

15. HERITAGE ASSETS

Introduction

- 15.1 Waverley has a rich historic environment with some 1,741 listed structures, 43 conservation areas, a locally produced list detailing Buildings of Local Merit (BLMs), which were previously known as 'locally listed buildings'). There are also 30 Scheduled Monuments within the Borough including Farnham Castle and several prehistoric barrows, 8 Registered Parks and Gardens and a large number of recorded archaeological sites. There are also hundreds of smaller heritage assets, such as milestones and old signposts, which have been identified as 'Heritage Features'. These designated and non-designated heritage assets are important in their own right, add to the distinctiveness of the Borough and are valued by residents and visitors alike. As well as the historic structures and archaeological features within the Borough, the landscape is also a record of previous human activity from the commons of Witley and Thursley to the ponds at Frensham.
- 15.2 Heritage assets include buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas or landscapes identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of their heritage interest. Heritage assets include designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority, including Buildings of Local Merit (previously the local list).
- 15.3 The Council has a good record of a proactive approach to the management of the heritage assets within the Borough. The strategy is to continue this approach by: protecting, enhancing and promoting heritage assets so that they are able to be understood and enjoyed by residents and visitors now and in the future. The heritage assets within Waverley help to define and illustrate the Borough's character and their continued protection through informed management is important.
- 15.4 Conservation Area Appraisals have been undertaken and adopted for the following areas:
- Alfold
 - Bramley
 - Chiddingfold
 - Cranleigh (2016)
 - Crownpits, Godalming
 - Farnham
 - Godalming Town Centre
 - Milford
 - Ockford Road, Godalming
 - Wheelerstreet, Witley
 - Witley
 - Wrecclesham
- 15.5 The programme to review and adopt further Conservation Area Appraisals is ongoing. The appraisal programme identifies what makes the Conservation

Area special and worthy of preservation and enhancement. It will also identify opportunities and threats, thus informing a Management Plan to guide change. In addition, the Council will continue to support the community in reviewing and identifying Buildings of Local Merit.

- 15.6 Waverley's historic landscapes are dealt with in Chapter 13: Rural Environment.

Policy Context

- 15.7 In relation to the historic environment, the NPPF states that local planning authorities should set out in their local plans a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment. In developing a strategy, local planning authorities should take into account:

- the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
- the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring;
- the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and
- opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.

Policy HA1: Protection of Heritage Assets

The Council will ensure that the significance of the heritage assets within the Borough are preserved and enhanced to ensure the continued conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment by:

- 1. Conserving and managing Waverley's rich and diverse heritage. This includes all heritage assets, archaeological sites and historic landscapes, designated and non-designated assets, and their setting in accordance with legislation and national policy.**
- 2. Understanding and respecting the significance of the assets.**
- 3. Undertaking further Conservation Area Appraisals and producing and implementing related Management Plans.**
- 4. Facilitating and supporting the identification and review of heritage assets of local historic, architectural and archaeological significance in accordance with the Council's agreed procedures.**
- 5. Supporting appropriate interpretation and promotion of the heritage assets throughout the Borough.**
- 6. Targeting for improvements, those heritage assets identified at risk or vulnerable to risk.**

Delivery

The policy will be delivered by:

- The determination of planning applications, ensuring that new development meets an appropriate standard for approval.
- Requiring sufficient detail to be included within Heritage Statements submitted to support relevant planning applications.
- Continuing a programme of review of the Conservation Areas and undertaking Conservation Area Appraisals and Conservation Area Management Plans.
- Reviewing the Buildings of Local Merit list (former Local List), heritage assets and historic gardens of significance.
- Neighbourhood Plans.
- Keeping and reviewing a local register of buildings at risk or vulnerable to risk.
- Supporting the collation of information in the County Historic Environment Record.

Evidence

- Historic England *Knowing Your Place* : Heritage and Community-Led Planning in the Countryside
- Historic England *Constructive Conservation in Practice*
- Historic England *Conservation Principles*