

Settlement Character Assessment

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group have recommended that there would be value in developing a settlement character assessment for the village.

The assessment would consider the broad topic below –

- Landscape and Ecology of the Village and Parish (including AONB, Nature Reserves and local wildlife sites>
- Historical Development
- The Built Character and Form (inc. Conservation area, Dark Skies)
- Character Areas in the Parish as relevant
- Conclusion – key aspects to protect and enhance

Village resources would be needed to assist with photographs or gathering of other data.

Quotes for the Settlement Character Assessment

Company A

The work carried out would involve members of the village helping out to assist with the survey work. This would be done by an initial session of explanation followed by the volunteers surveying defined areas of the village as set out in the initial session.

Base Ordnance Survey Maps would need to be provided and the plans will need to be at a scale of 1:2500 in order that individual properties and boundaries can be identified.

The cost would include two visits to the Parish, assistance with pictures would be appreciated. The work proposes to concentrate on the village not the wider parish, although it will include consideration of the rural edge of the village.

Tasks would include –

- Checking evidence and background evidence for the Village Character Assessment – 0.25 days
- Surveying session with volunteers – prep and facilitate – 1.25 days
- Drafting the Village Character Assessment and guidelines including illustrations – 4 days.

Sketch version of maps and diagrams will be produced. A draft Village Character Assessment Report will be produced for comment, and a final report produced after receipt of any comments.

The fixed price quote for the work detailed above is 5.5 days x £500 plus travel expenses of £100 – totalling **£2850**

Company B

The production of a Character Appraisal Document is likely to attract a fee in the region of **£10,000 - £13,000 + VAT** provided that some research and data support can be provided as discussed by the Steering Group. This is inclusive of travel and other expenses.

A character appraisal comprising an in-depth analysis of the Conservation Area as well of the character of the wider village could be a helpful planning tool' for the settlement. This is particularly so given there is no adopted Conservation Area Appraisal document. The findings of this assessment could be used to inform decision-makers on forthcoming developments and would emphasise the key elements of heritage, townscape and landscape significance.

Upon receipt of the planning application for the potential development a site-specific assessment could be produced helping the Parish Council with their recommendations at an estimate of **£3,500 + VAT**

Recommendations

The Steering Group have recommended company A.