

### ***Natural, built and historic environment***

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| <p>7.166 There are a limited number of Conservation Areas, Listed buildings, Historic Parks and Gardens and scheduled Ancient Monuments spread throughout the Borough, which reflect Slough's history. It is important that these are protected in accordance with Planning Policy Guidance 15 - Planning and the Historic Environment (PPG15) which states that historic assets should be preserved and enhanced not merely for their own sake but for the sake of a place's cultural heritage and identity.</p> <p>7.167 There are also some archaeological remains which offer evidence of ancient cultures and these should also be protected in accordance with Planning Policy Guidance 16 - Archaeology and Planning (PPG16).</p> <p>7.168 The Spatial Strategy has taken account of the distribution of these features in the Borough by concentrating development in the town centre, and other selected key areas, which do not have much historical or environmental interest and so can accommodate the scale of redevelopment proposed without causing any significant harm to the natural, built and historic environment.</p> <p>7.169 The conclusions of the Appropriate Assessment (Doc.47) also show that the policies and proposals within the Core Strategy will not in themselves have a significant impact on Special Protection Areas (SPAs) or Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). Any major development that could have an impact upon one of these nearby sites of European importance for nature conservation will be required to carry out an Appropriate Assessment in accordance with the Habitat Regulations.</p> | <p>7.170 Slough is not a particularly historic town and so much of its cultural heritage and identity comes from its major periods of expansion during the 20th century. This means that, although they are not of national significance and therefore not eligible for statutory protection, local designations are particularly important in the Slough context. These include Locally Listed Buildings, the Residential Areas of Exceptional Character and the Old Town Area of Special Character, all of which need to be preserved and enhanced wherever possible in order to help to improve Slough's image and deliver the Spatial Vision.</p> <p>7.171 There are relatively few watercourses in Slough but they have the potential to contribute to the ecology, landscape and overall amenity of an area. It is also particularly important to protect the areas alongside the streams not just for their biodiversity value but also because they can create wildlife corridors. As a result new development which affects watercourses will be expected to enhance the water environment and its margins. This could include opening up culverts and increasing access to watercourse where appropriate.</p> <p>7.172 Slough does not have any nature conservation sites of international or national significance. It does, however have two statutory Local Nature Reserves and a number of Wildlife Heritage Sites, which have been identified as being of local importance using the criteria established by the Berkshire Nature Conservation forum. In addition to being important for wildlife and biodiversity, these, and other green areas have significant visual amenity and provide educational and leisure opportunities for local residents.</p> |
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## CORE POLICY 9 (NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT)

Development will not be permitted unless it:

- Enhances and protects the historic environment;
- Respects the character and distinctiveness of existing buildings, townscapes and landscapes and their local designations;
- Protects and enhances the water environment and its margins;
- Enhances and preserves natural habitats and the biodiversity of the Borough, including corridors between biodiversity rich features.

### Indicators:

- Number of listed buildings demolished or included in the Buildings at Risk Register and the number added to the statutory list; and
- Changes in area of Wildlife Heritage Sites or Biodiversity Action Plans (BAP) (priority sites).

7.173 This policy, in conjunction with all of the other policies in the plan, will be implemented through the determination of planning applications and the preparation of the Development Control and Site Allocations DPD and Supplementary Planning Documents. It will also be implemented through measures such as the Berkshire Nature Conservation Strategy and the Strategy for the Colne Valley Park, in conjunction with the adjoining Boroughs.

7.174 The Sustainability appraisal (Doc.22) sets out a framework for monitoring and identifying unexpected significant environmental effects that may result over the plan period. The need for development to reflect the character and distinctiveness of existing buildings and townscapes should not prevent the application of sustainable design and technologies required under Core Policy 8.

7.175 Where appropriate, developers will be required to carry out or fund improvements to and the future maintenance of areas of environment importance.

7.176 The council will continue its programme of producing Character Assessments for the Conservation Areas. Any additions to the Locally Listed Buildings or the Areas of Exceptional Residential Character will be considered in the Development Control and Site Allocations DPD.

7.177 Wildlife Heritage Sites will continue to be surveyed in order to monitor their condition and ensure that they are properly managed.

7.178 The council will continue to carry out environmental improvements in partnership with organisations such as the Groundwork Trust and will also encourage the community to become involved in local environmental and wildlife projects.

7.179 The management of water courses and their margins will be carried out in conjunction with the Environment Agency. Buffer zones will also be required alongside water courses which allow for their maintenance.

## Infrastructure

7.180 The Spatial Strategy is dependent upon the necessary infrastructure being provided in the right place at the right time. All new development will, to varying degrees, create additional demands upon existing infrastructure, community services and public services. Developers will therefore need to demonstrate that existing, planned and/or committed infrastructure is sufficient to accommodate new development. Where existing infrastructure is insufficient to accommodate new development, developers will need to, either individually or collectively, ensure that all of the necessary infrastructure can be put in place.

7.181 The timing of infrastructure improvements will also be crucial. Where necessary, agreement will need to be reached between the council and developers on the programmed implementation of all on-site and off-site infrastructure improvements. These improvements should be put in place prior to the occupation of a new development and should serve both