

Consultation Statement Ockford Road Conservation Area Appraisal (CAA)

Introduction

Waverley Borough Council prepared a draft Conservation Area Appraisal for Ockford Road and carried out an associated consultation. This report outlines how the consultation was undertaken, who was involved and how responses were considered.

Consultation Process

A walkabout was conducted with Local and Town Councillors and environmental enhancement projects for the management plan were highlighted. This gave participants the opportunity to raise questions, but also to gain feedback on the content.

The formal consultation started on Friday 13 March 2015 for six weeks, ending on Friday 24 April 2015.

The following methods to inform the public of the consultation included:

- Letter to all residents and businesses in the CA
- Letter for key stakeholders including:
 - Godalming Town Council
 - Surrey County Council Highways and Rights of Way
 - Statutory consultees (Historic England, Natural England and Environment Agency)
 - Southern Water
 - Godalming Trust
 - Relevant internal Waverley officers
 - Local Councillors

Please see Appendix A for a full list of consultees.

A hard copy of the draft Ockford Road CAA document was made available at Planning Reception, Council Offices, Godalming (Monday to Thursday 9am – 5pm and Friday 9am – 4pm) and a copy could be viewed online at:

www.waverley.gov.uk/ockfordroadcaa

Whilst the consultation was focussed, it did not preclude other interested parties from responding. In addition to the webpage on the Council website, a press release (Appendix B) was issued to inform the public of the consultation.

Respondents were able to comment of the draft Ockford Road CAA in a variety of ways:

- Via the online Innovem (consultation) database accessed via the website (with no need to register)
- By email to the conservation inbox (conservation@waverley.gov.uk)

- By letter

A number of key questions were asked:

- Do you have any comments on the draft Ockford Road Conservation Area Appraisal, and should it cover any other issues?
- Do you have any comments on the draft Management Plan, and should it cover any other issues?
- Do you agree with the proposed extension at the Inn on the Lake? (see plan attached)
- Do you agree with the proposed extension along Ockford Road? (see plan attached)
- Are there any other areas that should be included or excluded? If so, please identify where the boundary should be extended or reduced, what it should include or exclude, and why?

A full summary of the consultation responses is set out below. The main issues have been identified as a result of this process and, where appropriate, amendments made to the CAA.

Consultation Responses

8 responses were received to the draft document. The responses fell into one of four categories:

- 1) Key consultees
- 2) General comments on the CAA and Management Plan
- 3) Comments on the proposed boundary changes
- 4) Comments suggesting amendments to boundary

The comments are summarised below.

1) Key consultees

| Consultee | Comment |
|------------------------------|---|
| Historic England | <p>Support the appraisal and proposed boundary amendments. In particular supports the identification of Grade II listed buildings at risk.</p> <p>Suggested amendments to the report to further clarify specific points.</p> <p>Suggested inclusion of the millpond as an integral element of the mill's historic curtilage that contributes to its historical and archaeological interest.</p> <p>Response: The suggested amendments have been made to the CAA. See section 4 for response to the proposed boundary change.</p> |
| Godalming Town Council (GTC) | GTC welcomed the appraisal and agreed with the two proposed extensions. |

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| Godalming Trust | The Godalming Trust agree with the proposed extensions and do not consider any further changes are required. |
| Natural England | No comment |

2) General comments on the CAA and Management Plan

4 comments were received in support of the appraisal and management plan. The following suggestions were made:

| Respondent comment | Waverley response |
|---|---|
| Would welcome traffic mitigation or traffic calming measures and speed limit reduction or better enforcement of speed limit. | Traffic management is captured within the CAA Management Plan to acknowledge this as a potential issue along Ockford Road. As Ockford Road is an A road, any projects would have to be led and implemented by Surrey County Council Highways. |
| Alternative maintenance of the shrubbery along Ockford Road is suggested to maintain an average height rather than cutting back every 4-6 years. | The shrubbery is maintained by Surrey County Council Highways and therefore any project or change to management would have to be led by them. |
| Ockford Mill support the appraisal. They are considering the future of the site and are keen to ensure that any future plans make a positive contribution to the conservation area. | Waverley welcome the concern to ensure the site makes a positive contribution to the conservation area and will seek to work with Ockford Mill to enable this to happen. |

3) Comments on proposed boundary changes

3 comments were received in support of both the boundary changes for the Inn on the Lake and along Ockford Road. They welcomed the inclusion of the embankment on the eastern side of Ockford Road.

4) Comments suggesting amendments to boundary

| Respondent comment | Waverley response |
|--|--|
| Boundary should be extended to include the land between Ockford Road and the River Ock, possibly to include New Way, to protect the important greenspace from development. | Historic England guidance is clear that it is inappropriate to include open landscape within a CA if it is not intrinsic to the reason for the CA designation itself. The land to the rear of the western properties on Ockford Road does not aid the understanding of the CA and therefore Officers recommend that these areas should not be included. Additionally, CA designation does not offer protection |

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| | from development and this is not an appropriate reason to designate land as a CA. |
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a) Millpond extension

Historic England proposed an extension of the boundary to include the millpond because it is an integral part of the mill's historic curtilage that contributes to its historical and archaeological interest.

Officers agree that due to the historic connection of the millpond to Ockford Mill, that aids the understanding of the agricultural history of the area, this should be included within the CA.

A focused 3 week consultation was undertaken to give the owners and occupiers of the land, and Godalming Town Council, the opportunity to comment on the further extension of the CA boundary to include the millpond.

Godalming Town Council support the additional extension to the CA. No response was received from the owner and occupiers of the site.

Next Steps

The consultation has informed the necessary amendments to the document before being submitted through the committee process (Executive and Full Council) for adoption as a material consideration in planning applications and to inform future environmental enhancement works.

Appendix A – Consultees

- Surrey County Council
 - Highways & Parking
 - Rights of Way
- Waverley Borough Council
 - Local Ward Councillors
 - Officers from Planning, Environmental Services and Community Services
- All commercial businesses in CA
- Historic England
- Natural England
- Environment Agency
- Southern Water
- Godalming Town Council
- Godalming Trust
- The Owner/ Occupiers in:
 - Ockford Road (part)
 - Shackstead Lane (part)
 - Grove Road (part)
 - Portsmouth Road (part)

News Release

Issued by Waverley Borough Council

Date: 10 March 2015

Consultation On Ockford Road Conservation Area Appraisal

Waverley is seeking views on the draft conservation area appraisal for Ockford Road in Godalming.

The Conservation Area Appraisal assesses the character and condition of the Conservation Area and contains a Management Plan identifying potential enhancement schemes.

Cllr Brian Adams, Executive Member for Planning said, “Ockford Road is one of 43 conservation areas in the borough and Waverley is keen to ensure these areas are preserved, and where possible, enhanced for future generations. To do that, views from across the community are needed.

“The Appraisal proposes amendments to the current conservation area boundary to include the full curtilage of the Inn on the Lake and to extend along Ockford Road towards Godalming town centre. We would particularly like comments on these amendments”.

The draft Ockford Road Conservation Area Appraisal is open for comment until Friday April 24 2015 and can be viewed online at www.waverley.gov.uk/ockfordroadcaa. Hardcopies are also available in the planning reception of Waverley Borough Council offices, The Burys, Godalming, GU7 1HR.

Comments can be submitted online, emailed to conservation@waverley.gov.uk or posted to Waverley Borough Council addressed to Jennifer Samuelson.