

# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTHCHECK

## WORKSHEET EN1: CHARACTER AND VITALITY OF THE VILLAGE

Questions	Answers
<b>Sub-section 1: Description of the environmental features of the area</b>	
<p><b>Q 1</b> Where is the village situated within the local landscape?</p> <p><i>For example, is the village in a valley, in the open countryside, or alongside a river?</i></p>	<p>Twyford lies on the eastern side of the low-lying Loddon valley, near its confluence with the R. Thames. To the North and East are arable chalk lowlands, although Twyford itself is on the slightly higher ground of the Plateau Gravels and River Terraces deposited in the Pleistocene Ice Age.</p>
<p><b>Q 2</b> What are the distinctive features that define the limits of the village?</p> <p><i>For example, are there historic city walls, or a river or bypass?</i></p> <p>(Worksheets S5 Q6 and S6 Q6 also refer to environmental features and local distinctiveness).</p>	<p>N of the railway line, the Old River course of the Loddon defines the <b>western</b> boundary of Twyford Parish, but farther South, a drainage ditch acts as the parish boundary although the Loddon floodplain forms the effective settlement boundary here. The <b>southern</b> boundary of the Parish runs along the Broadwater Stream. The A4 (bypass to the original Bath Rd) forms the <b>northern</b> boundary, apart from 8 houses on Wargrave Road.</p> <p>To the <b>east</b> of the Twyford/Ruscombe settlement, the land is designated Green Belt for planning policy purposes and is also high quality agricultural land – mainly Grade 1 and 2, with some Grade 3 around Stanlake.</p>
<p><b>Q 3</b> Landmarks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where are the village's natural environmental landmarks (for example, groups of trees, parkland, and nature areas)?</li> <li>Are they protected or well maintained?</li> </ol> <p>(Worksheets S5 Q6 and S6 Q6 also refer to environmental features and local distinctiveness).</p>	<p><b>Stanlake Meadow</b> – designated Green Belt; owned and maintained by Parish Council for football, cricket, open space and wildlife. A new woodland was planted in one corner a few years ago and the boundary hedge along Waltham Road was re-laid in 2008/9.</p> <p><b>Bowling Green</b> – distinctive feature of the village centre, saved from development some years ago and well maintained by members.</p> <p><b>Springfield Park</b> – a large central green with a few large mature trees, owned and maintained by the surrounding residents via covenants.</p> <p><b>Twyford Mill Nature Reserve</b> – managed by BBOWT. Very important for wildlife and for quiet walks etc.</p> <p>The Wokingham District Veteran Tree Association <a href="http://www.tverc.org/WDVTS/">http://www.tverc.org/WDVTS/</a> is</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>active in the Parish. As well as open space such as <b>King George's Field</b>, Twyford is surrounded by a ring of open land. (see EN2 SWOT)</p>
<p><b>Q 4</b> Biodiversity: a. What areas are important for local biodiversity? b. What measures are in place to protect or enhance them?</p> <p><i>Consider, for example, bats, great crested newts, badgers, rare plants, insects or birds on the red list, or specific habitats.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• River Loddon – Loddon Lily and Loddon Pondweed are both nationally important species – BBOWT supervises the area around the Twyford Mill lakes;</li> <li>• Lakes resulting from gravel extraction in Loddon Valley have nationally important numbers of wintering gadwall and smew;</li> <li>• Broadwater stream – potential site for water voles;</li> <li>• Stanlake Meadow – woodland and un-mown area – Parish Council responsible;</li> <li>• Churchyard and Millennium Garden, especially woodland and stream at lower end.</li> </ul> <p>Nationally important habitats, species and fauna are covered by Wokingham's Biodiversity Action Plan.</p>
<b>Sub-section 2: Built features of the village</b>	
<p><b>Q 5</b> What is the shape and density of the village (that is, are buildings clustered together, dispersed or a mixture)?</p> <p>(Worksheets EC6 Q1; EC7 Q18; S2, S3 Q11; S5 Q8 and S6 Q1&amp; 3 also refer to the built environment).</p>	<p>Nucleated settlement, but with two centres: a) Main centre is X-roads of the Old Bath Road (a former coaching route) and the Henley to Wokingham/Bracknell road b) After the railway reached Twyford in 1839, a secondary centre developed around the railway station.</p> <p>An important feature of Twyford, in terms of sustainability, is that almost all the village is within reasonable walking distance of the shopping centre, station and schools.</p>
<p><b>Q 6</b> Where are the village's distinctive built landmarks and conservation areas, and are they are in good condition?</p> <p>(Worksheet S6 Q6 also refers to local distinctiveness. Worksheets EC6 Q1; EC7 Q18; S2, S3 Q11; S5 Q8 and S6 Q1&amp; 3 also refer to the built environment).</p>	<p>The Twyford and Twyford Station Conservation Areas are extensive, centring on the main crossroads and extending along London Road, Wargrave Road, High Street, Church St, Waltham Road, up Station Road, Station Terrace and Brook Street. Together they encompass all 26 of the parish's Listed Buildings.</p> <p>Some of these listed buildings date from the time when Twyford was a 'staging post' on the Old Bath Road coaching route, many being former coaching inns. Several impressive Victorian houses along the main roads are also Listed.</p> <p>The high demand for property in the area means that these historic buildings are generally in good repair.</p> <p>Some of the most distinctive landmarks are the Almshouses (2*) dating from 1640, St Mary's Church which can be seen from many parts of the village, the URC Church, the</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>Victorian Polehampton Infants School, and the road bridges over Brunel's Great Western Railway.</p> <p>There are quite a few buildings that are not Listed and may or may not be in the Conservation Area, but that residents would like to have some recognition as being "Buildings of Traditional Local Character". Examples given were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Terraced houses replacing weavers cottages 50-56 High St *</li> <li>• 38 High Street*</li> <li>• Former Bull Inn, 55 and 57 High Street*</li> <li>• Old Post Office (now Zappas), High Street*</li> <li>• The Old Bakery, High Street*</li> <li>• Working Men's Club, Wargrave Road (1853)*</li> <li>• The Cedars, Wargrave Road*</li> <li>• Lansdowne Terrace in The Grove</li> <li>• Willows, London Rd (because of historical connections with basket making inc. shed in rear garden.)</li> <li>• 55-61 London Road – 4 terraced cottages</li> <li>• Laurel Cottage, London Road*</li> <li>• The Hermitage, London Road*</li> <li>• Meadowside, London Road*</li> <li>• Polehampton Infants School, London Road*</li> <li>• Former 'Lock-up' at corner of Waltham and Station Rds. (now the funeral parlour)</li> <li>• Photographers in Station Rd/Waltham Rd</li> <li>• Golden Cross Public House, Waltham Road Brook Street (1880)*</li> <li>• Police Station, Station Road (1901)</li> <li>• Station House, Station Road*</li> <li>• Brook Street (1880)</li> </ul> <p><i>Buildings marked * above are actually noted as 'Buildings of Local Importance' in the Conservation Area Study of Twyford and Twyford Station in 1997 but this designation dates from the earlier and now superseded Loddon Area Local Plan.</i></p>
<p><b>Q 7</b> Development:</p>	<p>Views of residents expressed via the household questionnaire concurred with those</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>a. What are the areas where there are rundown or derelict buildings needing repair or restoration?</p> <p>b. What plans are there to revitalise or redevelop these areas/buildings?</p> <p>(Worksheets EC6 Q1; EC7 Q18; S2, S3 Q11;S5 Q8 and S6 Q1&amp; 3 also refer to the built environment. Worksheets EC6 Q1,8,9; S2; S5 Q10 and T1 Q3 also refer to development)</p>	<p>voiced by the Environmental working group earlier in the year. The 10 areas most frequently mentioned (in order) were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alleyway alongside Amin’s restaurant – dark, dingy, litter-strewn, uninviting;</li> <li>• The unappealing 1960’s shops on both sides of London Road need replacing, preferably with a layout that encourages more circulation of shoppers and sitting out areas for cafes etc in sunny, quiet, pedestrianised positions and possibly with some limited very short-stay parking;</li> <li>• Providing the library with a permanent home in the village centre (eg. Above Amin’s or in Working Men’s Club), and then redeveloping the current site of the portacabin which is an eyesore;</li> <li>• Car parking area behind London Road shops (under two ownerships) needs major enhancement and is a disgrace to shoppers driving into the Waitrose car park. This should ideally be redeveloped along with the shops;</li> <li>• More control needed over shop frontages and signage of village centre shops;</li> <li>• Hanging baskets, floral displays, trees, Xmas lights required in village centre plus trees on verges in London Rd and Waltham Rd;</li> <li>• Old furniture showroom on Wargrave Road – interest in use as offices before the economic recession;</li> <li>• Bell’s corner at the X-roads. Need to research ownership, replant a mature tree and have more floral displays and seating as it is such a prominent site;</li> <li>• Station and car parks – both short and long-stay. Current work is providing new footbridge and lifts, and some improvements undertaken a few years ago but needs more tree and shrub planting, more benches and more control over the number of taxis allowed to park in drop-off area.</li> <li>• Open spaces have much under-used potential - King George’s Field needs more trees, benches, garden areas, Stanlake Meadow picnic tables, adventure playground, and Twyford Mill needs paths linking through to Charvil.</li> </ul> <p>Several of these sites are actually inter-connected eg. redeveloping the shops and associated car park, the alleyway, moving the library into the centre, shop frontages, more greenery.</p>
<p><b>Q 8</b> What is the range of uses of buildings in the village?</p>	<p>Land uses are displayed on the adopted Wokingham Local Plan Proposals Map. Retailing, including restaurant uses, is confined to the centre of the village, with a partial</p>

Questions	Answers
<p><i>Are they, for example, for shopping, for housing, or used to provide employment?</i></p> <p>(Worksheets EC6 Q1; EC7 Q18; S2, S3 Q11; S5 Q8 and S6 Q1&amp; 3 also refer to the built environment)</p>	<p>extension along Station Road. There is also a small parade of shops in Longfield Road. Within Twyford Parish, employment uses are only found in Gas Lane, with a few offices in the centre including those above the shops. Otherwise apart from the primary schools, the rest of the built up area is residential.</p>
<p><b>Q 9</b></p> <p>Are the main routes into the village, including those from train and bus stations, attractive and in good condition?</p>	<p>From N – Wargrave Road – still a very pleasant residential road, with impressive housing, despite more recent backland development. Perimeter hedges and trees are an important feature.</p> <p>From W – the Old Bath Road from Charvil, crossing the Loddon and then winding up past the Waggon and Horses PH, Bridge House, the old Mill offices and terraced housing, and the 17<sup>th</sup> century cottages to the cross-roads, has changed remarkably little over the centuries, apart from the loss of the Mill itself. Conservation Area status has been a great asset here.</p> <p>From E – along London Road. Generally also very pleasant, once the advertising hoardings of the farm-shops and garden centres at the A4 turn (outside the Parish) have been passed.</p> <p>From S – Waltham Road – South of the village near Stanlake vineyard, the road is very rural and like a sunken lane. The section past Stanlake Meadow is also attractive, because of the open aspect across the Meadow to Ashley and Bowsey Hills plus the hedges and trees. Residents have noted the amount of litter that collects in the ditch here. Once onto the railway bridge and farther into the village, the road has a very urban appearance, lots of street paraphernalia, expanses of back fences (opposite the Golden Cross), and it seems to be one of the busiest stretches of roads in the village.</p> <p>From S – Hurst Road – built-up almost from the parish boundary on the eastern side. The undeveloped area on the west along the Broadwater stream could be enhanced and made accessible to the public. The allotments nearer the station also provide a more rural feel.</p> <p>Station Area – despite an attempt at environmental improvements a few years ago, the area is still very unattractive. More seating and landscaping is required, especially trees.</p>

Questions	Answers
	It might be an attractive idea to have simple gateway features, with seasonal planting at the 4/5 gateways into the village to convey residents' pride in their community.
<p><b>Q 10</b> Are the main pedestrian routes between car parks and the village centre attractive, well maintained, well lit, and safe to use (for example, with security CCTV cameras in use) both day and night?</p> <p>(Worksheets EC7 Q13,14 and T1;T2 &amp; T3 also refer to pedestrian access)</p>	<p>The old Polehampton School car park opposite the library does not feel safe after dark. The Waitrose CCTV cameras were upgraded in Nov '08; unfortunately the car park lights have to be turned off when shop is closed, which makes it difficult to use after dark.</p> <p>Passageway by Amin's is rather intimidating at night.</p> <p>Pavements from Mill site, past library turning to X-roads too narrow as are those in Church St.</p> <p>Pedestrians on narrow pavements feel threatened by sheer volume of traffic but especially the larger lorries.</p>
<p><b>Q 11</b> Are street fitting and fixtures in the village well located and in good condition?</p> <p><i>Look, for example, for cracked pavements, vandalised phone boxes, graffiti-covered walls, and overflowing or insufficient waste bins.</i></p> <p>(Worksheets EC6 Q1; EC7 Q18; S2, S3 Q11;S5 Q8 and S6 Q1&amp; 3 also refer to the built environment. WorksheetsEC7 Q10,17,18; S3 Q7,11 also refer to environmental quality)</p>	<p>Even more bollards are needed to stop people parking on double yellow lines and up on the pavements.</p> <p>Benches needed outside railway station and additional ones needed in Wellington Square and Bell's Corner.</p> <p>Bin outside the White House, London Road needs modifying.</p> <p>Bin required by bench in King George's Field on Longfield Road side.</p> <p>Bins needed in Wargrave Road for use by school children.</p>
<p><b>Q 12</b> Which areas of the village are over-cluttered with signs, street furniture, advertising hoardings, etc?</p> <p>(Worksheets EC6 Q1; EC7 Q18; S2, S3 Q11;S5 Q8 and S6 Q1&amp; 3 also refer to the built environment. WorksheetsEC7 Q10,17,18; S3 Q7,11 also refer to environmental quality)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Too much advertising and lighting on the Bulldog/Suburu garage – out of keeping with the character of the village, as it is opposite and alongside parts of the Conservation Area.</li> <li>• Shop fronts and signage in village centre in general needs to be more sympathetic.</li> </ul>

Questions	Answers
<b>Sub-section 3: Environmental issues for the village</b>	
<p><b>Q 13</b> The village's environment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What are the environmental issues facing the village?</li> <li>What plans are there to deal with them?</li> </ol> <p><i>Look, for example, at flooding, air and noise pollution, etc.</i></p> <p>(Worksheets EC7 Q10,17,18; S3 Q7,11 also refer to environmental quality)</p>	<p>When asked to express their views on 6 environmental issues in the household Q, residents were most concerned about:</p> <p>Traffic speeding—although the volume of traffic, traffic jams, the resultant air and noise pollution from traffic, the number of large lorries trying to negotiate the X-roads and narrow streets, and the sequencing of the traffic lights were all frequently mentioned as well as a major dislike about living in the village. The traffic problems do not lead to a pleasant shopping experience. Unfortunately, Twyford is at one of the few bridging points of the R. Loddon, so great deal of traffic has to currently pass through the village. It is a danger to pedestrians and leads to noise and dirt pollution. The A4 is a W/E bypass but it is possible that more large lorries are trying to negotiate the tight corners at the cross-roads because the drivers are relying on their satellite navigation systems. The Eastern bypass suggested in the Submission Draft Core Strategy might relieve traffic depending on which route is proposed.</p> <p>Aircraft noise – from Heathrow when easterly wind is blowing; planes fly until gone 11pm and then start at 5am. Only likely to get worse if 3<sup>rd</sup> runway permitted. Wokingham BC could be more pro-active like RBWM in supporting residents in the northern part of the Borough. White Waltham – mainly leisure flying, but can be especially annoying at weekends. Helicopters – esp. Chinooks from RAF Odiham fly in N/S direction, but not that frequently.</p> <p>Litter – was the 3<sup>rd</sup> most mentioned concern. Residents seem keen to support litter-picking events if these could be better advertised.</p> <p>Flooding – 1 in 100 floodplain (high risk) comes very close to the western boundary of the settlement boundary. Flash flooding does occur at village X-roads and bottom of Pennfields.</p>
<p><b>Q 14</b> Brown field land:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What brown field land is available for building?</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very little brownfield land is available, except old factory site on N side of High Street, former furniture workshop in Wargrave Road, All-weld site in The Grove.</li> <li>Don't understand question.</li> </ol>

Questions	Answers
<p>b. Is this available land being considered in planning decisions? (Worksheets EC7 Q10,17,18; S3 Q7,11 also refer to environmental quality. Worksheets EC6 Q1,8,9; S2; S5 Q10 and T1 Q3 also refer to development)</p>	
<p><b>Q 15</b> What townscape or heritage initiatives are there?  <i>Examples may include: Historic Economic Regeneration Scheme, Local Heritage Initiatives, and Conservation Areas.</i> (Worksheets EC6 Q1; EC7 Q18; S2, S3 Q11;S5 Q8 and S6 Q1&amp; 3 also refer to the built environment)</p>	<p>Apart from the Conservation Area, which is extensive and covers most of the Victorian and older buildings, and 26 Listed Buildings the TVP is not aware of any other initiatives.</p> <p>None of the Listed Buildings are on English Heritage’s “At Risk” register.</p>
<p><b>Q 16</b> What land and buildings that could help the village’s initiatives are available for purchase (and are they at affordable prices?)  (Worksheets EC6 Q1; EC7 Q18; S2, S3 Q11;S5 Q8 and S6 Q1&amp; 3 also refer to the built environment)</p>	<p>The building now occupied by Amin’s is suitable for a library, or failing that the first floor offices above Amin’s. Other suitable sites for community use could be the former furniture workshop in Wargrave Rd, the Working Men’s Club or the All-Weld site in The Grove.</p>

## WORKSHEET EN1: SWOT ANALYSIS OF THE CHARACTER AND VITALITY OF THE VILLAGE

You need to consider what the information you have gathered tells you in the light of these questions:	Write your answers here. Base them on the information you have gathered:	Conclusion					
		It's a Fact	Strength	Weakness	Opportunity	Threat	Need more info
Does the village make the most of its natural environmental features? If there are opportunities for improvements to areas, what/where are they?	<p>10-year management strategies are needed for all the open spaces for which the Parish Council is responsible. A few trees could be planted along the Waltham Rd boundary of Stanlake Meadow to replace the dead ones that were removed during the hedge layering. Stile on Waltham Rd boundary near Winchcombe Rd needs replacing because it does not meet current standards. The Meadow could also accommodate picnic benches, other tree planting and adult exercise equipment. King George's Field has considerable potential for tree and shrub planting and flower displays so that less austere, but space has to be retained for Fireworks Display and Fairground. Area near Wargrave Road entrance to Field is in particular need of attention. More attention could be drawn to the R. Loddon by e.g making a riverside path by Bridge House, connecting up Twyford Mill paths with those at East Park Farm, Charvil. Also potential for a circular parish walk (see EN2 SWOT).</p> <p>The work of the Wokingham District Veteran Tree Association <a href="http://www.tverc.org/WDVTS/">http://www.tverc.org/WDVTS/</a> needs to be publicised more widely amongst the local community.</p> <p>A map of TPO's in the Parish provided by WBC indicates that a valuable exercise would be to survey the Parish for further potential trees worthy of TPO's, as existing Orders are concentrated mainly in the areas of older housing. Of particular interest therefore would be the residential areas built in the last 50 years as these now possess some trees of considerable amenity value.</p>		✓	✓	✓		

<p>Does the village have vitality and character, and does it keep its distinctive buildings and streets in good repair and in use? If not, what could be improved?</p>	<p>Twyford is not a 'clone' village and has a definite, unique, individual and special character. Most of the important buildings are in good repair. Several buildings although not listed appear to be worthy of recognition by WBC as being "Buildings of Traditional Local Character" (under Saved Policy WHE9). (see EN1 Q6). Village centre is spoilt by 1960's parades of shops and an unsightly rear car park (all of which ideally need to be redeveloped) and the fact that the shops are split between the 4 corners of a crossroads with busy traffic. Certain lack of vitality in centre however, due to too many restaurants and comparison shops rather than those serving local needs. New library urgently needed, preferably in combination with parish office, IT suite, exhibition space and small museum. This would increase footfall in the centre. Gateway features on 5 main entrances to the village would convey the pride residents have in their community and hopefully reinforce need to reduce speed. The western gateway on the Old Bath Road could perhaps incorporate some reference to the origins of the name of Twyford or 'two fords' at the point where the River Loddon bifurcates. Highways signage needs some rationalising. More planting needed in village centre (eg. Bell Corner or via hanging baskets and re-entering "Britain in Bloom"). Regular litter-picking days required. Appearance of station and associated parking areas needs addressing.</p>		✓	✓	✓		
<p>Are there any major environmental concerns that are being addressed and planned for? Are there any gaps?</p>	<p>Traffic through village – eastern bypass mentioned in Submission Core Strategy. Could the village centre be made access only for lorries. This then wouldn't interfere with Waitrose or deliveries to businesses and homes. Aircraft noise – major concern and could get worse if Heathrow expands. Flooding – development needs to be avoided on high risk land.</p>			✓	✓	✓	

## WORKSHEET EN2: THE VILLAGE & THE WIDER COUNTRYSIDE

Questions	Answers
<b>Sub-section: Links between village and countryside</b>	
<p><b>Q 1</b> What is the location and impact of any natural or man-made features such as rivers, canals, roads or railway lines that physically or visually link the village and country?</p> <p>(Worksheets EC6 Q1; EC7 Q18; S2, S3 Q11;S5 Q8 and S6 Q1&amp; 3 also refer to the built environment. Worksheets S5 Q6; S6 Q5 also refer to environmental features)</p>	<p>The R. Loddon and its tributaries act as a barrier rather than a link between village and country. River forms Western boundary.</p> <p>Western region mainline running east-west through Twyford provides transport and visual links through to the countryside and towns beyond, as does the Henley branch line.</p>
<p><b>Q 2</b> Are there unique design elements found in both the village and the surrounding countryside?</p> <p><i>Look, for example, at distinctive local house types, local architectural detailing and use of local materials.</i></p> <p>(Worksheets EC6 Q1; EC7 Q18; S2, S3 Q11;S5 Q8 and S6 Q1&amp; 3 also refer to the built environment. Worksheet S6 Q5 also refers to local distinctiveness)</p>	<p>It is difficult to pinpoint one particular type of vernacular design. However worthy of mention are buildings constructed of the Ruscombe 'cherry reds' made at what is now Ruscombe Business Park. (Kiln House in Ruscombe Parish at the Ruscombe X-roads is one example.) Also of note are the buildings with two-tone patterned bricks. Apsley House in London Road has very unusual bluish bricks known as grisaille plus 'elephant leg' brickwork at first floor level. The pre-Victorian cottages have, of course, their own style.</p>
<p><b>Q 3</b> What are the memorable views either from the village to the countryside, or from the countryside to the village, and where can they be seen from?</p> <p>(Worksheet S6 Q5 also refers to local distinctiveness)</p>	<p><b>From village to countryside</b> From London Road looking NE towards Bowsey Hill From Waltham Road across Stanlake Meadow to Bowsey Hill and Ashley Hill From Stanlake Lane to SE across fields and vineyard now that woodland is being managed. From 3 railway bridges along Brunel's dramatic route. From Winchcombe Rd and Paddock Heights westwards across Loddon Valley to Sonning Golf Course and wind turbine at Green Park.</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p><b>From countryside towards village</b>            From Charvil and the west along winding Old Bath Road past Waggon &amp; Horses.            From train Reading to Twyford past gravel lakes.            From A4 along London Road, past fields and Ruscombe.</p> <p>St Mary's Church can be seen from several directions from within the village.</p>
<p><b>Q 4</b>            What historic commercial links such as market halls, a corn exchange, mills, wharves, market squares between the village and country are still evident?</p> <p>(Worksheets EC6 Q1; EC7 Q18; S2, S3 Q11; S5 Q8 and S6 Q1&amp; 3 also refer to the built environment. Worksheet S6 Q5 also refers to local distinctiveness)</p>	<p>Nothing remains except as road names e.g. Weavers Way and Silk Lane provide memories of the Old Silk Mill, and The Willows (home of the local basket maker).</p>
<p><b>Q 5</b>            Does the character of the surrounding countryside become less distinct the closer it gets to the village edge?</p> <p>(Worksheets S5 Q6; S6 Q5 also refer to environmental features. Worksheet S6 Q5 also refers to local distinctiveness)</p>	<p>Generally speaking there are quite abrupt changes in all directions, because the surrounding countryside is either floodplain (to W.) or is Green Belt and high grade agricultural land (to N, E and S). However, it is also true that the agriculture near the village is of an intensive nature eg. Rocks Organic Fruit farm with acres of polytunnels for much of the year; and many garden centres along the former Waterers' Floral Mile section of the A4. The plethora of signage on the latter detracts from the openness one would expect from the countryside.</p>
<p><b>Sub-section: Countryside landscape character</b></p>	
<p><b>Q 6</b>            What are the unique characteristics of the local countryside?</p> <p><i>Look, for example, at farmed land, heath or moorland, open, small fields with hedgerows or dry stone walls, and traditional settlements.</i></p>	<p><b>To west of village</b>            B1 – Loddon River Valley with Open Water.  <b>To north and east (as far south as main railway line)</b>            H1 – Wargrave-Twyford Arable Chalk Lowlands  <b>To east (south of railway line) and south</b>            K1 – Stanlake Farmed Sand and Clay Lowland</p>

Questions	Answers
(Worksheets S5 Q6; S6 Q5 also refer to environmental features. Worksheet S6 Q5 also refers to local distinctiveness)	Source: Wokingham BC “Landscape Character Assessment Supplementary Planning Guidance” April 2004 (provides full descriptions of these 3 Landscape Character types)
<p><b>Q 7</b> What areas are covered by national, regional or local landscape, conservation or wildlife designations such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Parks</li> <li>• Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)</li> <li>• RAMSAR</li> <li>• Special Protection Areas</li> <li>• Special Areas of Conservation</li> <li>• National Nature Reserves (NNR)</li> <li>• Local Nature Reserves (LNR)</li> <li>• Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)</li> <li>• Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation</li> </ul> <p>(Worksheet EC7 Q10,17,18; S3 Q7,11 also refer to environmental quality)</p>	<p>None of the national designations, but locally designated are 2 WHS’s (Wildlife Heritage Sites):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gravel pits at Twyford Mill</li> <li>• Both channels of River Loddon within Twyford Parish.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Q 8</b> Areas of historic importance:</p> <p>a. What areas of historic importance have concentrations of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listed Buildings</li> <li>• Conservation Areas</li> <li>• historic parkland</li> <li>• Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM)</li> <li>• Areas of Archaeological Importance</li> </ul> <p>b. What other areas of historic importance are there?</p>	<p>a.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 26 Listed Buildings (Twyford Parish)</li> <li>• 2 Conservation Areas Twyford &amp; Twyford Station</li> <li>• 0 Historic Parks</li> <li>• 0 SAMs</li> <li>• 0 Areas of Archaeological Importance.</li> </ul> <p>b. The current WBC Local Plan does not recognise any “Buildings of Traditional Local Character” in Twyford but the local residents have drawn up a list of potential buildings that they would like considered for inclusion under any new</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>(Worksheets EC6 Q1; EC7 Q18; S2, S3 Q11; S5 Q8 and S6 Q1 &amp; 3 also refer to the built environment. Worksheets S5 Q6; S6 Q5 also refer to environmental features)</p>	<p>LDF policy that might be drawn up.</p>
<b>Sub-section: Countryside landscape quality, use &amp; management</b>	
<p><b>Q 9</b> Land: a. What are the proportions of agricultural land at Grade 1, 2 or 3a? b. Where are they?</p>	<p>a. 100% of land surrounding Twyford that is not in the floodplain is high quality agricultural land – Grade 1,2,3a. Land to north along the “Floral Mile” either side of the A4 is Grade 1 and this has 2 extensions that ‘wrap’ around Twyford, one finger along the Henley railway line on the west and the other on the east on the Twyford Orchards triangular piece of land between the A4 and London Road. The fields between the London Road and Waltham Rd or back road to Maidenhead are Grade 2. The Vineyard and land South of the Broadwater is Grade 3, but the DEFRA map available to the general public does not distinguish between Grade 3a and 3b.</p>
<p><b>Q 11</b> Groups: a. How do community and voluntary groups participate in the management of the local countryside? b. How do they contribute to the village’s and surrounding countryside’s conservation?  (Worksheets EC2 Q5; EC3 Q10; S4; S6 also refer to community involvement)</p>	<p>Wokingham BC clear up in the village but not in the countryside.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loddon Valley Ramblers – there is a Footpaths Officer for Twyford &amp; Ruscombe Parishes (Gerry Wise) who checks that paths, stiles etc are in good order. Some simple maintenance may be done by the group but more major problems are reported to WBC as the responsible authority.</li> <li>• FORWOOD – Friends of Ruscombe Wood – manage Ruscombe Wood Nature Reserve, which is not in Twyford Parish but is used by many residents. They have also worked on Ruscombe Pond and other areas along New Road, Ruscombe.</li> <li>• BBOWT – Berks, Bucks and Oxons Wildlife Trust – interest in Twyford Gravel Pits</li> <li>• Boys’ Brigade – litter picking in Churchyard</li> <li>• Scouts – environmental projects in connection with D of E award.</li> <li>• The Piggott School – Environmental Group – about 50 members.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Q 12</b> Is there a horticulture or market gardening industry on the outskirts of the village which supplies the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rocks Organic Ltd at Loddon Park Farm, north of the A4, produces cordials,</li> </ul>

Questions	Answers
<p>village markets?</p> <p><i>If yes, identify proportionally how much they do supply.</i></p> <p>(Worksheets EC2 Q2,3; EC5; also refer to land-based industries)</p>	<p>juices and wines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sheeplands Farm</li> <li>• Several garden centres along the former Waterers' Floral Mile, such as Wyevale, Hare Hatch Nurseries, Coblands</li> <li>• Stanlake Vineyard</li> </ul>
<p><b>Q 14</b></p> <p>Changes:</p> <p>Are there plans for future major change on the urban edge?</p> <p>What are they and when are they planned for?</p> <p>What landscape impacts might they have?</p> <p>Look, for example, at community forest land, etc.</p>	<p>Sites have been put forward to Wokingham BC for their SHLAA (Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment) but this does not mean that the Council in any way agrees with their suitability for housing.</p> <p>There are 2 sites to the west of Hurst Road, but both are partly in the floodplain, as is the Bridge House site off the Old Bath Road.</p> <p>Agents acting for Twyford Orchards have also put forward the fields between the A4 and London Road, which are in the Green Belt and are Grade 1 agricultural land.</p>

## WORKSHEET EN2: SWOT ANALYSIS OF THE VILLAGE AND THE WIDER COUNTRYSIDE

You need to consider what the information you have gathered tells you in the light of these questions:	Write your answers here. Base them on the information you have gathered:	Conclusion					
		It's a Fact	Strength	Weakness	Opportunity	Threat	Need more info
Do the village and its surrounding countryside have established, strong links, and are these being maintained? If the links are weaker than they used to be, why is this?	The general consensus is that there are much fewer links than there used to be as Twyford is now mainly a dormitory village (there was a net daily outflow of 1,820 commuters in 2001). For example the Mill has closed, as have brick works (using local clays) and basket making (using local osier beds). There is very little direct use made of farm products from the immediate vicinity at local farmer's markets. However, on the other hand, present day residents still make good use of the surrounding countryside for recreational pursuits – walking, fishing, cycling, watersports.	✓		✓	✓		
Looking at the quality of the surrounding countryside, its sensitive areas and its potential, are any areas in need of support/strengthening?	It would still be desirable to extend Dinton Pastures Country Park northwards to the area west of Twyford despite the problems caused by the sale of the large lake to the west of the Hurst Road. This change of ownership makes the establishment of more footpaths and nature reserves more difficult but not impossible. The designation of a circular path around the perimeter of Twyford on a different route is still possible hopefully. The closure of part of Loddon Drive in Wargrave as a PROW has also caused problems for any circular walk. A connecting footpath from New Road, Twyford to London Road, Ruscombe is soon to be adopted (contact: Jeremy Hardman). Residents would like to be able to walk from the Twyford Mills NR through to East Park Farm meadows at Charvil. On the northern boundaries, some of the former Waterer's Floral Mile land along the A4 is now rather degraded in appearance.			✓	✓	✓	

You need to consider what the information you have gathered tells you in the light of these questions:	Write your answers here. Base them on the information you have gathered:	Conclusion					
		It's a Fact	Strength	Weakness	Opportunity	Threat	Need more info
<b>What are the changes that are happening in the surrounding countryside and how well are these being managed? How can the village help with these changes to management practices?</b>	Farming is becoming more intensive, partly to remain competitive globally – hence the polytunnels at Rocks Organic. Garden centres are more profitable than other forms of agriculture but some of them are real blots on the landscape and introduce an urbanizing feel to the countryside. The village can try to get enforcement action taken if the owners are contravening Green Belt policy.	✓		✓		✓	
<b>What potential is there to increase the extent of community involvement in the management and conservation of the countryside?</b>	Walking and rambling groups are already very active and keep a check on the condition of paths, stiles etc. The thriving environmental group FORWOOD does valuable work in Ruscombe and this is sometime extended to Twyford (eg. Wild area in King George's Field). There is a role for a "Friends of The Broadwater" as this stream on the southern and western boundaries of the parish has potential as a habitat for water voles and for Loddon Lilies. Once the ownership of both banks had been ascertained, a path on the stretch W of Hurst Road might be possible, and the eastern bank of the Broadwater at the bottom of the Millenium Garden could also be cleared and enhanced and made accessible to the public.		✓		✓		

## WORKSHEET EN3: THE ENVIRONMENT AND QUALITY OF LIFE

Questions	Answers
<b>Sub-section: Environmental sustainability</b>	
<p><b>Q 1</b>            What opportunities are there for people to understand and become active in reducing or managing waste? Include sustainable waste management such as collection points, facilities and support offered, and consider local schemes to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• recycle</li> <li>• re-use</li> <li>• produce bio-gas energy</li> <li>• compost organic waste</li> </ul> <p>(Worksheets EC2 Q5; EC3 Q10; S4; S6 also refer to community involvement)</p>	<p>TVP have drawn up a complete list of recycling possibilities and initiatives within Twyford, as aside from the official sites, there are several groups, schools etc collecting other items eg. mobile phones, stamps, spectacles etc. This list is on the TVP website.</p> <p>Plastics, tins, paper/card and green waste are collected kerbside by WBC, but only plastic bottles can be recycled.</p> <p>There are official WBC sites at Polehampton Car Park and Waitrose, for a wide range of recycling, incl. Glass, Tetrapak, clothes, foil.</p> <p>The main requests from Q respondents were for more recycling points in general (eg. Broad Hinton, Stanlake Meadow, Longfield Rd, Loddon Hall CP) and receptacles for large amounts of cardboard/paper and plastics not currently collected. Need somewhere local for batteries, long-life lightbulbs and cooking oil, although it would appear that not many people yet realise that long-life bulbs should not be disposed of in normal refuse.</p> <p>FORWOOD is trying to bring in fuel from locally managed woodland.</p>
<p><b>Q 2</b>            How are energy conservation methods and local renewable energy sources used within the village and the surrounding countryside?</p>	<p>Very few examples apart from a few solar panels on private houses. Residents would welcome local promotion of domestic solar heating, as there is a lack of knowledge of how to go about installing it. Parish Council is investigating a renewable energy street light for the footpath adj to the RC Church as it is difficult to run normal cables along there.</p> <p>General feeling that we need a village initiative, such as HEP at the Mill sluice gates or a wind turbine at the X-roads!</p>

Questions	Answers
<p><b>Q 3</b> Low carbon initiatives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What initiatives are in operation for the village to become a low carbon area?</li> <li>How are these initiatives contributing to improved air quality, health and creation of employment opportunities?</li> </ol>	<p>a. None</p>
<p><b>Q 4</b> What use is being made of sustainable building materials for new buildings within the village?</p>	<p>None</p>
<p><b>Q 6</b> Do community open spaces, sites and facilities currently available for informal recreation and amenity meet the needs of the local people?</p> <p><b>There seems to be duplication between this set of questions and those in S5 on Sport, Leisure and Open Space and S6 on Culture and Heritage. Thus only minimum information is provided here.</b></p>	<p>There is no overall shortfall of open space in Twyford Parish, based on the standard of 2.4ha per 1000 population. Suggested needs for <b>informal recreation and sport in general</b> include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indoor swimming pool—possibly shared with Piggott</li> <li>• Community gym/sports centre—possibly shared with Piggott</li> <li>• Enhance King George’s Field with more tree planting, flower beds, benches, crazy golf etc</li> <li>• Enhance Stanlake Meadow with adventure playground, adult gym, picnic benches,</li> <li>• Exercise trails e.g. along Waltham Chase Broadwater linear route, or in King George’s Field</li> <li>• Adult outside gyms</li> <li>• Clearance and enhancement of eastern bank of Broadwater at far end of Millenium Garden to make it accessible to the public.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Q 7</b> What recreation routes for walking and cycling are available to local people?</p> <p>(Worksheet EC7 Q13,14;T1 Q5; T2 Q6; T3 also refer to pedestrian access ; Worksheets EC7 Q13; S5; S6; T3 Q17 also refer to recreation &amp; leisure)</p>	<p>Many <b>footpaths</b> in surrounding area but there are some gaps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One around the perimeter of the village would be good including along the Loddon. Unfortunately the lake to the west of Hurst Road has been sold so that it is now difficult to extend the Country Park this far North as was once envisaged.</li> <li>• Footpath soon to be adopted from New Road, Twyford across Twyford Orchards field to London Road.</li> </ul>

Questions	Answers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A normal raised pavement along Stanlake Lane, rather than a painted white line, would encourage walkers and this could form part of many circular walks taking in Stanlake Park, Southbury Lane, Ruscombe etc or the more ambitious Twyford perimeter walk. It is particularly dangerous for pedestrians on the Ruscombe side of the bridge, where there is no alternative route such as Stanlake Meadow.</li> <li>• Potential for a footpath alongside Broadwater on the stretch W of the Hurst Road and up to the allotments.</li> </ul> <p>The most requested <b>Cycle route</b> is to Wargrave Piggott Secondary School, from the south of the village and then along the Wargrave Road and/or alongside the Henley railway line. But also urgently required are safe cycle routes from Charvil and Hurst into the village centre and along London Rd to Hare Hatch.</p>

## WORKSHEET EN3: SWOT ANALYSIS OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND QUALITY OF LIFE

You need to consider what the information you have gathered tells you in the light of these questions:	Write your answers here. Base them on the information you have gathered:	Conclusion					
		It's a Fact	Strength	Weakness	Opportunity	Threat	Need more info
<b>To what extent do people fully consider promoting and supporting environmentally sustainable initiatives? Are there any gaps or opportunities to extend these actions?</b>	There is a general impression that residents are eager to participate in such initiatives, but need some leadership or guidance. Some landmark projects, like utilising the water power at the former Twyford Mill race or a few "beacon" households might be a good idea.				✓		✓
<b>What improvements could be made in amenities such as open spaces, sites, routes and facilities for informal recreation that enhance the quality of life for local people be made? Are there any potential open spaces or sites that could be developed?</b>	See Qu 6 and Qu 7 for suggestions.				✓		