

5.3.14 In granting planning permission for new development where significant hedgerows, including ancient hedgerows, are to be retained, the Council will ensure that these hedgerows are given appropriate protection during the building works through the use of planning conditions.

Policy 76

Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

The Council will protect, conserve and enhance the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and its setting, from development considered to have a detrimental impact on the landscape of the area.

Supporting Text

5.3.15 The Kent Downs Area of Natural Beauty (AONB) was designated by the Countryside Commission (now Natural England) in 1968. This designation formally recognises the importance of the unique landscape quality in order to preserve and enhance its characteristic natural features, including flora and fauna, and to maintain its beauty. Although only a small portion of the 878 sq km of the AONB lies within Bromley, and is the only such area in London, it is an integral part of the AONB as a whole and of national importance. The Council will consult Natural England on proposals considered likely to have a material effect on the landscape, consult and will make reference to the Kent AONB Management Plan. Proposals considered by the Council as constituting major development in the local context will be refused except in exceptional circumstances and where it can be demonstrated that they are in the public interest, as per the test in the National Planning Policy Framework.

Policy 77

Landscape Quality and Character

In considering development proposals and in the management of its own land and operations, the Council will:

- Seek to safeguard the quality and character of the local landscape; and
- Seek the appropriate restoration and enhancement of the local landscape through the use of planning obligations and conditions

5 Valued Environments

Supporting Text

5.3.16 Extensive areas of open land in the Borough have considerable landscape value. These areas are principally within the Green Belt, but also includes some areas of Metropolitan Open Land (MOL). They overlap with the Kent Downs AONB and include Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation and Local Nature Reserves. Holwood Park, Down House, Sundridge Park, and Crystal Park are included on English Heritage's Register of Historic Parks and Gardens in part for their landscape value.

5.3.17 When considering proposals, the Council will pay special attention to the need to preserve the landscape, whether for its visual, historic or nature conservation value. Proposals, for example, for open space recreational uses, which, in principle, may be acceptable within the Green Belt or on MOL, can affect the appearance of the land.

Policy 78

Green Corridors

In considering development proposals, the Council will assess the likely impact on the quality and character of green corridors through the Borough and will seek and support appropriate enhancement and management.

Supporting Text

5.3.18 The links, stepping stones and wildlife corridors from one habitat to another are important and recognised in the London Plan. The London Plan defines Green Corridors as relatively continuous areas of open space leading through the built environment, which may be linked and may not be publicly accessible and provide an extension to the habitats of the sites they join.

5.3.19 They need not be very wide, but they are essential routes for the movement of both flora and fauna and, as they are often undisturbed, can provide similar conditions to formally designated nature reserves.