

# UDP

## **KIRKLEES UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

### **WRITTEN STATEMENT – REVISED WITH EFFECT FROM 28 SEPTEMBER 2007**

**As a result of a Direction issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, from 28 September 2007 some of the policies in the UDP continue to have effect ('saved policies') and some do not as they were not saved. This updated version of the UDP contains explanatory text for each not saved policy. Further information about policy saving can be found on the Kirklees website at**

**<http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/business/regeneration/udp/savedPolicies.aspx>**

# UDP

## KIRKLEES UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

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## **14. RECREATION**

### **STRATEGY**

- 14.1 Recreation involves a wide variety of activities pursued in leisure time and as diverse as taking short strolls in a local park, participating in specialised sports such as hang gliding, watching football and attending plays, concerts and exhibitions. Facilities for recreation are also diverse, ranging from theatres and art galleries and sports stadia and sports centres to countryside footpaths and mill dams.
- 14.2 Leisure time available to the individual and the variety of recreational pursuits are both likely to continue to increase. It is therefore desirable that opportunities for leisure and recreation are expanded. However, the provision of new recreational facilities should reflect as far as possible the needs of the public and be in locations accessible to all sectors of the community. It will also be important that the recreational benefits which they bring are not outweighed by environmental costs arising from the impact of the development or the intensity of the activity accommodated, which will be borne by the population at large.

### **R1 PROPOSALS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW RECREATIONAL FACILITIES SHOULD TAKE ACCOUNT OF:**

- i THE NEED TO BE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY; AND**
  - ii THE EFFECT ON THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT.**
- 14.3 Any proposals to provide specialist sports facilities which are likely to be of District-wide or regional significance will be fully discussed with the Sports Council to ensure that they are of a type and scale and appropriately located to meet identifiable requirements.

### **CULTURAL FACILITIES**

- 14.4 Residents of Kirklees have to travel outside the District to pursue many cultural interests. Any new facilities which increase the scope for cultural activity within Kirklees are therefore to be welcomed. Kirklees has several strong cultural traditions, particularly music in Huddersfield and literary connections in the Batley area. Facilities which draw upon these traditions and help to satisfy the interest stimulated are likely to be particularly appropriate.
- 14.5 The development of facilities in locations within or close to town centres will provide opportunities for access by public transport and also for the use of town centre car parking facilities, particularly for evening visits. However it must be recognised that a new facility related to a particular cultural tradition may require a specific location associated with that tradition and could not be located successfully elsewhere.

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- 14.6 The preference for town centre locations for cultural facilities is also supported by the benefit which will accrue to town centre vitality and trade from the establishment of new attractions bringing more and different visitors. Activities taking place in the evenings and at weekends are likely to be particularly beneficial in bringing life to the town centre and perhaps encouraging other people to venture there after normal shopping hours.
- 14.7 Cultural facilities are likely to be prestigious and focal points for relatively large numbers of visitors. It is important therefore that developments are of a high standard of design and relate well to their surroundings. Many town centres and their fringes contain large unused or under-used buildings, such as civic buildings, warehouses and mills, of historic, architectural or townscape value. Proposals to provide cultural facilities by adaptation of such buildings will not only establish a beneficial use but may also stimulate interest in further building conversion in the area leading to wider regeneration.

~~**R2 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS INVOLVING CULTURAL FACILITIES WILL NORMALLY BE PERMITTED IN LOCATIONS WITHIN, OR READILY ACCESSIBLE FROM TOWN CENTRES, AND ALSO IN LOCATIONS WITH HISTORICAL OR CULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS SHOULD BE OF A HIGH STANDARD OF DESIGN AND WELL RELATED TO THEIR SURROUNDINGS.**~~

This policy was not saved because proposals for cultural facilities are covered in PPS6 and design issues relevant to all developments are set out in UDP policy BE1.

The relevant text of PPS6 for cultural facilities in town centres is as follows: <sup>1</sup>

### ***Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning for Town Centres***

#### ***The Government's Objectives***

***1.3 The Government's key objective for town centres is to promote their vitality and viability by:***

- *planning for the growth and development of existing centres; and*
- *promoting and enhancing existing centres, by focusing development in such centres and encouraging a wide range of services in a good environment, accessible to all.*

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<sup>1</sup> To assist applicants the Council has identified text from relevant sources which it considers provides the most appropriate guidance as to how the issues in this unsaved policy should be addressed in planning applications. However, the selected text is intended to provide general guidance only, is not necessarily exhaustive and does not constitute legal or other professional advice. The Council recommends that applicants should always obtain their own expert advice.

### ***Positive Planning for Town Centres: A Plan-Led Approach***

*2.1 In order to deliver the Government's objective of promoting vital and viable town centres, development should be focused in existing centres in order to strengthen and, where appropriate, regenerate them. Regional planning bodies and local planning authorities should:*

- *actively promote growth and manage change in town centres;*
- *define a network and a hierarchy of centres each performing their appropriate role to meet the needs of their catchments; and adopt a proactive, plan-led approach to planning for town centres, through regional and local planning.*

For locations other than town centres, the following paragraphs of PPS6 are relevant: <sup>2</sup>

### ***ASSESSING PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS***

*3.3 The key considerations for identifying sites for allocation in development plan documents, as set out in Chapter 2, apply equally to the assessment of planning applications. This Chapter sets out only the additional detail relevant to the consideration of planning applications, and should be read in conjunction with Chapter 2.*

*3.4 In the context of development control and subject to the policies set out below, local planning authorities should require applicants to demonstrate:*

- a) the need for development (paragraphs 3.8–3.11);*
- b) that the development is of an appropriate scale (paragraph 3.12);*
- c) that there are no more central sites for the development (paragraphs 3.13–3.19);*
- d) that there are no unacceptable impacts on existing centres (paragraphs 3.20–3.23); and*
- e) that locations are accessible (paragraphs 3.24–3.27).*

*3.5 Subject to the policies set out below, local planning authorities should assess planning applications on the basis of the above key considerations and the evidence presented. As a general rule, the development should satisfy all these considerations. In making their*

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*decision, local planning authorities should also consider relevant local issues and other material considerations.*

**a) Assessing the Need for Development**

3.8 *It is not necessary to demonstrate the need for retail proposals within the primary shopping area or for other main town centre uses located within the town centre.*

3.9 *Need must be demonstrated for any application for a main town centre use which would be in an edge-of-centre or out-of-centre location and which is not in accordance with an up to-date development plan document strategy. Specific considerations in assessing need for retail and leisure development are set out below.*

*i) Quantitative Need*

3.10 *A needs assessment prepared in support of a planning application should, wherever possible, be based on the assessment carried out for the development plan document, updated as required, and in the case of retail development should relate directly to the class of goods to be sold from the development ('business-based' cases will not be appropriate). The need for additional floorspace should normally be assessed no more than five years ahead, as sites in the centre may become available within that period. Assessing need beyond this time period might pre-empt future options for investment in centres, except where large town centre schemes are proposed and where a longer time period may be appropriate to allow for site assembly. The catchment area that is used to assess future need should be realistic and well related to the size and function of the proposed development and take account of competing centres.*

*ii) Qualitative Need*

3.11 *In addition to considering the quantitative need for additional retail or leisure floorspace, local planning authorities should consider whether there are qualitative considerations, as described in Chapter 2, that might provide additional justification for the development.*

**b) Securing the Appropriate Scale of Development**

3.12 *An indicative upper limit for the scale of a development (usually defined in terms of gross floorspace) which is likely to be acceptable in particular centres for different facilities may be set out in development plan documents. Where this is not the case, or where a development plan document is out-of-date, the factors to be considered in determining the*

*appropriate scale of development in a centre are those set out in paragraphs 2.41–2.43.*

**c) Applying the Sequential Approach to Site Selection**

- 3.13 *The sequential approach to site selection should be applied to all development proposals for sites that are not in an existing centre nor allocated in an up-to-date development plan document (see also paragraph 3.29). The relevant centres in which to search for sites will depend on the overall strategy set out in the development plan, the nature and scale of the development and the catchment that the development seeks to serve.*
- 3.14 *In selecting sites, all options in the centre should be thoroughly assessed before less central sites are considered. The order for site assessment is set out in paragraph 2.44.*
- 3.15 *In applying the sequential approach, and considering alternative sites, developers and operators should be able to demonstrate that in seeking to find a site in or on the edge of existing centres they have been flexible about their proposed business model in terms of the following planning considerations:*
- *the scale of their development;*
  - *the format of their development;*
  - *car parking provision; and*
  - *the scope for disaggregation (see paragraphs 3.17–3.18).*
- 3.16 *The purpose of this exercise is to explore the possibility of enabling the development to fit onto more central sites by reducing the footprint of the proposal. In seeking to demonstrate flexibility under Paragraph 3.15 above, developers and operators should consider, in terms of scale: reducing the floorspace of the development; in terms of format: more innovative site layouts and store configurations such as multi-storey developments with smaller footprints; and, in terms of car parking: reduced or reconfigured car parking areas. However, local planning authorities should be realistic in considering whether sites are suitable, viable and available (see paragraph 3.19). Local planning authorities should take into account any genuine difficulties, which the applicant can demonstrate are likely to occur in operating the applicant's business model from the sequentially preferable site, in terms of scale, format, car parking provision and the scope for disaggregation, such as where a retailer would be required to provide a significantly reduced range of products. However, it will not be sufficient for an applicant to claim merely that the class of goods proposed to be sold cannot be sold from the town centre.*

3.17 *As part of this exercise it is important to explore whether specific parts of a development could be operated from separate, sequentially preferable, sites. For retail and leisure proposals in edge-of-centre or out-of-centre locations which comprise a group of retail and/or leisure units, such as a retail park, leisure park or shopping centre, the applicant should consider the degree to which the constituent units within the proposal could be accommodated on more centrally-located sites in accordance with the objectives and policies in this policy statement.*

3.18 *A single retailer or leisure operator should not be expected to split their proposed development into separate sites where flexibility in terms of scale, format, car parking provision and the scope for disaggregation has been demonstrated. It is not the intention of this policy to seek the arbitrary sub-division of proposals. Rather it is to ensure that consideration is given as to whether there are elements which could reasonably and successfully be located on a separate sequentially preferable site or sites. Paragraphs 3.17 and 3.18 do not apply to uses other than retail and leisure proposals.*

3.19 *Where it is argued that otherwise sequentially-preferable sites are not appropriate for the particular development proposed, applicants should provide clear evidence to demonstrate why such sites are not practicable alternatives in terms of:*

- *Availability: the sites are unavailable now and are unlikely to become available for development within a reasonable period of time (determined on the merits of a particular case). Where such sites become available unexpectedly after receipt of the application the local planning authority should take this into account in their assessment of the application; and*
- *Suitability: with due regard to the requirements to demonstrate flexibility (paragraphs 3.15–3.18), the sites are not suitable for the type of development proposed; and*
- *Viability: the development would not be viable on these sites.*

#### **d) Assessing Impact**

3.20 *Impact assessments should be undertaken for any application for a main town centre use which would be in an edge-of-centre or out-of-centre location and which is not in accordance with an up-to-date development plan strategy. Where a significant development in a centre, not in accordance with the development plan strategy, would substantially increase the attraction of the centre and could have an impact on other centres, the impact on other centres will also need to be assessed.*



3.21 *In assessing sites, local planning authorities should consider the impact of the proposal on the vitality and viability of existing centres within the catchment area of the proposed development, including the likely cumulative effect of recent permissions, developments under construction and completed developments. The identification of need does not necessarily indicate that there will be no negative impact.*

3.22 *In particular, local planning authorities should consider the impact of the development on the centre or centres likely to be affected, taking account of:*

- *the extent to which the development would put at risk the spatial planning strategy for the area and the strategy for a particular centre or network of centres, or alter its role in the hierarchy of centres;*
- *the likely effect on future public or private sector investment needed to safeguard the vitality and viability of the centre or centres;*
- *the likely impact of the proposed development on trade/turnover and on the vitality and viability of existing centres within the catchment area of the proposed development and, where applicable, on the rural economy (an example of a positive impact might be if development results in clawback expenditure from the surrounding area);*
- *changes to the range of services provided by centres that could be affected;*
- *likely impact on the number of vacant properties in the primary shopping area;*
- *potential changes to the quality, attractiveness, physical condition and character of the centre or centres and to its role in the economic and social life of the community; and*
- *the implications of proposed leisure and entertainment uses for the evening and night-time economy of the centre (see also paragraph 2.24).*

3.23 *The level of detail and type of evidence and analysis required should be proportionate to the scale and nature of the proposal. Impact assessments which address the issues in Paragraph 3.22 above should be provided for all retail and leisure developments over 2,500 square metres gross floorspace, but they may occasionally be necessary for smaller developments, such as those likely to have a significant impact on smaller centres, depending on the relative size and nature of the development in relation to the centre.*

**e) Ensuring Locations are Accessible**

3.24 *In considering proposed new developments, local planning authorities should consider:*

*i) The need for accessibility by a choice of means of transport*

3.25 *Developments should be accessible by a choice of means of transport, including public transport, walking, cycling, and the car (taking full account of customers' likely travel patterns). In determining whether developments are or will become genuinely accessible, local authorities should assess the distance of proposed developments from existing or proposed public transport facilities (bus or railway stations and interchanges). Account should also be taken of the frequency and capacity of services, and whether access is easy, safe and convenient for pedestrians, cyclists and disabled people. Distances should be measured as actual walking distance rather than as a straight line.*

3.26 *Local planning authorities should assess the extent to which retail, leisure and office developers have tailored their approach to meet the Government's objectives as set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note 13: Transport (PPG13). For example through the preparation of accessibility analyses, transport assessments, travel plans and the promotion of opportunities to reduce car journeys through home delivery services, and contributions to improve access, traffic management and parking.*

*ii) The impact on car use, traffic and congestion*

3.27 *In assessing new developments, local planning authorities should consider:*

- whether the proposal would have an impact on the overall distance travelled by car; and*
- the effect on local traffic levels and congestion, after public transport and traffic management measures have been secured.*

**SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS CENTRES**

14.8 Swimming pools and sports centres accommodating a variety of indoor facilities ranging from badminton courts to go-karting circuits, provide opportunities for participation in many different sporting activities including specialist activities not generally catered for. Several sports centres of varying sizes and ranges of facilities are provided in Kirklees. Further provision would increase opportunities for sporting activity and encourage more people to participate. Opportunities to secure new or improved facilities may arise when major development is proposed and the Council will support such initiatives provided

that the resource implications are acceptable. In order to encourage use, facilities should be located where there is good accessibility by public transport. Accordingly locations within, or on the edge of, town and local centres will be most appropriate. Redundant buildings may provide suitable opportunities for conversion to accommodate sporting activities.

- 14.8a Guidance on locations for various types of sport and recreation facilities will be formulated, following assessment of the need and opportunities for such facilities in different parts of the District. This guidance will be included in the plan when it is reviewed.

~~**R3 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS INVOLVING THE PROVISION OF SWIMMING POOLS AND SPORTS CENTRES SHOULD BE LOCATED WHERE THERE IS GOOD ACCESS BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT; THIS WILL NORMALLY BE WITHIN, OR ON THE EDGE OF TOWN AND LOCAL CENTRES.**~~

Policy R3 was not saved because the principle of locating new recreational facilities in accessible locations is covered in UDP policy R1 and additional factors to be taken into account are set out in PPS6 paragraphs 3.3 -3.27 which follow policy R2 above, and in PPG17 as follows:<sup>3</sup>

***Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation***

***Planning for New Open Space and Sports and Recreational Facilities***

***General Principles***

20. *In identifying where to locate new areas of open space, sports and recreational facilities, local authorities should:*
- i. promote accessibility by walking, cycling and public transport, and ensure that facilities are accessible for people with disabilities;*
  - ii. locate more intensive recreational uses in sites where they can contribute to town centre vitality and viability;*
  - iii. avoid any significant loss of amenity to residents, neighbouring*

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*uses or biodiversity;*

*iv. improve the quality of the public realm through good design;*

*v. look to provide areas of open space in commercial and industrial areas;*

*vi. add to and enhance the range and quality of existing facilities;*

*vii. carefully consider security and personal safety, especially for children;*

*viii. meet the regeneration needs of areas, using brownfield in preference to greenfield sites;*

*ix. consider the scope for using any surplus land for open space, sport or recreational use, weighing this against alternative uses;*

*x. assess the impact of new facilities on social inclusion; and*

*xi. consider the recreational needs of visitors and tourists.*

*In addition to these general principles, paragraphs 21-32 below apply in respect of specific types of facilities or areas.*

### **Mixed-use Sport, Recreation and Leisure Facilities**

21 *Many sporting and recreational facilities will be similar in their land use characteristics to some forms of leisure - by making intensive use of land and attracting a large number of visits. Indeed, some will be mixed with significant elements of entertainment, retail or leisure uses and will function for many hours of the day. Planning permission for such developments should only be granted where they are to be located in highly accessible locations in or adjacent to town centres, or in district or neighbourhood centres. Planning permission should not be granted for a location outside such a town centre if the resulting development would undermine the centre. Sites in central locations should be allocated where there is a high level of demand for such mixed use facilities. The guidance in PPG6 explains the principles that should be applied to the location of town centre uses.*

### **Local Facilities**

23 *Local authorities should ensure that provision is made for local sports and recreational facilities (either through an increase in the number of facilities or through improvements to existing facilities) where planning permission is granted for new developments (especially housing). Planning obligations (see paragraph 33 below) should be used where appropriate to seek increased provision of open spaces and local sports and recreational facilities, and the enhancement of*

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*existing facilities. Where local facilities will attract people from a wider catchment, especially in urban areas, planning permission should not be granted unless they are located where they will be well served by public transport.*

## SPORTS STADIA

- 14.9 As a result of legislation increasing safety requirements at sports stadia and the Government's objective to achieve all seated accommodation at football league grounds by 1999, both soccer and rugby football clubs are considering stadium redevelopment or relocation. Redevelopment may well be impractical because of the nature of the existing site and surroundings, particularly where the stadium is hemmed in by housing and access can only be achieved through residential streets. In such circumstances relocation is likely to be the only means of providing a stadium which meets safety requirements and which can be provided with such ancillary accommodation and parking as is required to ensure commercial viability.
- 14.10 Government guidance (in PPG 17), asks local planning authorities to give sympathetic consideration to development proposals designed to provide all seated accommodation at football grounds. In Kirklees, where rugby league is an equivalent spectator sport, it is clearly reasonable to extend such consideration to proposals involving the local rugby league clubs.
- 14.11 Consideration of proposals for the development or relocation of sports stadia will involve reference to a range of factors and the Council will need to be satisfied that there will be overall benefits from proposals put forward.
- 14.12 Matters of particular concern, which arise from the potential numbers of spectators and the large scale of the structures required, will be the impact on residential areas, both adjacent to the proposed site and through which traffic to the stadium will need to pass; potential conflict with neighbouring land uses; the impact on visual amenity, particularly if the site is on the periphery of the built-up area; and the adequacy of access by both private and public transport. It will also be important that there are potential benefits to public safety through better arrangements for crowd control. Other community benefit will arise if there will be opportunities for use of the proposed facilities by amateur sports clubs and the public at large.
- 14.13 It will also be important to take into account how well the site relates to the traditional catchment area of support for the club (or clubs) involved. A further concern will be whether any other uses proposed in association with the stadium are acceptable in terms of other policies in the plan. For example, many proposed schemes for new stadia incorporate substantial retail facilities. While a limited amount of retail floor space might well be considered appropriate, facilities which are clearly equivalent to free-standing shopping centres may be considered contrary to the plan's shopping policies.

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14.14 A stadium proposal which makes use of derelict or degraded land or land affected by mineral workings will clearly be favourably considered because it would return such land to beneficial use. However, because of the scale of stadium developments, they are unlikely to be acceptable in the green belt where there is a presumption against most development and particularly development of a large scale which would be prejudicial to maintaining an open character.

### **R4 PROPOSALS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OR RELOCATION OF SPORTS STADIA WILL BE CONSIDERED HAVING REGARD TO:**

- i THE IMPACT ON RESIDENTIAL AMENITY;**
- ii CONFLICT WITH NEIGHBOURING LAND USES;**
- iii VISUAL IMPACT;**
- iv THE CAPACITY OF THE LOCAL HIGHWAY NETWORK, PARKING ARRANGEMENTS AND ACCESS BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT;**
- v IMPROVEMENTS TO PUBLIC SAFETY;**
- vi THE PROVISION OF ASSOCIATED SPORTS FACILITIES BRINGING BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY;**
- vii THE TRADITIONAL CATCHMENT AREA OF SUPPORT FOR THE CLUB(S) CONCERNED; AND**
- viii THE ACCEPTABILITY OF ANY OTHER USES PROPOSED IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE STADIUM IN TERMS OF OTHER POLICIES IN THE PLAN.**

14.15 Planning permission has been granted for the development of the new Kirklees Stadium to accommodate both Huddersfield Town Football Club and Huddersfield Rugby League Football Club at Bradley Mills Road, Huddersfield. Also, planning permission has been granted for a new stadium to accommodate Dewsbury Rugby League Football Club at Owl Lane, Shaw Cross, Dewsbury. These sites are shown on the proposals map.

### ~~**R5 LAND IS ALLOCATED AT BRADLEY MILLS ROAD, HUDDERSFIELD AND AT OWL LANE, SHAW CROSS, DEWSBURY FOR NEW STADIA.**~~

Policy R5 has been deleted because the schemes have now been implemented.

## PUBLIC OPEN SPACE AND PRIVATE PLAYING FIELDS

- 14.16 The existing stock of public open space provides both for the playing of organised games and for informal recreation. It comprises primarily public parks, playing fields (including tennis courts and bowling greens) and children's play areas; there are also significant areas of woodland. Areas of public open space in excess of 0.4 hectares and not located in the green belt are designated as urban greenspace.
- 14.17 The National Playing Fields Association's (NPFA) recommended minimum standard for outdoor playing space is widely recognised and long established. The following table provides a breakdown of the NPFA standard:

**FIGURE RI - NPFA STANDARDS**

Minimum provision for outdoor playing space:
<b>2.43 hectares per thousand population.</b>
Depending on the population profile of the locality this should be met by an aggregation of space within the following ranges:
Facilities for youth and adult use (such as pitches, greens, courts and running tracks):
<b>1.6 - 1.8 hectares per thousand population</b>
Facilities for children's use:
Outdoor equipped playgrounds:
<b>0.2 - 0.3 hectares per thousand population</b>
Casual or informal playspace within housing areas:
<b>0.4 - 0.5 hectares per thousand population</b>
Equipped playgrounds for children's use should be within 5 minutes distance or 400 metres of home.

(Source: The National Playing Fields Association Six Acre Standard, 1992).

- 14.18 A 1991 study of playing field and play area provision (which also took into account private sports grounds) showed that in the main urban areas of Kirklees total provision for youth and adult use approached the standard recommended by the NPFA, but provision for children's play fell well short of the Association's standard. Playing space is also unevenly distributed with most wards having significantly less playing space than the NPFA standard; in the case of facilities for youth and adult use a high level of provision in a handful of wards raises total provision close to the NPFA standard. This uneven distribution is significant because the community gains more benefit from public open space when it is readily accessible.
- 14.19 This NPFA based analysis does not take into account the distribution of population by age, socio-economic group or ethnicity. These are all factors which determine more specifically the nature of local deficiencies. For example, the provision of sports pitches is of less value in areas where the population is predominantly elderly. In general, it is

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likely that public open space deficiencies will be particularly significant within the regeneration areas where there are many disadvantaged residents who will be least able to travel to other areas where facilities are available. Local standards of open space provision for formal and informal sport and recreation will therefore be formulated drawing on the NPFA standards, an assessment of need and local factors. In the interim the Council will seek to improve the provision of public open space especially within areas where there is an under-provision measured against NPFA standards, and where there are many disadvantaged residents.

14.20 The provision of public open space can be improved by creating new areas or improving established areas to enable greater use to be made of them. It may also be possible to arrange for sports clubs or the general public to use school playing facilities.

14.21 Measures to enable greater public enjoyment of areas of urban greenspace and of green corridors will be particularly appropriate provided that this will not be prejudicial to the other functions of these designated areas, particularly as wildlife habitats.

14.22 Where proposals are made for development which will give rise to a need for public open space, it will be necessary to include measures to meet this need. Such measures include providing new areas of open space either on site or on land elsewhere but related to the development site, or providing a financial contribution to the improvement of established facilities in accordance with the Council's programme of improvement works.

**R6 WHEN DEVELOPMENT IS PROPOSED WHICH GIVES RISE TO A NEED FOR PUBLIC OPEN SPACE, MEASURES SHOULD BE INCLUDED TO ENSURE THAT THIS NEED CAN BE SATISFIED BY ESTABLISHING NEW AREAS OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACE, EITHER ON SITE OR IN A READILY ACCESSIBLE LOCATION, OR BY UPGRADING EXISTING PUBLIC OPEN SPACE. IN THE CASE OF HOUSING DEVELOPMENT POLICY H18 WILL APPLY.**

14.23 In view of the importance of maintaining reasonable standards of provision of public open space, and given that there are deficiencies in provision in many areas, it will not normally be appropriate for existing areas of public open space to be developed. However, where the Council can be satisfied that appropriate alternative open space provision will be made which will not be to the disadvantage of current users, and that local amenity and wildlife will not be prejudiced by the proposed development, planning permission may be granted.

[POLICY R7 DELETED]

14.24 Private playing fields include football, rugby and cricket pitches and tennis courts and bowling greens. Although not normally available for public use, these private clubs do provide a community benefit because they meet some of the demand for sports facilities. They may also benefit local amenity and wildlife by providing green spaces within built-up areas. Consequently it will not normally be appropriate to permit the development or change of use of private playing fields unless a proposal includes the provision of



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equivalent playing facilities elsewhere. However, where the Council can be satisfied that reasonable efforts have been made to dispose of a site as a sports facility and no organisation is willing to acquire it for sports purposes, planning permission may be granted. All proposals will also be considered with regard to their likely impact on visual and residential amenity and on established wildlife, and will be expected to incorporate reasonable measures to safeguard amenity and wildlife. In some cases development may not be acceptable because adequate safeguards cannot be provided.

### **R7A PROPOSALS TO DEVELOP PUBLIC OPEN SPACE, PRIVATE PLAYING FIELDS OR LAND LAST USED AS PRIVATE PLAYING FIELDS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED UNLESS:**

- i REPLACEMENT PROVISION OF EQUIVALENT COMMUNITY BENEFIT IS MADE; OR**
- ii ONLY THE REDEVELOPMENT OF A SMALL PART OF THE SITE IS INVOLVED AND THIS PROVIDES THE BEST MEANS OF RETAINING AND ENHANCING SPORT AND RECREATION FACILITIES; OR**
- iii IT IS DEMONSTRATED THAT THE SITE WILL NOT BE REQUIRED IN THE LONGER TERM FOR COMMUNITY SPORT, RECREATION OR AMENITY USE.**

**ALL PROPOSALS SHOULD MAKE PROVISION FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF VISUAL AND RESIDENTIAL AMENITY AND ESTABLISHED WILDLIFE.**

[POLICY R8 DELETED]

### **ALLOTMENTS**

- 14.25 The cultivation of allotments is a popular and long established pastime and allotment produce can be a significant benefit to those on low incomes. Proposals for development on allotments, unless involving the provision of replacement allotments, will only be acceptable if the Council can be satisfied that there is no unmet local demand for allotments. All proposals will also be assessed in terms of their impact on the character of the surrounding area and on established wildlife, and development will only be permitted where visual and residential amenity and established wildlife can be adequately safeguarded. These factors are important because allotments tend to be in short supply relative to potential demand and this demand can only be met successfully by local provision, and they are often located within residential areas where they constitute one of the few remaining areas of undeveloped land and therefore have particular amenity value and value for local wildlife.

### **R9 PROPOSALS INVOLVING DEVELOPMENT ON ALLOTMENTS, OR LAND LAST USED AS ALLOTMENTS, WILL NOT BE PERMITTED UNLESS REPLACEMENT ALLOTMENTS OF EQUIVALENT COMMUNITY BENEFIT**

**ARE PROVIDED OR IT CAN BE DEMONSTRATED THAT THERE IS NO UNSATISFIED LOCAL DEMAND FOR ALLOTMENTS. ALL PROPOSALS SHOULD MAKE PROVISION FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF VISUAL AND RESIDENTIAL AMENITY AND ESTABLISHED WILDLIFE.**

- 14.26 Where replacement allotments are provided, the Council will seek to ensure that the new site is turned, serviced and laid out in preparation for the next growing season.

**COUNTRYSIDE RECREATION**

- 14.27 The countryside in Kirklees provides a vital recreation resource for many residents. However, for those who do not live close to the countryside, do not have the use of a car and have a relatively low disposable income only those parts of the countryside accessible by public transport are likely to have any value for recreation. Hence the importance of maintaining adequate public open space within large urban areas.
- 14.28 Most countryside recreation involves informal activities such as walking or horse riding or cycling through the countryside and visiting attractive places such as picnic sites, woodlands, reservoirs and historic buildings. Within Kirklees, the Huddersfield Narrow Canal (especially the Tunnel End Visitor Centre), Castle Hill and Oakwell Hall and Country Park are particularly significant destinations. In addition the countryside provides opportunities for a range of outdoor sports many of which by their nature cannot be accommodated within urban areas; for example, sailing, hang gliding, motor sports and shooting. Comparatively there are about seven participants in informal activities in the countryside for every one participant in an outdoor sport.
- 14.29 Most of those using the countryside in Kirklees for recreational pursuits are likely to be local residents or to live in areas bordering Kirklees. However, some will be tourists mainly attracted to the areas fringing the Peak District National Park as a result of a growing awareness of the qualities of the South Pennines.
- 14.30 All countryside in Kirklees falls within the green belt with the exception of a limited number of relatively small areas on the edge of urban areas. Consequently, most proposals to accommodate informal recreation and outdoor sports within the countryside are likely to be located within the green belt and will therefore need to be considered in the context of green belt policies.<sup>4</sup> In seeking to increase opportunities for sport and recreation within the countryside, it is clearly appropriate to seek locations accessible to those without the use of a car. It will also be important that any development such as car parks, toilet facilities and information points, and public access itself, do not harm the inherent visual qualities and character of the area or the interests of wildlife and established rural land uses.
- 14.31 The following policies set out how the Council proposes to encourage and control countryside recreation. However, the extent of provision of new and improved facilities

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<sup>4</sup> See policy D10.

for informal recreation and outdoor sports will depend on the availability of resources. Therefore the Council will continue to seek funding from sources such as the Countryside Agency, Sports Council and other public agencies and from groups and organisations promoting particular recreational activities.

~~**R10 INFORMAL RECREATION AND OUTDOOR SPORTS ARE APPROPRIATE COUNTRYSIDE ACTIVITIES AND DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS SUPPORTING THESE ACTIVITIES WILL NORMALLY BE PERMITTED, PROVIDED THAT THERE WILL BE NO SIGNIFICANT DETRIMENT TO THE VISUAL QUALITY AND CHARACTER OF THE SURROUNDING AREA OR TO WILDLIFE AND ESTABLISHED RURAL LAND USES. PROPOSALS SHOULD BE READILY SERVED BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT.**~~

Policy R10 was not saved because the principle of the location and impact of new recreational facilities is covered in UDP policy R1.

14.32 In order to increase recreation opportunities at Oakwell Hall Country Park land has been identified for extensions both to the north-east and south-west of the park.

~~**R11 LAND FOR EXTENSIONS TO OAKWELL HALL COUNTRY PARK IS IDENTIFIED ON THE PROPOSALS MAP.**~~

Policy R11 has been deleted because the schemes have now been implemented.

14.33 A further opportunity to increase opportunities for informal recreation and outdoor sport will arise when waste disposal operations in the Lower Spen Valley are completed and the site restored. The Heavy Woollen District Local Plan proposed that the site should be developed as a park with playing fields. This proposal remains appropriate especially given the lack of opportunities for informal recreation and facilities for outdoor sport in surrounding areas, particularly Ravensthorpe.

**R12 LAND IN THE LOWER SPEN VALLEY IS IDENTIFIED ON THE PROPOSALS MAP TO BE DEVELOPED AS A COUNTRY PARK, PROVIDING BOTH FOR INFORMAL RECREATION AND OUTDOOR SPORT, ON COMPLETION OF WASTE DISPOSAL OPERATIONS AND SUBSEQUENT RESTORATION.**

### **Rights of Way and Public Access Areas**

14.34 The countryside in Kirklees contains a network of public rights of way for pedestrians and horse and cycle riders. There are also areas to which the public has the right of access on foot. The rights of way network, footpaths and bridleways, together with access areas, provide a valuable recreation resource enabling people to gain access to, and enjoy, the countryside. Rights of way include walled lanes, packhorse trails, and ancient highways, which are historic features in their own right. Rights of way have statutory protection under highway and planning legislation. Their maintenance and

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signing and the possible addition of new links to improve recreation opportunities, particularly providing off-road access routes from urban areas into the countryside, are issues of concern to the Council. The provision of additional public access areas would also improve opportunities for recreation.

- 14.35 Where development proposals affect a public right of way leading into, or within, the countryside it will be important that provision is made to accommodate the right of way within the development in order to avoid inconvenience to users. Some proposals will provide opportunities to create new links in the footpath and bridleway network or areas of public access and this will be encouraged.

**R13 IN CONSIDERING DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS ACCOUNT WILL BE TAKEN OF THE POTENTIAL FOR NEW LINKS IN THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY NETWORK AND OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR INCREASED ENJOYMENT OF THE COUNTRYSIDE. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS WHICH WOULD AFFECT A PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY OR PUBLIC ACCESS AREA OR WHICH INVOLVE THE CREATION OF A PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY OR PUBLIC ACCESS AREA SHOULD ALSO TAKE ACCOUNT OF:**

- i THE CONVENIENCE OF USERS OF THE RIGHT OF WAY OR ACCESS AREA; AND**
- ii THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.**

### **Footpaths**

- 14.36 About one-fifth of visitors to the countryside use footpaths; the average distance which they walk is between 3 and 8 kilometres. Those routes starting and finishing on the edge of the built-up areas or at visitor centres such as Tunnel End, Marsden, or at bus stops or railway stations are particularly valuable in enabling people to make full use of the potential offered by countryside footpaths without needing recourse to a private car.
- 14.37 There are significant numbers of people who prefer walks of a longer distance than the average 3-8km. The needs of such walkers are served by middle distance routes (as opposed to nationally recognised long distance footpaths such as the Pennine Way). The existing Colne and Holme Valley circular walks are examples, while the Kirklees Way enables in its entirety a 115-km circuit to be made of the periphery of Kirklees. The attraction of such routes is increased if they link features of interest, such as visitor centres and viewpoints, and provide access to the most attractive areas of countryside. For the convenience of walkers it is also important that routes are linked across District boundaries. In this respect the Council supports the role and aims of the Standing Conference of South Pennine Authorities (SCOSPA) in its efforts to co-ordinate and promote the development and use of recreational footpaths throughout the Pennines. In addition there are co-operative arrangements with neighbouring authorities, the Peak District National Park Authority, and Yorkshire Water to ensure that there is a series of well maintained and waymarked routes to promote enjoyment of the countryside.

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- 14.38 The one long distance footpath which passes through Kirklees, the Pennine Way, serves both as a long distance route and for shorter walks and has become degraded as a result of erosion. Management and access measures to relieve pressure on the Pennine Way, but which will also protect the fragile environment through which it passes, are under investigation by Kirklees, Calderdale and Bradford Councils.

### **Bridleways**

- 14.39 There is a growing interest in the keeping and riding of horses. The existing bridleway network in Kirklees is fragmented and as a result horse riding frequently takes place on public roads, and also illegally on footpaths, bringing problems of safety, and on fragile moorland leading to erosion problems. The linking of existing bridleways to create a continuous network and circular routes will not only increase opportunities for riding but also reduce problems of conflict with walkers and road traffic and of erosion damage.
- 14.40 The Countryside Agency has proposed the creation of a long distance Pennine bridleway from Derbyshire to Northumberland. This will pass close to Kirklees at the head of the Colne Valley and is likely to be a very popular route. It will therefore be necessary to ensure that there are appropriate links to it from existing bridleways in the District. A new bridleway has recently been opened along the Longdendale Valley within the Peak District National Park. This may eventually form part of a longer route between Hull and Liverpool. It may therefore be desirable to consider extending the existing bridleway network to link up with this route.
- 14.41 The Standing Conference of South Pennine Authorities has commissioned a study of bridleways and packhorse routes in the Pennines. The study's aim is to secure increased opportunities for horse riding by means of a number of linked, well maintained and waymarked short and middle distance routes.

### **Cycle Routes**

- 14.42 Cycling is an increasingly popular recreational activity. Cyclists have a legal right to use bridleways as well as the public highway but there are potential conflicts with other users. Under the Cycle Track Act 1984 rights of access for cycles can be established which are neither bridleways or roads. It is therefore possible to create routes for cyclists where potential conflict can be avoided. These routes do not necessarily require surfacing as crossing rough terrain provides much of the enjoyment for many recreational cyclists. It will however be important to avoid establishing cycle routes through areas where vegetation could be damaged or surface erosion caused by the passage of cyclists.

### **Access Routes**

- 14.43 In addition to the footpath and bridleway network there are areas of open countryside where people have a right of access on foot. The most important of these is Marsden Moor, which is owned and managed by the National Trust. The Council will need to give consideration to the creation of access routes to enable walkers to reach existing access areas and areas of casual recreation both within and outside the District. Such routes will

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need to take due account of the interests of wildlife and the fragility of the landscape including potential problems of peat erosion.

### **Access to the Countryside for those with Special Needs**

- 14.44 In pursuit of its equal opportunities objectives, the Council is committed to securing opportunities for those with special needs to enjoy access to the countryside for recreation. Facilities enabling the visually handicapped to use the canal towpath between Marsden and Tunnel End constitute one example of how this can be achieved. Opportunities exist elsewhere, particularly where there are flat paths, such as canal towpaths, or definable routes with gentle gradients, such as disused railways. In making provision for wheelchairs and pavement scooters suitable alternative barriers will be required to accommodate that use while deterring users, such as motorcyclists, who could cause hazards or inconvenience for pedestrians.

### **WATER SPORTS**

- 14.45 Water sports including fishing are major pastimes. Water areas in Kirklees are limited primarily to reservoirs and mill dams. While many mill dams and some reservoirs are available for fishing, sailing is confined to three reservoirs, including Scammonden which is also used for scuba diving. The rivers provide opportunities for canoeing. There are no facilities for motorised water sports in Kirklees.
- 14.46 It is unlikely that any reservoirs will be built in Kirklees and therefore opportunities to create significant new water areas will probably be confined to locations where the extraction of sand and gravel takes place. Should such extraction be permitted it will be appropriate to ensure that any water areas created are retained. Where practical it will be desirable for them to be used for water sports. However, in some circumstances such activities may not be appropriate in which case the water areas should be retained to help to extend the range of wildlife habitats.

### ~~**R14 PROPOSALS FOR MINERAL EXTRACTION WHICH WILL ENABLE NEW WATER AREAS TO BE CREATED SHOULD INCORPORATE SUCH MEASURES IN RESTORATION SCHEMES.**~~

Policy R14 has been deleted because it is not appropriate to require the whole of sites to be restored to water areas.

### **GOLF COURSES**

- 14.47 Golf courses provide opportunities for recreation in the countryside. However, their appearance as a pattern of carefully tended fairways and manicured greens can appear incongruous in the landscape. It will therefore be important that any new courses or course extensions are designed to incorporate planting and land forms which are in harmony with the established landscape character and bring improvement to the landscape. They should also safeguard and enhance existing wildlife value. It will

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clearly be advantageous should a proposal bring about the restoration of derelict or degraded land, not only because it will provide a beneficial use of the land but also, through planting and course design, bring visual improvement and benefit to wildlife. Conversely, proposals involving the use of the best and most versatile agricultural land (grades 1,2 and 3a) will not normally be allowed, given that it is seldom practicable to return golf courses to best quality agricultural use.<sup>5</sup> As golf courses generate a significant demand for water the possible effects on water abstraction will need to be taken into account and the Environment Agency will be consulted on golf course proposals.

14.48 Golf is a sport which involves potential hazard to walkers and passers-by in the vicinity, and therefore new courses and extensions will need in their design to avoid prejudicing the safety of people using established rights of way and access areas in the locality.

14.49 The establishment or extension of a golf course may be seen as an opportunity to develop additional facilities beyond those required by golfers and for the maintenance of the course, taking advantage of an attractive setting and potential custom from golfers. However, new buildings to provide facilities such as hotels and conference and indoor

leisure centres will not be acceptable in association with golf course development unless they accord with other policies in the plan.

### **R15 PROPOSALS FOR THE CREATION OF NEW GOLF COURSES OR THE EXTENSION OF EXISTING COURSES WILL BE CONSIDERED TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THEIR EFFECTS ON:**

- i VISUAL QUALITY AND THE CHARACTER OF THE LOCAL LANDSCAPE;**
- ii LOCAL WILDLIFE;**
- iii ENJOYMENT OF EXISTING RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS AREAS;**
- iv AGRICULTURAL LAND QUALITY; AND**
- v HIGHWAY SAFETY.**

**ANY NEW BUILDINGS SHOULD NOT EXCEED WHAT IS REASONABLY REQUIRED FOR PLAYING GOLF AND MAINTAINING THE COURSE, UNLESS ADDITIONAL PROVISION ACCORDS WITH THE TERMS OF OTHER POLICIES IN THE PLAN.**

### **GOLF DRIVING RANGES**

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<sup>5</sup> See policy EP2

14.50 Interest in providing golf driving ranges has increased in recent years as a result of growing participation in the sport. Proposals normally involve driving sheds (which can be two storey), an administrative block including changing rooms, floodlighting, high fencing and parking facilities. As a result, driving ranges have a significant visual impact. They are therefore unlikely to be appropriate in open countryside but may be acceptable if located in association with a golf course or other major recreation facility, where screening can be provided by trees and land form and facilities such as changing rooms and parking areas can be integrated. Any proposal to establish a driving range will need to demonstrate that residential amenity, landscape quality and wildlife interests will be safeguarded.

**R16 PROPOSALS FOR GOLF DRIVING RANGES WILL BE CONSIDERED TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE IMPACT ON:**

- i THE AMENITY OF ANY ADJOINING RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY;**
- ii VISUAL QUALITY AND THE CHARACTER OF THE LOCAL LANDSCAPE;**
- iii LOCAL WILDLIFE; AND**
- iv HIGHWAY SAFETY.**

**MOTOR, AIR AND OTHER SPECIALISED OUTDOOR SPORTS**

14.51 There are only limited opportunities in Kirklees for motor sports and for flying and hang gliding and there is little evidence of other specialised outdoor sports taking place. Interest in these activities and particularly in relatively new pursuits such as war games, may increase and development proposals may be forthcoming. Some are likely only to involve small-scale activity, others may require extensive land areas and generate considerable noise and disturbance. In order to safeguard environmental interests it will be appropriate to evaluate all proposals against the criteria set out in policy D10.

~~**R17 PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPMENT FOR MOTOR, AIR OR OTHER SPECIALISED OUTDOOR SPORTS WILL BE CONSIDERED AGAINST THE CRITERIA SET OUT IN POLICY D10.**~~

Policy R17 was not saved because the criteria against which such developments will be considered are set out in UDP policy D10.

**CANALS AND RIVERS**

14.52 Canals and rivers are increasingly being recognised as an important resource for recreation and they have significant potential for increasing the attractiveness of Kirklees as a tourist destination. At present, the waterways are not used to the full and there are



many opportunities to make more of this resource.<sup>6</sup> In particular, the full restoration to navigation of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal will provide an important link to the north-west waterways and open up a trans-Pennine route with the unique attraction of the 3.5 mile long Standedge Tunnel. As this is a long term project, it is important that existing waterways are protected to ensure the complete success of the venture. Similarly, as the objective of improving access to riversides is pursued, new development should not detract from any potential recreational value the rivers may possess.

- 14.53 Where canals and rivers are identified as SSI's or wildlife corridors, development proposals will also be subject to the terms of policy NE3 or policy NE5 as appropriate.
- 14.54 Walking beside canals and rivers is a popular pastime. The provision of increased access to the waterside would create important new recreation opportunities. This may be achievable when development is proposed adjacent to waterways, but account should be taken of the likelihood of trespass on surrounding land and measures included in schemes to minimise this eventuality.
- 14.55 Canal towpaths and riverside footpaths can be effective links in middle distance and circular footpath routes. Such routes based on the Huddersfield Narrow Canal, are also likely to be valuable in relieving visitor pressure in the vicinity of the canal itself. Canal towpaths are level and wide and are therefore well suited for use by those who are less mobile such as the elderly and disabled. The Council will, therefore, seek to establish middle distance and circular footpath routes incorporating canal and riverside footpaths, and to provide facilities which will improve access to canal towpaths by the elderly and disabled people. Wherever possible, development schemes adjacent to canals or rivers should incorporate these facilities.
- 14.55a The Environment Agency has a programme of preparation of river catchment management plans and one has been produced for the River Calder. Any proposal for riverside development should take account of the provisions of the relevant river catchment management plan and, if necessary, clarification of the plan's provisions should be sought from the agency at an early stage in the formulation of the proposal.

**R18 PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPMENT ADJACENT TO CANALS AND RIVERS SHOULD TAKE ACCOUNT OF:**

- i THE CHARACTER OF THE WATERSIDE ENVIRONMENT;**
- ii THE EXISTING OR PROPOSED RECREATIONAL USE OF THE CANAL OR RIVER;**
- iii THE ECOLOGICAL AND HERITAGE VALUE OF THE SITE AND ITS SURROUNDINGS; AND**

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<sup>6</sup> See policy T25

**iv OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE CANAL OR RIVERSIDE INCLUDING ACCESS BY DISABLED PEOPLE.**

14.56 In respect of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal, the Council is pursuing a policy which aims to secure the eventual complete restoration to navigation of this unique waterway, in co-operation with the British Waterways, the Huddersfield Canal Society and Oldham and Tameside Councils. Over 85% of the canal's 7½ mile length within Kirklees has been restored to navigation. The completion of the restoration works, and the re-opening of Standedge Tunnel, is now a probability because of the decision of the Department of the Environment to make Derelict Land Grant available for the remaining works. Consequently, any development proposal which is considered to prejudice the aim of full restoration of the canal will not be acceptable.

~~**R19 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS WHICH INCLUDE ANY SECTION OF THE CHANNEL OF THE HUDDERSFIELD NARROW CANAL, INCLUDING INFILLED SECTIONS, WILL BE CONSIDERED TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE EFFECT THE DEVELOPMENT WOULD HAVE ON THE RESTORATION OF NAVIGATION THROUGH THE SITE.**~~

Policy R19 was not saved because the restoration of the canal is now complete.

**SPECIAL SITES**

14.57 Two sites in the District have significant potential for recreation but because of their particular historic significance merit special consideration.

**Tunnel End, Marsden**

14.58 Tunnel End at Marsden is already a popular visitor destination attracting more than 30,000 people each year to the Council operated canal and countryside centre. There is substantial potential to create a more significant recreation attraction at Marsden centred on Tunnel End. In order for this to be successful, any development should not prejudice the attractiveness of the area, or prevent the long term provision of viable facilities for visitors. Areas associated with Tunnel End which may have future potential for the provision of visitor facilities include the former goods yard in Marsden, and the disused canal reservoir at Tunnel End. The canal warehouse, also at Tunnel End, has significant potential as a visitor centre, complementing the existing canal and countryside centre located in the former tunnel end keepers cottages.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> See Policy B13

**R20 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS WITHIN THE VICINITY OF TUNNEL END, MARSDEN WILL BE CONSIDERED HAVING REGARD TO THE POTENTIAL OF THE AREA AS A MAJOR VISITOR ATTRACTION.**

**Castle Hill, Huddersfield**

14.59 Castle Hill, on the south-eastern edge of Huddersfield, is a prominent feature attracting visitors who can enjoy the extensive views over Huddersfield and the surrounding countryside and investigate the remaining evidence of the Iron Age fort and mediaeval castle which occupied the hill top which is a scheduled Ancient Monument.<sup>8</sup> Although Castle Hill attracts many thousands of visitors, information about the earthworks and Victorian tower which now surmounts them is not available on the site, and car parking facilities are inadequate. There is also significant erosion affecting some of the ramparts. If the recreational and educational potential of the site is to be fully realised and conserved a comprehensive programme of improvement works to the site and its surroundings and provision of interpretation facilities are required, drawing on any grant aid which may be available especially from English Heritage and the Countryside Agency.

**R21 PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE BOUNDARY OF CASTLE HILL, AS SHOWN ON THE PROPOSALS MAP, SHOULD HAVE REGARD TO:**

- i THE STATUS OF THE HILL AS AN ANCIENT MONUMENT;**
- ii THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HILL AS A LANDSCAPE FEATURE;**
- iii THE EFFECT ON THE LOCAL ROAD NETWORK AND PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENT ON THE HILL; AND**
- iv THE RECREATION AND EDUCATIONAL POTENTIAL OF THE SITE.**

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<sup>8</sup> See policies BE9 and BE10