

SUPPORTING DOCUMENT

Environmental protections

In the National Planning Policy Framework, the *natural and historical environment* is acknowledged to be an essential component of *sustainable development*; as such it carries equal weight in a balance against social and economic growth, including new development.

This chapter identifies land and features of environmental significance in Somerby. It includes policies to protect the best from loss or damage by allocating them to categories, as follows, based on their type, importance, function (as community assets, for example) and intrinsic value.

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS PROVIDED BY THE PLAN

	Weight	Selection	Protection	Notes
Local Green Space (LGS)	Statutory	NPPF criteria (see below) applied locally. Highest environmental importance in the Plan Area, scoring 75%+ overall.	Full protection of the site and its features ‘other than in exceptional circumstances’	No other obligations or burdens on landowner. No new public rights (e.g. access) are conferred Policy ENV 1
Statutory Listed Building	Statutory	English legislation National significance Age, rarity, aesthetic merit, best of type	Demolition, extension, alteration require ‘special permission’ from MBC. The ‘setting’ of the feature will also be considered if affected by development nearby	Already protected – no Policy needed in the Plan
Other site of environmental significance	Non-statutory, but in compliance with English and EU regulations / directives	National, county and district designations (existing) for biodiversity and /or history Sites not eligible for LGS designation but with demonstrable high	The sites, significant historical features, habitats and species should be taken into account if development or change of use is planned; presumption against harm or	No new public rights (e.g. access) are conferred Policy ENV 2

	Weight	Selection	Protection	Notes
		environmental significance in the Plan Area, scoring 4-8 for history+ wildlife	destruction	
Important Open Space (‘Open Space, Sport & Recreation’ sites, OSSR)	Non-statutory	NPPF and HBBC criteria and guidance ‘all open space of public value’ in 9 categories (MBC) Sites not eligible for LGS designation but with demonstrable high community value in the Plan Area. (Some LGS may also be OSSR). Score 75%+ in community value criteria	Presumption against redevelopment or loss of value May also be protected by public ownership or covenant	Includes all sites identified by HBBC as OSSR, and additional sites identified in the Plan’s environmental inventory No other obligations or burdens on landowner No new public rights (e.g. access) are conferred Policy ENV 3
Wildlife corridor	Non-statutory	NPPF paragraph 174, etc., and conservation good practice. Broadly linear features identified in the environmental inventory for their biodiversity value and for providing connectivity between habitats and species in the Plan Area	Should be taken into account if development or change of use is planned; presumption against harm or destruction	No other obligations or burdens on landowner No new public rights (e.g. access) are conferred Policy ENV 9
‘Local List’ of non-designated heritage assets	Non-statutory	NPPF paragraphs 184, 187 and footnotes Identified in the environmental inventory and through community consultation	Notification as non-designated heritage assets. Advisory on owners, community and MBC	Less proscriptive than statutory Listing. No other obligations or burdens on landowner if the building is in a Conservation Area. Otherwise both the

	Weight	Selection	Protection	Notes
				structure and its 'setting' will be taken into account in Planning Applications Policy ENV 4
Ridge and furrow	Non-statutory	NPPF paragraph 184 etc. Historic England encourages LPAs and Neighbourhood Plans to treat sites with ridge and furrow as non-designated heritage assets	Notification as non-designated heritage assets. Advisory on landowners, farmers, community and MBC	No other obligations or burdens on landowner, although sites receiving DEFRA subsidy as ridge and furrow will be protected for the lifetime of the agreement. No new public rights (e.g. access) are conferred Policy ENV 5
Views	Non-statutory	Identified in inventory, through community consultation and fieldwork	Recognition, and notification to MBC to support Planning decisions in the villages and to identify zones in which careful consideration should be given to regulations (e.g. permitted development in open countryside)	Policy ENV 8