

Camden Core Strategy 2010-2025

Local Development Framework



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Camden's Local Development Framework. Core Strategy 2010.

CS5. Managing the impact of growth and development

- 5.1 The overall approach of the Core Strategy, as set out in policy CS1, is to manage Camden's growth to make sure that its opportunities and benefits are delivered and sustainable development is achieved, while continuing to conserve and enhance the features that make Camden such an attractive place to live, work and visit. This flows from the Camden Community Strategy theme of a sustainable Camden that adapts to a growing population. Policy CS5 provides more information on our approach to managing the impact of growth in the borough.

CS POLICY

CS5 – Managing the impact of growth and development

The Council will manage the impact of growth and development in Camden. We will ensure that development meets the full range of objectives of the Core Strategy and other Local Development Framework documents, with particular consideration given to:

- a) providing uses that meet the needs of Camden's population and contribute to the borough's London-wide role;
- b) providing the infrastructure and facilities needed to support Camden's population and those who work in and visit the borough;
- c) providing sustainable buildings and spaces of the highest quality; and
- d) protecting and enhancing our environment and heritage and the amenity and quality of life of local communities.

The Council will protect the amenity of Camden's residents and those working in and visiting the borough by:

- e) making sure that the impact of developments on their occupiers and neighbours is fully considered;
- f) seeking to ensure development contributes towards strong and successful communities by balancing the needs of development with the needs and characteristics of local areas and communities; and
- f) requiring mitigation measures where necessary.

Making sure development achieves the objectives of the Core Strategy

- 5.2 Central to managing Camden's future growth is the need to consider not just the scale and nature of that growth, but how it is provided and the effect on those who live in the area and the borough as a whole. All development in Camden, large or small, whether located in growth areas, highly accessible locations or in other parts of the borough, should take place in accordance with all relevant policies in the Core Strategy and the other documents that form part of Camden's Local Development Framework (see paragraph 4 in the Introduction) to ensure that the Council's vision for the borough is achieved. The Council will seek to ensure that the borough's growth brings benefits and opportunities to all.
- 5.3 The second section of this Core Strategy, *Meeting Camden's needs – Providing homes, jobs and facilities*, sets out our approach to providing the land uses, infrastructure and facilities that are needed to support Camden's communities, workers and visitors. This includes places to live, work and shop, community facilities and provision for walking, cycling and public transport. The section also sets out our approach to the unique issues faced in Central London, the home to many of the uses that contribute to London's role as a capital and major international city, as well as long-established residential communities.

- 5.4 One of the key elements of managing Camden's growth is securing the infrastructure and services needed to support Camden's growing numbers of residents, workers and visitors. To identify the infrastructure need in the borough in future years we commissioned the Camden Infrastructure Study 2009. This work formed the basis of the schedule in Appendix 1, which set out identified key infrastructure programmes and projects including transport, utilities, emergency services, education, health and other community facilities. It gives information on the nature of each infrastructure scheme, where it will be located, who will lead on its delivery and when it is expected to be provided. As the boundaries of the growth area are relatively tightly drawn, taking in the main development opportunities, the infrastructure to support a particular growth area may be provided outside its boundary. Please see section 19 – *Delivering and monitoring the Core Strategy* for more detail on our approach to infrastructure provision. In addition, the individual sections in the Core Strategy also contain details of infrastructure requirements and provision that are relevant to that section (for example, policy CS15 on open space and policy CS11 on transport.)
- 5.5 The third section of the Core Strategy, *A sustainable and attractive Camden – Tackling climate change and improving and protecting Camden's environment and quality of life*, focuses on making sure that growth is sustainable and properly takes into account the character of Camden and the aspects of the borough that make it such an attractive place to live, work and visit. It sets out how we intend to make Camden a low carbon, low waste borough; deal with climate change; and protect, and where possible enhance, our built environment, heritage and open spaces. It also sets out our approach to improving the safety and health of the community.
- 5.6 Our Camden Development Policies Local Development Framework document will be one of the main mechanisms by which we will seek to deliver to vision and objectives in the Core Strategy. It sets out planning policies that provide more detail of our approach to many of the matters covered in this Core Strategy. We will use Camden Development Policies alongside the Core Strategy when we determine applications for planning permission.

Protecting amenity

- 5.7 Camden's high level of amenity – the features of a place that contribute to its attractiveness and comfort – is a major factor in the quality of life of the borough's residents, workers and visitors and fundamental to Camden's attractiveness and success. However, Camden's inner London location, the close proximity of various uses and the presence of major roads and railways can mean that privacy, noise and light can be particular issues in the borough.
- 5.8 Protecting amenity is, therefore, a key part of successfully managing growth in Camden. We will expect development to avoid harmful effects on the amenity of existing and future occupiers and nearby properties or, where this is not possible, to take appropriate measures to minimise potential negative impacts. More detail and guidance on our approach to amenity is contained in Camden Development Policies policy DP26 – and our Camden Planning Guidance supplementary document. Other policies in Camden Development Policies also contribute to protecting amenity in the borough by setting out our detailed approach to specific issues, such as the impact of food, drink and entertainment uses (policy DP12), noise and vibration (policy DP28) and air quality (policy DP32)

Promoting successful communities

- 5.9 A key element to our overall strategy of managing Camden's future growth is to ensure that the opportunities and benefits of this growth are delivered in a way that meets the needs of Camden's residents and promotes strong and successful communities. In assessing development proposals, the Council will take into account the needs and benefits of the development alongside the individual characteristics and needs of the local area and community, and will seek to strike a balance between them. Where relevant, we will take into account the cumulative impacts of developments, or particular types of development, on local areas and communities.

Key evidence and references

- Camden Together – Camden's Sustainable Community Strategy; 2007-2012
- The London Plan (consolidated with alterations since 2004); Mayor of London; 2008



CS14. Promoting high quality places and conserving our heritage

- 14.1 Camden does not have a single built character but is made up of many diverse areas, each with their own identity. The southern part of the borough, which forms part of Central London, is characterised by a high density built environment and complex mix of uses. The central part of the borough contains several town centres surrounded by areas of medium-density housing and some employment uses. The north of the borough is predominantly residential of a lower density with substantial open space at Hampstead Heath. Throughout the borough there are examples of Camden's unique architectural heritage, with many high quality buildings and places, old and new. This is reflected in our large number of conservation areas and listed buildings, which have been recognised for their special architectural or historic interest.
- 14.2 Our overall strategy is to sustainably manage growth in Camden so it meets our needs for homes, jobs and services in a way that conserves and enhances the features that make the borough such an attractive place to live, work and visit. Policy CS14 plays a key part in achieving this by setting out our approach to conserving and, where possible, enhancing our heritage and valued places, and to ensuring that development is of the highest standard and reflects, and where possible improves, its local area. Policy CS13 above and policy DP22 in Camden Development Policies set out our approach to ensuring that design in the borough is sustainable and that schemes include measures to minimise the effects of, and adapt to, climate change.

CS POLICY

CS14 – Promoting high quality places and conserving our heritage

The Council will ensure that Camden's places and buildings are attractive, safe and easy to use by:

- a) requiring development of the highest standard of design that respects local context and character;
- b) preserving and enhancing Camden's rich and diverse heritage assets and their settings, including conservation areas, listed buildings, archaeological remains, scheduled ancient monuments and historic parks and gardens;
- c) promoting high quality landscaping and works to streets and public spaces;
- d) seeking the highest standards of access in all buildings and places and requiring schemes to be designed to be inclusive and accessible;
- e) protecting important views of St Paul's Cathedral and the Palace of Westminster from sites inside and outside the borough and protecting important local views.

Excellence in design

- 14.3 Camden has many special and unique places and historic and modern buildings of the highest quality. As well as preserving this rich heritage, we should also be contributing to it by making sure that we create buildings of equally high quality that will be appreciated by future generations. The design of the places and buildings that make up our local environment affects us all and our quality of life. High quality design is visually interesting and attractive but it is not just about what things look like. Good design makes places that put people first, are welcoming, feel safe and are enjoyable and easy to use for everyone, whether they are living in, working in or just passing through the borough.

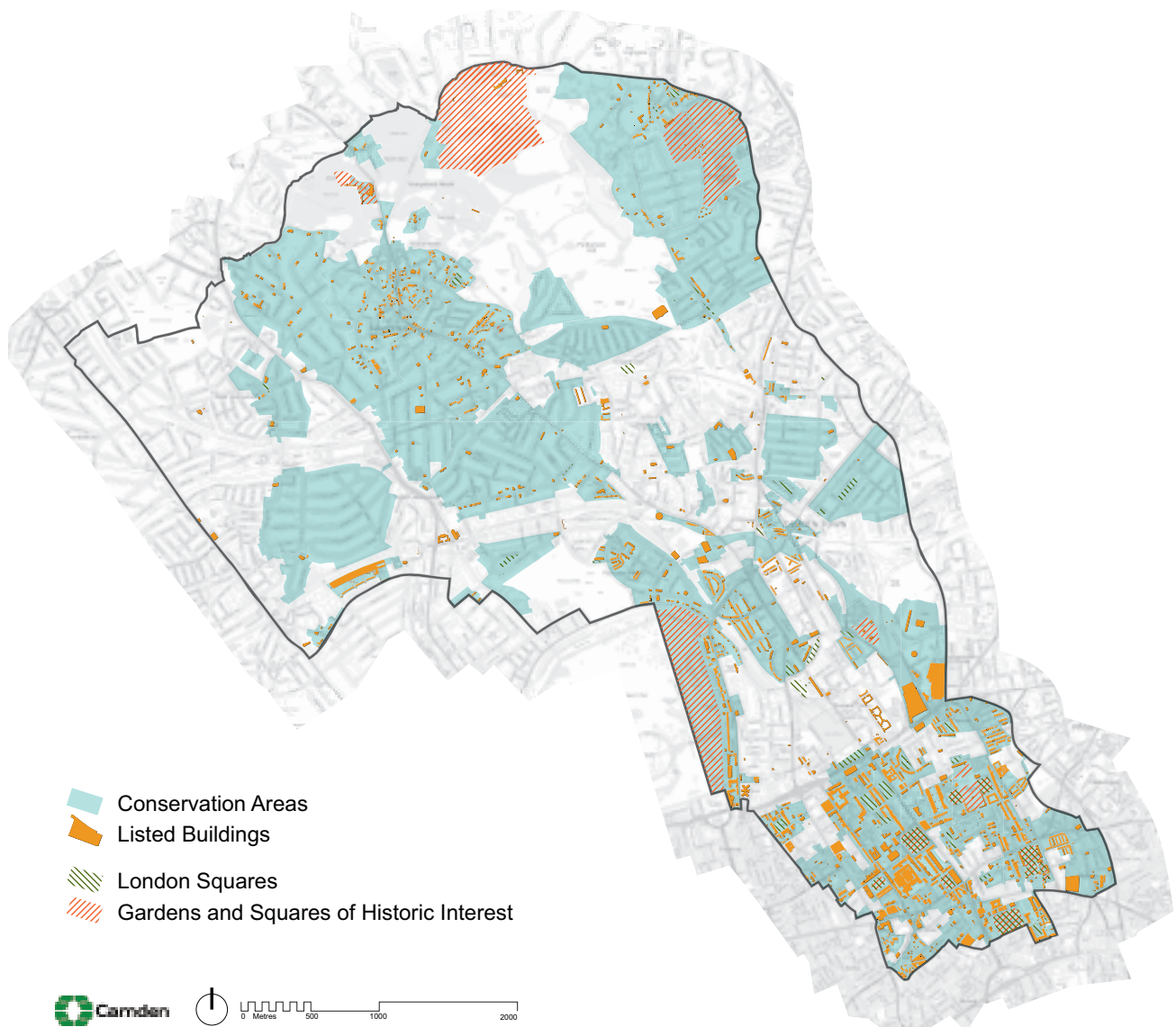


- 14.4 Development schemes should improve the quality of buildings, landscaping and the street environment and, through this, improve the experience of the borough for residents and visitors. The Council will therefore insist on high quality design throughout the borough. In accordance with government guidance in Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 1 – *Delivering Sustainable Development* we will not accept design that is considered inappropriate to its context or which fails to take opportunities to improve the character and quality of an area and the way it functions. Please see Camden Development Policies (policy DP24) for more detailed guidance on our approach to the design of new development and alterations and extensions. When assessing design, we will also take into account government/CABE guidance *By Design – Urban Design in the planning system: towards better practice* and our own Camden Planning Guidance supplementary document.
- 14.5 The Council is working with its partners to promote and celebrate excellence in design and improve public buildings, landscaping and the street environment; for example through the Camden Design Initiative, which seeks to improve public space and the built environment and encourage involvement, awareness and understanding of good design, including the bi-annual Camden Design Awards, which recognise high quality and innovative designs.
- 14.6 Good design is safe and accessible, and responds flexibly to the needs of its users. It creates buildings that have minimal negative impact on the environment, during construction and beyond. The construction and use of buildings currently accounts for around half of national carbon emissions and it is therefore vital that new and redeveloped buildings are designed to have a beneficial impact on their environment. See CS13 – *Tackling climate change through promoting higher environmental standards* and CS17 – *Making Camden a safer place* for our approach to these matters.
- 14.7 High quality design also takes account of its surroundings and what is distinctive and valued about the local area. Camden is made up of a diversity of areas, each with their own distinctive character, created by many elements such as architectural style and layout, social and economic history, landscaping and mix of uses – as summarised in the description of Camden’s character below. As Camden is a densely built-up borough where most development involves the replacement, extension or conversion of existing buildings, taking account of context and local character is particularly important. The Council will therefore expect the design of buildings and places to respond to the local area and its defining characteristics and reinforce or, if appropriate, create local distinctiveness.
- 14.8 While tall buildings offer the opportunity for intensive use, their siting and design should be carefully considered in order to not detract from the nature of surrounding places and the quality of life for those living and working around them. Applications for tall buildings will be assessed against policy CS14 and policies DP24 – *Securing high quality design* and DP25 – *Conserving Camden’s heritage* in Camden Development Policies, along with the full range of policies on mixed use, sustainability, amenity and microclimate. and other relevant policies. Effect on views, impact on local microclimate and provision of communal and private amenity space will also be important considerations.

Camden's heritage

- 14.9 Camden has a rich architectural heritage with many special places and buildings from throughout Camden's history (see map 6). 39 areas, covering much of the borough, are designated as conservation areas, recognising their special architectural or historic interest and their character and appearance. We have prepared conservation area statements, appraisals and management strategies that provide further guidance on the character of these areas. We will take these documents into account as material considerations when we assess applications for planning permission and conservation area consent in these areas.
- 14.10 Over 5,600 buildings and structures in Camden are nationally listed for their special historical or architectural interest, and 53 of the borough's squares are protected by the London Squares Preservation Act 1931. In addition, 14 open spaces in Camden are on English Heritage's Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest. The Council will consult with English Heritage over proposals affecting these parks and gardens. We also encourage the restoration and management of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest and London Squares to enhance their value. Camden also has a generally well-preserved archaeological heritage, with 13 identified archaeological priority areas, although this can be vulnerable to modern development and land use.

Map 6: Heritage



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- 14.11 We have a responsibility to preserve and, where possible, enhance our heritage of important areas and buildings. Policy DP25 in Camden Development Policies provides more detailed guidance on the Council's approach to protecting and enriching the range of features that make up our built heritage.
- 14.12 Architectural detail, materials, colour and structures such as walls can make a significant contribution to the appearance of an area, but can often be altered without the need for planning permission. Cumulatively, many minor building works can gradually erode the quality of an area and undermine the quality of conservation areas. We will therefore make use of 'Article 4 Directions' in appropriate locations to bring some minor works under planning control. We are intending to introduce such measures in the conservation areas of Belsize, Hampstead, and Swiss Cottage, where loss of historic character through cumulative change is apparent. Primrose Hill conservation area already benefits from a comprehensive Article 4 Direction, which has helped to retain its high quality historic character.

Landscaping and public realm

- 14.13 The quality of our streets and public spaces affects the quality of all our lives. We enjoy being in and passing through attractive, clean and well-maintained places, but are discouraged from walking in and through areas with a poor environment. An enhanced public realm should integrate transport and land use, contribute to improved walking and cycling environments, respect and reinforce local identity and character, attract people to the area and encourage the use of streets and public spaces to create diverse, vibrant and lively places.
- 14.14 The Council is committed to improving Camden's streets and public spaces and has carried out many improvement schemes with many more ongoing and planned. We have produced a Camden Streetscape Design Manual to raise the standard of street works throughout the borough. This sets standards for our own works and provides guidance for other agencies. It encourages respect for local character and promotes high quality, clutter-free design to make streets and public places that are safe and easy to use for all.
- 14.15 A number of studies on streets and spaces have been produced, particularly for the south of the borough (e.g. Bloomsbury, King's Cross and St Giles/Tottenham Court Road). These have been commissioned and funded by a range of organisations (including TfL, LDA, Design for London and UCL) sometimes in partnership with the Council. It is procedurally difficult for the Council to adopt these non-statutory documents as formal planning or other guidance. We will therefore look to draw on the best of this work to create a long-term vision for these areas, emphasising local character and providing a high quality environment for walking, which is formally agreed by the Council.
- 14.16 In order to improve the environment for walking in the borough, Camden is committed to the 'Legible London' concept which aims to improve how easily pedestrians can understand the layout of the capital and find their way around by introducing clear and consistent signage and maps. The programme has begun in Covent Garden and Bloomsbury, and future schemes are anticipated around the borough. Camden has also established a 'Place Shaping Board' to consider the most appropriate ways to shape the services, facilities, infrastructure and public realm to meet the needs of current and future populations (see section 4 – *Delivering and Monitoring the Core Strategy*).
- 14.17 Further information on measures being taken by the Council and its partners to improve the quality of our streets and public places is included in CS2 – *Growth areas*, CS8 – *Promoting Camden's centres and shops*, CS11 – *Promoting sustainable and efficient travel*, CS15 – *Protecting and improving our parks and open spaces and encouraging biodiversity*, and CS17 – *Making Camden a safer place*.
- 14.18 High quality landscaping plays an important role in the attractiveness and character of our surroundings. It can improve the setting of buildings, bring trees and other greenery into built-up areas to relieve the hard landscaping and provide shade, and provide habitats for wildlife. The Council will expect development schemes to provide a high standard of landscaping and boundary features, such as walls and fences. We will encourage appropriate use of landscaping in the form of 'green roofs', 'brown roofs' and 'green walls' which have a number of environmental benefits (e.g. in providing wildlife habitats, in helping to cool and insulate buildings and in retaining water, helping to

reduce flooding), as well as being visually attractive. More detail on our approach to landscaping is set out in the Council's Camden Planning Guidance supplementary document and policy DP22 in Camden Development Policies.

Access

- 14.19 Good access benefits everyone. However, many people are disadvantaged by poor access to facilities and vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, such as the elderly and disabled people, can be particularly affected. Poor access can be caused by difficulties in reaching facilities or by difficulties in using the facilities themselves. The Council requires new buildings and spaces to be inclusive and accessible to all. As accessibility is influenced by perceptions as well as physical factors, buildings should also be designed to appear, as well as be, fully accessible. The Council will require Design and Access Statements for developments to show how the principles of inclusive design, ensuring access for all, have been integrated into the proposed development, and how inclusion will be maintained and managed.
- 14.20 Making roads and pavements and the spaces between buildings fully accessible is as important as making the buildings themselves accessible. The Council will seek improvements for all pedestrians to ensure good quality access and circulation arrangements, including improvement to existing routes and footways. The Camden Streetscape Design Manual and our Camden Planning Guidance supplementary document provide more detailed guidance on this issue.

Views

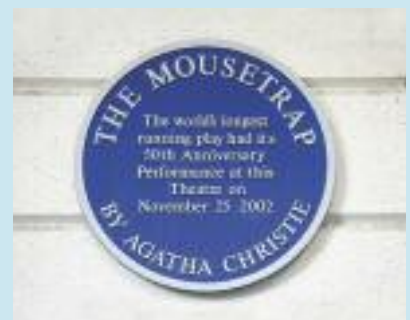
- 14.21 A number of London's most famous and valued views originate in, or extend into, Camden. These are:
- views of St Paul's Cathedral from Kenwood, Parliament Hill and Primrose Hill;
 - views of the Palace of Westminster from Primrose and Parliament Hills; and
 - background views of St Paul's from Greenwich and Blackheath.
- 14.22 The Council will protect these views in accordance with London-wide policy and will resist proposals that would harm them. Where existing buildings that affect a view are redeveloped it is expected that any replacement building will be of a height that does not harm the view. The current framework for protecting these views is set by the London Plan (policies 4B.16 – 4B.18) and the Mayor's London View Management Framework supplementary planning guidance.
- 14.23 The Council will also consider the impact of a scheme, in terms of the townscape, landscape and skyline, on the whole extent of a view ('panorama'), not just the area in the view corridor. Developments should not detract from the panorama as a whole and should fit in with the prevailing pattern of buildings and spaces. They should seek to avoid buildings that tightly define the edges of the viewing corridors and not create a crowding effect around the landmark.
- 14.24 The Council will also seek to protect locally important views that contribute to the interest and character of the borough. These may include:
- views of and from large public parks and open spaces, such as Hampstead Heath, Kenwood Estate, Primrose Hill and Regent's Park, including panoramic views, as well as views of London Squares and historic parks and gardens;
 - views relating to Regent's Canal;
 - views into and from conservation areas; and
 - views of listed and landmark buildings and monuments and statutes (for example, Centrepont, St Stephen's, Rosslyn Hill and St George's, Bloomsbury).
- 14.25 We will seek to ensure that development is compatible with such views in terms of setting, scale and massing and will resist proposals that we consider would cause harm to them. Development will not generally be acceptable if it obstructs important views or skylines, appears too close or too high in relation to a landmark or impairs outlines that form part of the view. Further guidance on important local views is set out in our supplementary planning documents, for example in individual conservation area statements, appraisals and management strategies and the Planning Framework for the Tottenham Court Road Station and St Giles High Street Area.

Camden's character

Camden is characterised by a great richness and variety in its built and natural environment, with a valuable heritage of local, national and international significance. The following section describes the places, buildings and features that give Camden its distinctive character.

The southern part of the borough is where most of Camden's future growth will take place. It forms part of Central London and has a richly varied and dense character. The planned Georgian streets and squares (e.g. Bedford, Russell, Fitzroy) of Bloomsbury are evidence of the early expansion of London in a form that was architecturally groundbreaking. Modest mews developments to the rear of the terraces contrast in scale and are a particularly characteristic type here and elsewhere in the borough. Regents Park and Nash's 1820s residential development sit at the south western boundary of the borough, contrasting with the earlier Georgian developments in the area.

King's Cross and Euston are parts of the borough that are expected to experience the most change and development over the next fifteen years. Railways have had a significant impact on the appearance of the borough from the 19th century to the present day. These brought monumental architecture and inward migration to the borough and their viaducts, cuttings, tunnels and buildings still affect the shape of development in many parts of Camden, in particular to the north of Euston Road. King's Cross was the largest station in England when it opened and is the earliest great London terminus still intact in its original form. St Pancras (by George Gilbert Scott), now the new London terminus for Eurostar, can claim to be Britain's most impressive station in terms of both architecture and engineering and the station's dramatic roof line forms an important local landmark. Euston station, its ancillary accommodation and railway lines have a major impact on the nature of its surroundings and its future redevelopment will create opportunities to improve the local environment and links between neighbouring areas.





The Inns of Court were some of the earliest establishments in the southern part of the borough. The historic buildings, courtyards and squares of Lincoln's Inn and Gray's Inn give a distinctive atmosphere to this part of Camden, and create oases away from surrounding busy roads. Camden's Central London area also contains Seven Dials with its unusual star-shaped street layout and sundial pillar and the brick, semi-industrial buildings and intimate spaces of Hatton Garden, which were developed in the 19th century to house the workshops and offices of the jewellery trade. The area remains an internationally significant jewellery quarter.

Camden is home to a large number of further education establishments and most are located in the southern part of the borough, including the University of London, London School of Tropical Medicine, Central St Martin's College of Art and Design and the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. These play a significant role in shaping the character and appearance of this part of the borough. The south of the borough also houses a number of nationally important hospitals and medical research institutions, including Great Ormond Street Hospital, the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery and the Wellcome Trust.



The town centres of Camden Town, Kentish Town and Kilburn High Road are key elements in **the central part of the borough**. These centres developed in a piecemeal fashion along historic routes into London. They are now marked by continuous, close grained development with commercial units at ground floor level on either side of the road, with terraced housing of a similar density on the streets to the east and west, and little open space. Buildings types are generally consistent in appearance, and public houses are frequent landmarks, which echo the original inns and travellers rests along the historic routes. There is a narrow range of scale and height, and dwellings usually have small gardens to front and rear. Camden Town is strongly characterised by its markets and entertainment. These create a strong draw for tourists and influence the style and appearance of development, which is in many cases colourful and individual.

The areas between these major roads and town centres are characterised by speculative, residential development from the mid to late 19th century for the then new middle classes. These show a variety of distinctive architectural forms and scales, with detached and semi-detached houses in classical Italianate form in Belsize and an eclectic variety of styles including neo-Gothic, Queen Anne, Domestic Revival, Arts & Crafts in Fitzjohns/Netherhall, Redington/Frognaal and South Hampstead/Swiss Cottage. Gospel Oak, West Hampstead and the southern parts of Dartmouth Park were developed to a higher density with terraced houses, smaller gardens and have a more urban feel than Camden's other residential areas.

Social housing schemes are also an important element in the borough's built environment. St Andrews House on Saffron Hill is the oldest surviving public housing block in London whilst early 20th century examples include the London County Council's Bourne Estate on Leather Lane. The LLC's Ossulston Estate is considered the most important inner-city estate of the inter-war period. Post-war examples illustrate an architecturally ambitious programme of housing schemes by Camden Council following its creation in 1965, many of which are listed. The characteristic form was a megastructure of stepped terraces. This low rise, high density approach reflected traditional terraced housing, but provided light, privacy and private open space for all levels of accommodation. Examples are Brunswick Centre, and the estates of Fleet Road, Alexandra Road, Maiden Lane and Highgate New Town.

The Regent's Canal runs through the centre of the borough. Although it is often hidden from surrounding areas, it provides an area of nature conservation interest and amenity space along its course through King's Cross and Camden Town to Regent's Park.

The northern part of the borough benefits from the presence of the large open space of Hampstead Heath, which provides amenity and leisure space, a verdant setting to the surrounding development and famous views across London. Hampstead and Highgate are derived from medieval hamlets and have clearly defined village centres which reflect their origins. They have a variety of building types from cottages and terraces to detached houses and grand residences, with a generally densely packed, high quality urban grain of a range of styles, scales and ages. Both areas contain many high quality, architect-designed houses from the 19th and 20th centuries, many of which have become important parts of the local heritage and are listed for their national significance.



Key evidence and references

- Conservation Area Statements/Appraisals/Management Strategies; London Borough of Camden; various dates
- Camden Walking Plan Second Edition 2006
- Camden Streetscape Design Manual 2005
- Planning Policy Guidance 16 – Archaeology and planning; DETR; 1990
- Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance, English Heritage, 2008
- By Design: Urban Design in the Planning System – Towards Better Practice; DETR/CABE; 2000
- Planning Policy Statement 1 – Delivering Sustainable Development; ODPM; 2005
- Planning Policy Statement 5 – Planning for the Historic Environment; CLG; 2010
- Planning Policy Guidance 15 – Planning and the Historic Environment; DoE; 1994
- The London Plan (consolidated with Alterations since 2004); Mayor of London; 2008
- London View Management Framework Supplementary Planning Guidance; Mayor of London; 2007
- Sustainable design, climate change and the built environment; CABE Briefing; 2007
- Easy Access to Historic Buildings, English Heritage, 2004
- Easy Access to Historic Landscapes, English Heritage, 2005
- Seeing History in the View: Methodology for assessing the heritage value within views, English Heritage, 2008
- Guidance on Tall Buildings, English Heritage/CABE, 2007



CS15. Protecting and improving our parks and open spaces and encouraging biodiversity

- 15.1 Camden has over 250 designated parks and open spaces and 36 sites of nature conservation importance. In addition many housing estates include green areas that play a role in meeting the open space needs of local people. Hampstead Heath is the largest open space in the borough, providing nearly half of our total area of open space and many of our outdoor sporting facilities. The openness and semi-rural feel of the Heath and its surrounding green areas is preserved through its designation as Metropolitan Open Land (MOL), broadly equivalent to the green belt.
- 15.2 The south of the borough is characterised by dense development with small enclosed spaces, many of which are preserved as London Squares. There are other small spaces scattered throughout the borough that provide various recreational and amenity opportunities. The most prominent open spaces near the centre of the borough are Regent's Park/Primrose Hill and the Regent's Canal. The Canal and railway sidings have an important role in nature conservation and provide habitat corridors (green chains) across Camden. Residents west of Finchley Road and in Central London have the lowest level of access to open space (not including land around housing estates), followed by Kentish Town, Somers Town and Gospel Oak.
- 15.3 Sites of nature conservation in Camden are generally small and undervalued, with pressure from adjoining sites and limited opportunities for expansion. However, green and brown roofs for both amenity and biodiversity value have been an increasing feature of new developments within Camden. Private gardens in Camden also provide a significant resource for biodiversity and amenity space.
- 15.4 Policy CS15 – *Protecting and improving our parks and open spaces and encouraging biodiversity* seeks to ensure that the growth in the number of residents and visitors to Camden, identified in policy CS1 – *Distribution of growth*, will be supported by increases and improvements in open space provision, including outdoor sport and recreation opportunities, and that development protects and makes provision for biodiversity.

CS POLICY

CS15 – Protecting and improving our parks and open spaces and encouraging biodiversity

The Council will protect and improve Camden's parks and open spaces. We will:

- a) protect open spaces designated in the open space schedule as shown on the Proposals Map, including our Metropolitan Open Land, and other suitable land of 400sqm or more on large estates with the potential to be used as open space;
- b) tackle deficiencies and under-provision and meet increased demand for open space by:
 - providing additional open space at King's Cross;
 - securing additional on-site public open space in the growth areas of Euston, West Hampstead Interchange, Holborn and Tottenham Court Road, and other parts of Central London. Where the provision of on-site public open space is not practical on a particular site in these areas, the Council will require a contribution to the provision of additional public open space on identified sites in the vicinity. If it can be demonstrated to the Council's satisfaction that no such suitable sites are available, we will require improvements to other open spaces in the area;
 - securing improvements to publicly accessible open land on the Council's housing estates; and
 - securing other opportunities for additional public open space.

CS15 – Protecting and improving our parks and open spaces and encouraging biodiversity (*continued*)

- c) secure from developments that create an additional demand for open space, where opportunities arise, improvements to open spaces, including to:

- the facilities provided, such as play and sports facilities;
- access arrangements; and
- the connections between spaces.

The Council will protect and improve sites of nature conservation and biodiversity, in particular habitats and biodiversity identified in the Camden and London Biodiversity Plans in the borough by:

- d) designating existing nature conservation sites;
- e) protecting other green areas with nature conservation value, including gardens, where possible;
- f) seeking to improve opportunities to experience nature, in particular in South and West Hampstead, Kentish Town and central London, where such opportunities are lacking;
- g) expecting the provision of new or enhanced habitat, where possible, including through biodiverse green or brown roofs and green walls;
- h) identifying habitat corridors and securing biodiversity improvements along gaps in habitat corridors;
- i) working with The Royal Parks, the London Wildlife Trust, friends of parks groups and local nature conservation groups to protect and improve open spaces and nature conservation in Camden;
- j) protecting trees and promoting the provision of new trees and vegetation, including additional street trees.

The Council will preserve and enhance the historic, open space and nature conservation importance of Hampstead Heath and its surrounding area by:

- k) working with the City of London, English Heritage and Natural England to manage and improve the Heath and its surrounding areas;
- l) protecting the Metropolitan Open Land, public and private open space and the nature conservation designations of sites;
- m) seeking to extend the public open space when possible and appropriate;
- n) taking into account the impact on the Heath when considering relevant planning applications;
- o) protecting views from Hampstead Heath and views across the Heath and its surrounding area;
- p) improving the biodiversity of, and habitats in, Hampstead Heath and its surrounding area, where opportunities arise.

The Council will preserve and enhance the Regent's Canal by:

- q) balancing the differing demands on the Canal, its towpath and adjoining land;
- r) implementing opportunities to make the Canal a safer place;
- s) applying the guidance in the Regent's Canal Conservation Area Management Strategy;
- t) implementing opportunities to provide additional nature conservation areas and improve the role of the Canal and its adjoining land as a habitat corridor (green chain);
- u) working with British Waterways, Natural England, other land owners/developers, users and the local community to improve the Canal and towpath.

Camden's open spaces

Protecting our open spaces

- 15.5 Camden's parks and open spaces are important to the borough in terms of health, sport, recreation and play, the economy, culture, biodiversity, providing a pleasant outlook and providing breaks in the built up area. They also help to reduce flood risk by retaining rain water and some are used for growing food. Camden's growth will increase the demand for our open spaces so it is important that we protect our existing parks and open spaces.
- 15.6 The Council will protect the open spaces designated in the open space schedule shown on the Proposals Map, as well as other suitable land with the potential to be used as open space. Camden has many large housing estates with land originally designed for use as open space, but has never been formally designated as such. The Council will continue to retain suitable land, not formally designated as open space for the use as open space on large estates, whilst providing the flexibility for various land uses to be re-configured across the estate, in conjunction with the re-provision of land for open space use. We will not allow development on these open spaces unless it is for limited development ancillary to a use taking place on the land and for which there is a demonstrable need. Extensions and alterations to existing buildings on open space should be proportionate to the size, including the volume, of the original building. We will only allow development on sites adjacent to an open space that respects the size, form and use of that open space and does not cause harm to its wholeness, appearance or setting, or harm public enjoyment of the space. We will take into account the cumulative impact of developments where appropriate. The poor quality of an open space will generally not be accepted as a reason for its partial development to fund improvements as, once built on, open space is lost to the community for ever.

Metropolitan Open Land

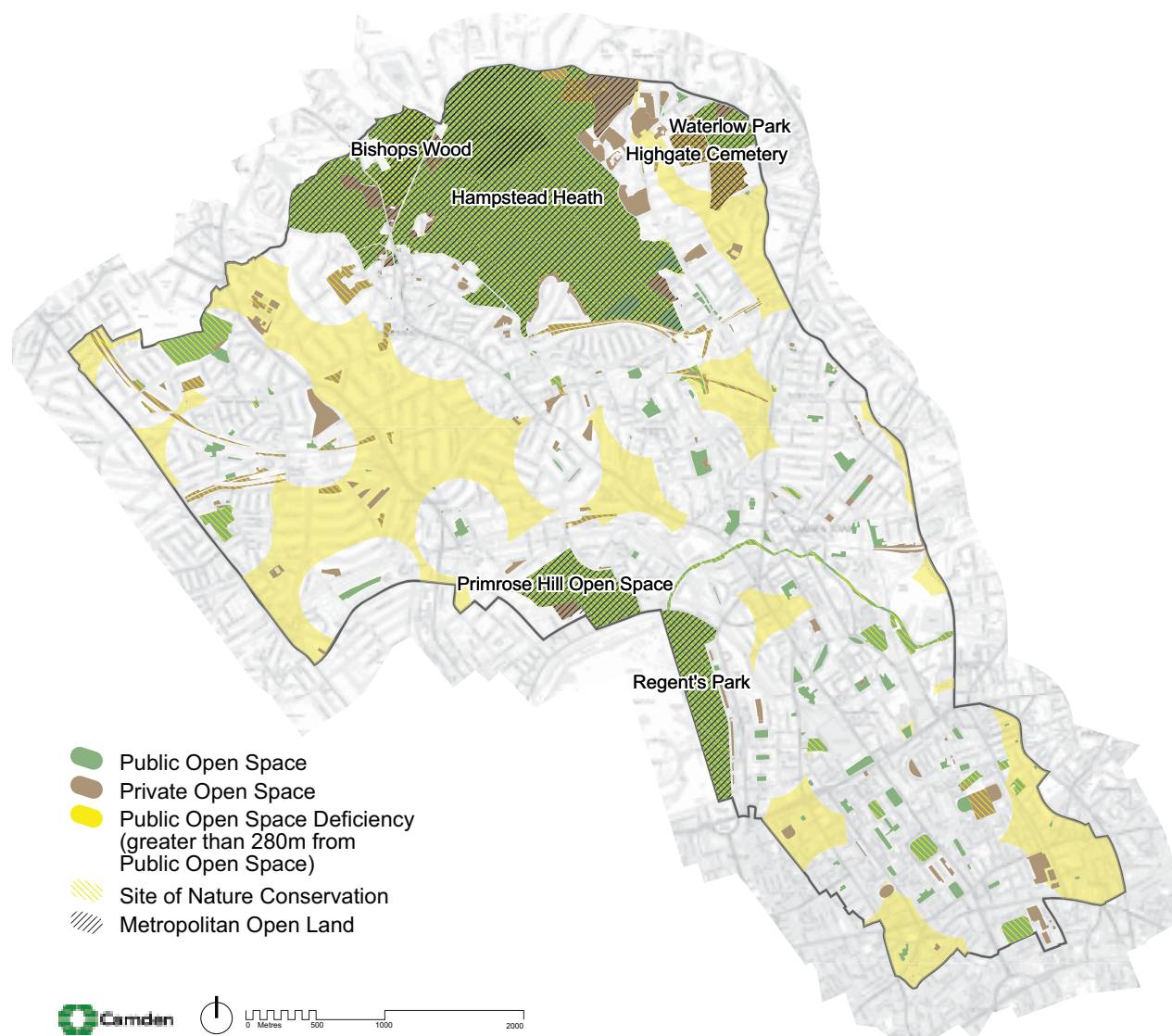
- 15.7 Camden's designated open spaces include Metropolitan Open Land. This is open space of London-wide significance that provides a break in the built up area and receives the same presumption against development as green belt land. There are four main areas of Metropolitan Open Land in Camden, which are of great importance to the borough and its character – Hampstead Heath and adjoining areas; Regent's Park; Primrose Hill/Barrow Hill Reservoir; and Highgate Cemetery/Waterlow Park/Fairseat. These will be protected in accordance with London Plan policy 3D.10. Guidance on Metropolitan Open Land and extensions to existing buildings within it is set out in government Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) 2 – Green Belts.

Tackling open space deficiency and securing additional and improved spaces

- 15.8 Camden's Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study 2004 and the needs assessment in Camden's Open Space Strategy demonstrated that nowhere in Camden had a surplus in open space. The Camden Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study Update 2008 found that there is currently 20sqm of public open space per person in the borough. This would drop to 17sqm by 2026 taking into account projected population increases and assuming no additional public open space is provided. The Study Update 2008 suggests standards for open space and highlights opportunities for improving the quantity and quality of open spaces in the borough, including play facilities and sports provision. These standards form the basis of our detailed policy on open space, sport and recreation in our Camden Development Policies Local Development Framework document (policy DP31 – *Provision of, and improvements to, open space and outdoor sport and recreation facilities*).
- 15.9 Most of Camden's population has reasonable access to a metropolitan or district park (that is Hampstead Heath or Regent's Park and Primrose Hill) but a large proportion of residents do not have reasonable access to local and small parks and open spaces. Camden's Annual Monitoring Report and the Camden Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study Update 2008 show that only a small amount of new public open space has been provided in the borough and therefore in many areas, including South and West Hampstead, Gospel Oak and Kentish Town and parts of central London, there is still poor access to small and local parks and open spaces. These areas are therefore considered to be deficient in public open space (see map 7). Areas deficient in public open space are defined as those without access to a public open space within 280m. The Camden Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study Update 2008 also identified areas where there is 'under-provision' of public open space. Although these areas do have access to open space, this is not adequate to

meet the level of local need due to the number of children, dwelling density, and social disadvantage in the area. These areas are identified in figure 4.4 (Composite Need) in Camden's Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study Update 2008.

Map 7: Open Space



- 15.10 To tackle deficiencies and under-provision of public open space and to ensure adequate new open space is provided in Camden's growth areas, we will secure additional on-site open space on all appropriately sized and located sites. The Council wants to promote a green network approach to open space, where open spaces are connected by landscaped corridors or habitat corridors. We recognise that the built-up nature of Camden makes it difficult to provide new open space. However, the deficiency areas of West Hampstead, Camden Town and western Central London are near significant development sites that may have the potential to accommodate new public open spaces. The under-provided areas of South Hampstead, Camden Town and Somers Town are also near potential development sites that may be large enough to accommodate new public open space. The growth areas of King's Cross, Euston, and West Hampstead Interchange contain development sites that have potential to provide on-site open space. For example, two open spaces plus smaller play spaces and sports facilities will be provided as part of the redevelopment of King's Cross, providing much-needed facilities on the edge of central London and near Somers Town. We will use Camden's Site Allocations document to promote areas and development sites where the Council will expect new public open space to be incorporated within development proposals.

- 15.11 Where the opportunity arises in Kentish Town or Gospel Oak and other areas that suffer from deficiency or under-provision, the Council will expect the provision of on-site public open space. These areas contain large housing estates which could also provide new public open space as part of any estate regeneration programme. The Council has identified opportunities to improve open land around Alexandra and Ainsworth estate and surrounding sites on Abbey and Belsize Roads, with other open space improvements anticipated at Maiden Lane estate. Further open space improvements on housing sites can be identified as the Council's estate regeneration programme is extended.
- 15.12 The existing built up nature of large potential development sites in the growth areas of Holborn and Tottenham Court Road may make it difficult to secure a significant amount of new public open space at these locations. However, the Council will expect the provision of some public open space on suitable sites to remedy the recognised deficiency.
- 15.13 Where on-site provision of public open space is not possible, the Council will continue to seek other forms of open space provision. These may include the provision of open space off-site, or the payment of a financial contribution towards obtaining land for open space use, improving the quality of existing open spaces or improving access to them. When considering which open space to improve as a result of contributions, the Council will consider nearby deficiencies and under-provision in open space and existing plans for the management of open space. We will also take into account exercise rates and obesity levels in the surrounding area, a priority issue for the Camden Public Health Partnership. Our Camden Development Policies Local Development Framework document (policy DP31 – *Provision of, and improvements to, open space and outdoor sport and recreation facilities*) sets out our detailed approach towards the provision of open space.
- 15.14 The Council will continue to seek to secure public use of open spaces on appropriate sites wherever practical, for example by putting in place suitable public access arrangements or purchasing land. Potential sites include land around housing estates and large private spaces, such as those adjoining Hampstead Heath.

Play facilities

- 15.15 Camden has numerous play facilities within open spaces and on housing estates. We will retain these, where appropriate, and seek to provide additional formal and informal play spaces in areas of deficiency or under provision in open space. The Council is providing and enhancing 28 play facilities as part of its Play Pathfinder project, including a new adventure playground at Kilburn Grange. This will significantly improve access for children and young people, particularly 8-13 year olds. Additional funding is also being provided by the NHS Camden. At least three play facilities for a range of ages will also be provided at King's Cross. Where additional demand for play space is created by development we will expect the provision of play space on the site, broadly in accordance with the Mayor's SPG on Providing for children and young peoples' play and informal recreation. See policy DP31 – *Provision of, and improvements to public open space and outdoor sport and recreation facilities* in Camden Development Policies for further details on the provision of play space expected. The Council's approach to play is set out in its Play Strategy 2007-2012.



Sports facilities

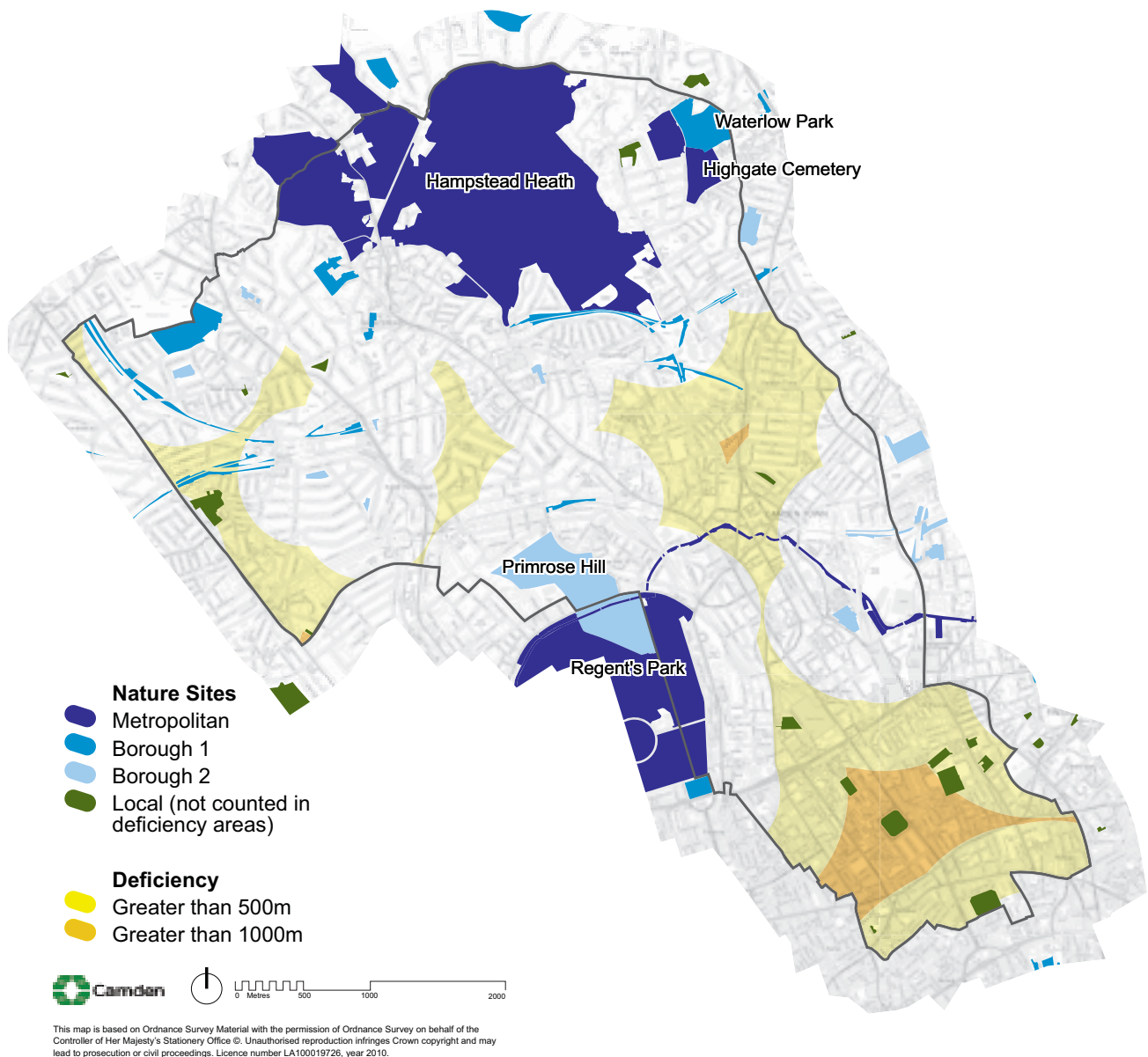
- 15.16 Camden also contains several full-sized pitches for various sports located on Hampstead Heath and Regent's Park. As the Council does not own these, they are not within our control to retain, maintain or alter to meet the changing needs of the borough. Given the built up nature of Camden, it is unlikely that new full size pitches will be provided. However, we will continue to seek to protect existing outdoor sport facilities by working with the City of London and the Royal Parks, and we will encourage the improvement of existing facilities. We will also seek to retain privately owned playing pitches. The Council owns several tennis courts in Waterlow Park and multi-games areas and smaller pitches on housing estates, in schools and on open spaces, which we will continue to maintain. New facilities have been secured at King's Cross and our Camden Site Allocations document will identify sites where outdoor sports or related facilities may be expected as part of any open space proposals. The Council's approach to sport is set out in its ProActive Sport & Physical Activity Strategy 2008-2012. For details on our approach to indoor sports facilities see CS10 – *Supporting community facilities and services*.

Nature conservation

- 15.17 Green spaces play a vital role in nature conservation and provision for biodiversity. Camden is fortunate to have Camley Street Nature Park, Kentish Town City Farm and several local nature reserves, which provide educational tools and health benefits for residents. The Council will continue to protect all sites in the borough formally identified as being of nature conservation value (see Map 8). Where possible we will also protect an amount of green space or garden space on a site that reflects the local built form and landscape character. The Council and statutory undertakers, who own some of the designated sites, have a duty to have regard to conserving biodiversity. However, most Sites of Nature Conservation Importance in Camden are not in the Council's control and therefore it is difficult to protect species, habitats and foraging areas other than those formally protected by international and national legislation. To protect our existing sites, we will resist the development of designated sites where the nature conservation value has been diminished or lost, especially where this loss is due to neglect or damage, and we will seek the re-instatement, or an equivalent level, of biodiversity on the site. The Council will be particularly keen to protect habitats and species identified in Camden's Biodiversity Action Plan.



Map 8: Locations Deficient in Access to Nature Conservation Areas



- 15.18 Residents and visitors further than 1km away from a metropolitan or borough Site of Nature Conservation Importance are considered to have poor access to the natural environment. These areas are shown on Map 8. Where opportunities exist in these areas we will explore ways to support biodiversity and nature conservation. We will use the Camden Site Allocations document to identify sites where enhanced or new measures to support biodiversity and nature conservation may be expected as part of any new proposals and new open spaces. Even where no additional open space is being created we will seek other forms of biodiversity such as biodiverse landscaping, habitat creation, green or brown roofs and, where appropriate, green walls. Camden's Biodiversity Action Plan identifies habitats and species that are particularly important in Camden. Our Camden Planning Guidance supplementary document will provide further information on the Council's expectations for improvements in nature conservation.
- 15.19 Developers and landowners should also give consideration to the need for species to move between different types of habitats which will help these species to cope with the effects of climate change. We will continue to retain habitat corridors in the borough, identify 'missing links' in these corridors and seek to secure habitat corridors as part of developments and through street improvements. Habitat corridors and missing links are identified on the Proposals Map. Areas that could provide habitat corridors or contribute to nature conservation include land adjacent to railway lines, where existing vegetation can be enhanced or new vegetation provided, and sites adjoining

existing open spaces. Opportunities for further links include around West Hampstead railway lands and from Kentish Town to Hampstead Heath (as shown on the Proposals Map).

- 15.20 There are limited opportunities to provide new ground-level habitats in the borough due to lack of space. Whilst the provision of habitat at ground level is important, there are opportunities on new and existing buildings to provide habitats in the form of green or brown roofs and green walls. We will expect developments to provide opportunities for biodiversity within the fabric and curtilage of buildings. Where redevelopment occurs on sites adjacent to existing wildlife sites we will expect developers to provide additional habitat of an appropriate scale. We will favour the provision of habitat for species identified in the Camden and London Biodiversity Action Plans. Where we secure additional land for nature conservation we will work with local nature conservation groups and social and corporate volunteers that help protect and enhance these new spaces in addition to the Council's existing Local Nature Reserves. Please see the Council's Camden Planning Guidance supplementary document for information on ways to improve biodiversity and on our areas of nature conservation deficiency.

Trees

- 15.21 Trees are important for their aesthetic value, as habitat, in shading, cooling and filtering the air and in removing carbon dioxide and providing oxygen. They will play an increasingly important role in providing shade and refuge in the hotter summers predicted due to climate change. More guidance on trees and groups of trees can be found in Camden Development Policies and our Camden Planning Guidance supplementary document. There is often pressure for the removal of trees and groups of trees in the borough due to subsidence fears, perceived dangers, locations close to existing underground infrastructure and to facilitate development.
- 15.22 The Council has a Tree Strategy which deals with tree management on its land. This aims to retain trees and provide new trees on Council land. We have a tree planting programme which is increasing the number of trees in the borough, in streets, parks housing estates and schools. We will resist the loss of trees and groups of trees wherever possible and, where this is not possible, require their replacement on development sites or nearby streets and open spaces. The choice of species should consider historic context, availability of space, soil conditions, potential improvements to air and soil quality and reducing the effects of and adapting to climate change. Further information on protected trees and groups of trees, the procedures for seeking their removal and their replacement is set out in the Council's Camden Planning Guidance supplementary document.





Hampstead Heath

- 15.23 Hampstead Heath has been a valuable recreational resource for Londoners since the mid-17th century and is Camden's largest open space. The City of London, who own and manage the Heath, has developed a management plan in consultation with the local interest groups and the wider community. We will work with the City, English Heritage and Natural England on preparing and implementing plans for the Heath.
- 15.24 The Heath and some of its surrounding areas are designated Metropolitan Open Land (see para 15.7 above). It is also important for its ecology being a Metropolitan Site of Nature Conservation, a Site of Special Scientific Interest and containing two areas of Ancient Woodland. There are also numerous large private gardens adjacent to the Heath that are designated open space.
- 15.25 We will continue to use the guidance in the conservation area statements, appraisals and management strategies for Dartmouth Park and Mansfield, Hampstead, Highgate Village, Redington and Frognal and South Hill Park to preserve and enhance the built environment around the Heath and preserve outlooks and views from it. Many views to and from the Heath are protected, for example the views from Kenwood House and Parliament Hill to St Paul's and from Parliament Hill to the Palace of Westminster (see policy CS14).

The Regent's Canal

- 15.26 The Regent's Canal, Camden's only significant open watercourse, winds through the borough from Regents Park through Camden Town and King's Cross, and is undergoing significant regeneration. It serves several purposes, from its open space, leisure and recreational functions and biodiversity importance to its historic significance and commercial and transport role. The Canal forms part of London's Blue Ribbon Network, which has its own set of policies within the London Plan. The Canal is an important historical feature and it is important that development near the Canal reflects its unique character. The Council will therefore take into account the Regent's Canal Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Strategy when assessing applications for sites along and adjacent to the Canal.
- 15.27 The Council has been working with the Metropolitan Police and British Waterways to improve security along the Canal. Its separation from streets and buildings is an important element of the Canal's character but this also makes it susceptible to crime and anti-social behaviour. Any development along the Canal needs to address these challenges.
- 15.28 The Canal is a main east-west pedestrian and cycle route through the borough linking Regents Park, Camden Town and King's Cross. Its role as a connecting route will increase as more activities locate in King's Cross. The Council will seek to improve conditions for users where possible and, where developments are proposed, will investigate opportunities to provide additional access to the Canal.
- 15.29 The Canal is also an important ecological corridor and is designated as a site of metropolitan importance for nature conservation. Camley Street Nature Reserve is located along the Canal and the section at Albert Road near London Zoo is especially important, particularly for foraging bats as an unlit green space at night. The Council will therefore prevent the loss and degradation of habitat including from overshadowing and lighting in especially sensitive areas. We will also work



with British Waterways to improve biodiversity within and along the Canal and with developers to improve biodiversity through planting, provision of green or brown roofs and green walls. The redevelopment of Hawley Wharf provides an opportunity to improve the nature conservation and open space functions of the Canal.

- 15.30 The part of the Canal that runs through Camden is mainly used for leisure boating rather than transportation of goods and waste. A flexible approach to canal-side development that provides for the delivery and removal of material from both the road and canalside will be encouraged to enable future use of the Canal for transportation of goods and materials. The use of the Canal for any energy saving or generation measures and as a water store will be welcomed subject to schemes not harming the Canal's special qualities.

Key evidence and references

- Camden Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study; KKP; 2004
- Camden Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study Review; Atkins; 2008
- Open Space Strategy for Camden 2006-2011
- Draft Camden Biodiversity Action Plan 2009
- Strategy for managing, maintaining and replacing Council owned trees 2007-2011
- Camden Sustainability Task Force Report on Food, Water, Biodiversity and Open Space; 2008
- The London Plan (consolidated with Alterations since 2004); Mayor of London; 2008
- Connecting with London's nature: The Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy; 2002
- Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 9: Biodiversity and Geologic Conservation; 2005
- Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) 17: Planning for open space, sport and recreation; 2004
- Bringing your rivers back to life. A strategy for restoring rivers in North London; Environment Agency; 2006
- Hampstead Heath Management Plan Part 1. Towards a Plan for the Heath 2007-2017; City of London & Land Use consultants; 2007
- The Regent's Canal Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Strategy
- Inland Waterways. Unlocking the Potential and Securing the Future of Inland Waterways through the Planning System; TCPA; 2009
- Under Lock and Quay. Reducing criminal opportunity by design; British Waterways and the Metropolitan Police; 2000

Camden Development Policies 2010-2025

Local Development Framework



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Camden's Local Development Framework. Development Policies.

Improving and protecting our environment and quality of life

DP24. Securing high quality design

- 24.1 Core Strategy policy CS14 – *Promoting high quality places and conserving our heritage* sets out the Council's overall strategy on promoting high quality places, seeking to ensure that Camden's places and buildings are attractive, safe, healthy and easy to use and requiring development to be of the highest standard of design that respects local context and character. Camden has a unique and rich built and natural heritage, with many areas with their own distinct character, created by a variety of elements including building style and layout, history, natural environment including open spaces and gardens, and mix of uses. We have a duty to respect these areas and buildings and, where possible, enhance them when constructing new buildings and in alterations and extensions.
- 24.2 Policy DP24 contributes to implementing the Core Strategy by setting out our detailed approach to the design of new developments and alterations and extensions. These principles will ensure that all parts of Camden's environment are designed to the highest possible standards and contribute to providing a healthy, safe and attractive environment.
- 24.3 The Core Strategy also sets out our approach to other matters related to design, such as tackling climate change through promoting higher standards (CS13), the importance of community safety and security (CS17) and protecting amenity from new development (CS5). Further guidance on design is contained in our Camden Planning Guidance supplementary document.

DP POLICY

DP24 – Securing high quality design

The Council will require all developments, including alterations and extensions to existing buildings, to be of the highest standard of design and will expect developments to consider:

- a) character, setting, context and the form and scale of neighbouring buildings;
- b) the character and proportions of the existing building, where alterations and extensions are proposed;
- c) the quality of materials to be used;
- d) the provision of visually interesting frontages at street level;
- e) the appropriate location for building services equipment;
- f) existing natural features, such as topography and trees;
- g) the provision of appropriate hard and soft landscaping including boundary treatments;
- h) the provision of appropriate amenity space; and
- i) accessibility.



Promoting good design

- 24.4 The Council is committed to design excellence and a key strategic objective of the borough is to promote high quality, sustainable design. This is not just about the aesthetic appearance of the environment, but also about enabling an improved quality of life, equality of opportunity and economic growth. We will therefore apply policy DP24 to ensure that all developments throughout the borough, including alterations and extensions to existing buildings, are of the highest standard of design. In accordance with government guidance in Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 1 – *Delivering Sustainable Development* we will not accept design that is inappropriate to its context or which fails to take opportunities to improve the character and quality of an area and the way that it is used by residents and visitors.
- 24.5 Camden is a densely built-up borough where most development involves the replacement, extension or conversion of existing buildings. Design should respond creatively to its site and its context. This concerns both smaller-scale alterations and extensions and larger developments, the design and layout of which should take into account the pattern and size of blocks, open spaces, gardens and streets in the surrounding area (the ‘urban grain’).
- 24.6 The Council seeks to encourage outstanding architecture and design, both in contemporary and more traditional styles. Innovative design can greatly enhance the built environment and, unless a scheme is within an area of homogenous architectural style that is important to retain, high quality contemporary design will be welcomed. When assessing design, we will take into account government/CABE guidance *By Design – Urban Design in the planning system: towards better practice* and our own Camden Planning Guidance supplementary document.
- 24.7 Development should consider:
- the character and constraints of its site;
 - the prevailing pattern, density and scale of surrounding development;
 - the impact on existing rhythms, symmetries and uniformities in the townscape;
 - the compatibility of materials, their quality, texture, tone and colour;
 - the composition of elevations;
 - the suitability of the proposed design to its intended use;
 - its contribution to public realm, and its impact on views and vistas; and
 - the wider historic environment and buildings, spaces and features of local historic value.
- 24.8 Buildings should be designed to be as sustainable as possible. Environmental design and construction measures are set out in Policy DP22 – *Promoting sustainable design and construction*. Sustainable development also embraces principles of social sustainability which can be addressed by new development which:
- provides comfortable, safe, healthy and accessible space for its users;
 - is fit for purpose and can accommodate future flexibility of use;
 - provides a mix of uses and types of accommodation and provides for a range of needs within the community; and
 - provides sufficient amenity space for the promotion of health and wellbeing.



- 24.9 The re-use of existing buildings preserves the ‘embodied’ energy expended in their original construction, minimises construction waste and reduces the use of new materials. Many historic buildings display qualities that are environmentally sustainable and have directly contributed to their survival, for example the use of durable, natural, locally sourced materials, ‘soft’ construction methods, good room proportions, natural light and ventilation and ease of alteration. The retention and adaptation of existing buildings will be encouraged.
- 24.10 Due to the dense nature of Camden with extensive range and coverage of heritage assets, such as conservation areas, numerous listed buildings and five strategic views and two background views crossing the borough, the Council does not consider that it is practical to identify broad areas either suitable, or not suitable, for tall buildings. In the borough, a site may be suitable for a tall building while adjacent sites are not, due to impact on either views, conservations areas or listed buildings. Indeed, in some cases, suitability for a tall building differs across a single site. Given Camden’s strategic environmental characteristics, the entire borough is considered as being within the ‘sensitive’ category, as defined by the English Heritage/CABE Guidance on Tall Buildings (2007). Tall building proposals in Camden will therefore merit detailed design assessments. As part of the revision of the Camden Planning Guidance SPD further clarity will be provided on tall buildings and design issues in Camden.

Respecting local character

- 24.11 Given the highly built-up nature of Camden, careful consideration of the characteristics of a site, features of local distinctiveness, and the wider context is needed in order to achieve high quality development which integrates into its surroundings.
- 24.12 In order to best preserve and enhance the positive elements of local character within the borough, we need to recognise and understand the factors that create it. Designs for new buildings, and alterations and extensions, should respect the character and appearance of the local area and neighbouring buildings. Within areas of distinctive character, development should reinforce those elements which create the character. Where townscape is particularly uniform attention should be paid to responding closely to the prevailing scale, form and proportions and materials. In areas of low quality or where no pattern prevails, development should improve the quality of an area and give a stronger identity.
- 24.13 Development should not undermine any existing uniformity of a street or ignore patterns or groupings of buildings. Overly large extensions can disfigure a building and upset its proportions. Extensions should therefore be subordinate to the original building in terms of scale and situation unless, exceptionally, it is demonstrated that this is not appropriate given the specific circumstances of the building. Past alterations or extensions to surrounding properties should not necessarily be regarded as a precedent for subsequent proposals for alterations and extensions.
- 24.13 Design and Access statements should include an assessment of local context and character, and set out how the development has been informed by, and responds to it. We have prepared a series of Conservation Area Statements, Appraisals and Management Plans which describe the character and appearance of individual conservation areas and set out how the Council considers each can be conserved and enhanced. These should be used by developers to inform their understanding of the special character of the area, and we will take these into account when assessing development proposals in conservation areas. Development Policy DP25 – *Conserving Camden’s heritage* provides further guidance on the preservation and enhancement of the historic environment.

Detailing and materials

- 24.15 Architectural detailing should be carefully integrated into a building. In new development, detailing should be carefully considered so that it conveys quality of design and creates an attractive and interesting building. Architectural features on existing buildings, such as cornices, mouldings, architraves, porches and chimneys should be retained wherever possible, as their loss can harm a building by eroding its detailing. The insensitive replacement of windows and doors and the cladding and painting of masonry can also spoil the appearance of buildings and can be particularly damaging if the building forms part of a uniform group.
- 24.16 Schemes should incorporate materials of an appropriately high quality. The durability and visual attractiveness of materials will be carefully considered along with their texture, colour and compatibility with existing materials. Alterations and extensions should be carried out in materials that match the original or neighbouring buildings, or, where appropriate, in materials that complement or enhance a building or area.

Contributing to the street frontage

- 24.17 Buildings should be visually interesting at street level, with entrances and windows used to create active frontages, which allow overlooking of public areas, provide a sense of vitality and contribute to making Camden a safer place (see Core Strategy policy CS17). Ground floors should be occupied by active uses and should not turn their back on streets and other public spaces.

Incorporating building services equipment

- 24.18 Building services equipment, such as air cooling, heating, ventilation and extraction systems, lift and mechanical equipment, as well as fire escapes, ancillary plant and ducting should be contained within the envelope of a building or be located in a visually inconspicuous position.

Responding to natural features

- 24.19 New developments should respond to the natural assets of a site and its surroundings, such as slopes and height differences, trees and other vegetation. Extensions and new developments should not cause the loss of any existing natural habitats, including private gardens. Core Strategy policy CS15 – *Protecting and improving our parks and open spaces and encouraging biodiversity* provides further guidance on nature conservation in Camden and the Council's strategy for trees.
- 24.20 Development within rear gardens and other undeveloped areas can often have a significant impact upon the amenity and character of an area. Gardens help shape their local area, provide a setting for buildings and can be important visually. Therefore they can be an important element in the character and identity of an area (its 'sense of place'). We will resist development that occupies an excessive part of a garden, and where there is a loss of garden space which contributes to the character of the townscape.
- 24.21 Development will not be permitted which fails to preserve or is likely to damage trees on a site which make a significant contribution to the character and amenity of an area. Where appropriate the Council will seek to ensure that developments make adequate provision for the planting and growth to maturity of large trees.





Incorporating Landscaping

- 24.22 As with buildings, consideration of context is essential in the design of new hard and soft landscaping. Hard landscape elements (surfaces, boundary treatments etc), and the materials from which they are made, play a significant role in defining the character and attractiveness of a site or area and reinforcing local distinctiveness. New planting can contribute to the attractiveness of a development, soften and balance the impact of buildings and contribute to the biodiversity value of a site. Effective maintenance is often essential to the success of soft landscaping (shrubs, grass etc) and, where appropriate, the Council will expect planting plans to be accompanied by a maintenance schedule. New hard and soft landscaping should be of high quality and should positively respond to its local character.

Providing amenity space

- 24.23 Private outdoor amenity space can add significantly to resident's quality of life and applicants are therefore encouraged to explore all options for the provision of new private outdoor space. Gardens, balconies and roof terraces are greatly valued and can be especially important for families. However, the densely built up nature of the borough means that the provision of private amenity space can be challenging, and the Council will require that the residential amenity of neighbours be preserved, in accordance with policy DP26 – *Managing the impact of development on occupiers and neighbours* and Core Strategy policy CS5 – *Managing the impact of growth and development*.

Accessibility

- 24.24 In line with policy DP29 – *Improving access* the Council will expect all buildings and places to meet the highest practicable standards of access and inclusion. Any adaptation of existing buildings must therefore address this issue and respond to access needs whilst ensuring that alterations are sympathetic to the building's character and appearance. Policy DP25 – *Conserving Camden's heritage* provides further guidance on providing access to listed buildings.

Key evidence and references

- By Design: Urban Design in the Planning System – Towards Better Practice; DETR/CABE; 2000
- Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 1 – Delivering Sustainable Development, 2005
- Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 12 – Local Spatial Planning, 2008
- Making design policy work, CABE; 2005
- The London Plan (consolidated with alterations since 2004); Mayor of London; 2008
- Building in Context, CABE/English Heritage, 2002
- Tree and Woodland Framework for London, Mayor of London, 2005

DP25. Conserving Camden's heritage

- 25.1 Camden has inherited a rich architectural heritage with many special places and buildings from many different eras in the area's history, from the historic villages of Hampstead and Highgate to Georgian squares and John Nash's Regent's Park terraces, from the Victorian engineering of St Pancras Station to iconic modern structures such as Centrepont. These places and buildings add to the quality of our lives by giving a sense of local distinctiveness, identity and history. 39 areas, covering much of the borough, are designated as conservation areas, recognising their special architectural or historic interest and their character and appearance. Also, thousands of buildings in Camden are nationally listed for their special historical or architectural interest (see map 3). We have a responsibility to preserve and, where possible, enhance these areas and buildings. This policy helps to implement Core Strategy policy CS14 – *Promoting high quality places and conserving our heritage*.

DP POLICY

DP25 – Conserving Camden's heritage

Conservation areas

In order to maintain the character of Camden's conservation areas, the Council will:

- a) take account of conservation area statements, appraisals and management plans when assessing applications within conservation areas;
- b) only permit development within conservation areas that preserves and enhances the character and appearance of the area;
- c) prevent the total or substantial demolition of an unlisted building that makes a positive contribution to the character or appearance of a conservation area where this harms the character or appearance of the conservation area, unless exceptional circumstances are shown that outweigh the case for retention;
- d) not permit development outside of a conservation area that causes harm to the character and appearance of that conservation area; and
- e) preserve trees and garden spaces which contribute to the character of a conservation area and which provide a setting for Camden's architectural heritage.

Listed buildings

To preserve or enhance the borough's listed buildings, the Council will:

- e) prevent the total or substantial demolition of a listed building unless exceptional circumstances are shown that outweigh the case for retention;
- f) only grant consent for a change of use or alterations and extensions to a listed building where it considers this would not cause harm to the special interest of the building; and
- g) not permit development that it considers would cause harm to the setting of a listed building.

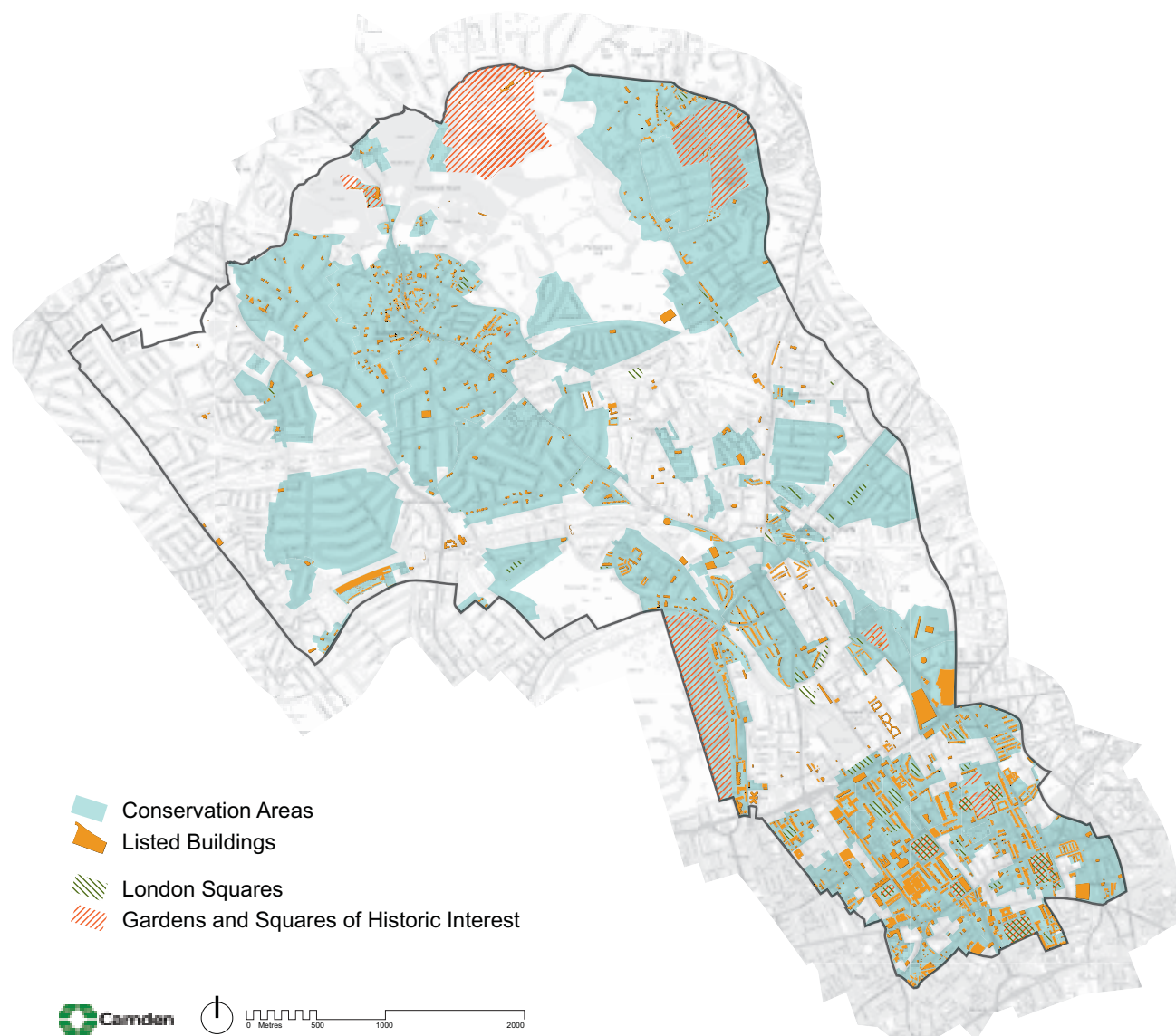
Archaeology

The Council will protect remains of archaeological importance by ensuring acceptable measures are taken to preserve them and their setting, including physical preservation, where appropriate.

Other heritage assets

The Council will seek to protect other heritage assets including Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest and London Squares.

Map 3: Heritage



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Conservation Areas

- 25.2 In order to preserve and enhance important elements of local character, we need to recognise and understand the factors that create this character. The Council has prepared a series of conservation area statements, appraisals and management plans that assess and analyse the character and appearance of each of our conservation areas and set out how we consider they can be preserved and enhanced. We will take these into account when assessing planning applications for development in conservation areas. We will seek to manage change in a way that retains the distinctive characters of our conservation areas and will expect new development to contribute positively to this. The Council will therefore only grant planning permission for development in Camden's conservation areas that preserves and enhances the special character or appearance of the area. The character of conservation areas derive from the combination of a number of factors, including scale, density, pattern of development, landscape, topography, open space, materials, architectural detailing, and uses. These elements should be identified and responded to in the design of new development. Design and Access Statements should include an assessment of local context and character, and set out how the development has been informed by it and responds to it.

- 25.3 The character and appearance of a conservation area can be eroded through the loss of traditional architectural details such as historic windows and doors, characteristic rooftops, garden settings and boundary treatments. Where alterations are proposed they should be undertaken in a material of a similar appearance to the existing. Traditional features should be retained or reinstated where they have been lost, using examples on neighbouring houses and streets to inform the restoration. The Council will consider the introduction of Article 4 Directions to remove permitted development rights for the removal or alterations of traditional details where the character and appearance of a conservation area is considered to be under threat.
- 25.4 Historic buildings in conservation areas can be sensitively adapted to meet the needs of climate change and energy saving – preserving their special interest and ensuring their long term survival. For detailed advice on energy saving in historic buildings and conservation areas visit the English Heritage website and our Camden Planning Guidance supplementary document. Changes in patterns of use can also erode the character of an area. It is therefore important that, whenever possible, uses which contribute to the character of a conservation area are not displaced by redevelopment.
- 25.5 The value of existing gardens, trees and landscaping to the character of the borough is described in DP24 – Securing High Quality Design, and they make a particular contribution to conservation areas. Development will not be permitted which causes the loss of trees and/or garden space where this is important to the character and appearance of a conservation area. DP27 – Basements and lightwells provides further guidance on this issue where landscaping may be affected by basements and other underground structures.
- 25.6 The Council has a general presumption in favour of retaining buildings that make a positive contribution to the character or appearance of a conservation area, whether they are listed or not so as to preserve the character and appearance of the conservation area. We will not grant conservation area consent for the total or substantial demolition of such a building where this would harm the appearance of the conservation area, unless exceptional circumstances are shown that outweigh the case for retention. Applicants will be required to justify the demolition of a building that makes a positive contribution to a conservation area, having regard to Policy HE7 of Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 5: Planning for the Historic Environment, Camden's conservation area statements, appraisals and management plans and any other relevant supplementary guidance produced by the Council.



- 25.7 When considering applications for demolition, the Council will take account of group value, context and setting of buildings, as well as their quality as individual structures and any contribution to the setting of listed buildings. Applications must clearly show which buildings or parts of buildings are to be demolished.
- 25.8 Applications for total or substantial demolition in conservation areas must demonstrate to the Council's satisfaction that effective measures will be taken during demolition and building works to ensure structural stability of retained parts and adjoining structures. Before conservation area consent for demolition is granted, the Council must be satisfied that there are acceptable detailed plans for the redevelopment. Any replacement building should enhance the conservation area to an appreciably greater extent than the existing building. When a building makes little or no contribution to the character and appearance of a conservation area, any replacement building should enhance the conservation area to an appreciably greater extent than the existing building.
- 25.9 Due to the largely dense urban nature of Camden, the character or appearance of our conservation areas can also be affected by development which is outside of conservation areas, but visible from within them. This includes high or bulky buildings, which can have an impact on areas some distance away, as well as adjacent premises. The Council will therefore not permit development in locations outside conservation areas that it considers would cause harm to the character, appearance or setting of such an area.
- 25.10 Our Camden Planning Guidance supplementary document provides further information on our approach to conservation areas.

Listed buildings

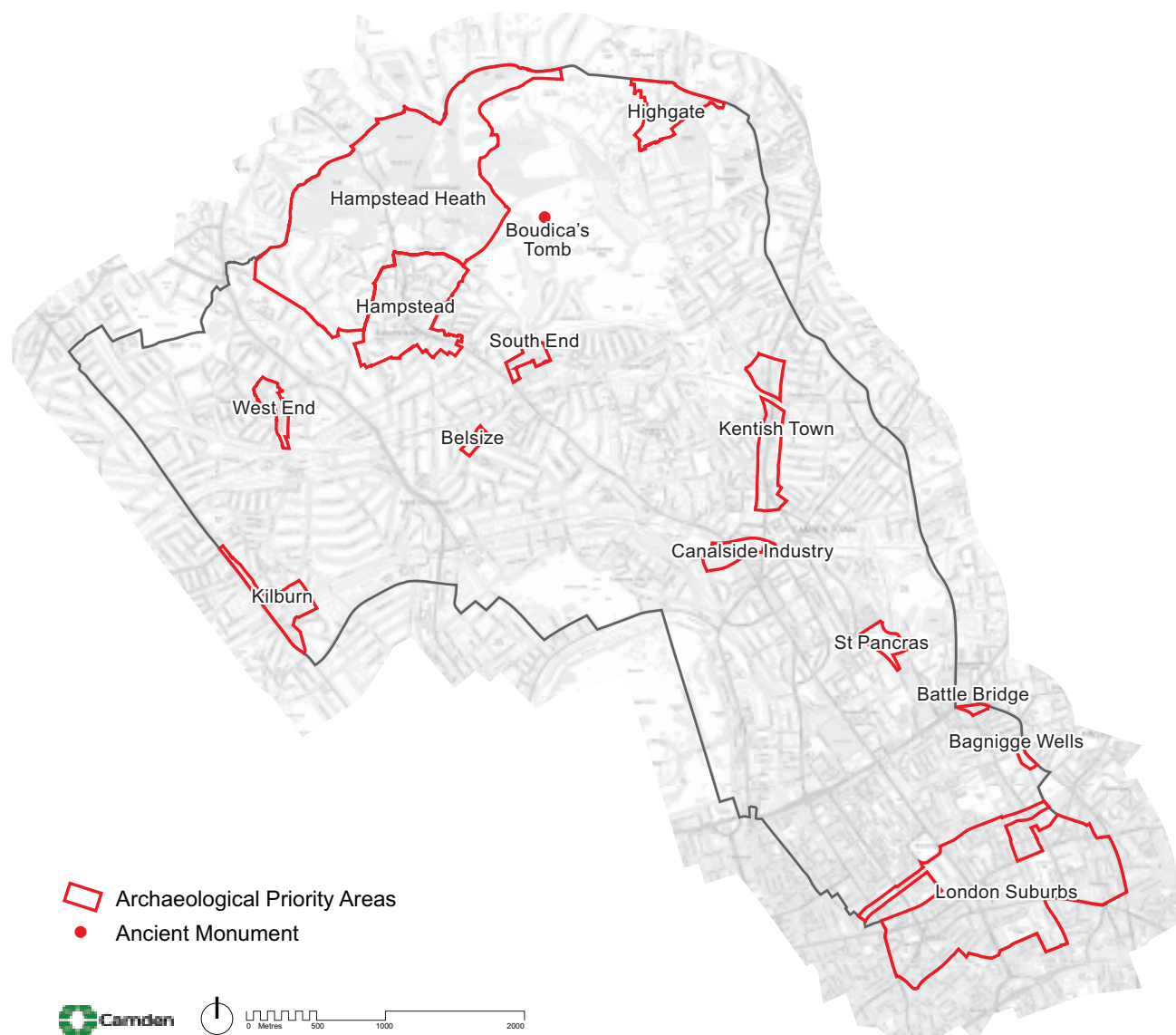
- 25.11 Camden's listed buildings and structures provide a rich and unique historic and architectural legacy. They make an important and valued contribution to the appearance of the borough and provide places to live and work in, well known visitor attractions, and cherished local landmarks. We have a duty to preserve and maintain these for present and future generations. There are over 5,600 buildings and structures in Camden that are on the statutory list for their special architectural or historic interest.
- 25.12 The Council has a general presumption in favour of the preservation of listed buildings. Total demolition, substantial demolition and rebuilding behind the façade of a listed building will not normally be considered acceptable. The matters which will be taken into consideration in an application for the total or substantial demolition of a listed building are those set out in Policy HE7 of PPS5.





- 25.13 In order to protect listed buildings, the Council will control external and internal works that affect their special architectural or historic interest. Consent is required for any alterations, including some repairs, which would affect the special interest of a listed building. The matters which will be taken into consideration in an application for alterations and extensions to a listed building are those set out in Policy HE7 of PPS5.
- 25.14 Where listed buildings are being altered for the provision of access for people with disabilities, the Council will balance their needs with the interests of conservation and preservation. We will expect design approaches to be fully informed by an audit of conservation constraints and access needs, and to have considered all available options. The listed nature of a building does not preclude the development of inclusive design solutions, and the Council expects sensitivity and creativity to be employed in achieving solutions that meet the needs of accessibility and conservation.
- 25.15 The setting of a listed building is of great importance and should not be harmed by unsympathetic neighbouring development. While the setting of a listed building may be limited to its immediate surroundings, it often can extend some distance from it. The value of a listed building can be greatly diminished if unsympathetic development elsewhere harms its appearance or its harmonious relationship with its surroundings. Applicants will be expected to provide sufficient information about the proposed development and its relationship with its immediate setting, in the form of a design statement.
- 25.16 Proposals that reduce the energy consumption of listed buildings will be welcomed provided that they do not cause harm to the special architectural and historic interest of the building or group. Energy use can be reduced by means that do not harm the fabric or appearance of the building, for instance roof insulation, draught proofing and secondary glazing, more efficient boilers and heating/lighting systems, and use of green energy sources. Depending on the form of the building, renewable energy technologies may also be installed, for instance solar water heating and photovoltaics.
- 25.17 Our Camden Planning Guidance supplementary document provides further information on our approach to listed buildings.

Map 4: Archaeological Priority Areas



Archaeology

25.18 Camden has a rich archaeological heritage comprised of both above and below ground remains, in the form of individual finds, evidence of former settlements and standing structures. These remains are vulnerable to modern development and land use. There are 13 archaeological priority areas in the borough (see map 4):

Hampstead Heath	Hampstead	Highgate
London Suburbs	South End	Bagnigge Wells
St Pancras	West End	Canalside Industry
Kentish Town	Kilburn	
Battle Bridge	Belsize	

- 25.19 The archaeological priority areas provide a general guide to areas of archaeological remains, but do not indicate every find site in the borough. These are based on current knowledge and may be refined or altered as a result of future archaeological research or discoveries.
- 25.20 It is likely that archaeological remains will be found throughout the borough, both within and outside the archaeological priority areas. Many archaeological remains have yet to be discovered, so their extent and significance is not known. When researching the development potential of a site, developers should, in all cases, assess whether the site is known or is likely to contain archaeological remains. Where there is good reason to believe that there are remains of archaeological importance on a site, the Council will consider directing applicants to supply further details of proposed developments, including the results of archaeological desk-based assessment and field evaluation. Scheduled monument consent must be obtained before any alterations are made to scheduled ancient monuments. Camden has only one scheduled ancient monument: Boadicea's Grave in Hampstead Heath.
- 25.21 If important archaeological remains are found, the Council will seek to resist development which adversely affects remains and to minimise the impact of development schemes by requiring either in situ preservation or a programme of excavation, recording, publication and archiving of remains. There will usually be a presumption in favour of in situ preservation of remains and, if important archaeological remains are found, measures should be adopted to allow the remains to be permanently preserved in situ. Where in situ preservation is not feasible, no development shall take place until satisfactory excavation and recording of the remains has been carried out on site, and subsequent analysis, publication and archiving undertaken by an archaeological organisation approved by the Council.
- 25.22 The Council will consult with, and be guided by, English Heritage and the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS) on the archaeological implications of development proposals. The Greater London Sites and Monuments Record, maintained by English Heritage, contains further information on archaeological sites in Camden. When considering schemes involving archaeological remains, the Council will also have regard to government Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) 16 – Archaeology and Planning.

Other heritage assets

- 25.23 In addition to conservation areas, listed buildings and archaeological remains, Camden contains 14 Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest, as identified by English Heritage. There are also 53 London Squares in the borough protected by the London Squares Preservation Act 1931. The Council will encourage the management of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest and London Squares to maintain, and where appropriate, enhance their value and protect their setting. As set out within Core Strategy policy CS14 – *Promoting high quality places and conserving our heritage*, we will consult with English Heritage over proposals affecting these parks and gardens.

Key evidence and references

- Greater London Sites and Monuments Record; English Heritage
- Guidance on conservation area appraisals, English Heritage, 2006
- Guidance on the management of conservation areas, English Heritage, 2006

DP26. Managing the impact of development on occupiers and neighbours

- 26.1 Camden's Core Strategy seeks to sustainably manage growth so that it takes place in the most appropriate locations and meets our needs while continuing to conserve and enhance the features that make Camden such an attractive place to live, work and visit (see policy CS1). Promoting and protecting high standards of amenity is a key element in this and will be a major consideration when the Council assesses development proposals. Core Strategy policies CS5 – *Managing the impact of growth and development* and CS14 – *Promoting high quality places and conserving our heritage* set out our overall approach to protecting the amenity of Camden's residents, workers and visitors, a major factor in people's quality of life. Policy DP26 contributes to the implementation of the Core Strategy by making sure that the impact of a development on occupiers and neighbours is fully considered.

DP POLICY

DP26 – Managing the impact of development on occupiers and neighbours

The Council will protect the quality of life of occupiers and neighbours by only granting permission for development that does not cause harm to amenity. The factors we will consider include:

- a) visual privacy and overlooking;
- b) overshadowing and outlook;
- c) sunlight, daylight and artificial light levels;
- d) noise and vibration levels;
- e) odour, fumes and dust;
- f) microclimate;
- g) the inclusion of appropriate attenuation measures.

We will also require developments to provide:

- h) an acceptable standard of accommodation in terms of internal arrangements, dwelling and room sizes and amenity space;
- i) facilities for the storage, recycling and disposal of waste;
- j) facilities for bicycle storage; and
- k) outdoor space for private or communal amenity space, wherever practical.

- 26.2 Development should avoid harmful effects on the amenity of existing and future occupiers and to nearby properties. When assessing proposals the Council will take account the considerations set out in policy DP26. The Council's Camden Planning Guidance supplementary document contains detailed guidance on the elements of amenity.

Visual privacy, overlooking, overshadowing, outlook, sunlight and daylight

- 26.3 A development's impact on visual privacy, overlooking, overshadowing, outlook, access to daylight and sunlight and disturbance from artificial light can be influenced by its design and layout, the distance between properties, the vertical levels of onlookers or occupiers and the angle of views. These issues will also affect the amenity of the new occupiers. We will expect that these elements are considered at the design stage of a scheme to prevent potential negative impacts of the development on occupiers and neighbours. To assess whether acceptable levels of daylight and sunlight are available to habitable spaces, the Council will take into account the standards recommended in the British Research Establishment's Site Layout Planning for Daylight and Sunlight – *A Guide to Good Practice* (1991).

Artificial lighting levels

- 26.4 Lighting creates a sense of safety and can enable activities in the evenings and at night. It can be used to highlight landmark buildings and add vitality to our streets. Lighting can increase the potential for natural surveillance and, where used correctly, can reduce the opportunity for criminal activity and increase the likelihood of it being challenged and/or reported. However, poorly designed internal and external lighting or lighting that operates for an excessive period of time is a form of pollution that can harm the quality of life for those living nearby, affect wildlife and waste energy. Camden's dense character means that light pollution can be a bigger problem in the borough than in lower density areas where uses are not so close together. For example, lighting from conservatories can affect neighbours living above, as well as to the sides and rear, and the lighting of advertisements can affect people living nearby. Glare and light spillage from poorly designed lighting can make it less easy to see things at night and effect wildlife as well as people. Lighting should only illuminate the intended area and not affect or impact on its surroundings. Schemes involving floodlighting and developments in sensitive areas, such as adjacent to sites of nature conservation importance, should employ a specialist lighting engineer accredited by the Institute of Lighting Engineers to ensure that artificial lighting causes minimal disturbance to occupiers and wildlife. For further details on lighting and occupiers and biodiversity please see our Camden Planning Guidance supplementary document.

Noise and vibration

- 26.5 Noise/vibration pollution has a major effect on amenity and health and can be a particularly significant issue in Camden given the borough's dense urban nature. More detail on how to prevent disturbance from noise and vibration, including the requirement for mitigation measures can be found in policy DP28.

Odours, fumes and dust

- 26.6 Camden suffers from extremely poor air quality which has a harmful impact on health and the environment. More detail on how the Council is tackling poor air quality can be found in policy DP32. Camden Planning Guidance provides information on how developments should be designed to prevent occupants from being exposed to air pollution, including mitigation measures.





- 26.7 Odours, fumes and dust can be generated from commercial cooking, industrial process and construction and demolition. We will require all development likely to generate odours to prevent them from being a nuisance by installing appropriate extraction equipment and other mitigation measures. Further details on mitigation measures and where extraction equipment should be located can be found in Camden Planning Guidance. Further details on limiting noise from extraction equipment can be found in DP28. The Council will limit the disturbance from dust due to construction and demolition by expecting developers and their contractors to follow the London Councils' Best Practise Guidance *The control of dust and emissions from construction and demolition*. We will also expect developers to sign up to the Considerate Constructors Scheme. Details of how these will be implemented should be provided in a Construction Management Plan. Please see below for further details on Construction Management Plans.

Microclimate

- 26.8 Developments, especially when large, can alter the local climate. For example, a light coloured building that reflects heat will stay cool on the inside and the outside, whereas a dark building will absorb heat during the day to raise internal temperatures and slowly release this heat as the temperature cools, keeping the local air temperature warmer. Buildings can also affect the flow of air and cause wind tunnels. All developments should consider local topography and the local microclimate in their design. Developments large enough to alter the local climate will be required to submit a statement demonstrating how the design has considered local conditions. Detail of what is expected in such a statement can be found in the Camden Planning Guidance.

Attenuation measures and Construction Management Plans

- 26.9 Most potential negative effects of a development can be designed out or prevented through mitigation measures. For example, appropriately located and insulated extraction equipment can prevent nuisance caused by strong odours and fumes. An air tight building with mechanical ventilation and good insulation can make living adjacent to railways and busy roads acceptable with regards to noise, vibration and internal air quality. We will require any attenuation measures to be identified prior to planning permission being granted and secured for the lifetime of the development.

26.10 Disturbance from development can also occur during the construction phase. Measures required to reduce the impact of demolition, excavation and construction works must be outlined in a Construction Management Plan. We will require Construction Management Plans to identify the potential impacts of the construction phase of the development and state how any potential negative impacts will be mitigated. Construction Management Plans may be sought for:

- major developments;
- basement developments;
- developments involving listed buildings or adjacent to listed buildings;
- developments that could affect wildlife;
- developments on sites with poor or limited access; and
- developments that could cause significant disturbance due to their location or the anticipated length of the, demolition, excavation or construction period.

For further details on construction management plans please refer to our Camden Planning Guidance supplementary. Please see policy DP27 for more on our approach to basements.

Standards of accommodation

26.11 The size of a dwelling and its rooms, as well as its layout, will have an impact on the amenity of its occupiers. Residential standards and guidance are contained in our Camden Planning Guidance supplementary document. Policy DP6 outlines our approach to Lifetime Homes and further detail can be found in Camden Planning Guidance. Details on our approach to providing facilities for waste and for bicycle storage can also be found in Camden Planning Guidance. Details on our requirements for the provision of cycle parking can be found in DP18 – *Parking standards and limiting the availability of car parking*.

26.12 Outdoor amenity space provides an important resource for residents, which is particularly important in Camden given the borough's dense urban environment. It can include private provision such as gardens, courtyards and balconies, as well as communal gardens and roof terraces. The Council will expect the provision of gardens in appropriate developments, and particularly in schemes providing larger homes suitable for families. However, we recognise that in many parts of the borough this will not be realistic or appropriate. In these locations, the provision of alternative outdoor amenity space, for example, balconies, roof gardens or communal space will be expected. These amenity spaces should be designed to limit noise and disturbance of other occupiers and so not to unacceptably reduce the privacy of other occupiers and neighbours.

Key evidence and references

- Air Quality Action Plan 2009-13
- Camden's Noise Strategy, 2002
- Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) 24: Planning and Noise
- The London Plan (consolidated with alterations since 2004); Mayor of London; 2008
- Cleaning London's Air: The Mayor's Air Quality Strategy (2002)
- Sounder City – The Mayor's Ambient Noise Strategy; Mayor of London; 2004
- Institution of Lighting Engineers web-site, <http://www.ile.org.uk>

DP31: Provision of, and improvements to, open space and outdoor sport and recreation facilities

- 31.1 Public open space and outdoor sport and recreation facilities are of great importance in Camden in terms of health, play, culture, social interaction, biodiversity, growing food and in providing breaks in our built-up area. The borough has over 250 designated parks and open spaces, ranging from local play areas to Hampstead Heath. Our open spaces include parks, natural green spaces, play spaces, outdoor sport and recreation facilities, community gardens and allotments; while sports and recreation facilities include sports halls, swimming pools and tennis courts. There are large discrepancies across the borough with regards to open space provision. Some areas have low levels of open space with limited opportunities for additional spaces to be provided, while other areas have large metropolitan or regional parks, which provide for a range of open space uses.
- 31.2 Camden Core Strategy policy CS15 – *Protecting and improving our parks and open spaces and encouraging biodiversity* protects Camden’s limited open space and seeks to secure additional open space as well as improvements to existing open spaces. Core Strategy policy CS10 – *Supporting community facilities and services* promotes the provision of community facilities including open space and outdoor sports and leisure facilities. Policy DP31 helps to deliver the strategy set out in Core Strategy policy CS15 – *Protecting and improving our parks and open spaces and encouraging biodiversity* by giving further detail on how we will secure the provision and improvements to open space, sport and recreation facilities. Policy DP31 should be read in conjunction with Core Strategy policies CS15 and CS10. We will use Camden’s Site Allocations document to promote areas and development sites where the Council will expect new public open space to be incorporated within development proposals.

DP POLICY

DP31 – Provision of, and improvements to, open space and outdoor sport and recreation facilities

To ensure the quantity and quality of open space and outdoor sport and recreation facilities in Camden are increased and deficiencies and under provision are not made worse, the Council will only grant planning permission for development that is likely to lead to an increased use of public open space where an appropriate contribution to the supply of open space is made. Priority will be given to the provision of publicly accessible open space.

Open space standard

- 31.3 The Camden Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study Update 2008 found that Camden has 17sqm of open space per person, applying the assessment method outlined in Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for open space, sport and recreation. In accordance with PPG17, parts of the borough that do not have access to 17sqm of open space are considered to be deficient in open space. However, there are large discrepancies in the provision of open space across Camden due to the presence of Hampstead Heath, Regent’s Park and Primrose Hill. For example, Kentish Town and the western part of Camden have an average of 2sqm of open space per person living in the area, while the residents and occupiers of the Hampstead and Highgate areas have 85sqm of open space per person. Given these large discrepancies, the Core Strategy outlines and identified areas that are considered to have an under-provision of open space. When

the amount of open space is averaged out for the areas without one of the large parks mentioned above, there is approximately 9sqm of open space per person in the borough. The Council will therefore apply a standard of 9 sqm per person when assessing the appropriate contributions to open space from residential developments.

- 31.4 Camden's Central London area experiences additional pressure on its limited open space from the substantial number of people who work in the area. The Camden Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study Update 2008 found that there is 0.74sqm of open space per worker within Central London. To ensure that this situation is not made worse, the Council will apply a standard of 0.74sqm of open space per person when assessing appropriate contributions to open space from commercial developments in Central London. In accordance with the Camden Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study Update 2008 we will consider 19sqm of commercial floorspace as catering for one worker.
- 31.5 When assessing the amount of open space to be provided, the Council will take account of a development's contribution towards other policy aims and priorities. Our priority for open space provision is for on-site public open space provision. Where on-site open space is provided we will take into account the characteristics of the site and its relationship with adjoining development when negotiating the level of open space provision.

Developments considered to increase demand for open space

- 31.6 All developments that increase the demand for public open space facilities will be expected to make an appropriate contribution to meeting that additional demand. Schemes considered to increase the demand for public open space are:
- schemes of 5 or more additional dwellings;
 - student housing schemes creating 10 or more units/rooms or occupiers; and
 - developments of 500sqm or more of floorspace that are likely to increase the resident, worker or visitor populations of the borough.

Open space priorities and thresholds for types of open space provision

- 31.7 Camden's Core Strategy identifies areas with an under-provision of open space as well as areas deficient in open space (see policy CS15). In these areas, the priority will be for the provision of open space on development sites. Our Site Allocations Local Development Framework document will identify development sites considered suitable to provide open space on the site. Any other sites that would result in an increased demand for open space and meet the thresholds in the Table 1 below will also be expected to provide open space on site. We will expect on-site open space to be incorporated from the initial layout and design stage to ensure its inclusion in development proposals. The Council's priority for on-site provision will be play and informal recreation facilities for children and young people and provision for residents, especially allotment or community garden space where these are appropriate. Further details on the type of open space sought is set out in our Camden Planning Guidance supplementary document.





Type	Threshold
Public open space	100 dwellings or 30,000sqm of any floorspace
Children's play space – 'Doorstep' 'Local' 'Neighbourhood'	60 dwellings 100 dwellings 150 dwellings
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	60 dwellings
Allotments	200 dwellings

31.8 The Camden Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study Update 2008 also identifies needs and recommends approaches for play space, natural and semi-natural green space and allotments. As a guide, 2.5sqm of the 9sqm of open space provision expected should be in the form of child play space. In addition, no more than 4.5sqm of the 9sqm should be provided as natural green space, except where the improvement is to a Site of Nature Conservation Importance or a local nature reserve where it may be appropriate for all open space provision to be for natural green space improvements. The Council will seek open space that is predominantly soft landscaping and not substantially paved. Areas that need to be paved because of the number of anticipated pedestrians may not be considered to contribute towards the open space provision; for example where the paved area is narrow and does not form part of a wider open space so there would be no opportunity for it to be used for amenity purposes. Due to the very high demand and limited possibilities to provide new allotments or community gardens, they should be provided, wherever possible.

31.9 Many development sites will be too small to provide open space on-site. Where this is the case, developments should provide an appropriate financial contribution towards improving existing open space. When assessing the level of contribution, the Council will also take into account any contribution made by private amenity space, private open space and other land (although these types of provision are not considered a substitute for public open space). Please see Camden Planning Guidance for further details on the types of open space and our approach to open space contributions.

- 31.10 The Council will seek opportunities to bring private open space into public use and for development sites adjacent to existing open space to increase the size of the open space, where practicable. We are especially keen to secure vacant land as open space for nature conservation use.
- 31.11 The Camden Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study Update 2008 also includes recommendations on how to best meet our open space needs and priorities. We will use these recommendations when negotiating open space provision, as well as the Council's Open Space Strategy for Camden 2006-2011, existing plans for the management of open space, and the site's proximity to deficiencies and under provision in open space. We will also take into account exercise rates and obesity levels in the surrounding area. Our Camden Planning Guidance supplementary document provides further details on how open space should be provided and how it will be secured by the Council.

Key evidence and references

- Camden Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study Update; Atkins; 2008
- Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) 17 : Planning for open space, sport and recreation; ODPM; 2004
- The London Plan (consolidated with Alterations since 2004); Mayor of London; 2008
- Supplementary Planning Guidance: Providing for Children and Young People's Play and Informal Recreation; Mayor of London; 2008.
- Open space strategy for Camden 2006-2011

