

READING BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN

Adopted November 2019



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Reading
Borough Council

Working better with you

Where a Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan has been adopted for a particular Conservation Area, this will be a material consideration in determining applications for development.

- 4.2.18 Appraisals were undertaken for all Reading's conservation areas between 2005 and 2010. These identify the special interest of each area and provide a valuable tool for considering development in these areas. The Conservation Area appraisals can be found on the Council's website³⁵. Information for property owners, estate agents and the public is also available online³⁶.
- 4.2.19 The Council supports community-led efforts to assess and update Conservation Area appraisals and management plans with limited technical support from officers and will work closely with groups with the aim of adopting updated appraisals and management plans. The Reading Conservation Area Advisory Committee is a community-led group separate from the Council and comprised of people with an interest in the built environment and its heritage³⁷. Membership will be drawn from local amenity societies, residents' associations, independent historical, architectural and planning experts, and local residents and businesses.

EN4: LOCALLY IMPORTANT HERITAGE ASSETS

Development proposals that affect locally important heritage assets will demonstrate that development conserves architectural, archaeological or historical significance which may include the appearance, character and setting of the asset.

Planning permission may be granted in cases where a proposal could result in harm to or loss of a locally important heritage asset only where it can be demonstrated that the benefits of the development significantly outweigh the asset's significance. Where it is accepted by the Local Planning Authority that retention is not important, recording of the heritage asset should be undertaken and submitted alongside development proposals. Replacement buildings should draw upon heritage elements of the previous design, incorporating historical qualities that made the previous building significant. This may include appearance, scale and architectural quality.

- 4.2.20 The Council has established and maintains a List of Locally Important Buildings. The local significance of assets may become known at any time throughout the duration of this plan and the list will be revised dependent on any new information. Criteria for inclusion of locally listed assets can be found in Appendix 2. Local heritage assets do not qualify for statutory listing and are not protected from loss in the same way as listed assets³⁸. It should be recognised that seeking the reuse of historic buildings and, where appropriate, their modification to reduce carbon emissions and secure sustainable development, without harming the significance of the heritage asset and its setting, helps to mitigate the effects of climate change. Therefore, buildings on the Local List should be re-used, where possible.

³⁵ The most up-to-date Conservation Area appraisals can be accessed on the Council's website at <http://www.reading.gov.uk/conservationareas>

³⁶ More information on Conservation Areas can be found on the Council's website at <http://www.reading.gov.uk/conservationareas>

³⁷ More information about the Conservation Area Advisory Committee can be found on the Reading Civic Society's website at http://www.readingcivicsociety.org.uk/wordpress/?page_id=186

³⁸ More information on locally listed heritage assets can be found on Historic England's website at <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/hpg/has/locallylistedhas/>