



Factsheet

Rural Housing Needs Surveys

Housing in rural areas

Rural areas are facing specific local challenges including the provision of affordable housing, an ageing population, rural isolation and reduced accessibility.

Rural communities make up 50% of Wiltshire's population living in 95% of the geographic area.

In rural areas, affordable housing may be developed within the built-up area of the parish or sometimes on rural exception sites for affordable housing only, in locations that would not normally be approved for housing.

Parish councils are encouraged to undertake rural housing needs surveys to understand the need for housing in their areas.

The surveys are produced by Wiltshire Council, and the outcomes of the survey can be used to understand whether there is a local need for affordable housing in parishes and, if so, of what size and type.

Who should complete the survey?

The survey is completed by households who live in the parish, and is also available to be completed by households who may live outside of the parish but have a local connection, such as:

- those currently living in /have continuously lived in the parish for the past year;
- those who have a close relative who has continuously lived in the parish for 5 years or longer;
- those who are in, or have, an offer of permanent paid employment or have a fixed term contract for a minimum of one year in the parish;
- those who are self-employed and work predominantly in the parish;
- those with a reason to live in a parish involving another person e.g. to give or receive support.

Households within the parish are invited to pass on details of the survey to friends and/or relatives who have had to move away from the parish and would like to move back.



Affordable Housing eligibility

The main aim of the rural housing needs survey is to determine the need for affordable housing, as described above, together with other forms of housing such as adapted and/or housing with care or support in a parish.

It also will assist in building an understanding of a community's wider housing aspirations, such as a desire for smaller homes for households just starting out, or for households living in a large family home wishing to downsize.

Affordable Housing

Affordable rented housing is subject to controls limiting the rent to no more than 80 per cent of the local market rent.

To apply for affordable rented homes households must apply to join the local council's housing register. Homes to rent are advertised on the council's website where eligible households can bid on properties offered.

If a household has an income of less than £80,000 per annum they could qualify for low cost home ownership; affordable housing options and are also referred to as intermediate housing options.

Apply for Affordable Housing in the Wiltshire Council area at www.homes4wiltshire.co.uk.

Apply for Affordable Housing in the Swindon Borough Council area at www.swindon.gov.uk.

The survey in more detail

A household can be made up of:

- one person living alone, or
- a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address with shared housekeeping, such as sharing either a living room or at least one meal a day.

The survey is split into two main parts:

- Part One will find out about local households' current occupancy and what housing would be supported in the Parish in the future;
- Part Two should only be completed if a household, or any member(s) of a household, need to move to or within the parish now or in the near future. If more than one household needs to move further copies of Part Two can be requested and will also be available online.

If you are interested in identifying the housing need in your parish through a rural housing needs survey, please contact us.



Homes of Our Own:

Enabling Community Led
Housing in Wiltshire & Swindon



Find us online:

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