

### Areas of Special Local Character

5.17 Areas of Special Local Character (ASLC) are non-designated local heritage assets, that have a character and identity which local residents value and the Council wishes to preserve or enhance. They are chosen on the basis of their local architectural, townscape or historic merit, which helps mark and celebrate the area's special quality. The criteria for ASLCs differ from Conservation Area selection criteria in that they recognise particularly good examples of more familiar types of development as opposed to the more outstanding quality required for Conservation Area designation. ASLCs are shown on the Policies Map and are listed on the Council website, with detailed maps of each area provided.

5.18 Within Areas of Special Local Character new development should complement existing materials, design features, architectural style and building heights predominant in the area. Extensions to dwellings should respect the symmetry of the original buildings and be subordinate in nature. Additional development in the form of backland development is unlikely to be acceptable.

#### **Policy DMHB 5: Areas of Special Local Character**

**A) Within Areas of Special Local Character, new development should reflect the character of the area and its original layout. Alterations should respect the established scale, building lines, height, design and materials of the area.**

**B) Extensions to dwellings should be subservient to, and respect the architectural style of the original buildings and allow sufficient space for appropriate landscaping, particularly between, and in front of, buildings.**

**C) The replacement of buildings which positively contribute to the character and local importance of Areas of Special Local Character will normally be resisted.**

5.19 There are special policies applying to the Gatehill Farm Estate and Copse Wood Estate in Northwood. In these areas new development will be expected to conform to the vernacular styles predominant in the area, have traditional roof forms and architectural features and relate appropriately to their landscaped settings.

5.20 In the Copse Wood Estate, most trees are protected by Tree Preservation Orders. The Council will normally refuse applications for tree felling unless the tree is in poor health.

**Policy DMHB 6: Gatehill Farm Estate and Copse Wood Estate Areas of Special Local Character**

**Within the Gatehill Farm and Copse Wood Estates, new houses should:**

- i) be constructed on building plots of a similar average width as surrounding residential development;**
- ii) be constructed on a similar building line (formed by the front main walls of existing houses) and be of a similar scale, form and proportion as adjacent houses and reflect the materials, traditional roof design, design features and architectural style predominant in the area;**
- iii) ensure that boundary treatment is unobtrusive and of the natural materials appropriate to the character and appearance of the estate;**
- iv) ensure that new dwellings retain an absolute minimum of 1.5m distance to side boundaries;**
- v) preserve the mature trees including boundary planting to reinforce existing landscaping and Estate settings;**

**Archaeology**

5.21 Hillingdon is rich in archaeology and its archaeological remains are an important and valuable local and national resource. Archaeology contributes positively to the quality of life, character and distinctiveness of local communities and as such can attract interest, promote community involvement and provide a sense of local and national identity.

5.22 Significant prehistoric sites at Three Ways Wharf, Uxbridge and more recently at Heathrow Terminal Five have been excavated. The excavations at Heathrow have highlighted the Borough's potential for providing important information about the changing landscape of London from prehistory through to modern times.

**Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs)**

5.23 There are currently five Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the Borough as shown on Map 7.1 of the Local Plan Part 1. These comprise three mediaeval moated sites (Ickenham Manor, Pynchester Moat and Brackenbury Farm), an early mediaeval motte and bailey castle (Ruislip) and Park Pale (Ruislip), an earthwork forming the boundary of the mediaeval deer park. These sites will be protected in accordance with national guidance.