

# Halam - Parish Working Group

## Village Envelopes



This is the second of three information sheets; the third and final sheet, to be sent out in February, will address Conservation Areas.

A village envelope is a boundary defined on a map beyond which the local planning authority proposes that a village should not be allowed to extend. The principle behind this is to stop the encroachment of a village into the open countryside, thus ensuring that the settlement retains its existing form. Any land outside of an envelope will be classified as open countryside, and there are clear national, regional and local planning policies which protect against development in the countryside.

An envelope does not necessarily have to be drawn around the absolute edge of a village. It could exclude some outlying buildings, and it might also exclude some important open spaces – these would then be treated as countryside and would again have a high degree of protection.

The Government has no national planning policy on village envelopes, so it is up to local planning authorities to decide whether they want to use them or not. Newark and Sherwood District Council are one of the planning authorities that do employ this policy, and most of the villages in the District have envelopes. The only exceptions are very small hamlets and those villages where local preference has determined that a village envelope is not required.

Halam does not have a village envelope. It is worth noting, however, that within the Local Plan Halam is surrounded by Mature Landscape Areas, (with the exception of Norwood Park Golf Course) and within this designation there is a strong presumption against development. The area around Halam is also described in the Local Plan as countryside, and there is thus also a general presumption against development.

There is sometimes a concern that drawing an envelope may be an invitation to increase the density of development within this boundary by “infill”. It is worth noting that Newark and Sherwood has a policy which protects against this called an “area of no further intensification of development”, and that Halam has several areas which are already covered by this policy.

We have had some excellent feedback to the information sheet regarding village design statements, and we would be very interested in hearing your feedback on Village Envelopes.

As before, you can contact Nevil Croston (814578), Shirley Grayson (819272) or Jeremy Smith (819094).

