

- ii) they are often protected by screens, which usually makes the culvert impenetrable to animals such as otters, water voles, fish and invertebrates. This can prevent the movement of species along the river corridor and lead to animals being forced onto roads causing animal deaths and road traffic incidents;
- iii) they can significantly increase the risk of flooding due to the risk of blockage and changed channel dynamics; and
- iv) maintenance is complicated due to restricted access.

Green Infrastructure

Policy ENV5: Green Infrastructure in New Developments

- 1. Development will be expected to contribute towards the provision of additional Green Infrastructure and protect or enhance existing Green Infrastructure.**
- 2. Proposals should:**
 - i) protect, conserve or enhance the district's Green Infrastructure;
 - ii) provide an appropriate level of Green Infrastructure with regard to requirements set out in the Green Infrastructure Strategy, AONB Management Plan or the Habitats Regulations Assessment;
 - iii) avoid the loss, fragmentation, severance or other negative impact on the function of Green Infrastructure;
 - iv) provide appropriate mitigation where there would be an adverse impact on Green Infrastructure; and
 - v) provide an appropriate replacement where it is necessary for development to take place on areas of Green Infrastructure.
- 3. All Green Infrastructure provision should be designed with regard to the quality standards set out within the Green Infrastructure Strategy, or where relevant the Didcot Garden Town Delivery Plan. Consideration should also be given to inclusive access and contributing to gains in biodiversity, particularly through the use of appropriate planting which takes account of changing weather patterns. Where new Green Infrastructure is provided, applicants should ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place to ensure its ongoing management and maintenance.**

This policy contributes towards achieving objectives 6, 7 & 8.

7.27 Green Infrastructure is a network of multi-functional green space in both urban and rural areas, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities. Such networks can also include “blue” infrastructure features such as ponds, lakes, reservoirs, streams and rivers. When assessing planning applications, we will take into account the findings of the Green Infrastructure Strategy and the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) to define new Green Infrastructure requirements and how they should be delivered. Where new Green Infrastructure is identified as a mitigation requirement within the HRA this must be delivered by the applicant to meet requirements. Green Infrastructure can have an important role to play in enhancing biodiversity, acting as a carbon store, and enhancing the quality of life for residents. Applicants should refer to guides such as the Fieldfare Trust ‘Countryside for All – A Good Practice Guide to Disabled People’s Access in the Countryside’ and the South Oxfordshire Design Guide to ensure that the positive contributions of Green Infrastructure are maximised.

Historic Environment and Heritage Assets

Policy ENV6: Historic Environment

1. **Proposals for new development that may affect designated and non-designated heritage assets should take account of the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of those assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation. Heritage assets include statutorily designated Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings or structures, Conservation Areas, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields, archaeology of national and local interest and non-designated buildings, structures or historic landscapes that contribute to local historic and architectural interest of the district’s historic environment, and also includes those heritage assets listed by the Oxfordshire Historic Environmental Record.**
2. **Proposals for new development should be sensitively designed and should not cause harm to the historic environment. Proposals that have an impact on heritage assets (designated and non-designated) will be supported particularly where they:**
 - i) **conserve or enhance the significance of the heritage asset and settings. The more important the heritage asset, the greater the**