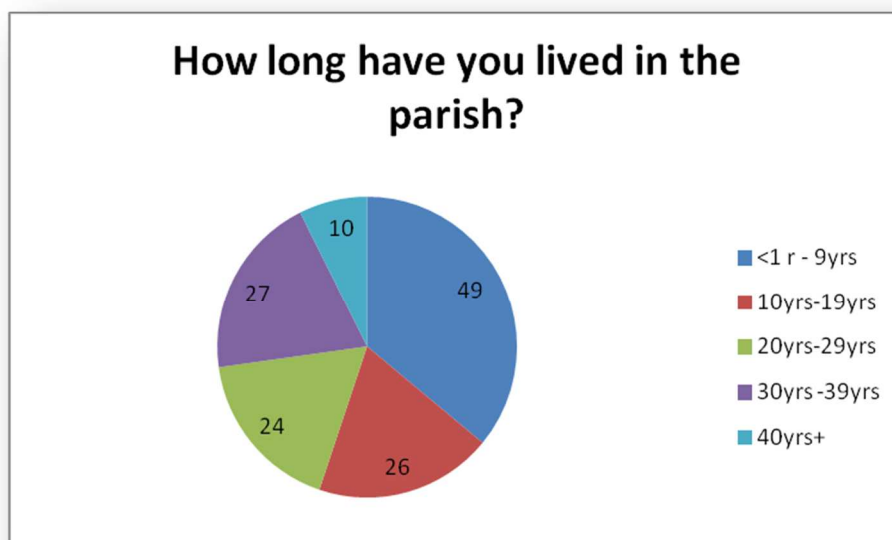


Fig. 10

³ Source: Zoopla

The Wolverton Parish Plan 2014

Planned housing development in neighbouring service villages may assist in meeting future housing demands but if a local need is identified care will be needed to:

- preserve the openness of the green belt,
- protect the open spaces in the parish that contribute to local character and to the setting of listed buildings,
- preserve views into and out of the parish
 - East from the village towards Napton Hill, Burton Dassett and Edge Hill,
 - West from the village towards the Malvern Hills;
 - South from Wolverton Fields towards the Cotswold escarpment;
- take into account service deficiencies (Section 5)
- address local infrastructure concerns (Section 6)
- protect local flora and fauna and habitats (Section 7)

Action Points

Undertake a repeat Housing Needs Survey in 3 to 5 years.

Parish Council to explore with Parishioners and the District Council the possibility and implications of an application for Conservation Area Status of the village

Monitor all future planning applications for consistency with the Parish Plan

Monitor all future planning applications for consistency with the Stratford-on-Avon District Design Guide.

Ensure that planning obligations and/or community infrastructure levy are used in the event of any future development to mitigate any effects and to improve local infrastructure.

The Wolverton Parish Plan 2014



View East from Manor Farm



View West from Manor Farm



View South from Wolverton Fields

5. Findings – Services

Communications

- 88% of respondents who expressed a view rated both **radio and television reception** as good to average. Presumably this relates mainly to air transmission but it is unknown whether this is with or without an aerial signal booster. There are areas, Wolverton Fields west, Blacon and parts of the village, where reception is poor, which may be due to local topography or signal direction.
- 68% of respondents expressing a view rated **broadband reception** (speed) poor. Low broadband speeds limits such activities as surfing the web, online banking and shopping and severely restricts the ability to watch catch-up TV, download or stream films or carry out video conferencing. Without significant broadband improvement the Parish will become unattractive for young families, people working from home and any significant business activity, which would be of major concern to the Parish. With Government and local authority funding, however, the CWS broadband project, which aims to bring improved broadband speeds throughout Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire, and particularly in the rural areas offers hope of higher speeds over the next three years.
- 82% of respondents stated that **mobile phone reception** is poor, or even non-existent, in much of the Parish. This is a major inconvenience to parishioners and visitors, as well as limiting flexibility for people working from home. If improvements in coverage are to be achieved, the location of any masts would need to be considered very carefully to protect the amenity of the area.

Action points

Establish a Parish Council Sub Committee to address parishioners concerns over broadband and mobile communication issues and investigate solutions.

Meet with major mobile communication suppliers to find ways of improving the mobile communication service to the Parish

- **Fixed line telephone services** were not surveyed but we are not aware of any major issues. BT maintains a functioning telephone box in the centre of the village, although it is little used. Given the poor mobile phone reception and the potential emergency use for the phone box, the Parish Council successfully asked the District Council to invoke a local veto when BT proposed the removal of the telephone equipment in 2009. The box is a grade II listed building and is an important village landmark.
- **Postal services** were not surveyed but appear to be satisfactory. There is a single daily delivery and collection Mon-Sat. The nearest post offices are in Claverdon 0900-1300 (weekdays only),



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Stratford-upon-Avon and Warwick 0900-1730 (not Sundays). Courier services for delivery of online shopping appear adequate.

Transport

- 82% of respondents never use the **bus service**, 5% (6) use it regularly and 14% (18) occasionally. At least two respondents were unaware there was a bus service! Currently the Parish is covered by four commercial services: 513 to Solihull (Mon & Thurs), 520 to Stratford (Tue & Fri) 521 to Stratford (Tue & Fri) & the Tesco shopper to Stratford on Thurs, plus school buses during term time. Each commercial service offers only one return bus on days it is operating, which allows for about 2 hours at the destination. The services are mainly used for school or shopping but the destinations are limited and none are adequate for work or leisure purposes. Although increased frequency followed by a service to Warwick were the commonest improvements suggested, there has to be a question mark at which point the existing or suggested services would be viable.

Action point

Ensure that existing Bus services are publicised on noticeboard and website

Meet with transport service providers to consider options for improved transport services to the Parish

- 64% of respondents did not want a bus shelter in the Village
- Nearest **train services** are at Claverdon station, a request stop on the Stratford to Leamington line approximately 1.5 miles away but regular services to Birmingham and London are available from Warwick & Stratford Parkway Stations approximately 5 miles from the village centre. There are no parking facilities at Claverdon station and it is unsafe to walk from the Parish to Claverdon due to the lack of a pavement or lighting in Saddlebow Lane, where National speed limits apply.
- **Fuel** for private vehicles is available from Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwick or Henley in Arden, all of which are between 5-6 miles distant.
- **Taxi services** are readily available from neighbouring towns but are relatively expensive compared to public transport or private car.

Emergency and Security Services

With crime and antisocial behaviour in the Parish a rarity it was no surprise that the commonest response to most aspects of the **police service** was 'no view'. Only local presence was thought to be poor by a majority of respondents. However, opinions on key aspects of the service (ease of contact, response time and helpfulness) were mainly regarded as poor to average.

Action Point

Review possibility of regular Police surgery to discuss crime in the Parish and road safety issues

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- 62% of respondents in the village were in favour of re-instating the **Wolverton Neighbourhood Watch Scheme**, which closed a few years ago due to the lack of volunteers to run it. Funds from the previous scheme are retained by the Parish Council and held available for any new scheme. The Wolverton Fields area is currently covered by the Norton Lindsey scheme.

Action Point

Explore the feasibility of reinstating the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

- Significant concerns relating to speed enforcement and traffic control issues are covered in Section 6 below.
- Users of the **ambulance and paramedic services** had no complaints and were often complimentary. The air ambulance service was also given favourable mention.
- Local **GP services**, available in Claverdon and Hampton Magna, were praised although concerns were raised over delays in getting an appointment.
- Few comments were made re the **Fire & Rescue Service** – ‘responsive and helpful’, ‘seem good but no personal experience’. The service is provided from Stratford fire station. Target response time is 20 minutes but should reduce to 15 minutes under Service reorganisation proposals.

Action Point

Meet a local Fire and Rescue Service representative to understand the nature of cover for the Parish and report back to the community

Defibrillator

The survey specifically asked if residents would like to see a defibrillator in Wolverton village (much of Wolverton Fields being close to one available in Norton Lindsey).

- 81% of respondents from the village were in favour. One respondent gave a qualified ‘yes – as long as someone is qualified to use it’. West Midlands Ambulance Service, however, have stated that training is not needed as full instructions are imparted over the telephone – a potential problem given the poor mobile telephone reception. It is possible that the proximity of the Claverdon First Responder scheme may be an effective alternative. First responders are volunteers trained to provide emergency ‘first person on scene’ medical assistance when mobilised following a 999 call.

Action Point

Establish a Parish Council Sub Committee. Undertake exercise to consider need for and operation of a defibrillator in Wolverton Village.

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Shopping

There is no village store and given the size of the Parish, the range of shops within 5 miles and the availability of on-line shopping services, it is unlikely to be economic for such a venture to be established. Of the existing stores in the neighbouring villages of Snitterfield and Claverdon, only 32% of respondents said they shopped regularly at the former and 12% the latter, Fig 11. There is no data to indicate the nature of purchases or the size and nature of the baskets of such purchases. However, it is likely that the profile of such purchases approximate to newspapers and top-up groceries rather than major weekly shops.



Fig. 11

When asked if they would support a community shop in Norton Lindsey, only 8% of respondents said they would not. However, no enquiry was made into the likely size and nature of baskets or frequency. Such a store, if set up, would decrease any need for a similar store in the Parish and may affect the viability of Snitterfield and Claverdon stores.

Respondents were asked where they do their main grocery shop (Table 2). Note the percentages exceed 100, presumably because some people shop regularly at more than one destination. Close inspection of the questionnaires, however, suggests that 96% of respondents are prepared to travel at least up to 5-6 miles to buy their groceries which, although the survey did not ask, probably coincides with trips to major local supermarkets.

Table 2 – Grocery Shopping Patterns

	%
Stratford-upon-Avon	80
Warwick	63
Leamington Spa	41
On line	18

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If national trends are followed, the number of people buying their grocery on-line is, likely to increase substantially having two likely impacts:

- Reducing the need for local stores; and
- Reinforcing the need for broadband and mobile communication improvement

Library

The Survey asked residents if they used the County's Mobile Library facility. Approximately 3% of respondents said they used it occasionally. It is not clear whether this is an awareness issue or one of disinterest in the service. In the face of such statistics, it is clearly not a major concern. The stop in Wolverton village was discontinued because of financial constraints but the service still stops at Gannaway Stable and New Inn, Norton Lindsey. If this is an awareness issue, it may be an opportunity to publicise the service in the Parish Magazine and/or the Parish Website.



6. Findings – Infrastructure

Development in the Parish is mostly in two halves, each situated on single carriageways. It is important for access that both roads are properly maintained and kept free of obstructions (such as fallen trees), snow, ice and water lest access becomes blocked and either area becomes isolated.

Road Maintenance

58% of respondents to the Survey consider highway maintenance fair with only 4% rating it as excellent.

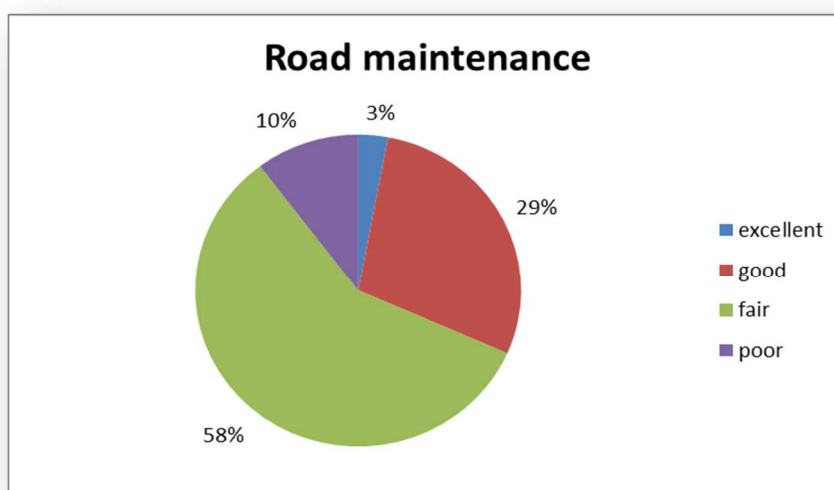


Fig. 12

When asked what aspects of road and verge maintenance they would like to see improved, 82 comments were received on specific aspects. Of these

- 32% concerned overhanging hedges and trees;
- 20% damaged verges;
- 20% unrepaired potholes;
- 11% drainage issues;
- 10% poor condition of paving slabs and surfaced pavements;

The large number and range of comments in relation to highway maintenance indicates that this is an area of major concern to parishioners. Some of the problems impinge directly on safety. Overgrown hedges lead to people walking in, or close, to the road in the area north of the village, overhanging trees cause large vehicles to drive in the middle of the road (parts of C40, particularly Saddlebow Lane), uneven paving slabs and tufts of weeds are a trip hazard. Local amenity is diminished by severe verge erosion in the vicinity of the school, at the crossroads and the village green.

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Highway and verge maintenance is the responsibility of the County Council. Hedges and roadside trees are the responsibility of the landowner. The County Council has an online reporting form for potholes (www.warwickshire.gov.uk/potholes) and another for drains, ditches, hedges and trees (www.warwickshire.gov.uk/corporate/ofr.nsf/ofr4?openform).

Action Points

Undertake an inspection of Parish highways to identify problem areas and bring them to the attention of local authorities or landowners.

Undertake an inspection of Parish verges to identify major problem areas and bring them to the attention of local authorities or landowners.

Prepare a Verge Protection Plan to facilitate the prevention of further and continuing damage.

Monitor poorly maintained hedges and discuss with landowner or local authority.

Gritting

Parishioners appear content with the gritting service provided to the Parish for the major thoroughfares. In the survey, 75% of respondents felt that the gritting arrangements were excellent or good whilst only 7% thought that they were poor, mainly by residents in the Blacon area (the Norton – Snitterfield road is not gritted).

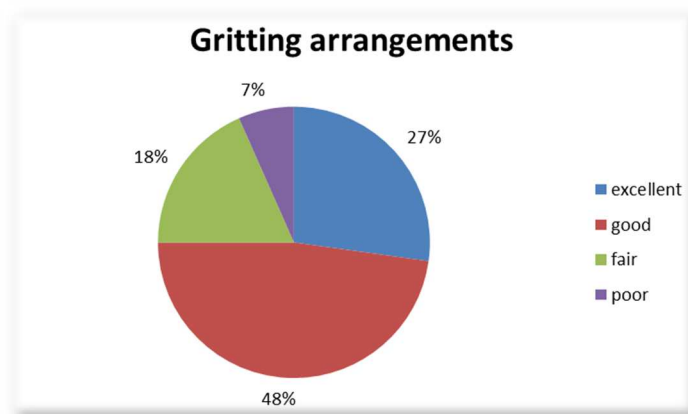


Fig. 13

The responsibility for gritting lies with the County. Their policy is to grit all main traffic routes, accesses to hospitals and main industrial estates and a single route into villages. In Wolverton Parish we benefit from the gritting of both the C39 and C40. In the event of snow fall, the roads receiving gritting will be cleared as soon as resources allow and targeted where snowfall is heaviest. When snowfalls are heavy at least one route into villages will be cleared.

Action Point

Monitor the future service standards in relation to provision of gritting.

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Flooding

The Parish does not lie adjacent to any major watercourse and as a consequence is not at risk of flooding caused by major water surges in rivers or canals. Nonetheless, given the local topography there is a known risk of surface water flooding affecting local roads.

In the Survey 70% of respondents considered roadway flooding a local issue and highlighted a number of black spots in the Parish or its approaches, namely:

C40

- At the foot of the hill going south from the Village towards Snitterfield
- Village centre
- Marl Bank north of village
- Saddlebow Lane from the cross roads to the A4189

C39

- Under the railway bridge at Langley
- To the east of the entrance to Manor Farm on the Langley Road
- Wolverton Fields opposite Oak Trees
- Near the riding school to the east of Norton Lindsey

Approaches

- On the A4189 Warwick Road near junction with Saddlebow Lane;
- On the A4189 adjacent to the Old Chapel near junction with B4463
- On the B4463, from A4189 to A46

The causes of such flooding are perceived to be:

- Inability of road drains to cope with the volumes of run-off water during periods of intense rain or of snow melt
- Clogging of drainage gullies and highway grips (drainage channels from road to ditch) by soil, twigs and leaves
- Poor ditch/ land drain maintenance and,
- Poor road construction.

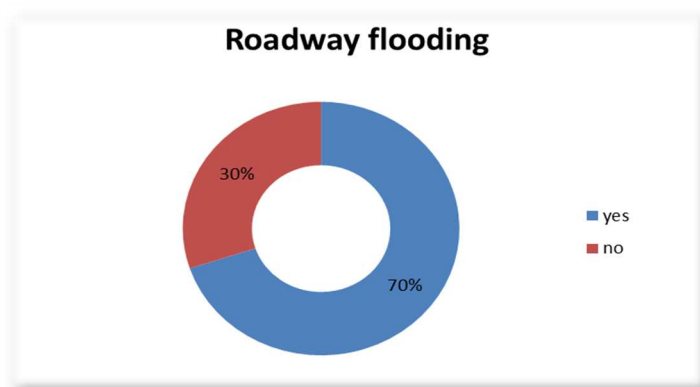


Fig. 14

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Given the need of most parishioners to rely on road transport for access to and from the Parish the occurrence of flooding is seen as a major inconvenience, although the flooding tends to be short lived. More seriously there is a known risk of properties in the village centre being partially flooded when the road drains fail to take the flow. There is also a rare but worrying problem of surface- and foul water mixing and exceeding the design capabilities of the village sewage pumping station, leading to sewage discharge at the low point of the system.

Action Points

Identify the location of and causes of continual flooding and thereafter take up the outcome with local authorities and/or landowners to address the issues.

Take up problems of sewage with Severn Trent. All planning applications should be carefully assessed to ensure surface water runoff or sewage problems are not exacerbated

Speeding, Parking and other Road Safety Issues

59% of respondents to the survey were of the view that there were road safety issues within the Parish. 33% of comments referred specifically to speeding, either outside the school, in Wolverton village or on the approach roads. Apart from two comments that remarked on poor visibility and corner cutting at the Crossroads, the remainder highlighted concerns about parking, either near the school or, to a lesser extent, in the village.

Speeding was perceived as widespread but comments were not always clear whether they were aimed at speeding above existing speed limits or excessive speed in relation to road conditions. Various potential solutions were suggested:

- Speed limit enforcement by police or community (7 comments);
- Permanent or mobile speed cameras (2 comments);
- Flashing speed dependent signs (2 comments);
- Traffic calming layouts at key points (chicanes or sleeping policemen) (5 comments)

While enforcement was the commonest suggestion, there was no definite consensus on methods. It is not clear if any one or combination of the above will be effective but what is clear is that speeding concerns need to be addressed in the village and in the vicinity of the school.

15 respondents suggested a **speed limit reduction** in the vicinity of the school from 40 to 30 or 20 mph. The Parish Council, School and school parents have approached WCC with this suggestion on several occasions recently only to find it is not a priority. Their view is that the road doesn't meet guidelines for a 30 mph limit, speed is reduced by the congestion near the school, the problem is of short duration and tight budgetary restraints limit highway priorities to accident black spots. The Parish Council has favoured a variable limit - 20 mph at start and end of the school day and 40 mph at other times. This would maximise safety at critical times but not inconvenience motorists at other times. This is not currently County policy but is on trial elsewhere in the County.

Action Point

Discuss with the local constabulary the most appropriate means of addressing speeding through Parish roads.

Approach potential volunteers with a view to establishing a Community Speed Watch group to monitor vehicle speeds at sites identified as priority community concerns.

36 comments specifically mentioned **parking problems**, 20 (56%) of which referred to parking near the school. Most of the remainder referred to various aspects of village parking, either daily parking (village street & village green), or related to specific activities (Church hall lettings & fetes)



Parking at end of school day

There are two parking requirements in the vicinity of the school, staff parking for much of the day and parental parking at drop off and pick up times. Most children are taken to the school by car, which has a consequent impact on local traffic congestion. Safety considerations have been partially addressed by encouraging parents to drop off and pick up at Norton Lindsey Village Hall car park and walk to and from school. White H-lines have been provided across resident's drives near the school to minimise obstruction and

to break up the line of parked cars to facilitate vehicles passing each other. The school entrance has been recessed so that parents can wait in safety clear of the road. Driver impatience is another problem, leading to failure to give way so that cars try to pass each other where there isn't room, causing damage to the road edge and verge. At induction for new parents and in term time newsletters road safety and parking issues are given prominence. With seemingly no prospect of increasing parking near the school, the issue seems incapable of resolution. Effort might be best directed to improving road safety and to minimising damage to verges near the school.

Action point

Monitor the impact on visibility of continuing inconsiderate parking outside school.

Given the high level of car ownership in the Parish (see, Appendix 3), it is not surprising that daily parking is an issue in the village whose origins predate motor vehicles. Despite limited lay-by parking and provision made by many householders for parking in their front gardens, cars do get parked in the road. This isn't necessarily a problem since reducing parts of the road into a single lane does help to slow traffic. Safety issues arise, however, at both ends

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of the village if vehicles park too close to the bends and create an unexpected obstruction. Parking on the village green including access routes across it is unlawful.

Parking on Church fete day is a problem when vehicles park on both sides of the road restricting access for emergency vehicles. There is no parking provision at the Church Hall. This is not a big problem for village events when most people walk to the hall. For lettings involving people from a wider area, however, it can be a problem, particularly if resident's driveways are obstructed or results in cars parked on the pavement, leading to a pedestrian hazard and cracked and uneven slabs.

Action Points

Carefully scrutinise planning applications in order to avoid exacerbating the parking problem by ensuring parking provision, including that for visitors, is adequate.

Church Hall event organisers to ensure that driveways are not obstructed and cars not parked illegally on the pavement.

Ask the Parochial Church Council to formulate a parking plan that limits on road parking for fete.

Cycling

Approximately 10% of respondents mentioned inconsiderate cyclists as a problem. Issues raised were:

- Races/events passing through the village without notice or consultation;
- Riding more than 2 abreast making road use difficult;
- Riding with no or inadequate lights;
- Generally behaving in a manner which does not take other road users into consideration.

Whilst not exclusively an issue of cycling clubs, it is observed that they are the major offenders and as a consequence it is proposed to approach cycling clubs in Solihull and Coventry and any other cycling clubs observed as offenders drawing their attention to the above issues and seeking:

- Notification and/or Consultation before any formal events are held along the Parish roads in relation to participants, support teams and followers;
- The confirmation of their obligation to observe the Highway Code;
- To be considerate to parishioners and local traffic in terms of road use and parking.

Action Points

Contact local cycling clubs to address issues of concern to parishioners and seek future consultation on proposed events

Horse Riders

The issue of inconsiderate horse riders was a matter raised in the survey. The problems for respondents appear to be:

- Lack of consideration for other road users;
- Damage by hooves to pavements and verges;
- Damage to footpaths.

It is understood that horse riding has formed a part of country life from time immemorial and that riders necessarily use the roads. Without specific detail it is difficult to identify the basis upon which riders lack consideration for other road users. However, it seems appropriate to contact local stables to inform them of the concern and to remind them of the provisions of the Highway Code in respect of horses using the road.

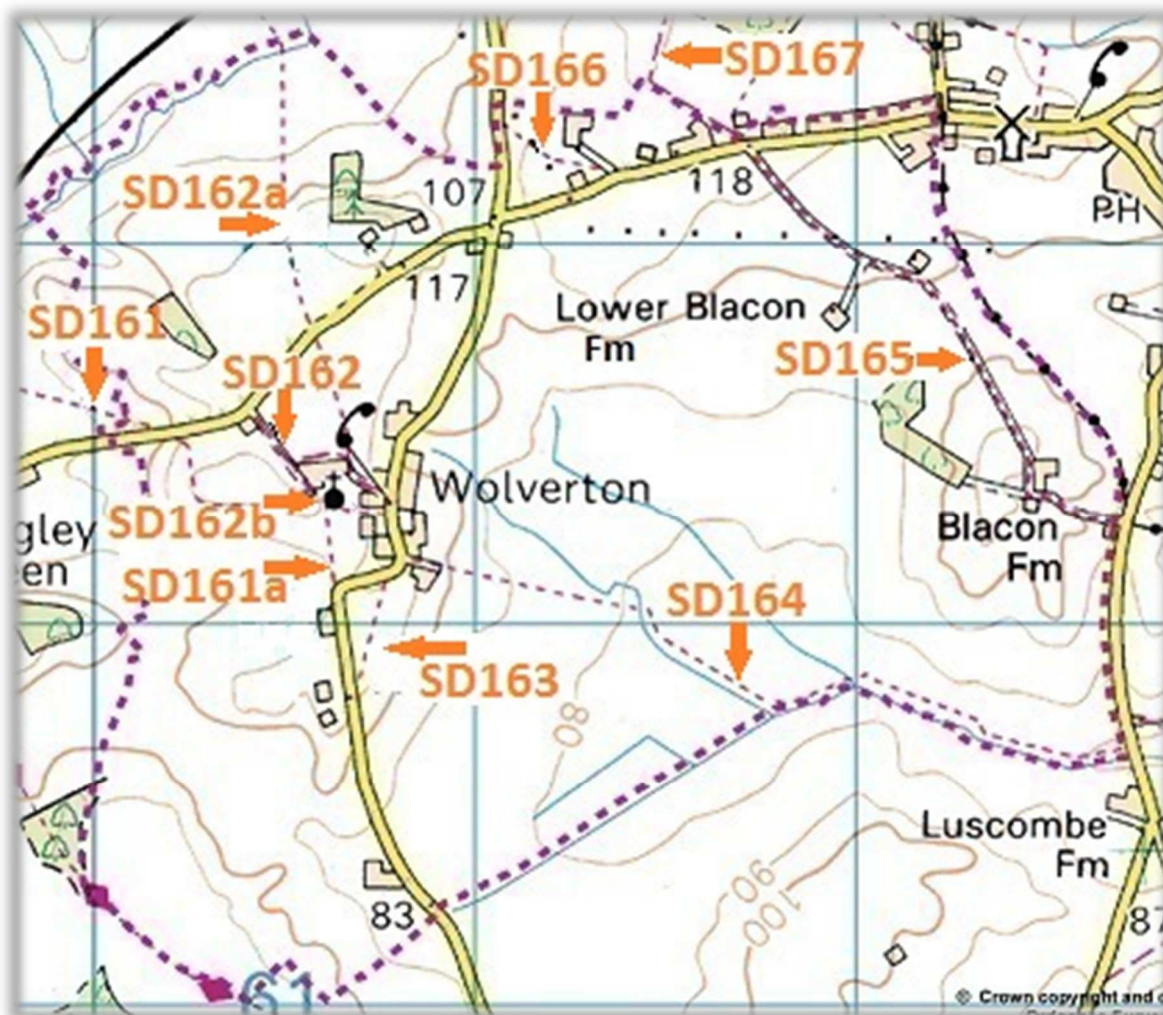
Action Points

Contact local riding stables to remind them of the Highway Code provisions for horses using roads and of the impact of damage by horse hooves to pavements, footpaths and verges.

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Public Rights of Way

The registered footpaths and bridlepaths of the Parish are shown on the map below. The Parish has an extensive network of footpaths offering panoramic views over the surrounding countryside but only one bridlepath (SD162). An additional bridlepath (SD167) leaving the C39 towards Gannaway Wood opposite the northern end of the Blacon track is accessible from the Parish, but runs wholly in the Parish of Claverdon.



The footpaths and bridleways of the Parish

For many years the County Council ran a 'Parish Paths Partnership (P3)' scheme. This was a partnership between County and Parish Councils that enabled local communities to improve and promote their rights of way. In Wolverton, with the co-operation of landowners, P3 was used to improve signposting and waymarking, act as a channel for reporting problems, ensure paths were clear of vegetation and, in the early years, led to a number of stile and bridge improvements. More recently, in the interests of accessibility, a start was made in replacing step stiles with kissing gates or Bristol gates.

In the Survey (Q29), access to the countryside was important to many people, presumably for informal recreation, such as rambling, relaxing, viewing, walking the dog, picnicking,

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observing nature. Q26 asked users of footpaths and bridleways for comments and suggestions for improvements. The responses showed some confusion between rights of way and footways alongside the highway. Of 44 comments that related to rights of way, 23 (52%) raised no concerns or considered them to be good. Fifteen comments raised concerns: 5 in connection with overhanging crops, 4 with inadequate signage, 2 poor condition of stiles or bridges, 2 with dog fouling, 1 with poor drainage (SD164) and 1 with horses on footpaths. Of 6 suggested improvements 4 related to replacement of stiles with gates and 2 to provision of a footpath map.

Action Points

Reinstate an annual community walk of Parish rights of way and liaise with farmers if any problems found.

Liaise with WCC regarding replacement of stiles with gates

Explore production of a footpath map and publicise the Countryside Code

Consider provision of dog waste bin(s)

Water, Sewage, Electricity and Gas

These services were not directly considered in the Survey but it is worth noting the following points:

- Water mains have been replaced in the village and outlying areas. There is an ongoing problem, however, with water pressure in the Wolverton Fields area to individual properties.
- The village sewage pumping station was rebuilt in 2007 but it still appears to have a capacity problem (see flooding above).
- Electrical power is delivered to the village by overhead cable, but supply interruptions are few and mainly of short duration.
- There is no gas supply to the Parish, limiting resident's choice of fuel.

Action Points

Work with consumers and Severn Trent to improve water pressure problems

Ensure that Western Distribution keeps tree branches clear of overhead power lines. Request burial of lines where possible or when replacement becomes necessary.

Ensure that planning applications for new build or conversions fully address sustainable power options

7. Findings – Environment

Wolverton is set in a quiet rural environment. Factors that interfere with this can be classified as:

- Failures to protect the parish environment;
 - Poor hedge maintenance;
 - Cracked and damaged paving slabs or damaged verges;
 - Dog fouling;
 - Poor use of household waste/recycling bins;
 - Bonfires and fireworks;
 - Noise pollution through inconsiderate use of garden power tools.
- Threats to the parish environment;
 - Inappropriate development;
 - Introduction of street lighting;
- External threats to the parish environment.
 - Littering;
 - Fly tipping;
 - Fly posting;

In addition to the above, the environment of the parish cannot be considered without considering protection of flora and fauna of the parish, including:

- Tree conservation;
- Protected species;
- Species which make the parish special, and,
- Species which present a threat to any of the above or the parish environment generally and the livelihoods of those who depend on the parish environment.

Failure to protect the Parish environment

Poor **hedge maintenance** in and around the parish was cited by many respondents as a major issue because:

- Pavements became difficult to use;
- Bridle paths becoming blocked.

In addition, concern was expressed that even where hedges were cut back the clippings were left causing inconvenience to users, drain blockages and leaving thorns which entered dogs' paws.

This is a matter to be taken up with the Highways authority and/or landowner.

Action Point

Where incidents of poor hedge maintenance or clearance of clippings occur, matter to be taken up with local authority and/or responsible landlord.

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Where there are cracked or damaged paving slabs or verges, it is according to respondents to the survey generally due to:

- Inappropriate parking (e.g. near school or Church Hall); or,
- Inconsiderate driving (e.g. large vehicles cutting corners).

The potential solutions to these issues are:

- Improved signage;
- Appropriate obstructions (e.g. posts or stones); and,
- Identification of and notification of regular offenders.

Each of these solutions has a time or financial cost and may ultimately be the responsibility of third parties such as the landowner, the local authority or the organisation which attracts the behaviour.

Action Point

List those areas of verge or pavement damage within the parish and agree solutions with County (Highways)/District Council

Dog fouling was frequently mentioned by respondents to the Survey; in particular on public footpaths in the Parish.

Many of the households in the Parish own one or more dogs that necessarily need exercise, which is recognised as a normal part of Parish social life. However, given that failure by some dog owners to pick up and remove dog faeces creates a health hazard and demeans the Parish environment then this issue should be responded to by reminders in the Parish Magazine or website and consideration given to the provision of dog waste bins.

Action Point

Publish notices in Parish Magazine reminding dog owners to pick up and bin any faeces from their dogs in public places around the Parish.

Mention was made by some respondents to the Survey about rubbish and recycling bins being left at the roadside, or in full view, long after collection causing detriment to the Parish environment. Wherever possible bins should be stored out of sight of the public road. A reminder in the Parish Magazine or website may help.

Action Points

Note in Parish Magazine to remind residents to return empty refuse/recycling bins to their normal storage points as soon as possible after being emptied.

Notice in Parish Magazine reminding parishioners of recycling facilities available at Burton Farm and elsewhere.

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Mention was made of noise pollution through use of garden power tools at inappropriate times. It is recognised that such tools are necessary for the upkeep of lawns, trees and hedges and consequently responsible and considerate use is to be encouraged. It is therefore proposed that an occasional notice in the Parish Magazine or website is an appropriate step at this stage.

Reference was made by a few respondents to the inconsiderate use of bonfires and fireworks by residents resulting in:

- General nuisance;
- Damage to washing.

Based on the few comments received it would appear that the issue is not a major problem and one which can be resolved by:

- Communication between neighbours;
- Reminders in the Parish Magazine or website that consideration of others is a factor in use of bonfires, barbeques and fireworks (e.g. wind strength and direction);
- Reminder in the Parish Magazine or website of the recycling facilities available at Burton Farm and elsewhere;
- Drafting a code of practice for use of bonfires, fireworks and barbeques in the Parish.

Action Points

Notice in Parish Magazine reminding parishioners about responsible and considerate use of garden power tools.

Notice in Parish Magazine reminding parishioners to be considerate in using bonfires, fireworks and barbeques.

Threats to Parish environment

Inappropriate development is dealt with in Section 4.

4% of respondents (7) noted **lighting** as a local problem (Q28) but only two qualified this by commenting on lack of lighting while another complained of ill directed security lighting. Given a paucity of responders requesting lighting it is not proposed to consider the introduction of footway lighting, absence of which is a feature of our rural environment.

External threats to the Parish environment

Litter (drink cans, crisp packets, fast food containers, plastic carrier bags) dropped on the roadside from passing vehicles was a frequent source of irritation to parishioners. Areas given special mention were:

- Along the Langley Road
- The southern approach to the Village
- The northern approach to the Village between the Village and crossroads

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Litter picking in Wolverton is organised on a four week schedule by Stratford-on-Avon District Council. In the event that litter appears to be accumulating, it should be drawn to their attention.

Fly tipping is infrequent but tyres and batteries have been noted occasionally. Clearance of fly tipped materials on private land is the responsibility of the landowner. Stratford-on-Avon District Council, however, will remove roadside fly tipping once reported. Roadside tipping of resident's grass cuttings is detrimental to local amenity, unnecessary with current recycling facilities and is to be discouraged.

Fly posting of notices pinned to telegraph poles were mentioned as an issue damaging the appearance of the local environment. Such notices vary but seem to include those for lost pets and events in neighbouring villages.

It is recognised that the information on such notices may be relevant and useful but would be better placed on parish noticeboards (see Section 8 under local communications).

Action Point

Place notice in Village Notice Board that that is the only acceptable location for notices and adverts in the Parish.

The Natural Environment

Documented recording of the flora and fauna of the Parish is limited. A search of records held by the County Ecology Services have provided the following:

- One statutory wildlife site – Langley Railway Meadow SSSI a herb-rich flood meadow, which is mostly in Langley parish but does include both banks of the Wash Brook.
- A non-statutory Local Wildlife Site is recorded on Manor Farm between Wolverton village and the Wash Brook to the north, and is described in a Habitat Biodiversity Audit as 'Deciduous woodland, rich hedges, old semi-improved grassland and a wetland stream'.
- A wildlife site is recorded between Blacon Cottage and Baywood Barn with 'sightings of Grass Snakes, Hedgehogs and Common Frogs and toads'.
- Several ponds across the Parish are also recorded as wildlife sites.
- Pipistrelle Bats are recorded at several sites in the parish e.g. the Church and Meadow Farm, and Brown Long-eared Bats at a property near the school.
- Bargain Wood, Badger Wood and Blacon Coppice are recorded as broadleaf semi-natural woodland. Another woodland site SW of Manor Farm was listed but it is not clear to where this refers.
- A number of individual species records, which reveal the presence of several nationally scarce species e.g. Mocha, Dotted Chestnut and Waved Black (moths) and the leaf beetle *Longitarsus ganglbaueri*.

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A number of species found in the Parish are legally protected:

- Badgers, their sites are kept confidential by County Ecology Services but well known to many Parishioners;
- All bats;
- Great Crested Newts and Grass Snake;
- Hedgehogs;
- Barn Owl

The diversity of flora and fauna of the Parish are an attraction of the area and appreciated by many householders (see Appendix 4 Wolverton Natural History). Natural events such as the migratory gatherings of swallows, martins and swifts help make the Parish special, added to which are species notable for their local abundance e.g. Brown Hares, frogs and toads, butterflies and moths.

While most of the parish is arable or improved grassland, protection of recognised wildlife sites in collaboration with farmers and landowners is important. There are a number of threats to the natural environment (e.g. ash die back, change of land use, deterioration of ponds) and some species can cause problems e.g. Badger (implicated in the spread of bovine TB) and deer (grazing/browsing damage to crops and woodland). Climate change is likely to have both positive and negative effects on individual species.

Because the fauna and flora of the Parish is under recorded, it would be helpful to broaden our knowledge of species in the parish and to understand which are declining or increasing. It is proposed therefore to attempt to form a volunteer group to encourage local survey work, which may help to:

- Confirm whether there are Birds and Habitats Directives which need to be honoured;
- Identify any stepping stones used by significant transitory species;
- Identify any aged or veteran trees whether or not presently subject to tree preservation orders; and,
- Identify any other material protection issues.

Action Point

Seek to create a Natural History volunteer group to list the species of flora and fauna in the Parish and to promote measures to halt the decline of some species e.g. bat and bird boxes

Recent UK colonisers found in Wolverton



Harlequin Ladybird - threat



Tree Bumble Bee - beneficial

8. Findings - Assets & Amenities

In the Survey respondents were asked to rate the importance of various assets.

The Church

The Church of St Mary the Virgin was rated very important as an asset by 41% of respondents.

Probing deeper, whilst only 8% of respondents attend the Church on a regular basis, a further 43% attend occasionally, presumably for:

- The Carol Service;
- Remembrance Day Services;
- Easter Services;
- Harvest Festival; and
- Personal Family Services (weddings/ christenings/ funerals).

Despite disappointing regular attendance figures the buildings and services were valued by respondents (89% and 73% respectively). One respondent summarised the position as being “the glue that binds the village together”. Certainly, a number of Parish activities originate from the Church and the current incumbent.

The Church building is recognised as a Heritage Asset, given its grade II* listed status.

The Church Hall

As a community asset the Church Hall was rated very important by 66% of respondents, and according to the survey, 33% attend events at the Church Hall on a regular basis and a further 43% occasionally.

The Hall, bought by public subscription and erected in 1935 is owned by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and run by a Church Hall Committee as a non-profit making enterprise. The events arranged by the Committee are regularly supported by 40-70 parishioners and raise sufficient funds to cover running costs and maintenance. Major improvements have been funded by National Lottery and other grants.

Regular events run by the Committee include:

- Harvest Supper
- Christmas Party and Pantomime
- Quiz nights
- Themed evenings e.g. 70's night,
- Barbeque - In recent years, to increase community involvement, the BBQ has been held in different gardens around the Parish.



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The PCC use the Hall for catering for the Church Fete, post carol service drinks and Parish party. It is hired out regularly to the PCC and Parish Council for meetings and to the Guides, Brownies and Rainbows, and is the Polling Station for the Parish.



The Church Hall

The Hall is provided free for Community organised activities such as the New Year's Eve party and Royal celebrations. It is available for private hire for local activities, but may not be used for commercial or political purposes. A lack of parking precludes its wider use.

Respondents were asked to suggest additional events, a full list of which is in the Survey results.

Action Points

Convey findings of Parish Survey to Church Hall Committee for them to assess their suitability as additions to the existing programme of events.

Request Parochial Church Council to clarify "rules" for types of events capable of being held at the Church Hall and publish to parishioners

To ensure continuity of the Hall, explore the practicalities of having it formally recognised as a Community Asset (see Glossary)

The Village Green



45% of all respondents, rising to 62% of villagers, rated the Village Green very important as an asset. Owned and maintained by the Parish Council, it provides a green focal point of closely mown grass on entering Wolverton village from the south. It has a Horse Chestnut and Copper Beech tree on its central triangular portion and on its southern side is a row of five lime trees planted to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. Two long established access routes to Wolverton Court, The Cottages

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and farmland to the East, bisect the Green. The Green is used annually for residents to gather together on Christmas morning to see Father Christmas distribute presents to the local children. This event, which originated in the 1970's, is an important part of the social life of the village.



Christmas Day at the Village Green

Action Point

Parish Council to explore practicality of using verge protection posts to minimise damage to the Green's surface.

Wolverton Primary School

The School was built in 1876 midway between Wolverton and Norton Lindsey to serve the needs of both villages. In the past, during periods of declining rolls, attempts were made by the County to close the School but, with the support of local communities, the Governors were



Wolverton Primary School

able to keep it open, eventually by taking it Grant Maintained (now Foundation status) in 1985. Catering for about 100 children between the ages of 4 and 11 and with a 'good' Ofsted rating, the School's future now seems secure. It was rated very important as an asset by 59% of respondents and is acknowledged as an attraction for families with young children.

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Norton Lindsey Playground

The playground was opened in 2010, and although sited in the neighbouring village is used by parish residents and rated as a valuable asset by 44% of respondents. In recognition of its use by Wolverton parishioners the Parish Council helps to support it with an annual contribution towards its upkeep.

Norton Lindsey & Wolverton Cricket Club

Norton Lindsey & Wolverton Cricket Club was founded in 1886. The original playing field was in Wolverton Parish to the rear of what is now Longdon House in Wolverton Fields. From there it moved to Curliou Lane in Norton Lindsey until the late 1940s when the present playing field was purchased from a local farmer.

The Club fields two teams every Saturday in the Cotswold League and on Sundays friendly matches are played in order to enable younger members and less regular players to experience competitive games.

There is a bar in the pavilion which is open all the year round on Fridays for social members as well as players and there are often barbeques in the summer. Also during the winter the Club runs a dominoes team that competes in the Henley-in-Arden League on Thursdays.

Other open space - The Rectory Lawn

Not covered in the Survey, this area of land is in front of both the Rectory and the Old Rectory. It has been used for many years as the site for the annual Church Fete, which is attended by parishioners and folk from neighbouring areas. It is used in conjunction with the Church Hall where teas are served.

The Church Fete is an important social and fundraising event in the parish calendar. Given the popularity of the event and the suitability of the site in terms of size and location, it is a valuable asset for the Parish.

Uncertainties exist, however, over its continued availability after the retirement of the present incumbent, when the Diocese may sell the Rectory. Whether the Fete continues on this or another site, or even at all, is the responsibility of the Parochial Church Council.

Whatever the decision on the Rectory or Fete, the open space is an important component in the setting of the grade II listed Old Rectory. The site is also of potential archaeological interest as it is believed to have been the location of the 16thC Wolverton Manor House.

Parish-organised Activities

In this category we can include

- The events run by the Church Hall Committee.
- The Norton Lindsey WI organised events, including a Walking Group
- A Wolverton Walking group
- The Wolverton Progressive Meal
- The Wolverton History Group – awarded second Best Village for History and Heritage in Warwickshire 2009
- Guides, Brownies and Rainbows
- Norton Lindsey Table Tennis Club

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The survey asked for suggestions for additional events within the Parish. Some of the suggestions are set out below, with the full list available in the Survey report:

- Bridge Club
- Outdoor summer theatre or concerts
- Child focused clubs
- Badminton

Neighbourhood Activities

Based on the survey response the parish has easy access to a wide range of organised sports and activities within a reasonable distance, although mainly requiring transport. See list Appendix 5 p71.

Local Communications

The Parish Magazine – Wolverton, Norton Lindsey and Langley

According to the survey 89% of the respondents read the Parish Magazine. This makes it a valuable communication tool and also makes it an ideal platform for:

- Parish Council reports
- Publishing important notices such as those set out in the Parish Action plan
- Advertising events of both a formal and informal nature.

It is clearly valued by its readers and particular favourable mention was made of the regular Manor Farm Diary and Wildlife sections.

Requests were received from respondents to the Survey for, inter alia:

- More adverts by local tradespeople;
- Regular Parish Council updates;
- Articles on topics of interest (IT mentioned).

Clearly, as the Parish Magazine is not a commercial enterprise and is prepared and distributed by volunteers then there is an issue of capacity and willingness to optimise the usefulness of it. This is a matter for the editorial board.

Action Points

Convey findings of Parish Survey to Parish Magazine's editorial board.

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Wolverton Parish Website

A Wolverton Parish Website, run and maintained by the Parish Council was launched in February 2014 to coincide with, and act as a repository for, this Parish Plan and associated documents. It will also be used to give progress reports on implementation of the Action Plan and details of Parish Council meetings. It will also be available for publicising parish events.

Action Points

Continue development and maintenance of Parish website.

Parish Noticeboards

The Parish Council run two noticeboards, one outside the Church Hall and one at the entrance to Norton Lea. They are used for displaying statutory council notices, meeting agendas and minutes and election information and various information notices. Limited space is available for private notices of services etc. As the boards are often full, bigger or additional boards may help to minimise fly posting.

Action Points

Parish Council to investigate provision of larger or additional board in the village.

Parish Council to provide and publicise a protocol for placing and removing notices

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9. Action Plan

D Future Development					
	Action	Approach	Owner	Priority	Target Completion
D1	Undertake a repeat Housing Needs Survey in 3 to 5 years		Parish Council	High	Ongoing
D2	Parish Council to explore with Parishioners and the District Council the possibility and implications of an application for Conservation Area Status of the village	Parish Council to open discussion with District Council and present findings to Parishioners	Parish Council	High	Ongoing
D3	Monitor all future planning applications for consistency with the Stratford-on-Avon Design Guide	Continue usual review of all planning applications submitted to Stratford-on-Avon District Council in respect of the Parish	Parish Council	High	Ongoing
D4	Monitor all future planning applications for appropriate of architectural style	As D3	Parish Council	High	Ongoing
D5	Ensure that planning obligations and/or community infrastructure levy are used in the event of any future development to mitigate any effects and to improve local infrastructure.	Parish Council to liaise with SDC if situation arises.	Parish Council	High	Ongoing
S Services					
	Action	Approach	Owner	Priority	Target Completion
S1	Address parishioners concerns over broadband and mobile communication issues and investigate solutions	Establish a Working Group to lobby CWS and BT	Parish Council	High	By end 2014
S2	Establish a Parish Council Sub Committee. Undertake exercise to consider need for and operation of a defibrillator in Wolverton Village.	Sub committee to contact Norton Lindsey to understand fundraising, planning, costs and operation.	Parish Council	High	

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S Services (cont.)					
	Action	Approach	Owner	Priority	Target Completion
S3	Explore the feasibility of reinstatement of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and, if feasible, propose an action plan	Invite parishioners to public meeting to establish level of interest in leadership roles. Raise at meeting on 27/2/14	Parish Council	Medium	
S4	Ensure that existing Bus services are publicised on noticeboard and website	If service provision deteriorates, or a disabled transport requirement emerges, investigate alternative options such as Community Links Transport Services	Parish Council	Low	
S5	Meet with transport service providers to consider options for improved transport services to the Parish		Parish Council	Low	
S6	Review possibility of regular Police surgery to discuss crime in the Parish and road safety issues		Parish Council	Low	
S7	Understand the nature of cover for the Parish and report back to the community	Meet with local Fire Brigade representative	Parish Council	Low	
I Infrastructure					
	Action	Approach	Owner	Priority	Target Completion
I1	Undertake an inspection of Parish verges to identify major problem areas and bring them to the attention of local authorities or landowners.	Extend quarterly survey of highways to include inspection of verges and report overhanging growth to landowner and suggest use of obstacles (e.g. posts) to reduce damage. Encourage individuals to report problems as they occur	Parish Council	High	Ongoing
I2	Prepare a Verge Protection Plan to facilitate the prevention of further and continuing damage.	Use report from first survey of verges to form initial protection plan and publish findings in Parish Magazine and website.	Parish Council	High	
I3	Discuss with the local constabulary the most appropriate means of addressing speeding through Parish roads.	Raise on behalf of parishioners at Arden Community Forum and seek formal response. Publish in Parish Magazine and website.	Parish Council	High	Next available meeting

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I	Infrastructure (cont.)				
	Action	Approach	Owner	Priority	Target Completion
I4	Approach potential volunteers with a view to establishing a Community Speed Watch group.	Monitor vehicle speeds at sites identified as priority community concerns	Parish Council	High	
I5	Carefully scrutinise planning applications in order to avoid exacerbating the parking problem.	Ensure that parking provision, including that for visitors, is adequate	Parish Council	High	
I6	Ensure that Western Power keeps tree branches clear of overhead power lines.	Request burial of lines where possible or when replacement becomes necessary.	Parish Council	High	
I7	Undertake an inspection of Parish highways to identify problem areas and bring them to the attention of local authorities or landowners.	Continue quarterly survey of parish highways by Parish councillors and report to relevant authorities.	Parish Council	Medium	
I8	Identify the location of and causes of continual flooding and thereafter take up the outcome with local authorities and/or landowners to address the issues.	Seek volunteer from parish to lead sub committee on flooding. Review survey responses to confirm key flooding locations and inquire into possible causes and remedies. Contact Snitterfield flooding group for their expertise.	Parish Council	Medium	
I9	Take up problems of sewage with Severn Trent. All planning applications should be carefully assessed to ensure surface water runoff or sewage problems are not exacerbated		Parish Council	Medium	
I10	Monitor the impact on visibility of continuing inconsiderate parking outside school.	Urge school to ask parents to park more considerately.	Parish Council	Medium	
I11	Monitor poorly maintained hedges and discuss with landowner or local authority.	Seek volunteers in the parish to coordinate effective monitoring and reporting of action by owners.	Parish Council	Medium	
I12	Church Hall event organisers to ensure that driveways are not obstructed and cars not parked illegally on the pavement.		Church Hall Committee	Medium	
I13	The PCC to formulate a parking plan that limits on road parking.		Parish Council	Medium	

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I	Infrastructure (cont.)				
	Action	Approach	Owner	Priority	Target Completion
I14	Contact local cycling clubs to address issues of concern to parishioners and seek future consultation on proposed events		Parish Council	Medium	
I15	Contact local riding stables to remind them of the Highway Code provisions for horses using roads and of the impact of damage by horse hooves to pavements, footpaths and verges.		Parish Council	Medium	
I16	Reinstate an annual community walk of Parish rights of way and liaise with farmers if any problems found.		Parish Council	Medium	
I17	Liaise with WCC regarding replacement of stiles with gates		Parish Council	Medium	
I18	Explore production of a footpath map and publicise the Countryside Code		Parish Council	Medium	
I19	Work with consumers and Severn Trent to improve water pressure problems		Parish Council	Medium	
I20	Ensure that planning applications for new build or conversions fully address sustainable power options		Parish Council	Medium	
I21	Monitor the future service standards in relation to provision of gritting.		Parish Council	Low	
I22	Consider provision of dog waste bin(s)		Parish Council	Low	

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E	Environment				
	Action	Approach	Owner	Priority	Target Completion
E1	Record incidents of poor hedge maintenance or clearance of clippings.	Report findings to landowner or highways authority	Parish Council	High	Ongoing
E2	Publish notices reminding dog owners to pick up any faeces from their dogs in public places in the Parish.	In Parish Magazine	Parish Council	High	Next issue of magazine
E3	List those areas of verge or pavement damage within the parish.	Agree solutions with County (Highways)/District Council	Parish Council	Medium	
E4	Notices in Parish Magazine reminding parishioners to be considerate in using bonfires, fireworks and barbeques.		Parish Council	Medium	
E5	Place notice in Village Notice Board that that is the only acceptable location for notices and adverts in the Parish.		Parish Council	Medium	
E6	Seek to create a Natural History volunteer group to list the species of flora and fauna in the Parish	List flora/fauna in the Parish, promote measures to halt decline of some species	Parish Council	Medium	
E7	Note in Parish Magazine to remind residents to return empty refuse/recycling bins to their normal storage points as soon as possible after being emptied.		Parish Council	Low	
E8	Notice in Parish Magazine reminding parishioners about responsible and considerate use of garden power tools.		Parish Council	Low	
E9	Notice in Parish Magazine reminding parishioners of recycling facilities available at Burton Farm and elsewhere.		Parish Council	Low	

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A	Amenities				
	Action	Approach	Owner	Priority	Target Completion
A1	Convey findings of Parish Survey to Parish Magazine's editorial board.		Parish Council	High	By end of 2014
A2	Convey findings of Parish Survey to Church Hall Committee and request them to clarify letting arrangements.		Parish Council	High	By end of 2014
A3	Continue development and maintenance of Parish website		Parish Council	High	Ongoing
A4	Investigate provision of larger or additional board in the village.		Parish Council	High	
A5	Provide and publicise a protocol for placing and removing notices		Parish Council	High	
A6	To ensure continuity of the Hall, explore the practicalities of having it formally recognised as a Community Asset	(see Glossary)	Parish Council	Medium	
A7	Parish Council to explore practicality of using verge protection posts to minimise damage to the Green.		Parish Council	Medium	

10. Acknowledgements

Wolverton Parish Council extends a huge thank you to all those who have so generously given of their time, ideas and dedication to create Wolverton's first Parish Plan. We greatly appreciate the active interest and participation of so many parishioners, enabling a Plan that truly reflects local opinion, issues and priorities.

We wish to express our particular gratitude to the volunteers of the Steering Group for their diligence and hard work in bringing the Plan to fruition:

Paul Anthony, Chris Barnes, Brian Bayliss, Kathryn Hollinrake, David Mann, David Payne, Thelma Rowley, Steve Russell, David Stone, Caroline Tunbridge, Chris Tunbridge and David Wilton.

Thank you also to our additional contributors – Dorothy Mann, Brief History of the Parish and Ted Read – Wolverton Natural History.

Thank you - and happy reading! We hope you find the Plan of interest.

Wolverton Parish Council

11 Glossary

2013 Survey or the Parish plan survey	The survey undertaken in July 2013 upon which this document is based
2013 Survey report	WRCC report on the Parish plan survey
2014 Wolverton Parish Plan Action Plan	This document The series of actions which the Parish should seek to implement as a consequence of this Plan
Affordable housing	Is defined as homes available to rent through a Housing Association at a low (subsidised) rent or homes available on a shared ownership basis.
Aged or veteran tree	A tree which, because of its great age, size or condition is of exceptional value for wildlife, in the landscape, or culturally.
Archaeological interest	There will be archaeological interest in a heritage asset if it holds, or potentially may hold, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point.
Birds and Habitats Directives	European Directives to conserve natural habitats and wild flora and fauna.
Community asset	A building or site whose current use furthers the social wellbeing and interests of the community
Community infrastructure levy	A charge on developers to pay towards the cost of local infrastructure that the local authority, or local community, have identified.
Heritage asset	A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest.
Local market housing	Homes available to buy outright
Older people	People over retirement age, including the active, newly retired through to the very frail elderly, whose housing needs can encompass accessible, adaptable general needs housing for those looking to downsize from family housing and the full range of retirement and specialised housing for those with support or care needs.
Open space	All open space of public value, including not just land but also areas of water which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can act as a visual amenity.
Parish	The parish of Wolverton, Stratford-on-Avon Warwickshire
People with disabilities	People have a disability if they have physical or mental impairment, and that impairment has a substantial and long term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.
Planning obligation (or section 106 agreement)	Agreement between local authority and developers to provide a proportion of affordable housing, or to mitigate any adverse impact of development.
Rural exception sites	Small sites used for affordable housing in perpetuity where sites would not normally be used for housing. Rural exception sites seek to address the needs of the local community by accommodating households who are either current residents or have an existing family or employment connection. Small numbers of market homes may be allowed at the local authorities discretion, for example where essential to enable the delivery of affordable units without grant funding.
Setting of a heritage asset	The setting in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the assets and its surroundings evolve.
Stepping stones	Pockets of habitat, whilst not necessarily connected, facilitate the movement of species across otherwise inhospitable landscapes.
Village	The village of Wolverton, Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire
WRCC	Warwickshire Rural community Council

Appendix 1. - Wolverton Parish Character

The Parish of Wolverton is situated in the West Midlands Green Belt some 7 km to the north of Stratford-upon-Avon. The Parish is about 340 ha in extent, with ground rising from 70 m in the SE corner to 120 m in the north and west.

Development is divided almost equally between the village in the west half of the Parish and Wolverton Fields to the north east, with some scattered housing and farmsteads in the Wolverton Hill and Blacon areas.

The small village of 47 dwellings has no defined settlement boundary, but the core lies between double bends on the C40 road, which holds more or less to the 105 m contour as it runs north-south between the local service villages of Snitterfield and Claverdon. Most dwellings sit on an east-facing slope below the 13th century church and enjoy impressive, open views over attractive rolling countryside of mainly arable land, with the village itself enhanced with attractive plantings of mature trees, many of which were planted at the turn of the century by the Rev. Campion. It is to his foresight that the village currently enjoys such amenity.



The Village from Luscombe

The village has developed over many years from an informal collection of 16th century and Victorian dwellings, which are now interspersed with more recent buildings. Together they provide a pleasing range of types and sizes of properties, and include seven listed buildings (see Village map and key, buildings, pp.51 – 55). Recently, two farmyard groupings of barns at Meadow Farm (1983) and Glebe Farm (2001) have been sympathetically converted to residential use and form attractive architectural groupings in mellow red brick at opposite ends of the village.

One working farmyard, associated with a livestock and arable farm still operates in the village, near the church, at Manor Farm but with buildings mainly of a modern prefabricated type. Other than the church, the only public building is the timber church hall sited in the centre in the village. Public open space is limited to the small village green, known as the Stock Bank, situated opposite Glebe Farmhouse, which was ceded to the Parish Council in 1983.

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The village has a linear settlement pattern, with the depth of development from the road frontage rarely exceeding one plot. The buildings, however, do not generally face one another, or where they do are set well back from the road, often behind a screen of trees. Consequently, the village appears as being formed of groups of buildings and trees on either side of the road, with each group separated by open and undeveloped areas of either large gardens or permanent pastureland (see Village maps and keys, pp.51 - 55). This, together with the varied orientation of buildings, gives Wolverton an attractive, essentially open and rural character, typical of villages in the Ancient Arden area of the District (Stratford-on-Avon District Design Guide, 2001). The green land penetrating into the village fabric is a significant element in the setting and visual character of the village and should be protected from development.



Farming penetrates the heart of the Village

North of the village the C40 road is crossed by the C39 with Wolverton Hill and Bearley village to the west and Wolverton Fields and Norton Lindsey village to the east, (see Wolverton Fields map and key, pp.59 - 61). Development in Wolverton Fields is solely on the north side of the road and consists of three listed, early 19th century thatched cottages, late 19th century brick cottages and the Victorian village school interspersed with 20th century redevelopment and infill. West of the school the road frontage is more open than the ribbon development to the east. To the south the land dips away over open arable land towards Blacon, providing long distance views towards the Cotswolds.

Abutting the neighbouring village of Norton Lindsey and the District Council boundary lies Norton Lea an estate of large, well-screened modern houses built on a former 'bad neighbour' industrial site (timber building prefabrication) in 1975. A characteristic of the modern development in Wolverton Fields and Norton Lea is that the houses are all different.

At the District boundary in Curlieu Lane are two affordable/social housing developments on exception sites in neighbouring Claverdon parish. The latest of these was a development shared between Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick Districts to cater for a local need identified in a 2005 Housing Needs surveys within the three villages of Wolverton, Claverdon and Norton Lindsey.



Wolverton Fields looking east



Wolverton Fields looking west

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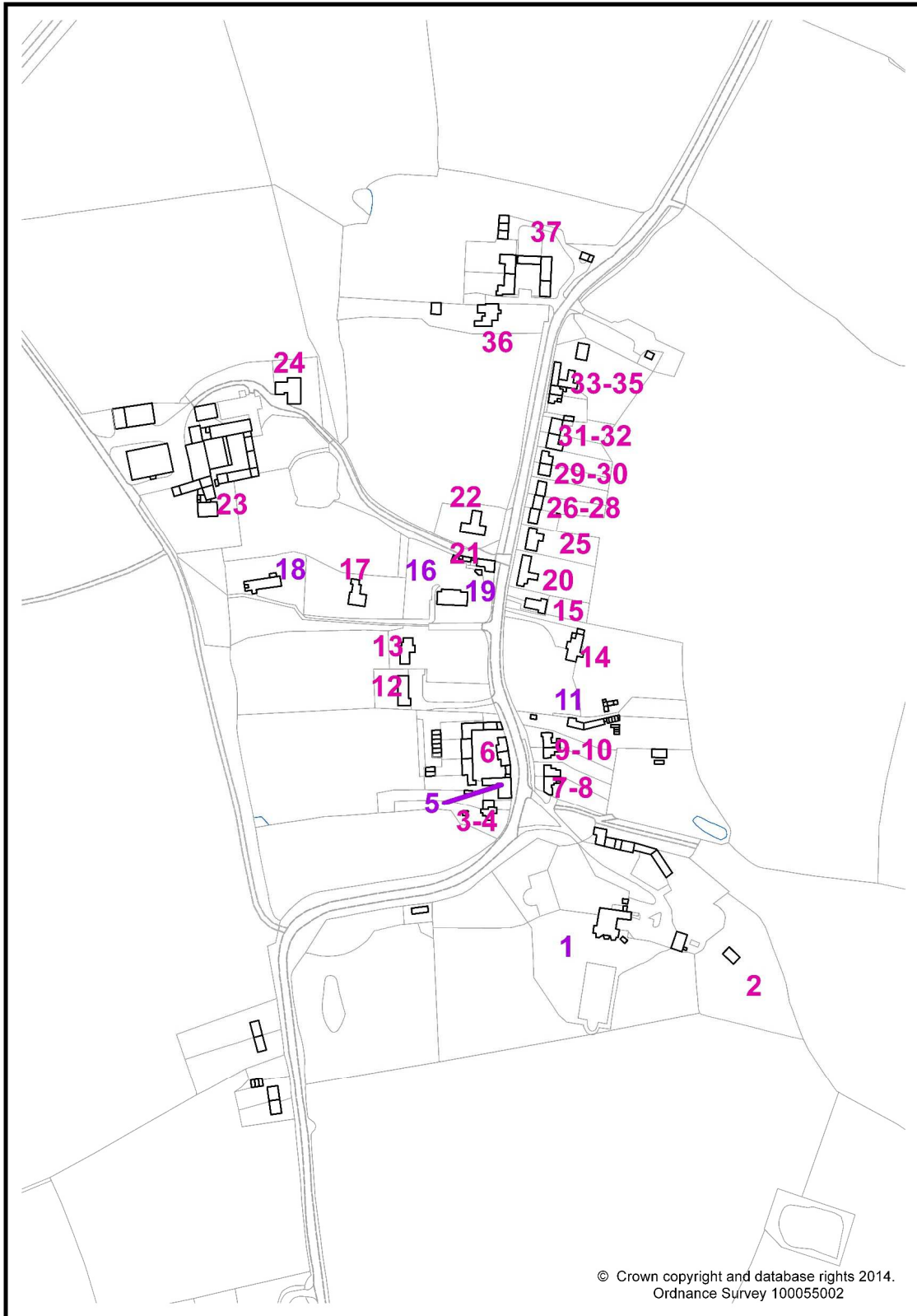
Some of the amenity trees in the Village, hedgerow trees and commemorative plantings in the Parish are showing signs of decline and are also at risk to natural and imported pests and diseases. Elms were lost in the 1970's to Dutch Elm disease, a fungus spread by a bark beetle. Ash trees are suffering nationally from the rapid spread of Ash die back, a fungal disease that causes leaf loss and crown die back, often resulting in death. Oak trees are at risk from acute oak decline, a disease prevalent in the Midlands, which is apparently caused by a bacterium that causes bleeding from cracks in the bark, and thinning of the canopy as death approaches. Horse Chestnuts are affected by a fungal infection, leaf blotch, which causes unsightly irregular brown blotches on the leaves in summer, although it is not seriously damaging. Also of concern is the rapid, countrywide, spread of the Horse Chestnut Leaf Miner, a small moth whose caterpillars feed inside the leaves, leading to early leaf drop in heavily infested trees, but again this is not necessarily life threatening.

In 1970 the local WI (Langley & Wolverton) carried out a comprehensive tree survey in parts of Bearley, Langley and Wolverton parishes, which included Wolverton village. Their survey was the winning entrant in a Warwickshire-wide competition held as part of European Conservation year. The planting of a Handkerchief Tree (*Davidia involucrata*) in the Rectory garden alongside the church path commemorated their win. It would be interesting for a natural history group to repeat the survey in the parish in order to determine changes over the past 40 years and to make recommendations for replanting to maintain the character of the Parish for the benefit of future generations.



Commemorative trees on the Village Green

Wolverton Village - Buildings



Wolverton Village key – Building descriptions

a. Listed Buildings

1. Wolverton Court



Grade II. 3 periods of build. C16/C17 with C18 and c1912 additions and re-modelling by Clough Williams Ellis in Queen Anne style. Left part has small timber-framing with close-studding to ground floor. Limestone plinth. Old tile roof. Diagonal brick ridge stacks. Leaded lights. Central part: roughcast with renewed tile roof. Right part: roughcast with hipped tile roof; brick lateral stack. Complex plan. EXTERIOR: earliest part single-storey plus attic, later 2 storeys. Main facade to south. Entrance to central part has shell hood, further entrance has pedimented

doorcase. Leaded casements to right, renewed wood mullion-and-transom windows to centre, sashes and 2 storey bays to left part. INTERIOR: not inspected. (Buildings of England: Pevsner N: Warwickshire: Harmondsworth: 1966-: 479).

5. Glebe Farmhouse

Grade II. C17, possibly reusing some earlier materials, with later additions and alterations including refronting and re-roofing to main range late C18 with fenestration to front facade mid C19. Pinkish-brown brick laid to Flemish bond to most of front facade, otherwise English garden wall bond, with renewed tile roof, remains of some timber-framing to interior. T-shaped on plan with central hallway. EXTERIOR: 2 storeys, 3 first-floor windows. Steps to central 4-panel door, flanked by tripartite casement windows with wooden mullions and transoms and with glazing bars. First floor has outer tripartite windows and central casement all with wooden mullions and glazing bars. End stacks with cornices. INTERIOR: 3 beams to 2 main ground-floor rooms and kitchen are broadly chamfered, those to front rooms have ogee stops to one end, mortices for ceiling joists have been packed. Inglenook fireplace to right room. 4-panel doors, 3 bedroom doors have 2 fielded panels and L-hinges, kitchen and room above have plank doors. Stud wall between 2 bedrooms to rear wing. Roof: truss with principals crossing at apex to support ridge purlin exposed on rear gable. Purlin believed to have a bark-covered state towards main junction of house; rear range believed to retain C17 collars. Re-used purlins believed to remain to main roof, some rafters replaced.



The Glebe Farm Barns (6) are listed as being within the curtilage of the farmhouse.

11. The Cottages

Grade II. 3 houses, now 2. C17 to right part with C18 rebuilding to front facade, with range to left late C19 and later restorations. Original range is timber-framed with painted brick facade, otherwise painted brick, mock framing and renewed tile roof throughout. EXTERIOR: one-and-a-half storeys, 5 upper-stage windows, of which the 3 to right relate to the original

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range. 3 entrances are plank doors with hoods. 2- and 3-light casement windows with glazing bars, those to left under elliptical arches, those to right part under hoods. Full dormer windows have similar casements. 2 ridge and right end stack. INTERIOR: to right part believed to have quite extensive timber-framing.

16. The Old Rectory

Grade II. Rectory, now house. C17, enlarged and re-modelled mid C19; earliest part to right. Timber-framing with painted brick infill to right part, otherwise painted brick with ornamental tile roofs and brick stacks. 2-unit plan with C19 gable-ended wing to left. EXTERIOR: one and a half storeys, 3-window range arranged 1:2. Some exposed panels of small square timber-framing to upper right part. Off-centre left entrance: partly panelled door with margin-lights and panelled glazed side panels, overlight, within brick porch with bargeboards and finial. Ground floor, from left: large canted bay window has wood mullioned and transomed windows. 2 canted bay windows to right with casement windows and hipped tile roofs, and with small casement window between with hoodmould and label stop. All windows have honeycomb glazing. Upper storey, from left: single wood casement with pointed brick head to gable, gable has bargeboards and finials. 2 half-dormers with casements, bargeboards and finials. INTERIOR: right part has visible panels of square framing to ground floor, otherwise not inspected

18. Church of St. Mary the Virgin

Grade II*. Church. Origins of 1208, with later additions and alterations including windows and priest's doorway probably late C14, C16 sanctuary ring and iron-work, with C19 porch, vestry, bell turret and restorations, including rebuilding of east end. MATERIALS: coursed lias stone rubble with ashlar east end, timber porch and bell turret, and plain-tile roof. STYLE: Early English and Decorated. PLAN: 3-bay nave with south porch, lower 2-bay chancel with north vestry. EXTERIOR: entrance: glazed and gabled south porch has decorative bargeboards, and traceried decoration to sides. Within is a double-chamfered, 4-centred arch and studded plank door with strap hinges, sanctuary ring and lock. Nave has chamfered plinth. South side: diagonal west buttress with off-sets; 2- and 3-light windows with trefoil-headed tracery in double-chamfered, 4-centred arches. North side: buttresses with off-sets between bays and diagonal buttress to west; westernmost window has 3 lights with Y-tracery to head in double-chamfered surround with hoodmould. North doorway to centre bay: plank door with double-chamfered pointed arch. Then a 2-light window with reticulated tracery. West end: central buttress with off-sets between 2 lancet lights in chamfered surrounds. Short bell turret with broach spire and pierced openings. Chancel: south side has double-chamfered plinth, partly renewed. Priest's entrance: plank door in double-chamfered, 4-centred arch; renewed ogee-headed lancet in chamfered surround and a 2-light window with reticulated tracery to head. North side: ogee-headed lancet; vestry has Decorated-style 2-light window. East end has 3-light window with Decorated-type tracery to



head in double-chamfered surround with hoodmould. INTERIOR: oak screen, much restored, has Perpendicular tracery to upper stage. Ogeed piscina. Wagon roofs. Octagonal font on octagonal plinth has quatrefoil decoration. Marble wall tablets with festoon embellishment to: Thomas Stanton 'Lord of the Mannor' d.1701; his son Thomas, d.1719; and Thomas Stanton d.1664 and his wife Elizabeth d.1703. In north nave window are many fragments of medieval stained glass, some in other windows, south window of chancel has late Morris glass. (Buildings of England: Pevsner N: Warwickshire: Harmondsworth: 1966-: 479).

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19. **Telephone kiosk**
Grade II. Type K6. Designed 1935 by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott. Made by various contractors. Cast-iron. Kiosk square on plan with domed roof. Unperforated crowns to top panels and margin-glazing to multi-paned windows and door. (Chatto Curiosities of the British Street: Stamp G: Telephone Boxes: London: 1989).

b. Buildings of group value and/or local interest

- 3 & 4. **Court Cottages**. Victorian semi-detached cottages. Two-storey, brick, upper storey rendered and painted white.
6. **Glebe Farm barns**. Farmyard group of 19C brick barns sympathetically converted to 5 dwellings in 2001. Barn adjoining road retains the full height opening of the original midstrey.
- 7 & 8. **Stockbank Cottage & The Cottage**. Semi-detached cottages built 1915 by former Rector of the village. Brick, two storey, part rendered. Modern extensions.
- 9 & 10. **Westway & Wayside Cottage**. Semi-detached cottages built circa 1st World War. Brick, two storey, part rendered. Modern extensions.
15. **Church Hall**. Single storey, timber framed and clad, erected 1935 with modern brick extensions to rear.
20. **Wayside**. Victorian detached house, built 1831. Brick on sandstone foundations, two storeys plus attic with dormers to front. Much altered with extensive modern additions to north and rear.
21. **The Coach House**. Former coach-house to Old Rectory, dating from 1846, brick built, converted to dwelling in 1977.
23. **Manor Farmhouse**. A typical South Warwickshire three storey farmhouse, and ancillary buildings, red brick with tiled roof built about 1850.
- 33-35. **Jasmine Cottage, Trinity Cottage & Meadow View**. 18C brick built dwellings, tiled roofs with modern additions



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36. **Meadow Farmhouse.** Victorian front with Georgian rear, possibly on older foundations. Two storey brick with tiled roof. Modern garage to south.
37. **Meadow Farm barns.** Farmyard group of 19C brick barns converted to 5 dwellings in 1983, tile and slate roofs, single and two storey.



Glebe Farm Barns

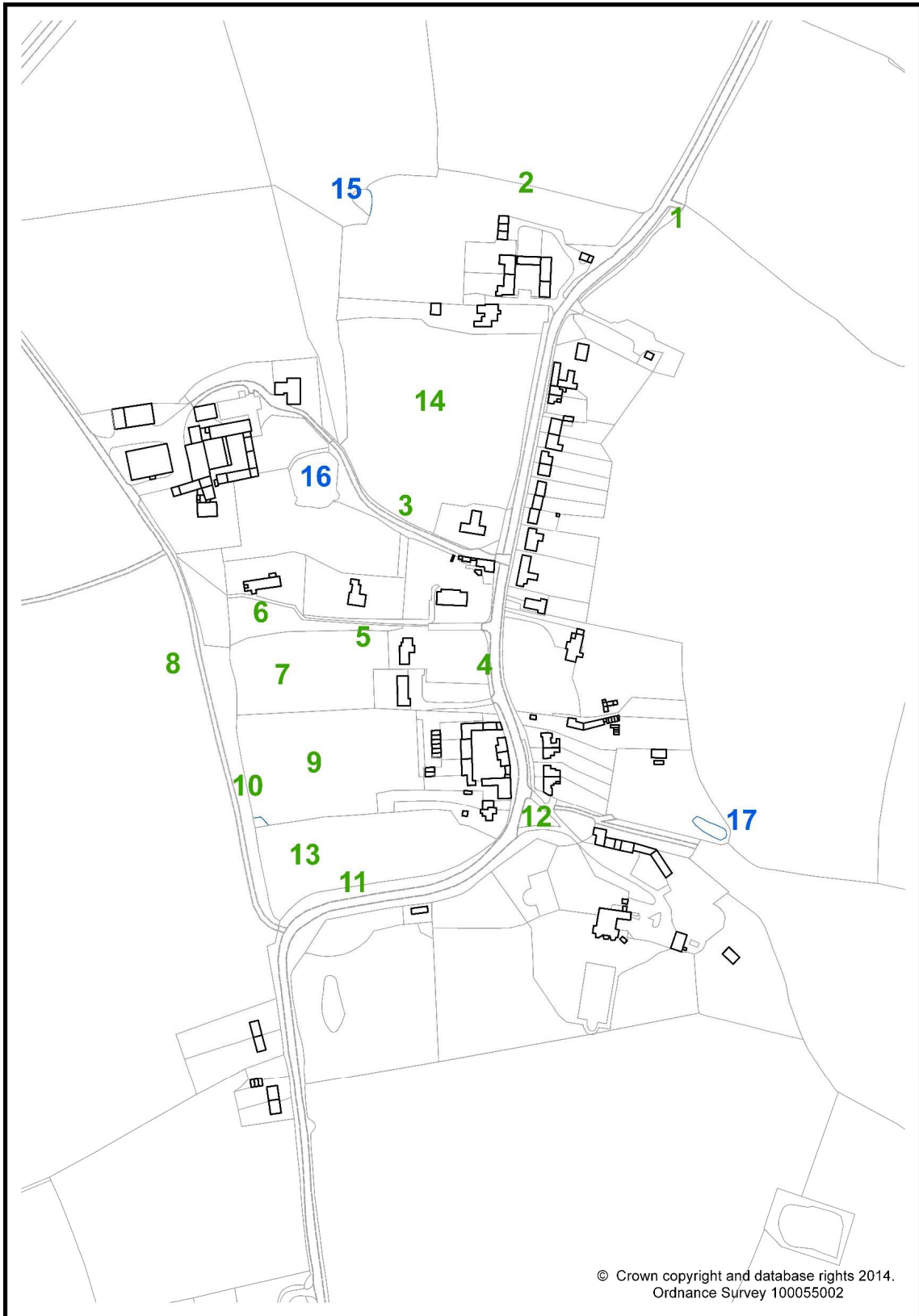


Meadow Farm Barns

c. Other buildings

2. **Park View.** Modern house
12. **Ardenwood.** Modern bungalow on site of former Old Rectory tennis court.
13. **The Rectory.** Modern detached house (1970's).
14. **Colt House.** Modern house in the Colt design with cedarwood shingles. Much extended and now brick clad.
17. **Bonnyton.** Modern chalet bungalow.
22. **Brandelhow.** Modern detached house (1970's).
24. **Manor Farm.** Modern farm bungalow, built 1982.
25. **The Nook.** Modern infill house built in 1992 on former garden of Wayside.
- 26-28. **Council House Nos. 3 & 4 and The Rolands.** Terraced former council houses, brick built in 1952.
- 29-30. **Monza & Buttercup Cottage.** Council or former council semi-detached houses built 1937.
- 31-32. **Heiskeir & Overbury,** semi-detached, 1960's, infill on former orchard.

Wolverton Village – Landscape features



Wolverton Village key – Landscape features

a. Trees

Group 1. Two hornbeam planted by Parish council to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee in 1977.

Group 2. Line of three mature oak trees in hedgerow. Showing some signs of approaching decline, but a significant landscape feature forming a natural northern limit to the village, particularly when viewed from the road running north through the village.

Group 3. Several mature trees and some new planting lining the bridleway known locally as Shop or Clock Lane, including two limes standing on the northern edge of the Old Rectory garden of significant amenity.

Group 4. Mixed conifer and deciduous trees forming a screen between the road and the Old Rectory, The Rectory and Ardenwood. This is a highly visible group that has significant impact on the amenity of the village.

Group 5. Conifer and deciduous trees lining Church path of high amenity value and including a fine copper beech and horse chestnut. This group, together with groups 3 & 4 are highly visible.

Group 6. Mainly mixed conifers in churchyard, some approaching maturity and offering scope for replanting and landscaping.

Group 7. Rear garden to The Rectory, former orchard. Long and short mown grass, scrub and bramble - of potential wildlife value.

Group 8. An individual horse chestnut planted to commemorate the forced landing on the site in 1914 of a Farman biplane, piloted by Alcock (of Alcock & Brown fame) in the early days of aviation.



Group 10. Mature hedgerow adjacent to footpath, trees approaching decline. Would benefit from management and new planting.

Group 11. An area of natural regeneration and invasive colonisation by sycamore and ash plus a single mature oak. The group provides an attractive tree-lined approach to the village from the south. Some thinning will be required to allow full growth of many of the trees.

Group 12. A single horse chestnut planted to commemorate Queen Victoria's Silver Jubilee 1897 and young beech tree (1970's) on the centre of the village green have a significant impact on the amenity of the village. On the southern boundary of the green, five limes were planted by the Parish Council in 1977 to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II's Silver Jubilee.

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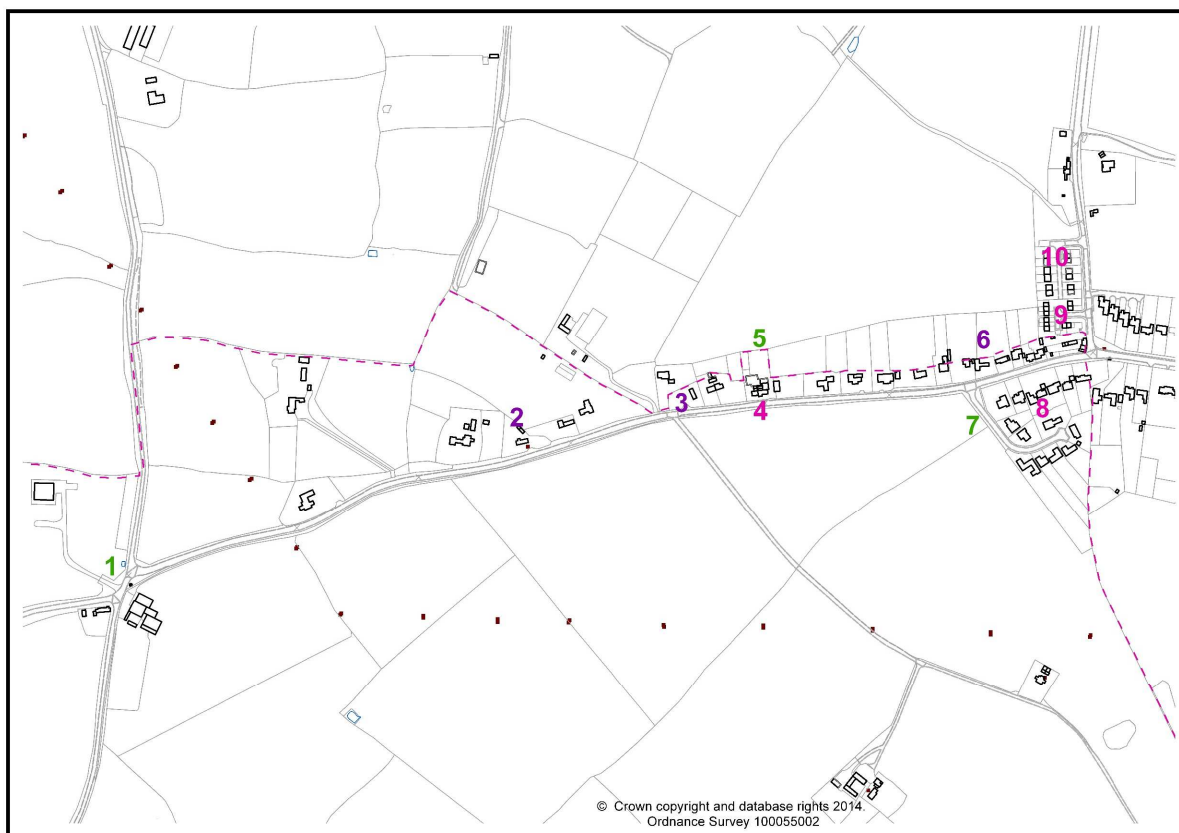
b. Ponds

There are three field ponds of significant size in the village, numbered 15, 16 & 17. All are potentially of wildlife value but from County records are under-recorded. The village also has natural springs giving wet flushes and leading to streams towards Luscombe which also enhance wildlife diversity, and there are a number of garden ponds.

c. Open spaces

4. Rectory lawn – see Section 8.
9. Former Glebe Farm pasture, now in private ownership. Currently protected from development by covenant.
13. Pasture field forming natural limit to the village.
14. Pasture field of high amenity value. Brings farming into the heart of the village and open space offsets continuous line of development on opposite side of the road.

Wolverton Fields



Wolverton Fields key – Building descriptions & Landscape features

a. Listed buildings

2. Long Thatch

Grade II. House C17 with later alterations including probable C18 refronting. Timber-framed with painted brick facades, timber-frame exposed in right gable wall, thatched roof, brick stacks. Originally lobby entrance plan. EXTERIOR: single-storey with attic, 2 window range. Central segmental arched doorway with vertical boarded door. Irregular fenestration. 2 casement windows to left of doorway, small window to right and, further to right, a larger 3-light window under a segmental arch, to far left a segmental-arched opening, now blocked. Gabled roof. 2 dormer casement windows both with glazing bars. C20 windows in gables and left gable end wall, that to left is metal with small panes. 2 ridge stacks. Some exposed timber-framing to right gable includes end post and brace with collar- and tie-beam. INTERIOR: ground floor has small panels of square timber-framing to partition walls; chamfered beams and joists, otherwise not inspected.

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2. Primrose Cottage

Grade II. Cottage whitewashed with thatched roof, brick gable and stack. Range to rear of painted Cottage. Probably C18 with C19 and C20 additions and alterations to rear. Rendered and brick with slate roof. Main range. EXTERIOR: one and a half storeys. Central entrance: plank door in plank architrave with open pedimented hood left of doorway and one gable end wall, all C20. Left end stack with moulded capping. INTERIOR: not inspected.



Primrose Cottage

6. Old Thatch

Grade II. 2 cottages, now house. C18 with evidence of C17 timber-frame, rendered and whitewashed to front facade with brick and stone to right gable end and to rear, timber-frame exposed in right gable, thatched roof, brick stack. Late C20 addition to left of brick with tile roof. EXTERIOR: main range: one and a half storeys. Plinth. 2 entrances, to centre and left, with C20 part-glazed doors. Casement windows with glazing bars, one to either side of central doorway and one in gable end wall. Left end stack with cornice to original range. Right gable end has tie- and collar-beam queen post truss with principal rafters. Original wall plate and purlins project. INTERIOR: not inspected.

b. Other buildings

2. **Wolverton Primary School**, built 1876 see Section 8.

8. **Norton Lea**, modern housing estate (mid 70's) on a former industrial site used for the manufacture of prefabricated wooden buildings.



9 & 10 **Two modern developments**, in Claverdon parish, of affordable housing on planning exception sites

Landscape features

1. Two Horse Chestnut trees planted to commemorate King George V's Silver Jubilee in 1935. One showing signs of decline.

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5. Remnant of Ash woodland in school grounds left after agricultural clearance of much of the southern part of Gannaway Wood (Claverdon). Ash declining, oak regenerating and mixed native trees recently planted.
7. Mixed deciduous planting by Parish Council to commemorate Queen Elizabeth's Silver Jubilee in 1977.

Appendix 2 - Brief History of the Parish

Wolverton (Wolverdington until the middle of the 19th century) was recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 as Ulwarditone, having two estates (or manors). One was among the lands of Robert de Stafford, of whom it was held by Urfer, employing two ploughs, and comprising of arable and meadow land. The other was held by William, son of Corbucion, employing 5 ploughs, arable, meadow and woodland. The overlordship of the first estate remained with the descendants of Robert de Stafford until at least 1460. The Corbucion estate went to the descendants of John de Cantilupe, and his son Sir John was lord of Wolverton in 1316. The manor was sold to Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick; passed on to Henry Beauchamp, Duke of Warwick and then to the Duke's brother-in-law Sir Richard Neville in 1460. In 1468 Earl Richard and his wife Anne demised the manor of Wolverton with all its land, services and rents to the Dean and Chapter of Saint Mary's church, Warwick, in whose possession it remained until the Dissolution.

In 1545 the manor was granted by the Crown to Clement Throckmorton and Alexander Avenon (an ironmonger of London who was also Mayor of London for a time). Clement died in 1573 and it passed to his son John. In 1575 it was sold to William Ballis and Thomas Staunton (or Stanton) and remained in the family, until 1766 when it was in the hands of the Hunt family of Stratford. By 1820 it had been acquired by Robert Phillips of Snitterfield, passed to his son Mark (MP for Manchester and founder of the campaign for city parks), then to Mark's brother Robert Needham Phillips (MP for Bury). Robert's daughter Caroline inherited the manor after his death in 1900. Caroline was married to Sir George Otto Trevelyan MP for Hawick. By 1965 the manor was still in the hands of Caroline's trustees.

Before the Domesday Book little is known about the village, but Roman artefacts have been found in the north east of the parish and on the east side of the houses. Saxon artefacts have also been found and the name Ulwarditone also indicates human activity during the Saxon period.

The church was built in 1208 and superseded or rebuilt during the reign of Edward II, which together with the high altar was dedicated by the Bishop of Worcester, Walter de Mandslon, in the early 1280's. It was enlarged again and consecrated on 11th July 1325. One of the two bells now in the belfry is believed to be 'very ancient' and to have been present at the consecration. The patron at the time was John Dominus Wolverdington, with the rector being Walter son of Alexsandrius. A comprehensive list of rectors of the parish hangs behind the font. Window glass in the west and north west of the church dates back to the 13th century, whilst the "Doom" window glass in the top of the east window is from the 14th century. The coat of arms of Anne Neville, daughter of Henry Beauchamp sits in the north window of the choir stalls.

The village houses include what was a row of cottages, now one house, which date back to 1469, which were originally of wattle and daub construction. Wolverton Court has a Tudor wing dating back to 1547, a Georgian section built in about 1800 by the Wilcox family, and a section connecting the other two. This was designed by Clough Williams-Ellis and built in 1913 in the Queen Ann style. The Court has had several name changes over time, being known as Court Farm, Palmers Farm and Wolverton Court. During World War I part of the Court was used as a military hospital, and in World War II it was requisitioned for the Women's Land Army.

Wolverton Manor House is believed to have stood on what is now the rectory front lawn. A pen drawing from the early 1800's of the Manor House has been found in the British Library. It is thought to have been built about 1590 by Captain Thomas Staunton and the family lived there until 1738 when the last male heir, Thomas Stanton, died and left it to John Staunton of Longbridge. It was sold to the Rev. James Roberts about 1830 by Robert Philips.

The Old Rectory dates back to the 17th century and was once the residence of the village cider grinder. It was purchased from Sarah Brooks in the 1830's by Rev. James Roberts to serve as the rectory house when he dismantled the old decaying Manor House. His successor Rev. Benjamin Winthrop built the

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tall extension at the west end in 1846, and the new large parlour became a parish meeting room in Rev. Stephen Campbell's time, 1889 – 1908. Rev. Benjamin Winthrop also built a coach house and stables on the site of the old cider mill, now the Coach House.

Wayside is built on the site of an old thatched farmhouse owned by William Wilcox in 1831. The Old Post Office was opened in 1903 by Mary Ann Verney who was postmistress for 30 years. She was succeeded by Thomas Wakelin who ran it till 1938 when he moved into one of the first council houses. By 1910 it had been divided into two dwellings occupied by the Verney's and the Moggs. The post office then moved to Grange Cottages when Mrs Carter was postmistress until 1950.

Jasmine Cottage was the home of the village blacksmith for many years in the 18th and 19th centuries, and Trinity Cottage in 1912 was the home of John Busby, the roadman or lengthman

The rest of the village street is mixture of styles and dates ranging from 1900 to 1992, with the other farm houses being mainly Victorian.

Wolverton Hill to Wolverton Fields has a variety of ages and styles of houses, from old thatched cottages, greatly extended, to modern buildings from the 20th century. The school stands halfway along the stretch to Norton Lindsey, and has served the two villages since 1876. The main school house and classroom still remain with added extensions to accommodate the changing numbers and styles of education over the years.

The Wilkes family of clockmakers lived in the village from 1711 to 1792. John Wilkes of Sutton-under-Brailes bought a farmhouse, buildings and land in 1711 and worked until his death in 1758. His son, William, made clocks from the late 1740's till 1792 and took a number of apprentices. He made the turret clock for Claverdon Church in 1777, and one for Berkswell church. He had a workshop sited beside the lane known as Shop or Clock Lane, which meets the village street beside the Coach House. Longcase clocks made by the family can still be found around the country today.

Rev. Arthur Campion, rector from 1909 till 1921 lived in the Old Rectory and continued, with the help of his gardener, Richard Clarke, the work in the gardens laid out by his predecessor Stephen Campbell. By the 1950's the beautiful formal garden had become a large lawn on which church fetes were held. In 1910 it was possible to see the church from the road, but the Rev. Campion planted many trees in the churchyard as well as the orchard behind what is now the Rectory. He also built the steps which lead from the church path into the property call Bonnyton. He intended to build a house on the land for his retirement, but did not live long enough.

In July 1914 a biplane piloted by Mr Alcock (of Alcock and Brown fame) landed on the hill at Manor Farm and, due to gusty weather conditions, was tethered to the railings. By evening the weather had improved and Mr Alcock gave some exhibition flights for the benefit of the residents. He also took up in turn Mrs Pearson, Captain Hadden, Mrs Margetts and Miss Flowerdew-Lowson. A chestnut tree was planted in front of the farmhouse to commemorate the occasion.

Appendix 3 - Parish Demographics

Age Profile and Total Population

The age of respondents to the Survey (Q2) are shown in Fig. 15. Most responses were provided in the 45 to 64 age bracket.

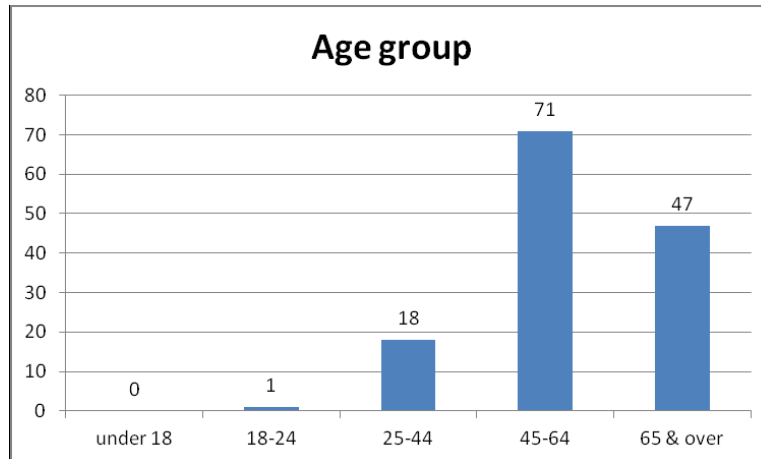


Fig. 15

No further demographic questions were asked because a wide range of data was available from the recent 2011 National Census. The 2011 Census data provided additional insight into the demographics of the Parish and was used to look at trends in comparison to the 2001 Census results.

Detailed National Census data for Wolverton is available from:
<http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination>
At stage 1, enter Wolverton. At 2, click on 'More areas' and select Parish

Comparison of Census data for 2011 with that for 2001 shows that the population of the Parish had increased by 8.7%, from 195 to 212, and that the population of Wolverton is becoming generally older in much the same way as the rest of England. The population peak occurs 10 years older in 2011 than 2001 in both Wolverton and England generally, Figs. 16 & 17.

Wolverton Parish has somewhat smaller proportions of its population aged under 40 than England generally, which probably reflects the relatively high property prices in the area and this doesn't appear to have changed much since 2001.

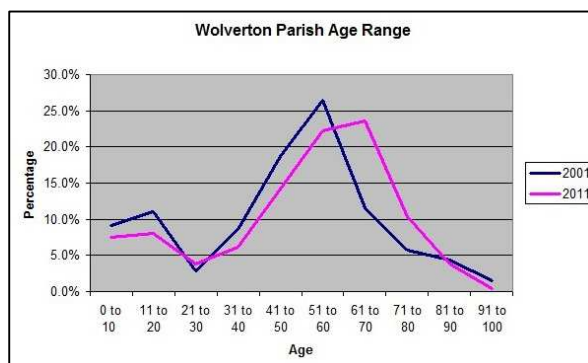


Fig. 16

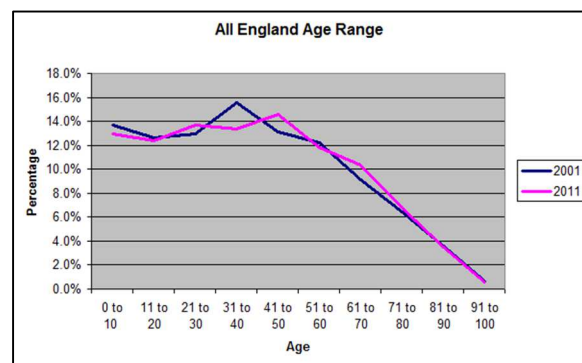


Fig. 17

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Life Expectancy

Table 3 shows life expectancy of various age groups in England using data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS)⁴.

Table 3 – Life Expectancy in England 2001

Age in 2001	Expectation of Life	
	Male	Female
0	87.2	91
10	77	80.4
20	65.8	69.4
30	55	58.5
40	44.4	47.8
50	34.3	37.3
60	24.3	27.2
70	14.7	17
80	7.7	9.1

What this table implies is that there is a prospect that, if present occupants chose to remain in the Parish, then there is likely to be a significant increase in the numbers classed as Older People. This of itself will potentially create issues in relation to:

- Downsizing;
- Facilities for carers;
- Disabilities;
- Emergency services;
- Transport, and
- Communication.

It follows that if present 50 and 60 year olds have a life expectancy in excess of 25 years then there is a potential barrier for younger families to move into the Parish irrespective of house prices.

⁴ ONS Population Trends 136 – Report: Life Tables. ONS – Source: Office for National Statistics(www.ons.gov.uk) © Crown copyright 2014

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Wolverton – Total Dwellings and Accommodation Types

The total number of dwellings in the parish has increased from 87 to 98, a 12.6% increase, demonstrating faster growth than for England as a whole which grew by 8.3% over the same period. Perhaps the parishioners who ask for no additional building feel that Wolverton has taken its share already.

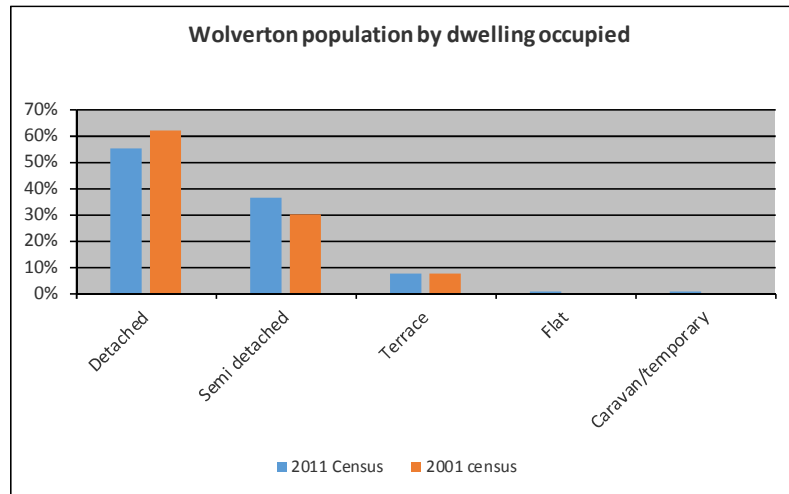


Fig. 18

The percentage of the Parish population occupying different types of dwelling, in 2001 and 2011, is shown in Fig. 18. The percentage occupying semi-detached properties increased, whilst detached occupation fell over this period, presumably reflecting the post census occupation of the 2001 barn conversions.

Wolverton Population by Occupation

The National Census results show that the number of residents in the Parish increased by 11 between 2001 and 2011 to a total of 161 between the ages of 17 and 74.

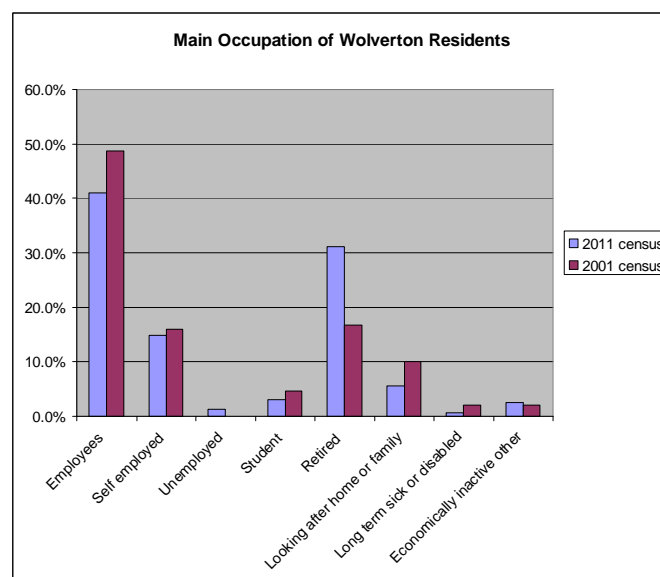


Fig. 19

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Fig. 19 shows that the main population change has been an increase in the proportion of retired people. In addition to the ageing of the existing population, this is possibly due to the ten barn conversions creating attractive but relatively expensive dwellings.

Method of Travel to Work by Person

The majority of the working inhabitants of Wolverton drive to work. The next largest group are home workers, which suggests that fast broadband and good mobile communications are likely to become even more important as work generally becomes more internet based.

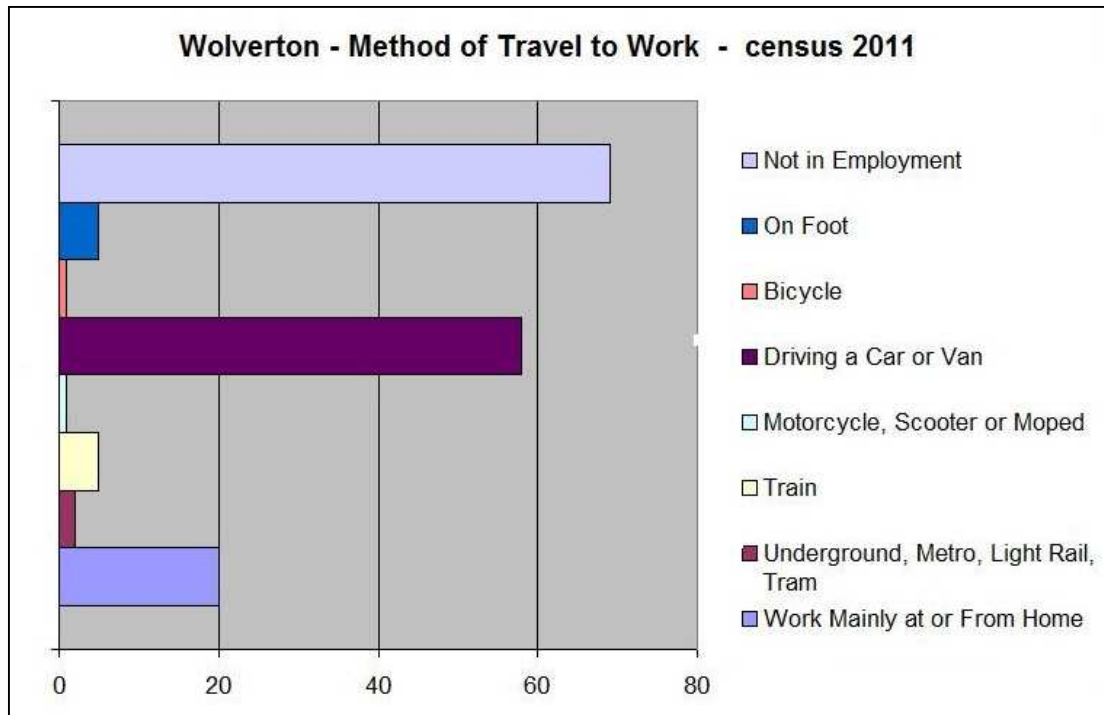


Fig. 20

Number of Cars or Vans per Wolverton Household

Due to the inadequacy of public transport in Wolverton it is not surprising that most people drive to work (Fig. 20) and that most households have access to more than one vehicle (Fig. 21).

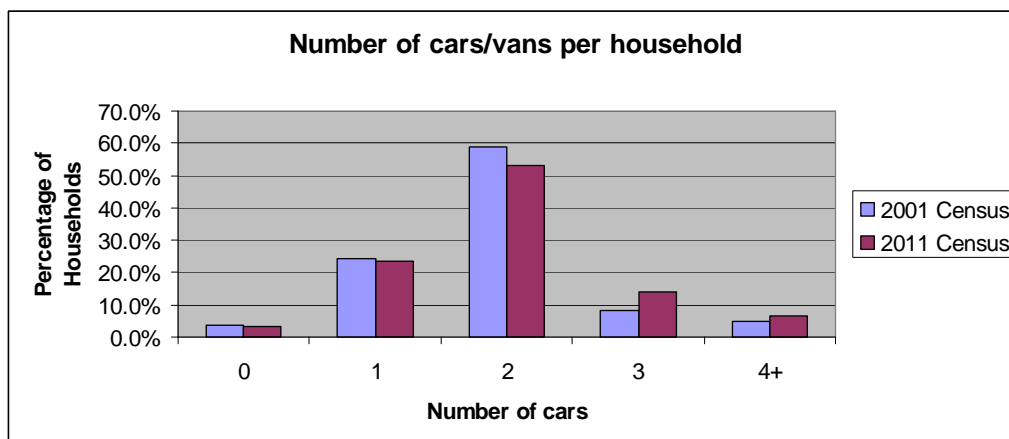


Fig. 21

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In 2001 the total number of vehicles was 156 held amongst 83 households, i.e. an average of 1.9 cars per household and by 2011 this had increased to 186 held by 94 households giving a very small increase in average to 2.0 cars per household.

Vehicle Numbers per Household: Wolverton versus Stratford District & England

Work and district amenities can only be reasonably reached by using a private vehicle, hence the high level of vehicle ownership in the Parish (73% with 2+ cars/vans) compared to Stratford District (49%) and England. This reliance on private motor vehicles for day to day living, could be a disincentive for young and less affluent families to live in the Parish, and clearly has undesirable sustainability, environmental, parking and road safety consequences.

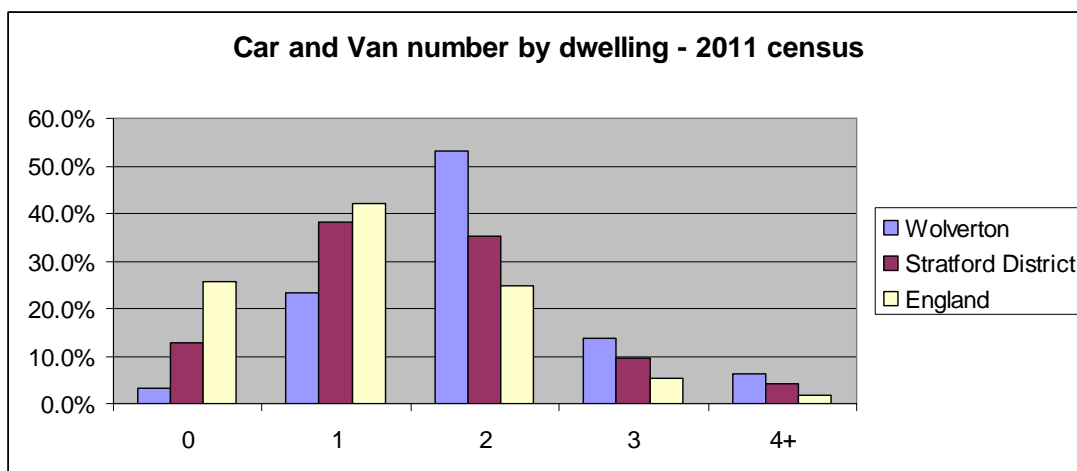


Fig. 22

Appendix 4 - Wolverton Natural History

Wolverton is situated in scenic Warwickshire countryside with open fields surrounding it and views of the Alne Hills and, further away of the Malverns to the south west and with the escarpment of Edge Hill, the Burton Dassett Hills and Brailes Hill to the south east.

To the north, a valley separates the village from Claverdon. At its bottom a stream, the Wash Brook, flows before the terrain rises to reach Claverdon, one and half miles from Wolverton. To the south the ground slopes downwards towards Snitterfield and to the west it descends to Langley. Eastwards it climbs towards Norton Lindsey.

Throughout the area, small woods are to be seen, ponds - some perhaps the remains of old marl-pits and springs which all combine to make the area rich in the conditions which encourage the development of a diverse wild life. The prevailing rocks of much of Warwickshire are beds of Mercia mudstone (previously called the Keuper marl) laid down by water-borne sediment between 205 and 250 million years ago to a thickness of hundreds of metres from sediment deposited by seas which covered the area at that time. This was subsequently mixed with beds of sedimentary rock named Arden sandstone, which, in Wolverton lies above the Mercia mudstone to a thickness of about twelve metres. It is, however, covered by glacial drift of more fertile soil brought in by more recent ice ages which finished only about ten thousand years ago and by the effects of weathering on the Arden sandstone during earlier periods to produce the fertile soil we have today.

A network of footpaths lead from the Parish towards, amongst others Luscombe Farm, Blacon Farm, Claverdon, Norton Lindsey and Langley. Along these paths, as well as in our own gardens, much natural history can to be observed.

So what plants and animals are to be seen in the gardens and countryside of Wolverton?

Plants The village soils vary from mildly alkaline to mildly acidic and thus support a wide selection of trees and flowers in small copses, hedgerows and gardens including Willow and Alder, particularly along the Wash Brook, Oak, Ash and others. Wild flowers include Bluebell, Wood Anemone, Hedge Garlic, Primrose, Red Campion, Coltsfoot and many others.

Butterflies A fairly full list of those which can be seen in Wolverton - Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Comma, Brimstone, Red Admiral, Holly Blue, Orange-tip, Small, Large and Green-veined Whites, Painted Lady, Clouded Yellow, Brown Argus, Small Heath, Small Copper, Common Blue, Speckled Wood, Large Skipper, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Ringlet, Small Skipper, and Marbled White.

Moths A selective list from the many species present (over 400 species have been recorded at a moth trap in a single village garden!)- Mullein, Elephant Hawkmoth, Buff-tip, Magpie, Brimstone Moth, Old Lady, Silver Y, Hummingbird Hawkmoth, Garden Tiger.

Birds A fairly full list of resident and migratory species - Robin, Song Thrush, Mistle Thrush, Dunnock, Wren, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Chaffinch, Blackbird, Bullfinch, Jackdaw, Rook, Magpie, Raven, Carrion Crow, Jay, Yellowhammer, Pied Wagtail, Blue tit, Great Tit, Marsh Tit, Coal Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Lapwing, Green Woodpecker, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Nuthatch, Starling, Skylark, Moorhen, Mallard, Heron, Buzzard, Sparrowhawk, Kestrel, Owl, Whitethroat, Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler, Blackcap, Yellow Wagtail, House Martin, Spotted Flycatcher, Cuckoo, Reed Bunting, House Sparrow, Tree Sparrow, Siskin, Pheasant, Red-legged Partridge, Grey Partridge, Wood Pigeon, Stock Dove, Collared Dove, and Feral Pigeon.

Of particular note are the wintering Golden Plover sometimes numbering hundreds, which have spent time in recent years in the arable fields between Wolverton and Luscombe and the increase in the number of Lesser Redpolls to our garden feeders in the winter of 2013.

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Mammals Badger, Bank Cole, various bat species, Brown Hare, Rabbit, Fallow Deer, Roe Deer, Muntjac, Weasel, Stoat, House Mouse, Wood Mouse, Grey Squirrel, Fox, Mole, Rat, Shrew. The Hedgehog is rarely seen as it falls victim to the many Badgers, its only effective predator.

Amphibians and Reptiles Common Toad, Frog, Common and Great Crested Newt, Grass Snake.



Common Frog

Appendix 5 – Neighbourhood Activities

- Cricket at Norton Lindsey
- Football at Snitterfield
- Golf at Snitterfield, Ardencote Manor, Henley in Arden
- Gym and Exercise at Ardencote Manor
- Walking, jogging and cycling on local roads
- Tennis at Claverdon and Snitterfield
- Badminton at Claverdon
- Bowls at Snitterfield
- Canoeing on local canals
- Rowing at Warwick or Stratford-upon-Avon
- Theatre at Stratford-upon-Avon
- Films at Snitterfield
- Gardening groups at Claverdon and Snitterfield
- Shooting on local farms.