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1.00	INTRODUCTION	
1.01	Village Character	The overall scale of residential development in the Baldons is modest with an open and spacious feel everywhere. The relationship of development with the surrounding open countryside is very important. There is an absence of high, dominant or crowded buildings and the vernacular and built form are generally simple and understated. A contextual analysis is provided in the Village Character Assessment VCA : Section 2.3 of the Neighbourhood Plan NP .
1.02	Landscape Character	Development in the Baldons is interconnected at all points with the surrounding countryside: resulting in a truly open and rural feel. See Landscape Character Assessment LCA : Section 2.4 of the NP .
1.03	Development Sites	The Baldons Neighbourhood Development Plan (NP) has identified 9 sites that are considered appropriate for small-scale residential development: for a total of 10 to 15 dwelling units for the entire NP area. The sites vary in size and attributes and the their suitability for different types of housing vary accordingly. See Sustainability Appraisal Section 3.
1.04	Development limits	No development will be allowed outside the preferred sites.
1.05	Design guidance	Any proposed new development in the Baldons shall be in compliance with this Design Guide. The Design Guide is intended to provide assistance and a useful framework for decision-making, setting out and building design for new development.
1.06	Other guidance	 In addition, all proposed development in the Baldons should take due note of, and be in compliance with, the following Planning and Design guidance documentation: National Planning Policy Framework National Planning Practice Guidance South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011/Emerging South Oxfordshire Design Guide 2016
1.07	Formal applications	For any development, Planning Permission is likely to be required. In addition, Listed Building Consent and/or Conservation Area Consent (as appropriate) may be required for any works. Developers should refer to the SODC website for guidance and for reference to the pre-application and formal application processes.
1.08	Character assessments	 The Village Character Assessment VCA is provided in section 2.3 of the Neighbourhood Plan NP and the Landscape Character Assessment LCA is provided in section 2.4 of the NP. They describe the context for all proposed new development and should inform its design, scope and scale in order to protect and maintain the identified existing character, including: Openness and countryside views Informal and rural character Close association with surrounding pastoral landscape Small scale of vernacular and more recent development See also South Oxfordshire Design Guide 2016, section 2 'Test Your Design'
1.09	Heritage value	Heritage issues should be taken fully into account in all development proposals. Information on the heritage value of the built form in the Baldons is provided in the VCA .
1.10	Heritage assets	With regard to proposed development, due account should be taken to ensure there is no resulting harm to existing listed buildings and heritage assets and their settings. A summary of all listed buildings and groupings of heritage value is provided in the VCA .

1.11	Complementary character	<i>Proposals should complement the existing village character</i> and not <i>detract from it.</i>
1.12	Basis of Guide	 The basis for the recommendations in this guide flow from: the Village Character Assessment the Landscape Character Assessment an analysis of the local architecture and vernacular building types the identification of commonly used building materials and finishes the pattern and scale of historic and recent development an understanding of the typical setting of built development within the surrounding countryside
1.13	Key factor	Development which is of low density and modest in scale bulk and height points to a predominant factor being the relationship between the scale of building and the context of open landscape character.
1.14	Guide format	 For all future development, this guide sets out the following: key issues related to scale and siting a summary of residential development types – the grouping of buildings recommendations relating to detached houses, terraced housing, extensions, conversions and replacement dwellings design concept principles related to context suggested design styles to draw on and indications of what to avoid preferences for suitable commonly-used building materials general guidance for decoration, landscaping, outbuildings and types of enclosure
1.15	Reference	Proposals for development should take due note of the Design Guide DG . Applications and designs should be presented in a form that demonstrates how those designs have followed the DG or - if necessary for particular circumstances - sets out reasons and justification for any details where DG recommendations have not been followed. If a Design & Access Statement is part of an application, then appropriate reference to the DG can be made therein.



These photos show views that show the fringe of single-building deep listed and vernacular buildings around the Green – forming heritage asset groupings with the ever-present countryside beyond. See sections on Heritage Assessment and Heritage Assets below.



Photo 3 shows part of the heritage asset grouping on the south side of the Green. There is another heretage asset grouping of buildings in the lane runnung north from the Mole Inn at Toot Baldon.



More isolated listed buildings are found in Baldon Row. Little Baldon (Photo 6) has a settlement pattern that differs from those in Toot & Marsh Baldon.

2.00	SCALE	
2.01	General	Apart from a small number of larger buildings - that are mostly set back from the main through routes - development throughout the hamlets is notably modest and small-scale. Any new development should remain in character with this. Reference to the Village Character Assessment VCA should be made.
2.02	Building size & bulk	New development should be of comparable scale to surrounding buildings and designs should avoid appearing large and overbearing by comparison with adjoining properties.
2.03	Form, scale and massing	The outline and shape of any new development should reflect the existing vernacular and grouping of buildings. Designs should not tend to change the relationship of the built environment with the surrounding countryside. One-and-a-half to two storeys in height with traditionally pitched roofs is the norm. In both scale and height, proposed new buildings should be commensurate with adjacent buildings and should never be a storey height higher.
2.04	Prominence	New buildings should avoid being overly prominent - in terms of both physical bulk and design. They should be designed with appropriate consideration to the context of the site and adjacent existing buildings.

3.00	SITING	
3.01	Infill & fitting in	Infill development is appropriate for the development sites identified in the Baldons NP. New houses should sit comfortably with neighbouring properties and sympathetically amalgamated into the village as a whole.
3.02	Backland development	Backland development and development on open green spaces do not comply with NP policy. New houses should not be sited behind other buildings. In order to maintain the village character new development should remain only one building deep.
3.03	Development setting:	The siting of any proposed new building(s) should be fully respectful the site that they will occupy and ensure the maintenance of the character of the village and its landscape surroundings. A landscape appraisal of the site should be undertaken - to inform the design that is proposed.
3.04	Impact on village:	The impact of proposed new building(s) on the village as a whole should be tested against the Village Character Assessment. New development should seek to promote designs that maintain or enhance that character and they should not detract from that character.
3.05	Impact on neighbours:	Proposed new buildings should not disadvantage neighbouring owners. Care should be taken to avoid undue overshadowing and obstruction of views from neighbours.
3.06	Impact on views:	New buildings should neither block nor impair important gaps or open countryside views.
3.07	Access & parking:	Convenient and accessible footpaths and on-site parking should be provided for all proposed new houses.
3.08	Outbuildings:	Designs for all proposed new development should show all proposed buildings wherever possible including outline plans for anticipated future outbuildings, including garages and sheds etc.
3.09	Future expansion:	Dependent upon the particular site, it may be necessary to define & limit the extent of any future development. The purpose of this would be to retain smaller housing units and safeguard them from being combined or expanded into larger units in the future.
3.10	Follow up proposals	There should always be a clear and justified reason for seeking changes to development after consent has been received and prior to commencement. In principle, changes which seek greater scope of development are not acceptable. Changes arising out of design detail and fine-tuning will be judged on merit but material additions will be rebutted and such proposals would need to be considered as part of a separate new application.
3.11	Open spaces & gaps	See VCA section 3.9 for clarification and definitions related to open spaces and gaps in the Baldons.
4.00	GROUPING	
4.01	Detached	2 & 3 bedroom detached houses are preferred. Any proposal for a larger house would require exceptional justification in terms of site analysis, meaningful justification for the proposed size and scale, and appropriate high-quality design including landscape setting.
4.02	Detached + annex	Development of a new detached house with an annex as a separate small housing unit.
4.03	Semi-detached	Development of a pair of semi-detached houses: 2/3 bedrooms. The building should not appear like one larger (subdivided) house.
4.04	Terraces	Development of small 2/3 bedroom houses arranged in terraces 3 to 4 units long. Such a design should read clearly as a terrace and not appear like a large subdivided house.

4.05	Clusters	Depending upon particular site characteristics, it may be possible in certain circumstances to arrange a cluster group of 3 small units (Nuneham Courtenay has some like this). It should be done with a design approach that does not conflict with the need for the development to fit into the one-building deep settlement pattern as referred to elsewhere herein and also in the VCA . Any third property at the rear needs to be small and comprehensively part of the whole composition: not a physically separate dwelling at the rear.
4.06	Courtyard	Courtyard developments do not fit with the existing vernacular for dwelling houses in the Baldons and new courtyard development proposals should be limited to farmyard sites, where a courtyard plan might reflect the existing layout of buildings. See also South Oxfordshire Design Guide 2016.



Examples of detached and semi-detached houses – Victorian cottages north side of the Green.



Photo 9: A pair of original cottages extended sympathetically to form what appears to be a continuous terrace of cottages. Photo 10: one of the Nuneham cluster groups where a small and fully integrated unit at the rear is architecturally a rear 'wing' of the front two cottages; **not** a separate backland house at odds with the established single-building deep settlement pattern.

5.00	EXTENSIONS	Concept principles:
5.01	Subservience	Generally any extension should be subservient to main original building.
5.02	Scale:	The design should avoid creating something out-of-scale with existing surroundings; the final arrangement should appear to be a 'natural' evolution of development.
5.03	Materials:	Designs should use sympathetic materials. Those materials may vary but the final extended building should have a clear harmony to it. An explanation as to choice of materials should be provided. If a Design & Access Statement is part of an application, then proposals for materials with appropriate reference to the DG can be made therein.

	11 extension: with original of	tottage to the right
		village houses that have been extended. In both cases, the buildings might reater clarity with regard to the evolution of the building and subservience of
6.00	CONVERSIONS	Change-of-use principles:
6.01	Existing redundant building:	For a conversion project to be feasible, there needs to be an existing redundant building of some architectural merit and in reasonable condition. An appraisal of the existing building needs to be provided including an explanation as to its redundancy. Most modern agricultural sheds would not provide an appropriate basis for conversion.
6.02	Respect existing building:	Respect the existing building is important. Insofar as the existing building is of architectural and vernacular merit, the feel and character of what exists should be retained. Important historic and architectural features should be retained and the origin and evolution of the building(s) should remain clear after the conversion.
6.03	Retain the vernacular:	The vernacular form of traditional farm buildings should be noted and used to inform the conversion design.



Conversions of redundant farm buildings to form new dwellings.

7.00	REPLACEMENTS	Replacement dwellings:
7.01	Justification:	The redundancy/loss of the existing building should be explained and justified.
7.02	Design quality:	For a complete replacement dwelling, the quality of the new design is paramount; it must represent a significant improvement over what currently exists. Supporting documentation should be provided by an appropriately qualified expert: historian, planner, architect, etc.
8.00	DESIGN CONCEPT	Appropriate styles for new houses:
8.01	Rural dwelling house	Rural 'vernacular' houses or cottages: detached, semi-detached, terraces or (in particular circumstances – see 4.06) clusters.
8.02	Contemporary	Simple modern houses or cottages: detached, semi-detached, terraces or clusters.
8.03	Farm building	Traditional farm building conversions: to form detached houses, and (in particular circumstances) clusters or courtyards.
		What is important:
8.04	Design clarity	The design principles for any proposed development should have a clear rationale and be in accordance with the SO Design Guide and the guidance set out herein.
8.05	Detailing	The quality of materials & detailing is important to the design and resultant building. They should be consistent with the character of the village and faithful to the design concept for the proposals.
8.06	Character	New buildings should be designed to provide character, charm & interest. Consideration should be given as to how the existing building sits within the landscape and how this relationship reflects the character of the village. Any proposed development should have due regard for this relationship and should maintain the existing close affiliation with the wider rural landscape that is prevalent in the Neighbourhood Plan area.
8.07	Landscape context	Proposals should refer to Landscape Character Assessment LCA and especially the "local landscape character" in the table referring to the various designated development sites.
8.08	Balance	Design proposals should respect the balance & scale of the site & village: the new building should be sympathetically integrated therein.



BALDONS NP



	25 Arts & Crafts house A few examples of Arts &	26 27 Picturesque style 27 Bactrafts, Picturesque, Edwardian and 1930's cottages.
8.15	Contemporary	Simple modern design and construction is fully appropriate and there are some good examples locally. Turn End at Haddenham (1960's) is an interesting case in point.
8.16	Traditional farm	In particular circumstances (dependent upon the site and layout) a design
	vernacular	based around traditional farm building vernacular could be appropriate.
	29 modern example	30 11 13 13 14 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15
		ary designs and farm building conversions.
	To be avoided:	
8.17	Avoid ostentation	Overly grand & ostentatious classical is not appropriate. Boars Hill can happily accommodate large one-off villas of many design styles but the character of the Baldons is quite different.
8.18	Avoid showiness	Flamboyance & over-showiness (including extravagant modern) is not right for the Baldons; quiet and understated designs will fit in more happily.
8.19	Avoid period	It is fine to use elements of established historic styles but pastiche 'period
	reproductions	reproductions' are best avoided.
8.20	Avoid being too plain	Designs should not be dull & too plain nor include muddled detailing. They should always have design integrity and interest.
	Design Exceptions:	
8.21	Design excellence	Excellence of design and innovation is encouraged and will be considered.
8.22	Non compliance	A proposal can be considered if it is an exceptional design of the highest quality in terms of its architecture and landscape design.
8.23	Village & landscape context	Nevertheless, such a proposal would need to demonstrate that proper account has been taken of the characteristics of the local area as defined in the Village and Landscape Character Assessments.
8.24	Exceptional quality	The exceptional quality or nature of any design exception should be truly outstanding or innovative, reflecting high standards of architecture and enhancing its immediate setting.
8.25	Justification & support	Exception designs will require justification supported by expert opinion and accompanied by a detailed landscape scheme at application stage.
9.00	MATERIALS	
	Preference for:	
9.01	Sustainability	Local sourcing & sustainability is to be encouraged.
9.02	Local materials	Typically used rural Oxford, Thames Valley, Cotswolds & Chilterns vernacular materials should be used wherever possible.
9.03	Alternative technology	For roofs and external walls. Green and alternative technology materials (especially when using locally based materials) are to be encouraged. Proposals should be justified and supported by appropriate data, descriptions & details.

	Preference against:	(for principal elevations)
9.04	Untypical materials	Large areas of tile hanging as a cladding material can be seen in Sussex (for example) but are unlikely to fit in well in the Baldons. Similarly, large and unbroken areas of flintwork don't really appear here (like they do along the Chilterns). These are examples of material usage that wouldn't necessarily sit happily in the Baldons.
9.05	Roughcast renders	Cement-based pebbledash & roughcast renders can be difficult to do well and get looking right: they do not weather well, and generally require a log of maintenance.
9.06	Metal & plastic claddings	Metal or plastic sheet claddings (used for main façades) are unlikely to sit happily with the village character.
9.07	uPVC	uPVC windows & doors are not encouraged. They cannot be adapted, altered or repaired and have been shown to be unsuitable on economic, aesthetic and environmental grounds.
9.08	Other	Mass-produced factory made materials that are manufactured a long way away should generally be avoided. There are also various materials that can be difficult to incorporate happily into a village environment like the Baldons and are to be discouraged: materials that are shiny with highly reflective finishes (eg: ceramic tiles) and fair-faced concrete or blockwork are of this type.
	External walling:	
9.09	Stone	Stone walling of various types can be appropriate: ashlar, stone dressings & mouldings, coursed cut & rubble stone, random rubble stone, etc.
9.10	Brick	Brickwork walling should always be of fair-faced local bricks and be of a texture and colour that is typical of Oxfordshire and the Chilterns.
9.11	Brick & flint	Brick & flint: refer to The Design Guide to Chiltern's Flint by the Chiltern's Conservation Board. See also 9.04 above.
	33 coursed & faced rubble stone	34 rubble stone walling
		rnal walling materials: stone and brick.
9.12	Patterned brickwork	Diaper brickwork & other patterns can be very suitable for the Baldons: there are many examples in the villages.
9.13	Renders	External renders should preferably be lime based or be based on a recognised pre-mix.
	37 brick & film	38 patterned (diaper brickwork
	Walling: brick & flint, b	rick diaper patterns, decorative brick dressings, and external render.
9.14	Timber frame	Timber frame & lime render (or boarded, or brick infill) panels in simple 'modern' format can be used successfully here in the Baldons.

	41 timber frame + render	42 timber frame + brick infill waney-edged boarding feather-edged boarding feather-edged boarding
		ning and external timber boarded cladding.
9.15	Timber cladding	Timber boarding of various types is a suitable cladding materials: feather- edged or shiplap boards, waney edged boarding, thermally treated boarding, and many others are available. Timber supply should be as local as possible and always from certified renewable resources.
	Roofing materials:	
9.16	Stone tiles	Historically, natural 'Stonesfield' tiles have often been used locally but they are now difficult to come by and expensive. Good quality cement-based reproductions can be acceptable, subject to specification & detail.
	45 Insture: stone roof tile:	47 Teproduction store roof tiles slate & tile roofing: both hand-made and machine made.
9.17	Slates	Welsh slates are suitable for extensions and outbuildings but not for large
5.17	Sides	prime areas of roofing (where clay tiles are the norm).
9.18	Clay tiles	Hand made clay tiles are encouraged and preferred. Some machine made tiles can also be acceptable, subject to design, specification & detail.
	49 reproduction clay tiles	50 51 pantiles 1
		s, machine made pantiles, and thatched roofing.
9.19	Pantiles	Sometimes pantiles (terra cotta or cement-based) can be suitable for roofing, subject to design, specification & detail.
9.20	Thatch	Combed wheat thatch is a common and traditional roofing material in this area but needs handling with due care and attention to detail and specification. Studies of the local vernacular suggest that thatch appears natural and best when cladding a low roof (no more than one-and-a-half storeys high) and can look out of place on any building of a full two storeys or more. Ridges and crests should be kept simple with no extravagant decorative features.
9.21	Shingles	Cedar or oak shingles can make a very pleasing roof but they are probably best for extensions and outbuildings rather than large areas of prime roofing.

	53 wooden shingles	54 timber casement windows
9.22	Sheet metal	gles, painted timber casement and sash windows, and metal windows. In certain circumstances sheet lead or aluminium roofing can work well but their highly visible use in the Baldons would need design justification.
9.23	Rainwater goods	Powder coated metal (cast iron or aluminium) rainwater downpipes and gutters are preferable to any form of plastic.
	Doors & windows:	
9.24	Timber	Painted or stained timber external doors & windows are preferred and encouraged.
9.25	Metal	Dependent upon design and specification details, good quality painted or powder-coated metal external doors and windows can also be acceptable.
9.26	uPVC	As noted above (see 9.07) uPVC windows are not encouraged.
9.27	Glazing	Leaded lights should only be used for buildings of appropriate style.
10.00	DETAILED DESIGN	
	Roof design:	
10.01	Roof pitches	Traditional pitched roofs are likely to fit best with the local vernacular and are therefore preferred. Dependent upon the particular site and design, other forms of roof may be appropriate but suitable justification and back up detail should be provided.
	57 tiled toofing details	58 tiled roofing details tood range of traditional pitched roof details and dormer windows.
10.02	Tiled roof details	Ridges, crests, hips & valleys should follow the vernacular a for the roof material being used (tiles, slates etc).
10.03	Dormers	On most 'domestic' buildings, dormer windows can be quite suitable. There are many local forms of dormer and design proposals should seek to fit in accordingly. However, traditional farm outbuilding conversions should generally avoid having dormer windows as their inclusion can change the character of those buildings and muddle the architectural evolution of the building.
	61 chimney example A	62 63 modern brick chimney eaves example A
10.04	<i>Traditional details can</i> Chimneys	allow a range of chimney types. Also: roof verges and rainwater goods. Facing brickwork would be normally expected on houses in the Baldons
		and is therefore encouraged. Occasionally, stone and render can be suitable. Traditional clay pots are also the norm here.

	65 metal stove pipe	66 67 conservation rooflight metal reinwater goods
		erminals, conservation rooflights, metal RW goods and a trad chimney pots.
10.05	Stove pipes	On farm building conversions, black-painted 'stove pipe' terminals can be more suitable; they are less likely to 'domesticate' the architectural character.
10.06	Rooflights	Any large area of glass on a roof in the Baldons is likely to be at odds with the general roofscape pattern here. However, traditional rooflights can be quite appropriate; dark metal 'conservation' types of rooflight are preferable to normal 'velux' windows on prominent roof slopes.
10.07	Leadwork	Traditional sheet metal (typically leadwork) flashing and abutment detailing is encouraged.
10.08	Dishes & Aerials	Dishes and aerials should be kept away from principal elevations and off any silhouette rooflines.
10.09	Solar panels	Wherever possible, solar panels should be located in hidden valleys and away from principal elevations of buildings.
	External walling:	
10.10	Façades & elevations	The design as a whole - and the principal elevations in particular - should be clear and look like the sort of house or cottage that fits with the Village Character Assessment. Avoidance of very large areas of glazing to main façades is encouraged. If a particular design depends upon a lot of glazing, then it should be discretely screened from main public views by suitable evergreen landscaping – to mitigate against something visually out-of- keeping with (and harmful to) the local character.
10.11	Porches	Porches and canopies should be in keeping with the general appearance and architecture of the house and their design and materials should avoid drawing too much attention to them.
	Decorations:	
10.12	Colours	A restful and calm colour scheme is much preferable to anything gaudy or too bright: especially to all publically visible elevations.
	Landscaping:	
10.13	Landscape scheme	A well thought through landscaping scheme should always accompany any new design proposals. Such a scheme should fully respect the character of the village and its landscape.
10.14	Access	Adequate amenity space for pedestrian access and parking should be provided.
10.15	Outbuildings	As noted elsewhere, it is preferable for outline designs of any possible future outbuildings to be provided at the same time as the main proposals are submitted for consideration. Such details should include: parking areas garages; bin storage; sheds & other garden buildings.
10.16	Boundary enclosures	Garden walls and fences should never block or severely obscure important views between houses and the surrounding countryside. There is therefore a preference against high solid walls and close-boarded fences.
10.17	Fences & railings	Open fencing and railings that allow the enjoyment of views are in general preferable to any form of solid enclosure.
10.18	Hedges	Hedges that form boundary enclosures should generally not be higher than 1.5 metres.

10.19	Gates	Solid 'security' gates are not encouraged.
	59 Baldon House stables & barns	+ St Peter's
	71 View in Toot Baldon	thatched house with open countryside beyond
	73 part of the west side of the Gr	
11.00	Appendix	(provisional list)
11.01	Baldons NP	Baldons Neighbourhood Development Plan
11.02 11.03	VCA	Village Character Assessment
11.03	LCA Sustainability	Landscape Character Assessment Sustainability Appraisal
11.04	Important Views	NP Pre-submission Draft Fig 2.4 Key Views
11.05	NPPF:	NP Pre-submission Drajt Fig 2.4 Key views National Planning Policy Framework
11.00	NPPG:	
11.07	SO Local Plan:	National Planning Practice Guidance
11.08		South Oxfordshire Local Plan
11.09	Planning Permission:	Town & Country Planning
11.10	LBC:	Listed Building Consent
11.11	Conservation Area:	Conservation Area Consent
	SO Design Guide:	South Oxfordshire Design Guide 2016
11.13	Building for Life 12:	General guidance towards sustainability and efficiency

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