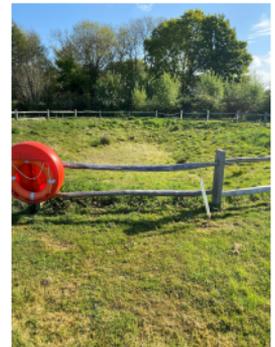


NATURAL ENVIRONMENT POLICY NE1 SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT

Support will be given to development proposals that include appropriate sustainable surface water control systems designed to deliver efficient, clean water handling as well as wildlife and amenity benefits. Schemes must be accompanied by a detailed management plan confirming operating responsibilities to ensure the permanent management and maintenance of all elements of the schemes to maximise local benefits.



NATURAL ENVIRONMENT POLICY NE2 WATER QUALITY

Development proposals that seek to protect the water quality in the Rivers Beult, Teise and Lesser Teise and their respective catchment areas by strict controls on the potential release of contaminants, both during construction and in subsequent use will be supported. Sustainable drainage networks should be designed for ease of long-term maintenance, as well as lifetime efficiency. Best sustainable on-site use should be made of materials arising from maintenance.



NATURAL ENVIRONMENT POLICY NE3 LANDSCAPE INTEGRATION

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.



NATURAL ENVIRONMENT POLICY NE4 BIODIVERSITY & HABITATS

Owing to the unique setting of Marden in its surrounding landscape all new development is expected to support actively the aims of the Kent Biodiversity Strategy, to protect Priority Habitats and, where possible, contribute to the Biodiversity Opportunity Areas. A biodiversity net gain philosophy should be implemented so that any habitat or species loss is replaced elsewhere on-site, in excess of the amount originally lost.

Local off-site re-creation is viewed as a last resort but the net gain principle would apply to ensure there is a positive impact from the new works.



NATURAL ENVIRONMENT POLICY NE5 LANDSCAPE PLANTING

New landscape planting in Marden must be selected from native species of local provenance for landscape and visual effects and to maintain the natural rhythms of the vegetation in the surrounding area. Priority should be given to species that provide food and shelter to wildlife. Development proposals within the Plan area must ensure that appropriate and adequate space is available within the development site to allow landscape planting to reach maturity without any detriment to the amenities of the development itself and to neighbouring properties, for example by excessive shading of gardens or by the interruption of external views.



NATURAL ENVIRONMENT POLICY NE6 SOIL CONSERVATION

Development proposals should demonstrate sustainable on-site soil management and minimise the import of subsoil and topsoil and the export of any excavated ground materials.

