

## **6. INTRODUCTION**

- 6.1 Cissbury Ring and the Bowl Barrow are Scheduled Ancient Monuments, recognising their importance nationally and affording their protection under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Any development proposal affecting a scheduled ancient monument requires Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent from the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.
- 6.2 There are numerous other sites throughout the Borough, which are of archaeological interest, and although these are not scheduled sites, they are worthy of protection and preservation. Some have been designated as Archaeologically Sensitive Areas by West Sussex County Council.

## **STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK**

- 6.3 The principal element of Central Government advice regarding archaeology is Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 - Archaeology and Planning (1990). This guidance emphasises the need to see archaeological remains as a finite and non-renewable resource, in many cases highly fragile and vulnerable to damage and destruction. In particular, care must be taken to ensure that archaeological remains are not needlessly or thoughtlessly destroyed. They are valuable not only for their own sake, but also for their role in education, leisure and tourism.
- 6.4 Where nationally important archaeological remains, whether scheduled or not, and their settings, are affected by proposed development there should be a presumption in favour of their physical preservation in situ, and a presumption against proposals which would involve significant alteration, cause damage, or which would have a significant impact on the setting of visible remains.

### **West Sussex Structure Plan**

- 6.5 The adopted West Sussex Structure Plan 1993 and the West Sussex Structure Plan Review contain policies, which seek to protect sites of both known and potential archaeological importance. More detailed guidance is given in the County Council's "Archaeology Strategy for West Sussex" (1995).

## **BACKGROUND ISSUES**

- 6.6 If development is proposed within or close to nationally important or other important archaeological remains, guidance indicates that the preference will be for the physical preservation of the remains in situ. Preservation in situ means leaving the remains where they are found, in an unexcavated condition and designing any new development to avoid physical damage/disturbance. Applications will be required to show mitigation of archaeological damage by a suitable design to secure physical preservation of the remains. In the case of nationally important archaeological remains, departure from this approach will only be accepted if reasons for the development clearly outweigh the archaeological value of the site itself and the national policy which presumes in favour of physical preservation in situ. For other important archaeological sites, the test will be whether the reasons for development outweigh the archaeological value of the site.

- 6.7 Where development which will not preserve remains in situ can be justified, the developer will be required to make appropriate and satisfactory provision for the excavation and recording of the remains. Such excavation and recording is to be carried out before development commences. Arrangements must also be made by the developer for the display or storage of the finds in a museum.
- 6.8 It is also open to the Borough Council to impose conditions designed to protect a monument and to ensure that reasonable access is given to a nominated archaeologist, either to hold a watching brief during the construction period or specifically to carry out archaeological investigation and recording in the course of the permitted operations on the site.

### **POLICY A1**

**Development which would significantly alter or cause damage to nationally important archaeological remains, whether scheduled or not and, their settings, will not be permitted unless the reasons for the development clearly outweigh the archaeological value of the site itself and the national policy which presumes in favour of their physical preservation in situ.**

**Where permission is granted, the developer will be required to finance any necessary investigation and recording of findings and this will be achieved through planning conditions or legal agreement.**

### **POLICY A2**

**Development which would significantly alter or cause damage to other important archaeological sites will not be permitted unless the reasons for the development clearly outweigh the archaeological value of the site.**

**Where permission is granted, the developer will be required to finance any necessary investigation and recording of findings and this will be achieved through planning conditions or legal agreement.**

- 6.9 Where applications affecting a site identified as one of known or potential archaeological sensitivity are submitted and there is insufficient information to establish the potential impact of the proposed development on the archaeological remains, the applicant will be required to undertake a full evaluation before the application is determined.

**POLICY A3**

**Where there is a known or potential area of archaeological importance, developers will be required to adequately demonstrate that the proposed development has been evaluated in terms of its possible effects upon archaeological features and to include this information as part of their planning applications.**