

# **Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Joint Core Strategy**

**Adoption Version  
November 2017**

## SD8 – HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

### Background

- 4.9.1 The JCS and district plans will together provide a framework of policies for securing the conservation, enhancement, improvement and enjoyment of the historic environment. These policies will be supported where appropriate by local strategies, partnership projects, and urban regeneration initiatives including local transport improvement schemes.
- 4.9.2 The historic environment provides a tangible link with our past and is worth preserving for its own sake and for future generations. It forms a central part of our cultural heritage and contributes to our sense of community identity. It also provides the character and distinctiveness that is so important to a positive sense of place.
- 4.9.3 The JCS area has a rich and diverse historic environment which is evident in the survival of individual historic assets including some 4,888 listed buildings, 35 conservation areas, 88 scheduled ancient monuments, and other sites of historic interest such as battlefields, parks, gardens, landscapes and archaeological sites. These include important historical features such as Gloucester’s Roman remains, Cathedral, canal corridor and docks; the Regency architecture and town planning of Cheltenham; and Tewkesbury’s historic core, waterways, medieval abbey, Wars of the Roses battlefield, market towns and villages with mediaeval origins, wider rural landscapes and agricultural heritage. The architecture of all three districts has also been influenced by the availability of Cotswold building stone.
- 4.9.4 New forms of development can enhance or erode the appearance, character and distinctiveness of our historic environment. A key challenge for the future is therefore to manage change in a way that realises the regeneration potential of the area while protecting and capitalising on its unique heritage.

## **Policy SD8: Historic Environment**

- 1. The built, natural and cultural heritage of Gloucester City, Cheltenham town, Tewkesbury town, smaller historic settlements and the wider countryside will continue to be valued and promoted for their important contribution to local identity, quality of life and the economy.**
- 2. Development should make a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness, having regard to valued and distinctive elements of the historic environment.**
- 3. Designated and undesignated heritage assets and their settings will be conserved and enhanced as appropriate to their significance, and for their important contribution to local character, distinctiveness and sense of place. Consideration will also be given to the contribution made by heritage assets to supporting sustainable communities and the local economy. Development should aim to sustain and enhance the significance of heritage assets and put them to viable uses consistent with their conservation whilst improving accessibility where appropriate.**
- 4. Proposals that will secure the future conservation and maintenance of heritage assets and their settings that are at risk through neglect, decay or other threats will be encouraged. Proposals that will bring vacant or derelict heritage assets back into appropriate use will also be encouraged.**
- 5. Development proposals at Strategic Allocations must have regard to the findings and recommendations of the JCS Historic Environment Assessment (or any subsequent revision) demonstrating that the potential impacts on heritage assets and appropriate mitigation measures have been addressed.**

**This policy contributes towards achieving Objectives 1, 2, 4 and 5.**

### **Explanation**

- 4.9.5 The three districts in the JCS area individually enjoy and collectively share elements of an historic and cultural identity and a strong sense of place. Distinctive elements of the historic environment include, but are not limited to:
- i. Historic cores and their settings within the key urban areas
  - ii. Historic suburbs and their settings within the key urban areas
  - iii. Smaller historic settlements and their settings both within Tewkesbury Borough and on the edges of Gloucester and Cheltenham (including former villages)
  - iv. Areas of Victorian and Edwardian development which survive with a high degree of integrity, including terraced housing and its associated amenities
  - v. Areas of extensive suburban development which date from before the Second World War, including public housing and private developments of semi-detached and detached housing
  - vi. Public open spaces, including Victorian and Edwardian municipal parks, and gardens and cemeteries
  - vii. Private open spaces including those associated with ecclesiastical, educational, canal, dockside or riverside uses
  - viii. The Gloucester and Sharpness Canal and its associated infrastructure of dockland ancillary buildings and structures