

# **Historic Environment and Landscape Character**

## **Objective: The historic landscape and heritage assets of the Parish will be conserved and enhanced**

The West Berkshire Historic Environment Action Plan (2009) - Conservation Issues, states the following about Mortimer:

The zone is largely rural with a good survival of field patterns dating back to the late medieval or early post medieval period. It is questionable whether the zone is capable of absorbing any significant areas of new development activity without seriously undermining this character.

The historic settlements are of a linear nature strung along winding lanes through the landscape. Settlement density is low. New development should be focussed on existing settlements and should be designed to blend with the historic pattern.

In order to ensure that the diversity and local distinctiveness of the landscape character is conserved and enhanced, the natural, cultural, and functional components of its character will be considered as a whole. In adopting this holistic approach, particular regard will be given to the sensitivity of the area to change:

- Ensuring that new development is appropriate in terms of location, scale and design in the context of the existing settlement form, pattern and character.
- The conservation and, where appropriate, enhancement of heritage assets and their settings
- Accessibility to and participation in the historic environment by the local community

This means that proposals for development should be informed by and respond to the distinctive character of Mortimer and key characteristics as identified in following landscape character assessments:

- Historic Landscape Characterisation for West Berkshire (shows we have significant areas of high and medium high sensitivity)
- Historic Environment Character Zoning for West Berkshire.
- The nature of and the potential for heritage assets identified through the Historic Environment Record for West Berkshire and the extent of their significance.
- The Village Design Statement

In this context the NDP needs to:

- Identify non-designated historic assets important to residents
- Formulate policies to strengthen the protection of designated historic assets
- Formulate policies for new development to take account of and enhance the landscape