

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Page 2: Surface Water Management – Additional paragraphs added

Page 2: Policy NE3: Landscape Integration – Additional wording

Page 3: Landscape Enjoyment and Public Rights of Way Network – New Section

Page 3: Policy NE4: Biodiversity and Habitats – Additional wording

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Section of Plan	Proposed Modification	Reason for Change
Surface Water Management	<u>Additional paragraphs added</u> Recent developments in Marden village have delivered mixed results with regards to the aesthetic and ecological value of attenuation ponds and surface water drainage features. Marden Parish Council aspires to seek that development contribute positively to environmental and ecological enhancements, maximising opportunity to habitat creation and enhancements, and building a network of habitats within both the countryside and settlement areas. Marden Parish Council also welcomes the government's announcement in January 2023 that it intends to implement Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 to provide a framework for the approval and adoption of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS), and SuDs Approving Bodies (SABs), and national standards on the design, construction, operation and maintenance of SuDS. In order to strengthen, enhance and reinforce the network of ponds and streams within the Parish area; <i>1) Developments should seek to retain and reinforce existing ponds.</i> <i>2) The creation of new ponds will be supported, where it can be demonstrated that their provision is not of detriment to the nearby stream network.</i> <i>3) Where development includes new surface water attenuation ponds, these should be designed to retain water during dry periods. Attenuation ponds associated with developments will be expected to contribute positively to local ecology and biodiversity, as well as their primary surface water management role.</i>	Further description and information relating to surface water drainage in the parish and suggested actions for developers
POLICY NE3: LANDSCAPE INTEGRATION	<u>Additional wording to reduce the visual impact of a development.</u> All proposed developments should be designed to integrate into their surroundings in the landscape and contribute positively to the conservation and enhancement of that landscape. Dense hedgerow planting with native species is the preferred boundary treatment if the strengthening of existing hedgerows or restoration of lost hedgerow boundaries is not possible. Artificial lighting systems, if deemed necessary, require sensitive treatment to reduce visual intrusion and negative impacts on wildlife.	To reduce the impact around the village edge.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Section of Plan	Proposed Modification	Reason for Change
POLICY NE3: LANDSCAPE INTEGRATION (Contd.)	‘Major’ development should include a detailed Landscape Visual Impact Assessment and incorporate soft landscaping methods to reduce the visual impact of the proposal, particularly where this would soften the village edge when viewed from the wider landscape.	
Landscape Enjoyment and Public Rights of Way Network	<u>New section.</u> Landscape Enjoyment and Public Rights of Way Network Marden has a substantial and wide-reaching network of public rights of way which reach across all corners of the parish, through the local patchwork of orchards and fields, and to the surrounding villages and hamlets. The area also benefits from a number of ‘permissive’ routes. The usage of the individual rights of way and routes varies greatly, with many being heavily utilised, particularly around Marden settlement boundary. Those with the greatest usage are suffering from some degradation. Similarly, some of the existing network suffers from under-utilisation, and is overgrown and inaccessible. The Covid-19 pandemic demonstrated the strong public desire to explore the countryside around the parish, and the importance of maintaining safe and easy access to the countryside for all. Also see policy In2 ‘Sustainable Travel’.	Background information about public rights of way in the parish and cross referenced to Policy In2 – Sustainable Travel which includes references to public rights of way.
POLICY NE4: BIODIVERSITY AND HABITATS	Owing to the unique setting of Marden in its surrounding landscape all new development is expected to actively support the aims of the Kent Biodiversity Strategy, to protect Priority Habitats and, where possible, contribute to the Biodiversity Opportunity Areas. In addition to the NPPF Biodiversity Net Gain requirements all other developments should demonstrate an appropriate on-site biodiversity enhancement. Local off-site re-creation is viewed as a last resort.	To recognise the importance of the NPPF Biodiversity Net Gain requirements