

APPENDIX A: RELEVANT LANDSCAPE PLANNING POLICY

Table 1: Relevant Planning Policy Background Summary

National Planning Policy	Reviewed
UK Sustainable Development Strategy	✓
PPG1	✓
PPS7	✓
PPG9	✓
PPG13	✓
PPG17	✓
PPS21	✓
South West Region RPG 10	✓
Hereford & Worcester County Structure Plan 1986-2001	
CTC6	✓
CTC11	✓
South Herefordshire District Local Plan	
C9	✓
C14	✓
C17	✓
C18	✓
Herefordshire Unitary Development Plan (Revised Deposit Draft, May 2004)	
LA2	✓
LA3	✓
LA5	✓
LA6	✓
Strategy Documents	
Herefordshire Council Landscape Character Assessment SPG: Principal Settled Farmlands (Section 7.21)	✓

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Policy Extracts

I. Herefordshire Unitary Development Plan (Revised Deposit Draft, May 2004)

- LA2 Landscape character and areas least resilient to change

Proposals for new development that would adversely affect either the overall character of the landscape, as defined by the Landscape Character Assessment and the Historic Landscape Characterisation or its key attributes, will generally be resisted.

Proposals should demonstrate that landscape character has influenced their design, scale, nature and Site selection. Those proposals affecting landscapes that are least resilient to change will, in particular, be subject to rigorous examination. Where appropriate, developers will be encouraged to restore degraded or despoiled landscapes to their inherent character.

- LA3 Setting of settlements

Development outside the built up area of Hereford, the market towns and rural settlements, which is acceptable in terms of other Plan policies, will only be permitted where it would not have an adverse effect upon the landscape setting of the settlements concerned.

Important visual approaches into settlements, views of key buildings, open areas into development, green corridors, ridgelines and surrounding valued open countryside will be particularly protected and, where necessary, enhanced.

In appropriate new developments around existing settlements the creation of open space, urban parks, green wedges, and tree lines will be promoted where they complement and enhance landscape character and townscape.

- LA5 Protection of trees, woodlands and hedgerows

The enhancement and protection of individual trees, tree groups, woodlands and hedgerows will be secured by:

1. placing Tree Preservation Orders where necessary on trees, groups of trees and woodlands of amenity value, and making use of hedgerow protection legislation;
2. resisting proposals that would cause loss or damage to trees (including veteran trees), hedgerows, mature traditional orchards or woodlands which area worthy of retention. In particular, proposals affecting protected trees and Ancient Semi-Natural Woodlands will be subject to rigorous examination and only permitted where the development is in the public interest. Where the felling of protected trees is accepted replacement planting will be sought;
3. requiring development proposals to include an acceptable landscaping scheme submitted in accordance with policy LA6, the retention of those trees and hedgerows considered important to local amenity, together with measures to ensure their protection during development, and the replacement of trees and woodland lost to development with an equivalent area of planting; and
4. where appropriate taking into account as a material consideration the Woodland Management Guidelines produced for the Malvern Hills and Wye Valley AONB's and the Government's England Forestry Strategy together with Forest Commission guidance on Ancient Semi-Natural Woodlands. Management agreements to enable new or increased public access to woodlands may be entered into, particularly where there is a shortage of such opportunities within the local particular.

- LA 6 Landscaping schemes

Landscaping schemes will be required to be submitted as an integral part of any development proposals that will affect the visual amenity or character of the location. Landscaping schemes will be required to:

1. assess the existing character and features of the particular Site and its wider landscape character in accordance with policy LA2, indicating how these have contributed to the overall design approach and which features, including trees, will be removed;
2. indicate and make arrangements to protect and retain existing trees and hedgerows, in accordance with policy LA5 and also other landscape features worthy of retention; and
3. include new landscape works to ensure development integrates appropriately into its surroundings in terms of scale, enhances any existing character and features and especially takes the opportunity to remove eyesores and improve disfigured or despoiled land.

Landscaping works should be undertaken during development or as soon as practicable after. In the case of major proposals, consideration should be given to advanced landscape works being carried out before building or enabling works are commenced.

2. Hereford and Worcester County Structure Plan (Written Statement 1986-2001)

Note: This document will be superseded by the Unitary Development Plan to be adopted in 2006. However, the structure plan will continue to provide a baseline against which future proposals will be considered until approval of the UDP.

- **CTC 6**

The landscape of the whole county will be safeguarded by enhancement and management (where possible and appropriate by agreement) of those significant features listed below which are considered to make up essential character. Development which would adversely affect those features to a material degree will not normally be allowed:

- i. Skylines and hill features including prominent views of such features;
- ii. Sites of geological importance;
- iii. Mixed or broadleaved woodlands, with particular emphasis on ancient woodlands (including those less than 2 hectares);

- iv. Areas of dense hedgerow and tree patterns; and
- v. Linear features of visual importance.

- CTC II

Existing trees and woodlands of nature conservation, amenity or landscape value should be retained. Proposals to conserve and increase indigenous broadleaved woodland cover in both urban and rural areas of the County, where this would not conflict with Policies CTC 3, CTC 4, CTC 5, CTC 6 and CTC 7 (regarding Nature Conservation, Archaeology, Landscape Features) are to be encouraged, in particular where this would lead to:

- i. The establishment of woodlands which integrate with the landform and link existing woodland features;
- ii. The introduction of urban forestry management proposals to perpetuate and increase a healthy tree stock in towns; and
- iii. Multi-purpose tree planting for Nature Conservation, landscape improvement, amenity and timber production.

