

CHAPTER 8: NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

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	544	8.1	General Objections to Natural Environment Chapter Make no modification to the plan	Do Not Modify The Text	The Officer agrees with the reasoning and conclusions of the Local Plan Inspector regarding crematoriums at Paragraph 8.1.1.
M/08/01/T	544	8.2	Paragraphs 8.5.1, 8.5.3 and 8.5.4. Modify the Plan in accordance with Proposed Changes PRO184, PRO185 and PRO186	Modify The Text.	The Officer welcomes the support of the Local Plan Inspector made at Paragraph 8.2.1 to clarify the supporting text in accordance with the Council's proposed changes.
	545	8.3	Paragraph 8.2.1 Make no modification to paragraph 8.2.1	Do Not Modify The Text	The Officer agrees with the reasoning and conclusions of the Local Plan Inspector regarding biodiversity targets at Paragraph 8.3.1.
	545	8.4	Paragraph 8.5.6 Make no modification to paragraph 8.5.6	Do Not Modify The Text	The Officer agrees with the reasoning and conclusions of the Local Plan Inspector regarding wider environmental impacts at Paragraph 8.4.1.
M/08/02/T	546	8.5	Paragraphs 8.6.1, 8.6.2 and 8.6.3 Modify Policy N1 in accordance with Proposed Changes PRO187, PRO188 and PRO189.	Modify The Text.	The Officer welcomes the support of the Local Plan Inspector made at Paragraph 8.5.8 to clarify the supporting text in accordance with the Council's proposed changes.
M/08/03/M M/APP6/01 /T M/APP6/02 /T	546	8.5	Modify Appendix 6 and the Proposals Map to update the list of SSSIs and their boundaries in consultation with English Nature. Add the additional text to the introduction in Appendix 6 as set out in Paragraph 8.5.5.	Modify The Proposals Map.	The Officer agrees with the reasoning and conclusions of the Local Plan Inspector regarding use of latest information at the time of publication made at Paragraph 8.5.4.
	546	8.5	Give consideration to the point made in Paragraph 8.5.5 (on landowner and KWS selection processes).	Do Not Modify The Text	The Officer agrees with the Inspectors reasoning at Paragraph 8.5.5 that: "I appreciate the need for landowners to be aware of designations affecting their land which bring constraints on the nature of development which would be permitted. But I can also see the difficulty for the Council in, for instance, identifying the owners of such land so that a notice could be served. In response to this

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					<p>difficulty it was suggested that notices might be put up on the sites concerned. Whilst I recognise the force of the Objector's point, <u>it is not a matter that directly affects the content of the Plan, and is therefore not a matter on which I should make a recommendation.</u>"</p> <p>The Officer recognises this potential issue and is liaising with the County, Glos. Wildlife Trust and other Local Authorities in Gloucestershire on future KWS selection processes involving the landowners more.</p>
M/08/03/P	548	8.6	<p>Policy N1A Modify Policy N1A in accordance with the Suggested Change as follows: Policy N1A: " Development proposals that would adversely affect, either directly or indirectly, the integrity of a site of national importance, including a National Nature Reserve or a Site of Special Scientific Interest will not be permitted unless there are other imperative factors that over-ride the special nature conservation interest of the site. Where development is permitted, conditions or planning obligations will be used to secure compensatory measures to minimise loss or damage to the integrity of the site."</p>	Modify The Policy	<p>The Officer agrees with the reasoning and conclusions of the Local Plan Inspector regarding Policy N1A made at Paragraphs 8.6.1 and 8.6.2.</p>
M/08/03/T	548	8.6	<p>Paragraphs 8.6.5a and 8.6.5b Modify Policy N1A in accordance with Proposed Changes PRO190 and PRO191. Modify paragraph 8.6.5a, fifth sentence as follows:</p>	Modify The Text.	<p>The Officer agrees with the reasoning and conclusions of the Local Plan Inspector and welcomes the support for the proposed changes regarding supporting text to Policy N1A made at Paragraphs 8.6.1 and 8.6.2.</p>

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			"All development proposals in or likely to affect these sites will be subject to special scrutiny to safeguard the national network of such sites.		
M/08/04/P	549	8.7	<p>Policy N2 Modify Policy N2 in accordance with Proposed Change PRO195 and the additional Suggested Change as follows:</p> <p>"Development proposals that would adversely affect a Key Wildlife Site, Local Nature Reserve or Regionally Important Geological or Geomorphological Site will not be permitted unless the benefits of the development outweigh the nature conservation interest or scientific interest of the site. Where development is permitted, the effects of the development should be minimised and conditions or planning obligations used to secure compensatory measures that reflect the importance of the site and relevant Gloucestershire Biodiversity Action Plan targets."</p>	Modify The Policy	The Officer agrees with the reasoning and conclusions of the Local Plan Inspector and welcomes the support for the proposed change regarding Policy N2 made at Paragraph 8.7.3.
M/08/04/T	549	8.7	<p>Paragraphs 8.6.6 and 8.6.7 Modify the reasoned justification to Policy N2 in accordance with Proposed Changes PRO193 and PRO194.</p> <p>Modify Paragraph 8.6.7a in accordance with the Council's suggested wording, by introducing the words "the adverse effects should be minimised and" in the penultimate sentence after the words '...designated site is justified', and before the words 'the District Council will...'</p>	<p>Modify The Text in Paragraph 8.6.6, excluding the last sentence to: Whilst a number of sites in the District are not statutorily defined as being of value in nature conservation terms, they are of special local nature conservation interest and it is important to afford protection to them. Of particular note are the</p>	The Officer agrees with the reasoning of the Local Plan Inspector regarding site selection matters made at Paragraphs 8.7.1 to 8.7.8 (inclusive). There is a need for a factual update on PRO193 as GWT are no longer responsible for the management and selection of RIGS in the County. Gloucestershire Geo-Conservation Trust now manages these. Read in conjunction with M/08/16/T in respect of the last sentence of paragraph 8.6.6.

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				<p><i>County Key Wildlife Sites</i>, identified by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and adopted by the District Council as sites requiring protection. These include many ancient woodlands and unimproved limestone grasslands that are present in the District and have specialised wildlife communities. <i>Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites</i> (RIGS) are also important local designations that are identified with reference to established criteria by the Gloucestershire Geo-Conservation Trust. All County Key Wildlife Sites and RIGS within Stroud District are outlined in Appendix 6 and are identified on the Proposals Map.</p>	
M/08/05/T	551	8.8	<p>Paragraph 8.6.8 Modify Policy N3 in accordance with Proposed Change PRO196.</p>	Modify The Text.	The Officer agrees with the reasoning and conclusions of the Local Plan Inspector and welcomes the support for the proposed changes regarding supporting text to Policy N3 made at Paragraphs 8.8.1 to 8.8.8 (inclusive).
M/08/05/P	551	8.8	<p>Policy N3 Modify Policy N3 in accordance with Proposed</p>	Modify The Policy	The Officer agrees with the reasoning and conclusions of the Local Plan Inspector and

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			Change PRO197		welcomes the support for the proposed changes regarding Policy N3 made at Paragraphs 8.8.1 to 8.8.8 (inclusive).
M/08/06/P	551	8.8	Add a new policy following paragraph 8.6.10 of the Plan as follows “Development affecting a wildlife corridor will only be permitted if the function of the corridor is not harmed, or if any necessary enhancing, mitigating or compensatory measures are put in place. Such measures of enhancement, mitigation or compensation will be governed by condition.”	Add New Policy (But Not As The Inspector Recommended).	The Officer agrees with the reasoning of the Local Plan Inspector regarding a policy need for wildlife corridors at Paragraph 8.8.8. However, the Officer recommends the following revised wording: <i>“In considering proposals for development, the protection or enhancement of wildlife corridors will be sought. It is important that the function of any corridor should not be harmed. The creation of new wildlife corridors will be supported in appropriate locations. The details of any necessary enhancing, mitigating or compensatory measures should accompany the development proposal.”</i> The Officer considers that their wording offers clarity and still reflects the Inspector's intent. Mitigation or creation of corridors may in some cases be off site and it would be inappropriate to deal with these matters by condition.
M/08/07/T	553	8.9	Paragraph 8.6.11 Re-name the heading of the section from Natural Features to “Landscape Features” and replacing the reference to natural features with “landscape features” in the supporting text.	Modify The Text	The Officer agrees with the reasoning and conclusions of the Local Plan Inspector made at Paragraphs 8.9.1 to 8.9.8 (inclusive). The supporting text change is necessary at paragraph 8.6.11 of the Local Plan.
M/08/07/P	553	8.9	Policy N4 Modify Policy N4 in accordance with the Council's additional Suggested Change, renaming natural features with landscape features.	Modify The Policy.	The Officer agrees with the reasoning and conclusions of the Local Plan Inspector and welcomes the support for the proposed changes regarding Policy N4 made at Paragraphs 8.9.1 to 8.9.8 (inclusive).

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M/08/08/T	555	8.10	<p>Paragraphs 8.6.14 and 8.6.14a Modify Policy N5 in accordance with Proposed Changes PRO198 and PRO199.</p>	Modify The Text	The Officer agrees with the reasoning and conclusions of the Local Plan Inspector and welcomes the support for the proposed changes regarding Policy N5 made specifically at Paragraphs 8.10.2 and 8.10.3.
M/08/09/T	558	8.11	<p>Paragraphs 8.7.4a Modify the reasoned justification to Policy N6 in accordance with Proposed Changes PRO200, and PRO202</p> <p>Modify Policy N6 reasoned justification, as follows:</p> <p>Paragraph 8.7.6 - "Areas of outstanding Natural Beauty represent some of the most sensitive landscapes in Britain and can be vulnerable to pressures for development and change. It is the intention of Stroud District Council, as the Local Planning Authority, to uphold the primary purpose of the Cotswolds AONB designation; to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the landscape. However, regard will be had to the economic and social well-being of the Area in terms of the needs of agriculture, forestry, rural industries and local communities will also be taken into account in the pursuance of this objective. Similarly, proposals for recreation and leisure will also be considered favourably where they are consistent with the conservation of natural beauty and the needs of agriculture, forestry and other land uses. Proposals for major development within the AONB will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the development is in the national interest and there</p>	<p>Modify The Text Except Paragraph 8.7.4a - PRO200 That Is Replaced With "The Government released three significant documents relating to Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty; the Rural White Paper 2000, Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2001 and PPS7 Sustainable Development in Rural Areas. The Cotswolds Conservation Board works with others to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB – and is the only organisation to look after the AONB as a whole. It is a statutory body, established by Order of the Secretary of State with the approval of both Houses of Parliament. It replaced the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership</p>	The Officer agrees largely with the reasoning and conclusions of the Local Plan Inspector and welcomes the support for the proposed change PRO202 regarding Policy N6 made at Paragraphs 8.11.1 to 8.11.16 (inclusive). PRO200 is replaced by a further factual update that takes account of the current national planning guidance in relation to AONBs and the status of the Cotswolds Conservation Board (that replaced the Cotswolds AONB Partnership on 14 th December 2004).

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			<p>is a lack of alternative sites. Consideration of any application for major development will involve an assessment of the following to determine whether it would be in the national interest:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The need for the development, in terms of national considerations, and the impact of permitting it or refusing it on the local economy; 2. The cost and scope for developing elsewhere outside the area or meeting the need for it in some other way; and 3. Any detrimental effect on the environment and the landscape, and the extent to which that should be moderated." 	<p>in December 2004. The statutory role has a status which brings opportunities for more streamlined and effective management of the AONB and which makes it easier to attract funds and support. They will also be responsible for promoting public understanding and enjoyment of AONBs and fostering the economic and social well being of local communities. The Conservation Board's Operative Day (the day that the Board receives its powers as provided for by the Establishment Order) is Tuesday 1 February 2005: Development planning and control functions will remain the responsibility of the constituent local authorities."</p>	
M/08/09/P	558	8.11	<p>Policy N6 Modify Policy N6 as follows:</p> <p>Policy N6 – "Within the Cotswolds AONB, priority will be given to the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the landscape over other considerations, whilst also having regard to the economic and social well-being of the AONB. Development within, or affecting the setting of the</p>	Modify The Policy	The Officer agrees with the reasoning and conclusions of the Local Plan Inspector regarding Policy N6 made at Paragraphs 8.11.1 to 8.11.16 (inclusive).

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			<p>AONB will only be permitted if all the following criteria are met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The nature, siting and scale are sympathetic to the landscape; 2. The design and materials complement the character of the area; and 3. Important landscape features and trees are retained and appropriate landscaping measures are undertaken. <p>Major development will not be permitted unless it is demonstrated to be in the national interest and that there is a lack of alternative sites."</p>		
M/08/10/P	563	8.12	<p>Policy N7 Modify Policy N7 in accordance with the Council's additional Suggested Change as follows:</p> <p>"When considering development proposals in the Special Landscape Area, priority will be given to the conservation and where possible enhancement of the landscape character. Permission will not be granted to development that would harm the character, appearance or special landscape qualities of the Special Landscape Area."</p>	Modify The Policy	The Officer agrees with the reasoning and conclusions of the Local Plan Inspector and welcomes the support for the proposed changes regarding Policy N7 made at Paragraphs 8.12.1 to 8.12.13 (inclusive).
M/08/11/T	566	8.13	<p>Paragraph 8.7.13 Modify Policy N8 in accordance with Proposed Change PRO204.</p>	Modify The Text	The Officer agrees with the reasoning and conclusions of the Local Plan Inspector and welcomes the support for the proposed changes regarding Policy N8 made at Paragraphs 8.13.1 to 8.13.7 (inclusive).
M/08/11/P	566	8.13	<p>Policy N8 Modify Policy N8 in accordance with Proposed Change PRO205</p>	Modify The Policy To Reflect National Guidance In PPS 7 And The Gloucestershire	The Officer is sympathetic with the reasoning of the Local Plan Inspector. However the Structure Plan policy has clearly moved towards the latest national guidance. This is contained in PPS 7

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				Move Towards Using Landscape Character Assessments To Inform Planning Decisions. “ Provision should not be made for development that would detract from the particular landscape qualities and character of designated Special Landscape Areas. ”	and uses Landscape Character Assessment to inform planning decisions, (as opposed to a multiplicity of tiered local designations). This interim policy position continues to allow the SLA local designation to exist. The strategic policy will need to be reviewed rigorously and robustly with the policy need, purpose and intent forming part of that future review. The County is currently undertaking this in compliance with current national guidance.
M/08/12/P M/08/12/M M/08/12/T	568	8.14	Policy N9 Delete Policy N9 from the Plan Delete the AHQL designations from the Proposals Map. Do not modify Policy N9 in accordance with Proposed Changes PRO206 and PRO207	Delete The Policy And Supporting Text Remove Designated AHQL From The Proposals Map.	National guidance contained in PPS 7 has not altered the position on the need to rigorously and robustly justify any local designations. The Inspector considered the justification issue and has clearly concluded that the designation does not offer specific protection beyond other policies. Such an approach clearly reflects the national move to Landscape Character Assessment to inform planning decisions. The Officer agrees with the reasoning and conclusions of the Local Plan Inspector regarding Policy N9 made at Paragraphs 8.14.1 to 8.14.7 (inclusive). Whilst the Inspector does not clearly recommend the deletion of the existing text, the Inspector used a generic “policy” to mean policy and text. The paragraphs would not add clarity or purpose in the absence of Policy N9.
	570	8.15	Policy N10 Make no modification to the policy	Do Not Modify The Policy	The Officer agrees with the reasoning and conclusions of the Local Plan Inspector regarding Policy N10 made at Paragraphs 8.15.1 to 8.15.5 (inclusive).
	571	8.16	Policy N11	Do Not Modify The Policy	The Officer agrees with the reasoning and

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			Make no modification to the policy		conclusions of the Local Plan Inspector regarding Policy N11 made at Paragraphs 8.16.1 to 8.16.4 (inclusive).
	573	8.17	Policy N12 Make no modification to the policy	Do Not Modify The Policy	The Officer agrees with the reasoning and conclusions of the Local Plan Inspector regarding Policy N12 made at Paragraphs 8.17.1 to 8.17.2.
M/08/13/P M/08/13/T	573	8.18	Paragraph 8.8.2a And Policy N13 Modify Policy N13 in accordance with Proposed Change PRO208 and PRO209	Modify the Policy And Modify The Text	The Officer agrees with the reasoning and conclusions of the Local Plan Inspector and welcomes the support for the proposed changes regarding Policy N13 made at Paragraphs 8.18.1 to 8.18.5 (inclusive). The revisions are still reflected by national guidance in the revised PPS 7.
M/08/14/T	575	8.19	Paragraph 8.9.2a Modify Policy N14 in accordance with Proposed Change PRO210, but replacing the reference to the revised consultation draft of PPG25 with the following: “ <i>Planning Policy Guidance Note 25: Development and Flood Risk, July 2001</i> ”. Modify Policy N14 to replace the reference to BMP techniques in the final sentence of paragraph 8.9.2a with “ <i>SuDS techniques</i> ”	Replace Paragraph 8.9.2a with new text: “8.9.2a. Traditional practice for the disposal of surface water involves channelling the water away to the nearest watercourse to promote rapid run-off. This approach can lead to an increased risk of flooding down-stream, reduced groundwater recharge and the transmission of pollutants to watercourses. It is essential to demonstrate that an assessment of the risk of groundwater flooding or local flooding due to run-off exceeding the capacity of	The Officer agrees with the reasoning of the Local Plan Inspector made at Paragraphs 8.19.1 to 8.19.3 (inclusive). Consequential upon these Inspectors recommendations in relation to the supporting text to Policy N14, there are further Officer recommendations to update and clarify SuDS matters. Originally SUDS referred to Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems. The Urban element was dropped as the need for natural and sustainable drainage patterns was equally recognised in rural areas. SuDS is an abbreviation for <u>Sustainable Drainage Systems</u> and is more appropriate within the wider Stroud District context. Further text provides clarity on the purpose and need to use sustainable drainable systems in association with development and is updated in line with PPG 25 Development and Flood Risk (2001) and the start of the review of this guidance in late 2004.

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				<p>drainage systems has been taken into account, when formulating development proposals. The SUDS approach is promoted by the Environment Agency and referred to in PPG25: Development and Flood Risk, July 2001. Sustainable drainage options can include:</p> <p>a) Preventive measures e.g. Rain-water recycling;</p> <p>b) Filter strips and swales e.g. Vegetated landscape features with a gentle downhill gradient to drain water evenly off impermeable surfaces, mimicking natural drainage systems;</p> <p>c) Filter drains and permeable and porous pavements e.g. Allows rainwater and run-off to infiltrate into permeable material placed below ground to store water prior to discharge;</p> <p>d) Infiltration devices e.g. below-ground or surface structures to drain water directly into the ground</p>	

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				<p>(soakaways, infiltration trenches, swales with infiltration and infiltration basins) at source or piped to an appropriate area; and e) Basins and ponds e.g. structures designed to hold water when it rains. Basins are free from water in dry weather and ponds contain water at all times and are designed to hold more when it rains. This can include wetlands and reedbeds.</p> <p>8.9.2b The Council will require evidence of the use of sustainable drainage systems in the design of any development proposal. SuDS move away from traditional piped drainage systems to engineering solutions that mimic natural drainage processes. The Council consider the use of sustainable drainage systems make a significant contribution towards sustainable development by:</p> <p>a) Managing environmental impacts at source, rather</p>	

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				<p>than downstream;</p> <p>b) Managing water run-off rates, reducing erosion, and the impact of urbanisation on flood risk;</p> <p>c) Protecting or enhancing water quality;</p> <p>d) Being sympathetic to the environmental setting and the needs of the local community;</p> <p>e) Providing opportunities to improve biodiversity by creating habitats for wildlife in watercourses; and</p> <p>f) Encouraging more natural groundwater recharge.</p>	
M/08/14/P	575	8.19	Policy N14 Modify Policy N14 in accordance with Proposed Change PRO211.	Modify The Policy	The Officer agrees with the reasoning and conclusions of the Local Plan Inspector and welcomes the support for the proposed changes regarding Policy N14 wording. There is a further modification required as a consequence of M/08/14T Officer and Inspector recommendations that "Urban" be deleted from the policy wording for factual reasons.
	576	8.20	Policy N15 Make no modification to the plan	Do Not Modify The Policy	The Officer agrees with the reasoning and conclusions of the Local Plan Inspector regarding Policy N15 made at Paragraph 8.20.1.
	577	8.21	Policy N15 – Omissions Site OS202 Make no modification to the plan	Do Not Modify The Text	The Officer agrees with the reasoning and conclusions of the Local Plan Inspector regarding Policy N15 made at Paragraph 8.21.1.
	577	8.22	Policy N15 – Omission Site OS203 Make no modification to the plan	Do Not Modify The Text	The Officer agrees with the reasoning and conclusions of the Local Plan Inspector

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					regarding Policy N15 made at Paragraph 8.21.1.
M/08/15/T				Paragraph 8.3.1: Replace PPG7 With PPS7 In The Text.	The Officer recommends that the Local Plan is updated to take account of the change in national planning guidance from PPG7 The Countryside – Environmental Quality and Economic and Social Development (published in 1997) to PPS7 Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (Published in 2004). This is a factual update and the supporting text is not affected by changes to advice.
M/08/16/T				Paragraph 8.6.6: Replace Last Sentence With “The Local Designation Sites are listed in Appendix 6 and indicated on the Proposals Maps. They are correct at the time of printing. Developers are advised to contact the Gloucestershire Geo-Conservation Trust for RIGS or Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records (GCER) for KWS to establish whether sites have been added, deleted or amended as a result of more recent survey work.”	Consequential upon the Officer agreeing with the reasoning of the Local Plan Inspector regarding use of latest information at the time of publication. The Gloucestershire Environmental Data Unit (GEDU) was re-launched in 2004, as the Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records (GCER). The Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust no longer manages the wildlife records. Similarly GWT are no longer responsible for the management and selection of RIGS in the County. Gloucestershire Geo-Conservation Trust now manages these.
M/08/17/M				Replace All Key Wildlife Sites On The Proposal Maps With Latest Data Available From GCER.	This is consequential upon recommendations accepted in M/APP6/03T (including the reasoning), M/08/03M , M/APP6/01T , M/APP6/02T , M/APP6/03T and M/APP6/04T . The Key Wildlife Sites indicated on the Proposals Maps will be correct at the time of

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					printing. This is as a result of improved mapping techniques and that some sites have been added, deleted or amended as a result of more recent survey work.
M/08/18/T				Paragraph 8.1.2 Second sentence amend as follows: “It is also a proposed Special Area of Conservation site.”	Factual amendment to comply with statutory reference.