

# **Basingstoke Canal Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Plan**

## **Consultation Statement**

### **Persons consulted as part of the Consultation**

The draft Basingstoke Canal Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan was subject to six weeks' public consultation between the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 and the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021. Copies of the draft document were made available to view at the following locations during opening hours:

- Rushmoor Borough Council Offices
- Aldershot Library
- Farnborough Library

The documents were promoted via a media release (Appendix 2). The consultation was also advertised extensively on the Council's website (Appendix 7 - 9) and using Social Media (Appendix 4 - 6). The Council's Facebook page has 11,402 follows, cumulatively the Facebook posts received 20 comments, and were shared 17 shares.

Representations were invited via email or via post.

### **Consultation emails**

The Council notified all those registered on the Rushmoor Local Plan consultation database. The database covers a wide range of stakeholders including local residents, businesses, statutory bodies such as Historic England and civic groups. In total, there are approximately 155 contacts on the database, and all were contacted via email requesting their comments on the documents (Appendix 1).

A newsletter (Appendix 3) was sent to approx. 250 people that had signed up to be informed of any Council consultation, as well as to the 6,000 people who had requested to be sent the general Councils newsletter.

### **Documents available on the Council's website**

Copies of the draft documents were made available to view and/or download on the Council's website at <https://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/planningpolicyconsultations>

### **Consultation events**

Two digital consultation events were carried out on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021. These events were publicised on the Council website as well as on the leaflets and press releases. Attendees were able to call the office to book a time slot or enter the event via a Microsoft Teams link on the Rushmoor Borough Council Website. We received approximately 30 telephone calls during the consultation period with people asking questions about the

consultation documents and their implications. The majority of people contacting us requested to be signed up for the digital drop in events. The estimated attendance for the two digital events was 25 people.

An in person drop in event was also arranged at the Council Offices for the 19<sup>th</sup> November, however this was principally advertised for consultees who were unable to attend the digital events. The Council Offices are easily accessible via public transport and is within Farnborough Town Centre. For the drop in event several display boards were available for the public to view (Appendix 10) which provided summary information on the documents which were being consulted upon Council officers were also available to answer any questions (Appendix 11). The public were encouraged to complete the supplied feedback form, or to email to policy email address with any comments. The estimated attendance for the in person drop in events was 10 people, this reflects the willingness of the public to engage with the consultation digitally and over the phone.

From the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021 display boards (Appendix 10) that provided a summary information of the consultation, were exhibited in the reception of the Council Offices.

## **Summary of the main issues raised and officer responses**

We received 10 responses relating to the Basingstoke Canal Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan with most of the comments received focusing on the proposed boundary changes (i.e. areas to be removed from the conservation area).

Four of the responses were acknowledgements to the consultation and did not provide any feedback on the content of the draft appraisal or management plan. One of the responses was in support of the proposals.

### **Issues identified:**

#### **1. Concerns that the review process is removing areas from the conservation area**

It is a commitment within the Rushmoor Local Plan (2019) to review the borough's Conservation Areas. Conservation areas are a heritage designation guided by the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 that requires Local planning authorities to identify areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.

The section of the Basingstoke Canal Conservation area that lies within Rushmoor has not been reviewed since designation in 1977.

We have reviewed the conservation area and produced a character appraisal which identifies some areas could be removed from the conservation area because they do not demonstrate special architectural or historic interest. National Planning Policy is clear that the concept of conservation should not be devalued through the designation of areas that lack special interest.

#### **2. Concern that development has been allowed within the conservation area which now requires boundaries to be amended**

There has been very limited development within or adjoining the Basingstoke canal conservation area since it was first designated in 1977. Some development has taken place on operational military land that does not satisfy the requirement of being of special or architectural interest and is therefore being removed from the conservation area.

The purpose of conservation areas designation is not to prevent development. Change is inevitable but as planning authority we seek to manage change in a way that conserves and enhances the character and appearance of historic areas.

The preparation of a character appraisal provided information on the significance of the area and identifies threats to its special architectural or historic interest. The character appraisal will upon adoption be a material consideration in decision making.

### **3. Concerns about the loss of woodlands / ancient woodlands**

Biodiversity and ecology assets in the borough are protected under separate legislation and by both national and local planning policies. The majority of the areas being removed from the Basingstoke Canal Conservation Area are designated as Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANG) which is secured in perpetuity and is managed by the Land Trust.

### **Next Steps**

Following consideration of the comments received (Appendix 12) it is proposed that the Basingstoke Canal Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan be presented to the Councils Cabinet for adoption with the boundaries remaining unchanged from those set out in the consultation draft.


## Appendix 1– Email to Consultees

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### Rushmoor Borough Council Conservation Area Consultations - Statutory Consultees



Rushmoor Council Planning Policy  
To: Rushmoor Council Planning Policy

 You forwarded this message on 17/11/2021 09:59.

Dear Sir / Madam,

We are contacting you as you have previously asked to be notified of planning policy and heritage consultations undertaken by Rushmoor Borough Council.

The Council is currently consulting on the following heritage documents for a period of six weeks:

- Draft Basingstoke Canal Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan
- Draft Manor Park Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan
- Draft Farnborough Street Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan
- Draft St Michaels Abbey Conservation Area Appraisal

You can view the documents and find more information online at <https://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/planningpolicyconsultations>

The closing date for receipt of comments is **Monday 13 December 2021**.

To respond please email [planningpolicy@rushmoor.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@rushmoor.gov.uk) or write to us at the following address:

Planning Policy and Conservation  
Rushmoor Borough Council  
Council Offices  
Farnborough Road  
Farnborough  
Hampshire  
GU14 7JU

Yours faithfully,

The Planning Policy and Conservation Team

**Planning Policy and Conservation Team**

Planning Policy and Conservation Team | Rushmoor Borough Council | Council Offices | Farnborough Road | Farnborough | Hampshire | GU14 7JU  
DDi: 01252 398787 | e: [planningpolicy@rushmoor.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@rushmoor.gov.uk) | w: [www.rushmoor.gov.uk](http://www.rushmoor.gov.uk)

 Please consider the environment - do you really need to print this email?

## Appendix 2– Media Release

[Home](#) ▶ [News](#) ▶ [November 2021](#) ▶ [Council seeks views on conservation areas](#)

### You are in News

#### November 2021

Important step forward for new visitor centre

Union Yard regeneration scheme construction under way

App puts Aldershot on the map

Christmas is coming to Aldershot and Farnborough

Council seeks views on conservation areas

Media release - issued 04 Nov 2021

## Council seeks views on conservation areas

Local residents are being asked to give their views on proposed changes to four conservation areas in Aldershot and Farnborough.

In the second phase of a major project, Rushmoor Borough Council is undertaking a review of more conservation areas and has now launched a consultation to hear what people think of the plans.

The reviews are part of the council's overall aim to protect and improve the heritage and character of Aldershot and Farnborough and build on the policies in the Rushmoor Local Plan.

In the Manor Park and Farnborough Hill conservation areas, the council is proposing to change the boundaries. This would remove areas that do not reflect, or add to, the historic character of the area. Overall, the conservation areas would be smaller, but more focused.

The proposed amendments to the Basingstoke Canal conservation area takes account of the changes to the Aldershot Garrison and the designation of parts of the area as Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANG).

The council is also proposing to de-designate the St Michael's Abbey conservation area as a significant number of buildings within the conservation area are modern and the core heritage buildings, and their settings such as St Michael's Abbey and St Peters School are Nationally Listed, which provides greater protection than conservation area designation.

As well as finding out more and making comments on our [Conservation area reviews](#) page, residents will also be able to find out more about the proposals at four virtual drop-in sessions. These will be for:

- St Michael's Abbey and Farnborough Hill on Tuesday 16 November
- Basingstoke Canal and Manor Park on Wednesday 17 November

Anyone who would like to attend one of the sessions should email [planningpolicy@rushmoor.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@rushmoor.gov.uk).

Anyone unable to attend should contact the planning policy team on 01252 398787, so they can make alternative arrangements.

Rushmoor Borough Council's Cabinet member for Planning and Economy, Councillor Marina Munro, said: "Our conservation areas play an important role in maintaining the heritage and character of our towns. A lot has changed since we last reviewed them. Given the significance of these areas, we hope that residents will take the time to look at the proposals in the consultations and give their views so we can fully take account of local opinions."

The consultations are available on our [Conservation area reviews](#) page until 5pm on Monday 13 December.

### Related links

- ▶ [Conservation area reviews](#)
- ▶ [Current consultations](#)

### Contacts

Communications

[communications@rushmoor.gov.uk](mailto:communications@rushmoor.gov.uk)

Tel: 01252 398744

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## Appendix 3– Newsletter notification



### Remembrance Sunday

To mark Remembrance Sunday, there are a number of joint civic and military services taking place on Sunday 14 November across Aldershot and Farnborough.

All the services are open to the public and further information is available on the [Remembrance Sunday](#) page on our website.

### Food waste collections update and thanks

It's already our third week of food waste collections and we'd like to say another big 'thank you' for your recycling efforts so far.

In our second week, we collected a massive 61 tonnes of food waste for recycling. All the waste has been sent to an anaerobic digestion facility near Basingstoke, where it is being broken down to generate renewable energy and a digestate which is used as a nutrient-rich fertiliser.

If you've not been using your caddies yet, it's not too late to start - you can use your weekly collection to recycle all types of food waste. If you need help getting started, we've created a [short video](#). You can also find details on the [food waste recycling](#) page on our website.

Your black outdoor caddy needs to be out by 7am on the day of collection and it really helps our crews if you can leave it in a visible place. Food waste is emptied separately to your other bins and the team can be out working until 4pm, so it may be collected at a different time.

To check your collection calendar go to the [bin collections](#) page on our website.

### Conservation areas - give us your views

We would like your views on some proposed changes to four conservation areas in Aldershot and Farnborough.

The reviews are part of our long-term work to protect and improve the heritage and character of Aldershot and Farnborough and build on the policies in the Rushmoor Local Plan. The conservation areas are St Michael's Abbey, Farnborough Hill, Manor Park in Aldershot and the Basingstoke Canal.

As well as the online consultation, you can take part in one of four virtual drop-in sessions on 16 and 17 November. To find out more and to take part in the consultation, please go to the [conservation area reviews](#) page on our website. You will find details of how to take part in the drop-in sessions on the individual conservation area appraisal and management plan pages.

The closing date is Monday 13 December.

### Festive dates for your diary

Christmas is just around the corner and we have a number of Christmas events coming up to help get the festivities started.

Join us for the [Aldershot Christmas Cracker](#) and Christmas lights switch-on on Saturday 20 November from midday to 5.45pm in Aldershot town centre. There will be festive stalls to browse, Santa's grotto, a nativity farm, rides, circus skills, face painting, live performances, brass bands and more. This year, the big switch-on will take place in

**Appendix 4 –Social Media Post – 8 November**



**Rushmoor Borough Council**

8 November 2021 · 🌐

We are inviting local residents to give their views on some proposed changes to four conservation areas in Aldershot and Farnborough. The reviews are part of our long-term work to protect and improve the heritage and character of Aldershot and Farnborough and build on the policies in the Rushmoor Local Plan. The conservation areas are St Michael's Abbey, Farnborough Hill, Manor Park in Aldershot and the Basingstoke Canal. As well as the online consultation, residents will ... See more



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[www.rushmoor.gov.uk/conservationreviews](http://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/conservationreviews)

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4

15 comments 7 shares

## Appendix 5 – Social Media Post – 18 November



**Rushmoor Borough Council**

18 November 2021 · 🌐

If you were unable to attend the online sessions on our conservation area consultation, we will be holding a drop-in event at the council offices between 10am and 5pm tomorrow (19 November).

The conservation areas are St Michael's Abbey, Farnborough Hill, Manor Park in Aldershot and the Basingstoke Canal.

If you would like to attend, please call us on 01252 398787 or email [planningpolicy@rushmoor.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@rushmoor.gov.uk) to book a place as our offices are open for pre-booked appointments only.

Visitors will be able to look at information boards and the relevant draft documents and talk to planning officers.

Please could anyone attending the drop in sessions to wear a face covering and remain socially distanced during their visit. Thank you.



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**[www.rushmoor.gov.uk/conservationreviews](http://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/conservationreviews)**

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4 shares



## Appendix 6 – Social Media Post – 9 December



**Rushmoor Borough Council**

9 December 2021 at 00:11 · 🌐

There's still time to give your views on some proposed changes to four conservation areas in Aldershot and Farnborough.

The conservation areas are St Michael's Abbey, Farnborough Hill, Manor Park in Aldershot and the Basingstoke Canal.

The consultation ends next Monday, December 13.

The reviews are part of our long-term work to protect and improve the heritage and character of Aldershot and Farnborough and build on the policies in the Rushmoor Local Plan.

For more information and to take part in the online consultation please go to [www.rushmoor.gov.uk/conservationreviews](http://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/conservationreviews)



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[www.rushmoor.gov.uk/conservationreviews](http://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/conservationreviews)

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## Appendix 7 – Website – main consultation page

Coronavirus (COVID-19) - The latest information about our services, government advice and where to get help.

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We are proposing to make a number of changes to Basingstoke Canal, Farnborough Hill, Manor Park and St Michael's Abbey conservation areas.

Conservation areas are defined in law as 'an area of special architectural or historic interest the character of which it is desirable to preserve and enhance'. We are responsible for defining and reviewing conservation areas in the borough.

As set out in the [The Rushmoor Local Plan \(2019\)](#), we are carrying out a comprehensive review of the borough's conservation areas. This is part of our overall strategy to protect and improve the heritage of the borough and its character.

We are currently consulting on the following draft documents as part of the second phase of our Conservation Area Review Programme. Please note that all of the documents propose changes to conservation area boundaries:

- [Draft Basingstoke Canal Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan](#)
- [Draft Farnborough Hill Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan](#)
- [Draft Manor Park Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan](#)
- [Draft St Michael's Abbey Conservation Area Appraisal](#)

The documents should be read alongside the published [Conservation Area Overview Document \[3Mb\]](#) that provides the context in which conservation areas in Rushmoor have been designated, which includes the legislative and planning policy framework as well as the geographic and historic setting of the borough.

You can submit your feedback and comments by emailing [planningpolicy@rushmoor.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@rushmoor.gov.uk) or by post to the address below:

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Farnborough,  
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GU14 7JU

#### Drop-in sessions

Thank you to all that attended our virtual drop-in sessions on the 16 and 17 November and the drop-in event at the Council Offices on the 19 November. You can view the consultation event information using the links below:

- [Display Boards \[11Mb\]](#)
- [Presentation \[524kb\]](#)

This consultation closes on **13 December at 5pm**.

#### Privacy notice

Read about the information you send to us and what we will use it for in our [privacy notice](#).

#### Related documents

- [Draft Basingstoke Canal Character Appraisal and Management Plan \[10Mb\]](#)
- [Draft Farnborough Hill Character Appraisal and Management Plan \[3Mb\]](#)
- [Draft Manor Park Character Appraisal and Management Plan \[10Mb\]](#)
- [Draft St Michael's Abbey Character Appraisal \[7Mb\]](#)

[Help with PDF documents](#)

#### Related links

- [Conservation areas](#)

#### Contacts

Planning policy  
[planningpolicy@rushmoor.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@rushmoor.gov.uk)  
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## Appendix 8– Website – Basingstoke Canal consultation page (pre consultation events)

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## Consultation on the draft Basingstoke Canal Character Appraisal and Management Plan

Give your view on the proposed boundary changes and character appraisal and management plan.

### Background

The Basingstoke Canal is an inland waterway, running from Basingstoke in Hampshire to the River Wey Navigation in Surrey. The Basingstoke Canal was designated as a conservation area in 1977 by Hampshire County Council and Surrey County Council.

There is currently no Conservation Area Appraisal or Management Plan for the section of the conservation area within Rushmoor.

### Draft Character Appraisal and Management Plan

We have created a [draft Character Appraisal and Management Plan for the Basingstoke Canal conservation area \[10Mb\]](#) to identify special architectural and historical interest points, which justifies its designation as a heritage asset, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.

The draft document proposes some amendments to the conservation area boundary which hasn't been reviewed since 1977.

Hard copies of the document are available to view at:

- Rushmoor Borough Council Offices
- Farnborough Library
- Aldershot Library

Our offices are currently open by appointment only, so please check before you attend.

### Have your say

You can submit your feedback and comments by emailing [planningpolicy@rushmoor.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@rushmoor.gov.uk) or by post to the address below:

Planning Policy,  
Rushmoor Borough Council,  
Council Offices,  
Farnborough Road,  
Farnborough,  
Hampshire  
GU14 7JU

### Online drop-in sessions

We will be holding some online drop-in sessions, using Microsoft Teams, on the 17 November. To join one of the sessions please select from the times below:

- 10am and 12pm: [Microsoft Teams link to join](#)
- 5pm and 7pm: [Microsoft Teams link to join](#)

If you have issues attending the online sessions please call us on 01252 398787 or email: [planningpolicy@rushmoor.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@rushmoor.gov.uk)

This consultation closes on **13 December at 5pm**.

### Related documents

- [Draft Basingstoke Canal Character Appraisal and Management Plan \[10Mb\]](#)
- [Help with PDF documents](#)

### Related links

- [Conservation areas](#)
- [Locally listed buildings](#)
- [Nationally listed buildings](#)
- [Carrying out work to a listed building or in a conservation area](#)
- [The Rushmoor Local Plan](#)

### Contacts

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**Related documents**

- [Draft Basingstoke Canal Character Appraisal and Management Plan \(109kb\)](#)
- [Help with PDF documents](#)

**Related links**

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**Contacts**

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**Background**

The Basingstoke Canal is an inland waterway, running from Basingstoke in Hampshire to the River Wey Navigation in Surrey. The Basingstoke Canal was designated as a conservation area in 1977 by Hampshire County Council and Surrey County Council.

There is currently no Conservation Area Appraisal or Management Plan for the section of the conservation area within Rushmoor.

**Draft Character Appraisal and Management Plan**

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- [Display Boards \(11Mb\)](#)
- [Presentation \(524kb\)](#)

This consultation closes on **12 December at 5pm**.

## Appendix 10– Banners

# Conservation area reviews



### INTRODUCTION

As set out in the Rushmoor Local Plan (2019), we are committed to carrying out a comprehensive review of the borough's eight conservation areas.

This is part of our overall strategy to protect and improve the heritage of the borough and its character. We want to make sure that our conservation areas are still meaningful and protect their character and heritage for future generations.

### 1. OVERVIEW DOCUMENT

The published Conservation Area Overview document contains information on the legislation which protects conservation areas. It also provides some context for the area which should be considered alongside the individual appraisal documents.

### 2. APPRAISAL

A Conservation Area Appraisal identifies why the area is designated and identifies what features are important to protect and enhance. The appraisal defines what is positive and negative about the conservation area, and where there are opportunities for beneficial change.

A Conservation Area Appraisal provides a framework for development management decisions and can be used as evidence to refuse applications which threaten the character of the area.

An adopted Conservation Area Appraisal is a "material consideration" in decision making and aims to raise the standards of development.

### 3. MANAGEMENT PLAN


A Conservation Area Management Plan is based on the appraisal of the area. It sets out the future approach to safeguarding the architectural and historic character. It also identifies opportunities for enhancement.






## Protecting and improving our local heritage


We want your views



# Basingstoke Canal conservation area



The Basingstoke Canal conservation area was designated in 1977 by Hampshire County Council. The section of the conservation area within Rushmoor has not been reviewed since.



### FOUR KEY CHARACTER AREAS

As part of the current review of the Basingstoke Canal conservation area, we analysed its character and identified four key areas within it.

We have therefore divided the conservation area into four sub-category areas that reflect their different characteristics:

- Old Ivelly Road to Eelmoor Bridge
- Eelmoor Bridge to Farnborough Road Bridge
- Farnborough Road Bridge to Government Road
- Government Road to the Aqueduct

For each of these areas, we have considered the following to identify the historic characteristics that we want to protect:

- Views
- Public realm

### CONSULTATION PROPOSALS

#### Boundary changes

When we reviewed the conservation area, it became clear that parts of it do not reflect its historic character and/or benefit from other forms of protection such as designation as Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace. The appraisal therefore recommends that the boundary for the conservation area is changed, so it would become smaller, but more focused.

Currently we are notified of works to trees within a conservation area, our tree officer has been informed of the suggested alterations to the boundary.



## Protecting and improving our local heritage

We want your views



## Appendix 11– Photograph of Consultation Event



**Appendix 12– Summary of comments received on the Basingstoke Canal Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Plan and the Councils response**

<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Response Summary</b>	<b>Officer Comment</b>
<b>Dustin Lees - Surrey County Council MWPA</b>	Thank you for consulting Surrey County Council as the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority (MWPA) about the relevant appraisals and management plans. The MWPA has no comments to make.	Noted.
<b>Farihah Choudhury, Public Health Hampshire</b>	<p>We recognise that Basingstoke Canal is an important recreational asset for the local community, noting that The Canalside including the tow path is used for leisure and recreation as a route for cycling, walking, pleasure boats, canoeing and angling, providing an attractive green route avoiding busy roads.</p> <p>It notably forms part of the Rushmoor Parkrun route which is a popular event having recently reached its 17th anniversary. Hence, having a level of protection through heightened conservation status, which necessitates management and maintaining the site is beneficial for the health and wellbeing of those with proximity to the route.</p>	Support noted.
<b>Judith Johnson, Environmental Agency</b>	Due to limited capacity within the Thames Sustainable Places team we are unable to consider these documents.	Noted.
<b>Marie-Anne Phillips, Land Trust</b>	On behalf of the Land Trust, who oversee the management of Wellesley Woodlands we don't see any problem with your proposals to alter the boundaries to the Basingstoke Canal Conservation Area.	Noted.

	The SANG designation and other SINC/SSSI designations remain in place. The flashes remain within the conservation area and it allows for the bridge upgrade works to happen.	
<b>Sharon Jenkins, Natural England</b>	Natural England does not have any specific comments on this draft Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan.	Noted.
<b>Robert Lloyd-Sweet, Historic England</b>	<p>Historic England recognise that reviewing the conservation area boundaries is an important part of the Council's statutory duty and helps to ensure both that areas that are deserving of protection and enhancement are appropriately identified and defined and that unnecessary burdens are not applied to areas that do not merit protection.</p> <p>I am duty bound to restate that whilst Historic England may provide advice on the process and considerations to be taken into account in determining what areas might be considered as suitable for designation as conservation areas, it is outside our remit to provide an opinion on what should or not should not be a conservation area as this is legally identified as the role of the Local Planning Authority.</p> <p>With regard to the Basingstoke Canal Conservation Area we see this as a helpfully concise document that helpfully identifies the changes in character along the course of the waterway which in many cases are dependent on changes in its setting. This is similar to the understanding of the character of other canal conservation areas elsewhere in the country and we support this approach. With regard to the proposed boundary changes we would suggest some matters for consideration in deciding these.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>



	<p>We feel consideration should be given to retaining the woodland in the Wellsley development that lies in the conservation within its boundary.</p> <p>We note that it is likely the Basingstoke canal conservation area would be considered to gain greater significance from its association with the Aldershot barracks than vice versa. We have, nevertheless noted elsewhere that where two conservation areas overlap the impact of the same development may in fact be considered to have a different impact on each area and that, as such the overlap has a meaning full impact on decision making.</p> <p>We would be pleased to see the woodland to the north of Canal between the A325 Farnborough Road and Queens Avenue remain within the conservation area if this contributes positively to the special interest and character or appearance of the Basingstoke Canal Conservation Area.</p>	<p>The conservation area boundary that was defined in 1977 includes a number of areas of land which have subsequently been secured as Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANG). The management of the SANGs are a legal requirement and an Ecological Management Plan was approved by the Council. We do not consider that it is necessary for these areas to be retained with the conservation area when the land in question is managed and the role / function of these areas has changed.</p> <p>The Queens Avenue Bridge will be located within two conservation areas, notably the Aldershot Military Conservation Area which in effect crossed over the bridge and the Basingstoke Canal Conservation Area that passes under the bridge.</p> <p>As noted in the consultation document the area of woodland in question is located within the Aldershot Military Conservation Area. We do not consider that the woodland justifies double designation.</p>
<b>Alan Firman</b>	Plans for the Basingstoke Canal appear fine. It should be left alone or improved.	Noted

<p><b>Chris Morgan</b></p>	<p>Well, I note with interest that all of the proposals include a reduction. To me this means you and or your predecessors have failed. Surely the idea of having conservation areas is to protect what is there, in reality these areas should grow as time passes and more properties and sites fall into the historic bracket.</p> <p>I can't believe that there is any significant cost involved other than what I imagine was a very costly exercise to create these reports.</p>	<p>It is a commitment within the Rushmoor Local Plan (2019) to review the borough's Conservation Areas.</p> <p>Conservation areas are a heritage designation. The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 requires Local planning authorities to identify areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which is desirable to preserve and enhance.</p> <p>Conservation areas should be supported by conservation area appraisals in order to justify their designation.</p> <p>Historic England acknowledge that change in conservation areas is inevitable, and often beneficial. The conservation area appraisal and management plan identifies ways to manage change in a way that conserves and enhances the conservation areas character and appearance.</p> <p>Proposals for development in conservation areas that require planning consent will be determined in accordance with the Local Plan unless there are material considerations that indicate otherwise.</p>
<p><b>Elaine Grieveson</b></p>	<p>The Council should not be altering any boundaries involving a Conservation Area unless you are extending it. These areas are supposed to be protected and once you start 'making them smaller' to refine your help/work to keep them, what's to stop you, slowly edging away at the boundaries until the area doesn't exist at all.</p>	<p>It is a commitment within the Rushmoor Local Plan (2019) to review the borough's Conservation Areas. Conservation areas are a heritage designation the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. Conservation areas should be supported by conservation area appraisals in order to justify their designation. National Planning Policy is clear that the concept of conservation should not be devalued through the designation of areas that lack special interest.</p>

	<p>Conservation Areas are supposed to be Protected and Managed. This country is losing far too much Woodlands, along with Ancient Woodlands that can NEVER ever be replaced, the biodiversity of an Ancient Woodland is more than just trees, it's about the untouched soil that goes down to the core.</p> <p>Concerns raised about the management of Southwood Country Park.</p>	<p>Biodiversity and ecology assets in the borough are protected under separate legislation and by both national and local planning policies. The majority of the areas being removed from the Basingstoke Canal Conservation Area are designated as Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANG) which is secured in perpetuity and is managed by the Land Trust.</p> <p>An interim management plan for Southwood Country Park Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space has been prepared and can be accessed on our website:  <a href="https://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/southwoodcountrypark">https://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/southwoodcountrypark</a></p>
<p><b>Sean Bissett-Powell</b></p>	<p>One of the repeated reasons quoted for removing sections of Conservation Area is the presence of modern developments which do not match conservation requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What went wrong with the planning system that consent was granted to modern developments within conservation areas if they would not meet conservation requirements?</li> </ul>	<p>There has been very limited development within or adjoining the Basingstoke Canal conservation area. Some development has taken place on operational military land which did not require planning permission.</p> <p>The purpose of conservation areas designation is not to prevent development. Change is inevitable but as planning authority we seek to manage change in a way that conserves and enhances the character and appearance of historic areas. It is important to note that some forms of development do not require planning permission, these are known as permitted development rights. The National Planning Policy Framework requires that Local planning authorities should look for opportunities for new development within conservation areas 'to enhance or better reveal their significance'</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the fact that they gained permission indicate either that Conservation Areas actually offer no protection, or that the planning permissions were incorrectly granted?</li>   <li>• Will the Council be reviewing these past planning permissions to learn lessons going forward, identify why they were granted and determine whether any malfeasance occurred in the process</li>   <li>• What can be done so that future planning permissions will be scrutinised more closely with regard to conservation characteristics, in order to prevent developers “salami slicing” the remaining conservation areas only for them to be eliminated in a few years’ time during the next review?</li> </ul> <p>Will open spaces removed from conservation areas because they are covered by other schemes will still benefit from equivalent levels of protection, and whether the alternative schemes have been reviewed to determine that they, in turn, are not about to be removed.</p>	<p>As noted above some development in or adjoining conservation areas that could be considered detrimental to their character and appearance do not require planning permission.</p> <p>Planning applications are determined in accordance with the development plan (Rushmoor Local Plan) unless material considerations indicate otherwise. As noted above some forms of development (permitted development) do not require planning permission.</p> <p>The preparation of a character appraisal helps to to understand the significance of the area and identify threats to its special architectural or historic interest. The character appraisal will upon adoption be a material consideration in decision making.</p> <p>Any environmental designations in place (such as designation as a Site of Special Scientific Interest) are managed through a different process. The protection offered by other designations that apply are not impacted by the conservation area review process.</p>
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