

Countryside Management Area. In the urban areas and on the urban fringe, the service's work is complemented by the Hertfordshire Groundwork Trust. This organisation (funded by the County Council, Countryside Commission, some Districts and sponsorship) concentrates on environmental improvement projects and campaigns. The activities of the two organisations are an important means of assisting and implementing the countryside policies which follow in this chapter.

Policy Intention 25 Countryside Management Service

The District Council will continue to support the Countryside Management Service and its work in the District whilst resources permit.

LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION

12.15 Areas of County or regional landscape importance, identified as "Landscape Conservation Areas" in Policy 6 of the County Structure Plan, are defined on the Proposals Map. In order to preserve and enhance these areas, special development control considerations apply in addition to the general Green Belt restraint policy.



Coleman Green, near Wheathampstead - Landscape Conservation Area

12.16 Much of the Upper Lea Valley, north of Harpenden, together with land around Wheathampstead and a tract to the south-west between the built-up areas of Harpenden and St. Albans is defined as a Landscape Conservation Area (see Figure 14). This extends the area identified on the County Structure Plan Key Diagram to link up with similarly

designated land in the adjoining Districts to the north and to include the high quality landscape areas around Childwickbury and Gorhambury. A small wedge of land has also been defined south of Colney Heath. This forms part of the Shenley Ridge Landscape Conservation Area, most of which lies outside the District boundaries.

POLICY 104 LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION

The Council will seek to preserve and enhance the quality of landscape throughout the District.

The following landscape conservation areas are partly within the District as shown on the Proposals Map:

LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION AREAS

REF.	PROPOSALS MAP SHEET	LOCATION
LCA.1	1,2,3	Upper Lea Valley, Childwickbury and Gorhambury
LCA.2	4	Shenley Ridge

In these areas, the Council will not grant permission for any development that would adversely affect the high landscape quality. Permission will be granted only for development proposals which pay regard to the setting, siting, design and external appearance. Landscape improvements will normally be required when development is permitted.

12.17 The Landscape Conservation Area boundary coincides with the inner boundary of the Green Belt around Wheathampstead and along most of the northern and eastern edges of Harpenden. In 1993, the Local Plan Inspector's Report on this Plan expressed concern that some areas adjoining existing settlements might not be of sufficiently high landscape quality to justify being included within the Landscape Conservation Area. The Inspector therefore recommended that the Landscape Conservation Area boundaries should be reviewed and re-drawn to include only broad tracts of landscape which are of regional and County value.

