

# Natural Environment Policy

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## Policy Statement

### Lighting

Developments shall conserve the environment for nocturnal species, through the avoidance of lighting and mitigating the impact of essential external lighting in accordance with the lighting policies set out below.

All and any lighting shall strictly adhere to the WBC policy DM 5 clause f, paragraphs 10.45

### Public Lighting

No street lighting will be installed unless required for safety reasons.

Where lighting for safety reasons is essential, appropriate mitigation and control measures secured by planning conditions to prevent unnecessary light pollution to fully satisfy WBC policy, Policy DM5 clause f Environmental Nuisance and Pollution Control shall include:

- Low level lighting for pedestrians.
- Limiting the hours of operation through the use of automatic timers, and night-time dimming.
- Ensuring that lights angle the beam downwards to a level below that of horizontal
- Using surface types that reduce the amount of reflectivity.
- Appropriate planting to limit the extent of any light spill.

### Private and Commercial Properties

Development applications shall fully satisfy WBC policy, Policy DM5 clause f, Environmental Nuisance and Pollution Control including

- Building designs shall avoid large areas of glazing which would result in light spillage into rural and unlit areas
- The visibility of lighting from the surrounding landscape shall be avoided
- The measured and observed sky quality in the surrounding area is not reduced.

## Irreplaceable Habitats

### Foudry Brook Chalk Stream

Developments shall:

- Not increase the load on the wastewater treatment works until the current storm discharges, as measured by the event duration monitors have been resolved on a permanent basis.
- Adhere to the following regulations, updates or replacements thereof.
  - Nutrient neutrality rules as governed by the Conservation of Species and Habitats Regulations 2017.
  - Nutrient Neutrality Principles - TIN186.
  - Nutrient neutrality and housing development - House of Commons Library.
  - Nutrient Neutrality FAQs | Local Government Association.
  - Phosphates and Nutrient Neutrality - West Berkshire.  
Council017f5b\_2e6697d792c4453984692066f7511c43.pdf

These regulations shall apply to Foudry Brook and any ordinary water course/ditch that drains into Foudry Brook.

## Green Infrastructure (GI)

Developments shall adopt the principles and guides set out in to Natural England Green Infrastructure Framework ([What is Green Infrastructure](#)).

New development will include sustainable drainage as mandatory, with designs that address the four pillars of SuDS i.e. water quality, water quantity, amenity and biodiversity. By that we mean that sustainable drainage should not only manage water but create greener more beautiful spaces in our community.

## Designated Green Spaces

Designate the following as Local Green Spaces:

- The Fairground,
- War Memorial Island
- The Alfred Palmer Memorial Field
- Foudry Brook - the watercourse and footpath and 10m strip either side from St. Mary's Church SW to the parish boundary
- Windmill Common (Note this not a common)
- NEW x ha of space on the southern edge of the Tower House Farm development made up of swales, ponds, grassland and plantation of native trees with paths the link to existing PROW and permitted paths. This space is open to the public

## Supporting Text

The policies seek to

- Limit light pollution.
- Protect irreplaceable habitats
- Link individual green spaces creating a greater collective value as part of wider chains of green infrastructure.
- Enhance designated existing green spaces (see map) and incorporating new designated green spaces within new larger developments

Biodiversity is not included in this plan as WBC policies are adequate and there is nothing special about Mortimer.

## Evidence

The community feedback, and national and WBC policies have informed the policies in this NP

### *Community Opinion*

In response to the question about what changes/additions to the current Neighbourhood Development Plan the subject of most importance identified by 85% of respondents was 'Environment and Green Space' in the on-line questionnaire June 20212.

National and WBC policies that have informed this NP

### *NPPF December 2024*

The relevant clauses in sections

- 14. Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change paragraphs 162, 163,
- 15. Conserving and enhancing the natural environment

### *WBC - LPR Policies June2024*

- SP10 (Green Infrastructure),
- SP11 (Biodiversity),
- DM5 (Environment and Pollution),
- DM40 (Open Space), and
- DM6 (Water Quality).
- DM15

## Biodiversity

The community has expressed the importance of biodiversity both preservation and improvement.

The WBC Biodiversity policies satisfy the aspirations of Mortimer's Community.

## Lighting

Mortimer has limited street lighting and since the approval of the Neighbourhood Development Plan 2017 has had a 'No Lighting' policy except where lighting is needed for safety reason (PolicyGD4). Development proposals shall honour the communities wish. Where lighting is considered essential, appropriate mitigation and control measures shall be secured by planning conditions to prevent unnecessary light pollution.

The policy builds on the NPPF and WBC lighting policies:

NPPF para 198c

*Planning policies and decisions should also ensure that new development is appropriate for its location taking into account the likely effects (including cumulative effects) of pollution on health, living conditions and the natural environment, as well as the potential sensitivity of the site or the wider area to impacts that could arise from the development. In doing so they should:*

*...*

*limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation.*

and

WBC policies DM 5 clause f

*All reasonable steps are taken through design, siting and technological solutions to ensure the abatement of obtrusive light to avoid sky glow, glare and light spillage, intrusion and any adverse impact to wildlife and neighbouring residents. A Lighting Appraisal in accordance with the current guidance from the Institute of Lighting Professionals (ILP) (or similar body), national guidance and British Standards will be required for proposed developments which include outdoor lighting.*

All development proposals shall include a proportionate statement and illustrations demonstrating how the policies and guidance have been addressed. Where a proposal does not satisfy the requirements, the applicant shall justify why an exception should be made.

## Protected Habitats

### Foudry Brook

The village of Mortimer defined by the settlement boundary and immediate green space and properties sits approximately 45 metres above Foudry Brook. Ditches and ordinary water courses drain the village of Mortimer into Foudry Brook (See Environment Agency and WBC flood maps). It is essential that the nutrient regulations are applied to any development that could result in contamination of the drainage ditches and ordinary water courses and thence pollute Foudry Brook.

Currently the brook is too often polluted by sewage outflow (see report xx). It is essential this situation is not exacerbated by new developments. Developments applications should be refused, if they plan to connect to the sewage drain system, until the sewage farm problems have been resolved on a permanent basis.

### Ancient Woodland

The map in appendix x identifies the ancient woods that must be protected.

## Green Infrastructure

### WBC policy SP10

- a. Depending on their location, nature and scale, development proposals should:
- b. Protect and/or enhance existing GI and the functions this performs,
- c. Create additional GI which is integrated into the overall development design from the outset; and
- d. Take opportunities to achieve multi-functionality by bringing GI functions together.

Natural England Green Infrastructure Framework ([What is Green Infrastructure](#)) provides a framework and model for the development and enhancement of GI. Developers are expected to utilise Natural England framework.

The Natural England Green Infrastructure Framework website provides mapping facilities to identify

- current green infrastructure types.
- Ancient Woodland <https://naturalengland-defra.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/ancient-woodland->

## Appendix

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Natural England Defra Ancient Woodland Explorer. The URL in the address bar is <https://naturalengland-defra.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/Defra::ancient-woodland-england/explore?location=51.371370%2C-1.063116%2C14.00>. The page features a green header with the Natural England logo and a 'Sign In' button. On the left, there is a 'Download Options' section for 'Ancient Woodland (England)' with 'Hosted Downloads' and 'Records: 53,636'. Below this are three download buttons: CSV, Shapefile, and GeoJSON, each with a 'Download' button. The main area is a map of Mortimer, Hampshire, showing ancient woodland areas in blue. A purple callout box says 'Select existing location'. The map includes labels for 'Padworth Common', 'Mortimer', 'Mortimer West End', and 'Mortimer Common'. The bottom of the browser shows the Windows taskbar with various application icons and the system clock showing 13:58 on 19/04/2025.

<https://naturalengland-defra.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/Defra::ancient-woodland-england/explore?location=51.371370%2C-1.063116%2C14.00>

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