

KEY ISSUES, SAFEGUARDS, CAPACITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

| | Criteria | Issue Number | Issue | Safeguards | Opportunities | Capacities | Agency Responsible (where not solely Dacorum Borough Council) |
|---------------|--|--------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| MAKING PLACES | MP1: Materials and Textures | MP1A | The Berkhamsted consultation participants favoured traditional materials and styles, particularly quality brickwork. | Protect existing stock of traditional materials. | Apply high-quality materials that are consistent with traditional materials | | |
| | | MP1B | Berkhamsted residents were generally opposed to more modern designs as well as low quality imitation styles. | Discourage application of imitation styles. | | | |
| | MP2: Listed buildings and Conservation Areas | MP2A | Berkhamsted's town centre conservation area is extensive, including several listed buildings and surrounding residential areas. | Protect and enhance Berkhamsted's town centre Conservation Area. | | | |
| | | MP2B | Streetscape elements have conflicting design motifs which do not clarify Berkhamsted's stature as a historic market town. | | Develop a street furniture plan which coordinates lighting, bus shelters, tree guards, benches and wayfinding signage in order to create a coherent identity for Berkhamsted as an historic market town. | | DBC, Berkhamsted and Northchurch Parish Council |
| | MP3: Building Heights * | MP3A | There is a variety of building heights on the High Street, ranging from one to four storeys. | Discourage building heights higher than four storeys. | | | |
| | | MP3B | The newer four storey buildings on the High Street are of mixed quality, often employing such elements as flat rooftops which are out of character with the town's architectural legacy. | Ensure that new buildings along the High Street are of the highest quality and maintain the architectural coherence of the area. | | | |
| | MP4: Density | MP4A | There are a range of unit types with a range of densities throughout Berkhamsted. | Preserve the diversity of the housing stock | | | |
| | | MP4B | The low -rise, high density terraced housing creates a strong building line. | | Develop an understanding of the degree of success associated with each housing type. | | |
| | | MP4C | The housing on cul-de-sacs generally do not face the street. These streets often do not have pavements, creating an area with a weak public realm. | Encourage an active public realm in all new developments. | | Explore the capacity to create new designated open space as part of any new development. | |
| | MP5: Topographical studies | MP5A | Berkhamsted's development and morphological evolution are a direct result of the area's topography. | Maintain the town's legibility that has evolved from the area's topography. | | | |
| | | MP5B | The town centre has developed in elongated fashion with the residential developments rising along the valley slopes. | | | | |

* Town Centre only

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| CONTINUITY AND ENCLOSURE | CE1: Town Morphology | CE1A | Berkhamsted's history as a valley turnpike town has created a clearly legible growth with a commercial High Street and residential buildings on the valley slopes. | | | | |
| | | CE1B | There is a little open space throughout Berkhamsted. | | | Explore the capacity to create new designated open land as part of any new development. | |
| | CE2: Village Centre Morphology* | CE2A | The Victorian block structure reveals a clarity to vehicular and pedestrian movement. | Discourage the development of cul-de-sacs which take away permeability. | | Explore the capacity to mitigate traffic congestion through one-way systems, parking controls, or other forms of regulation. | HCC |
| | | CE2B | The area north of the High Street where the food retailers are based lack clarity and clear permeability. | Discourage the expansion of at-grade level car parks, i.e. encourage decking etc to encourage increased capacity | Improve the pedestrian paths north-south between the High Street and the canal. | Explore the capacity to develop new car park arrangements that improve connections to open space. | HCC |
| | CE3: Building lines/ setbacks/ gaps* | CE3A | Berkhamsted has a wide pavement facilitating strong pedestrian paths. | Maintain the strong pavement width and prevent street furniture from cluttering the pavement. | Develop temporary uses along the wide pavement, such as pavement cafes. | | |
| | | CE3B | The wide pavement combined with setbacks can create dead zones along the High Street. | | Enliven these setbacks with informal uses, such as cafes, noticeboards or phoneboxes. | | |
| | | CE3C | There are particular setbacks along the High Street that could become key public realm space. | | Develop temporary uses along the widest areas of the pavement. | | |
| | CE4: Building front/back orientation* | CE4A | The High Street consists of entirely active frontages creating a strong and vibrant High Street. | Maintain the active frontages along the High Street. | | | |
| | | CE4B | The inactive frontage along the food retailers and their car parks create unappealing pedestrian routes between the High Street and the Canal Walk. | | | Explore the re-design of the car parks to increase greenery and pedestrian friendliness. Recognise key paths through these car parks. | HCC and DBC |
| | CE5: Designated open spaces | CE5A | There are no designated Local Nature Reserves within Berkhamsted. | | Improve connections to Green Belt and Local Nature Reserves. | | |
| | | CE5B | The southern side of town is relatively deficient in designated open land and has no access to Wildlife Sites. | Encourage any new development on the southern side of the town to incorporate public open space. | | | |

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| MAKING CONNECTIONS | MC1: Land use | MP1A | Berkhamsted High Street has a strong mix of land uses. | Encourage the mix of land uses. | | | HCC | |
| | | MP1B | Waitrose draws people off the High Street through pedestrian alleyways. Both Tesco's Metro and Waitrose attract drivers into the town centre who generally park on the north side of the High Street. | | Improve public transport and create flexible public transport that works with shoppers' needs. | Explore new design approaches to accommodating shoppers, such as underground or multi-storey car parks. | | |
| | MC2: Circulation Demand and Linkages | MP2A | The High Street, with its wide pavements, is a highly trafficked pedestrian route. | Protect the clear paths along the wide pavements. | | | | |
| | | MP2B | The connections between the High Street and the Canal Walk are very poor. | | Improve the pedestrian paths through the car parks. Create better signage for these paths. | Explore new design approaches to accommodating shoppers, such as underground or multi-storey car parks. | HCC | |
| | | MP2C | Consultation participants noted the frequent congestion issues related to the narrowness of these side streets and residential streets. | | | Explore the capacity to mitigate traffic congestion through one-way systems, parking controls, or other forms of regulation. | HCC | |
| | | MP2D | Consultation participants noted that the traffic signal timings appeared to increase congestion. | | Improve signal timings to improve traffic flow while facilitating safe pedestrian crossings. | | | |
| | MC3: Parking * | MP3A | Town Centre car parking occupies significant valuable open space and acts as a barrier to the existing open space. | | | | Explore new design approaches to accommodating shoppers, such as underground or multi-storey car parks. | HCC and DBC |
| | | MP3B | Car parking is a valuable convenience to High Street and food retail shoppers. | | Improve public transport and create flexible public transport that works with shoppers' needs. | | | |
| | | MP3C | There are no significant car parks north of the canal or south of the High Street. | | | Explore the capacity to add car parks in other areas. | HCC and DBC | |
| | | MP3D | On-street parking along the side streets, such as Boxwell Road causes major traffic congestion. and blocks the pavements. | | | Explore the capacity to mitigate traffic congestion through new parking controls. | HCC and DBC | |
| | MC4: Wayfinding Signage | MP4A | Berkhamsted has useful and distinctive wayfinding signage. | | | Enhance the existing wayfinding signage. Coordinate signage approach with other streetscape elements. | | |
| | | MP4B | The town centre has road signage directing people to local heritage sites. | | | | | |

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KEY ISSUES, SAFEGUARDS, CAPACITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

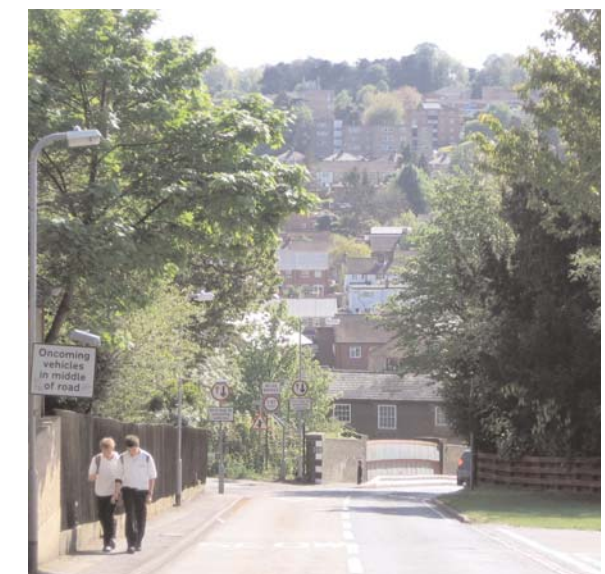
| | Criteria | Issue Number | Issue | Safeguards | Opportunities | Capacities | Agency Responsible (where not solely Dacorum Borough Council) |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| QUALITY OF THE PUBLIC REALM | QPR1: Streetscape Elements | QPRIA | Well-designed cafes and activities on the streetscape can help satisfy the consultation participants' interests in more public social space. | | Encourage temporary uses to the wider pavement areas. | | |
| | | QPRIB | Berkhamsted's streetscape elements, such as the streetlights and hanging baskets, add to the town centre's character. | Maintain and enhance these elements. | Coordinate streetscape elements to create a coherent vision of Berkhamsted. | | |
| | QPR2: Natural Elements | QPR2A | There is significant open space along footpaths outside of the officially designated open land areas. | | Improve the quality of undesignated open space. | | DBC & HCC |
| | | QPR2B | These undesignated areas are important for enhancing the rustic nature of the town. | | | Explore the capacity to expand the small network of off-street footpaths. | |

KEY ISSUES, SAFEGUARDS, CAPACITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

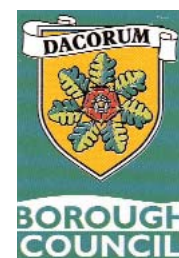
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|------------|--|--------------|---|---|---|------------|--|
| LEGIBILITY | LE1: Vistas, views, gateways | LE1A | Views along the High Street, Castle Street and the canal are among the most noteworthy views within Berkhamsted. | Protect the key views within Berkhamsted. | Develop a clear understanding of the view corridors directed at key orientation points within Berkhamsted. | | |
| | | LE1B | There are several strong views from Berkhamsted into the surrounding Green Belt. The views from the Berkhamsted Castle are particularly noteworthy. | Protect the key views out into the countryside. | | | |
| | LE2: Edges, paths, nodes, landmarks, districts | LE2A | Berkhamsted Castle is a key orientation point for the town. | | Enhance the connections to Berkhamsted Castle. | | |
| | | LE2B | St. Peter's Church is a gateway to the eastern end of the High Street, and the western end lacks a clear gateway. | | Create gateway signage before the church. Develop a clarity at the western end of the High Street through a coordination of developing key land uses, signage and streetscape treatments. | | |
| | | LE2C | The elevated railway is a strong edge extending east-west along the length of the town. | | | | |
| | | LE2D | On the scale of the town centre, the food retailer car parks are a barrier to the north-south movement between the High Street and the canal. | | Develop clear paths through the car parks. Enhance the design treatment of the car parks. | | |
| | | LE2E | The Canal has become a significant recreational path. | Protect the Canal Walk as a key feature in Berkhamsted's landscape. | Improve signage and connections to the Canal Walk. | | |
| | | | | | | | |

* Town Centre only

BERKHAMSTED



Consultation Workshop



urban
practitioners



CONSULTATION

Berkhamsted Urban Design Workshop, 14 July 2005

Introduction

The Berkhamsted Urban Design Assessment Day was held on Thursday 14 July 2005 at Berkhamsted Town Hall, High Street, Berkhamsted.

The purpose of the event was to examine the community's perceptions of Berkhamsted and to record how people use the town in their daily lives. The event was comprised of three workshop sessions, each focusing on a different issue in relation to Berkhamsted, from the character and textures that create a unique local identity, to personal perceptions of the town, to the mapping of each resident's commonly used routes and connections. In addition, Urban Practitioners gave a presentation on the 'elements of urban design,' showing how they would be conducting their study.

The event was attended by around 21 local stakeholders and was introduced by Laura Wood, Senior Planner at Dacorum Borough Council. Adam Lubinsky of Urban Practitioners explained the programme for the day.

The format of the day involved three workshop sessions, outlined on this page:

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

The following people attended the event:

Saga Arpino, Urban Practitioners
 Fiona Bogle, Dacorum Borough Council
 Councillor Geraldine Corry, Berkhamsted Town Council (Mayor)
 Mick Crews, Local stakeholder
 Selina Crocombe, Dacorum Borough Council
 Rachel Edmonds, Community Partnerships Project Officer
 Councillor Alan Fantham, Northchurch Parish Council
 Andy Gibson, Hertfordshire County Council
 Nick Graham, Dacorum Borough Council
 Jennifer Habib, The Chiltern Society
 Lynette Kaye, Urban Practitioners
 James Lidgate, Bellway Homes
 Adam Lubinsky, Urban Practitioners
 Percy Mark, Local stakeholder
 Councillor Helena McCloskey, Berkhamsted Town Council
 Guy Patterson, The Chiltern Society
 Councillor Ian Reay, Dacorum Borough Council
 Tony Statham, Berkhamsted Citizens Association
 Jenny Thorborn, Local stakeholder
 Councillor Nick Tiley, Dacorum Borough Council
 Laura Wood, Dacorum Borough Council



URBAN DESIGN ASSESSMENT DAY

Date Thursday 14 July 2005
Time 2.00-5.00pm
Venue Berkhamsted Civic Centre

PROGRAMME

- 2.00 Registration and buffet lunch**
- 2.20 Introduction**
 Laura Wood, Senior Planning Officer
 Adam Lubinsky, Urban Practitioners
- 2.30 What Surrounds Us? Neighbourhood Character and Textures**
- 3.00 Does It Work For Us? Neighbourhood Perceptions**
- 3.45 Break**
- 4.00 Where Are We Going? Routes and Connections**
- 4.45 Feedback**
- 4.50 Summing Up and Next Steps**
- 5.00 Close**






Workshop 1: What Surrounds Us? Neighbourhood character and textures



Workshop 3: Where are we going? Routes and connections



Workshop 1: The answers of the quiz are shared

WORKSHOP 1 - WHAT SURROUNDS US?

How well do you know your village? Neighbourhood character and textures

An initial 'ice breaking' exercise was undertaken in the form of a quiz based on the textures, materials and landmarks in Berkhamsted. Participants worked in small groups and were issued with a worksheet containing snapshots of photographs from around the town and were asked to identify what these images were of and where they were located. Following this, participants were asked to identify whether a series of photographs were of publicly or privately-owned areas. Finally, participants were asked to identify local features and their function.

In the first section, all of the groups were able to identify image four of the clock tower, the architectural detailing in image six, the advertising in image eight and the noticeboard in image nine. Fewer groups were able to identify the location of the images in image one (Britannia building), image two (market area outside Fitness First) and image three (Berkhamsted Town sign outside the Civic Centre).

In the second part of the workshop, the groups were asked to identify whether particular spaces were public or private areas of the town, based on their appearance. The majority of groups were able to identify which of the images were in public and private ownership. Some confusion arose in relation to image E which many people thought was in public ownership based on the choice of materials and the overall appearance. However, the steps are part of the Egerton School and as such are privately owned.


The third section required the groups to identify the function of local features. All of the groups were able to correctly identify the features and their function.

How well do you know your town?


DACORUM

URBAN DESIGN ASSESSMENT


BERKHAMSTED




1




2




3




4




5



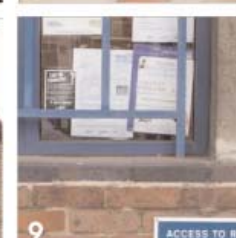
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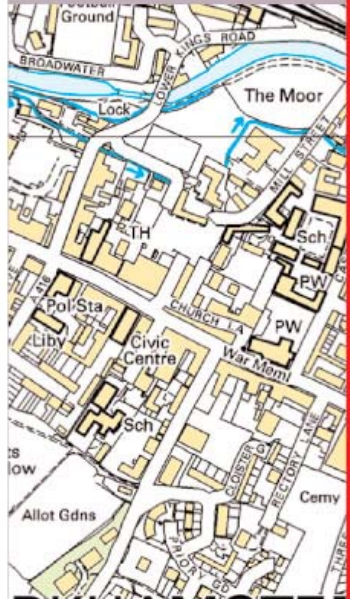
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8




9




Recognise these features?
Can you map them by their number?




A1




B




C



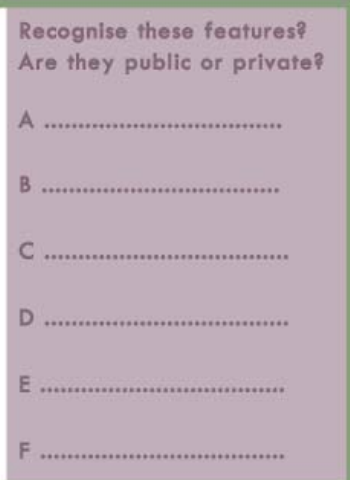
D



E



F



Recognise these features?
Are they public or private?

A


B

C


D

E


F



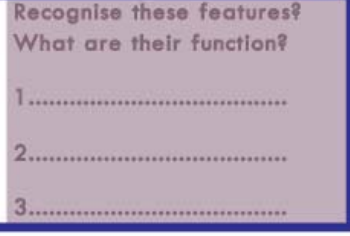
1



2



3



Recognise these features?
What are their function?

1

2

3

also practitioners



Workshop 2: Participants worked together to identify local features



Workshop 2: Participants worked together to locate local features on the map



Workshop 2: Participants worked together to identify local features

WORKSHOP 2 - DOES IT WORK FOR US?

Neighbourhood perceptions

A short presentation was given to the group by Adam Lubinsky of Urban Practitioners about why certain aspects of the built environment have evolved in a particular way. The presentation examined the relationship between the built form and streetscape of an area and the paths that people chose to move around. In addition, the relationship between building density and street form, building heights and views were also discussed within the presentation.

Following the presentation, participants were asked to identify what they liked about their town by looking at a series of photographs examining building materials, shop signs, footpaths and boundaries. Participants were asked to consider four photographs under each heading and assign each one a mark between one and five to indicate which ones they liked the most (with five representing those that were liked the most). In addition, participants were asked to write a word or phrase to describe how they felt about the image.

The following pages outline participants' responses to each of the images and the words that were selected to describe them. Beneath each image and the number scale are the total number of participants that allocated the image that particular score.

What do you like about your town?

















DACORUM

URBAN DESIGN ASSESSMENT

BERKHAMSTED

Consider the architectural elements and materials in the photographs below. Give each one a mark from 1-5, where 5 indicates those that you like most. Below each image write a key word to describe how you feel about it.

When you have completed the sheet, please return it to a member of the Urban Practitioners team

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| BUILDING MATERIALS |  |  |  |  | |
| | 5 4 3 2 1 | 5 4 3 2 1 | 5 4 3 2 1 | 5 4 3 2 1 | |
| | SHOP SIGNS |  |  |  |  |
| | | 5 4 3 2 1 | 5 4 3 2 1 | 5 4 3 2 1 | 5 4 3 2 1 |
| FOOTPATHS | |  |  |  |  |
| | | 5 4 3 2 1 | 5 4 3 2 1 | 5 4 3 2 1 | 5 4 3 2 1 |
| | BOUNDARIES |  |  |  |  |
| | | 5 4 3 2 1 | 5 4 3 2 1 | 5 4 3 2 1 | 5 4 3 2 1 |

urban practitioners

WORKSHOP 2 - DOES IT WORK FOR US?

BUILDING MATERIALS



LIKE DISLIKE

NUMBER OF RESPONSES

This red and purple brickwork with moulded brick decoration was popular with many of the participants in the workshop and was most frequently given a score of four. The style was described favourably by many people and comments included pleasant, stolid and warm as well as imitative and respectful.

| COMMENTS | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Some innovation | Interesting (X2) |
| Respective | Pleasant |
| Modern | 'Pseudo' |
| Detailed | Stolid |
| Charming | |
| Warm | |
| Traditional | |
| Co-coordinated | |
| Pleasant | |
| Modern details | |
| Integrated | |



LIKE DISLIKE

NUMBER OF RESPONSES

This modern buff brick building with red brick corbelling received a mixed response and the majority of people gave it a score of three. Comments about the style and materials described them as mediocre, ordinary, traditional and antiquated.

| COMMENTS | |
|--------------|------------------|
| Average | Traditional (x3) |
| Conservative | Additional |
| Typical | Bland |
| Simple | Simple |
| Minimal | Interesting |
| Modern | |
| Antiquated | |
| In-keeping | |
| Mediocre | |
| Ordinary | |
| Passable | |



LIKE DISLIKE

NUMBER OF RESPONSES

This modern building with a cement render was generally unpopular and many people gave it a score of two. The style was described as too idiosyncratic and out of place by some people whilst others found it bright and different.

| COMMENTS | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Bland | Utilitarian |
| European | Plain |
| Plain | Twee |
| Interesting | Tacky |
| Unnatural | Too contrasting |
| Bright | |
| Out of place | |
| Too idiosyncratic | |
| Drab | |
| Different | |
| Barren | |



LIKE DISLIKE

NUMBER OF RESPONSES

The final example of building materials in this section was a modern brick development, which was unpopular with workshop participants. Some people found they style fussy and muddled whilst two people thought it was fun.

| COMMENTS | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Unfortunate | Over-elaborate |
| Fussy | Muddled |
| Ugh! | Geometric |
| Simplistic | Kitsch |
| Fun (X2) | Overdone |
| Uncoordinated | |
| Harsh | |
| Modern (x2) | |
| Self-conscious | |
| Attractive | |
| Promising | |

WORKSHOP 2 - DOES IT WORK FOR US?

SHOP SIGNS



LIKE DISLIKE

NUMBER OF RESPONSES

The sign in this photography was quite unpopular with many people and a score of three or two was given by the majority of participants. Comments about the sign included brash, bold and jazzy whilst some people thought that it was not in keeping with the area.



LIKE DISLIKE

NUMBER OF RESPONSES

This shopfront received a mixed response and whilst a number of people gave it a score of three or four, a further four people gave it a score of five. The comments revealed a range of responses. Some people found the sign harmonious and smart with good use of colours, others thought it was dull and fussy.



LIKE DISLIKE

NUMBER OF RESPONSES

The two signs in this photograph were unpopular with workshop participants who found them garish and confusing. The majority of people gave the signs a score of one highlighting their unpopularity. Most comments suggested that they are out of place for the town.



LIKE DISLIKE

NUMBER OF RESPONSES

The sign in this photograph was quite popular and many people gave it a score of four. It was described as simple, neat and understated whilst some people thought it was refined and tasteful.

| COMMENTS | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Bitty | Distracting |
| Bold | Anywhere |
| Unplanned | Hodge podge |
| Garish (x2) | Tacky |
| Bad sign | Jazzy |
| Beautiful building | Not in keeping |
| Victorian | Cheap (x2) |
| Brash | Plastic |
| Appealing | |
| Untraditional | |

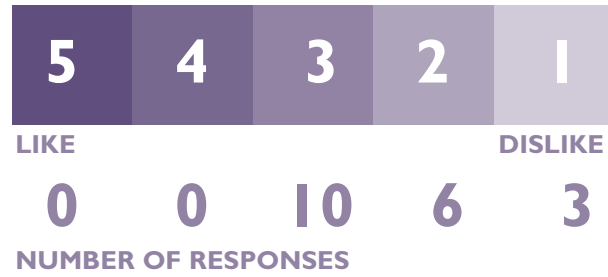
| COMMENTS | |
|--------------|-------------|
| Harmonious | Modern |
| Contemporary | Restrained |
| Necessary | Imaginative |
| Modern | Classy |
| Plain | Passable |
| Colourful | Formal |
| Simple (x2) | Dull |
| Traditional | Fussy |
| Smart | Appropriate |
| Confusing | Pleasing |

| COMMENTS | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Garish | Unfocused |
| Tacky | 'In your face' |
| Rural | Overkill |
| Modern | Informative |
| Out of place (x2) | Overpowering |
| Messy | Too much detail |
| Clashing | |
| Confusing | |
| Brash (x2) | |
| Discordant | |

| COMMENTS | |
|------------------|---------------|
| Acceptable | Pleasant (x2) |
| Traditional (x2) | Coherent |
| Controlling | Understated |
| Simple (x2) | Refined |
| Good ironwork | Tasteful |
| Nice lettering | |
| Visible | |
| Neat | |
| Functional | |
| Arty | |

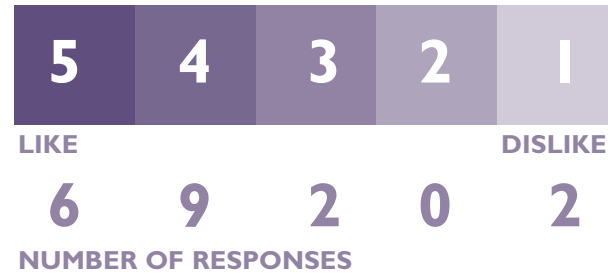
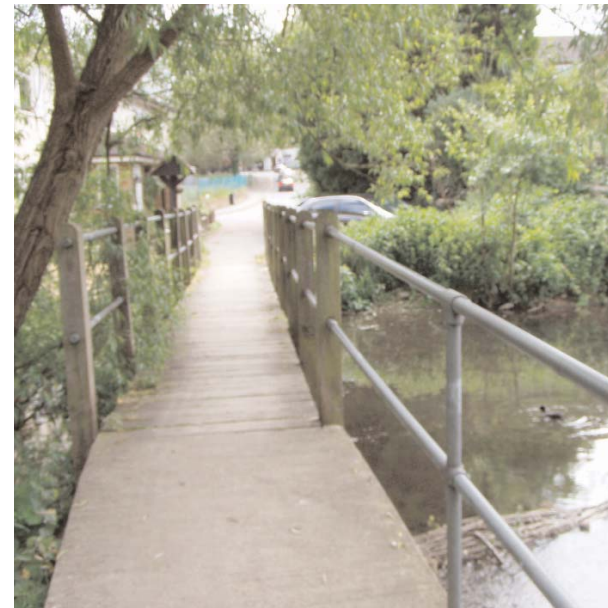
WORKSHOP 2 - DOES IT WORK FOR US?

FOOTPATHS



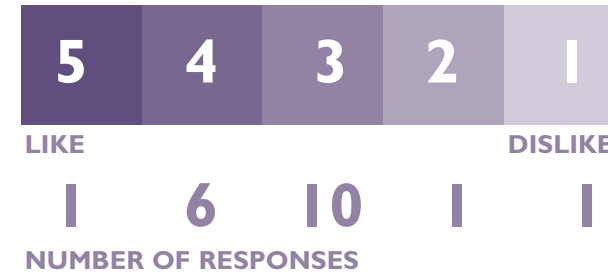
The majority of people felt quite ambivalent about this footpath. It was described as functional and bleak by a number of people, whilst it was also considered utilitarian and austere.

| COMMENTS | |
|-------------------|------------|
| Utilitarian | Austere |
| Gap | Oppressive |
| Functional (x4) | |
| Bleak (x3) | |
| Dark | |
| Traditional urban | |
| Dank/dingy | |
| Uninspiring | |
| Cramped | |
| Boring | |



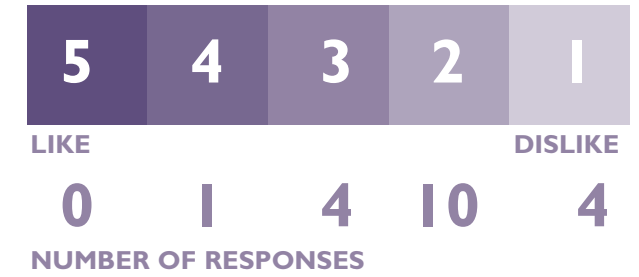
Workshop participants considered the footpath over a waterway in this photograph attractive and tranquil. Other comments revealed that people thought the pathway leafy and inviting.

| COMMENTS | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Unattractive | Open |
| Attractive (x2) | Guarded |
| Leafy | Interesting |
| Delightful | Pleasant |
| Inviting | |
| Pleasing | |
| Pretty | |
| Relaxing | |
| Tranquil | |
| Well-suited | |



The footpath in this residential street was given a score three by the majority of people. The car parked over the footpath generated a number of specific comments reflecting the obstructed nature of the path, which made the environment appear 'urban'. Other comments revealed that people thought the area was pleasant and welcoming.

| COMMENTS | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Urban (x2) | Welcoming |
| Conflict | Possibly |
| Bland | dangerous |
| Green fringed path | Ambiguous |
| Obstructed | Narrow but light |
| Spoilt by cars | |
| Suburban | |
| Pleasant (x3) | |
| Busy | |



This footpath was unpopular with most people. Some people thought that the railings made the footpath uninviting and unwelcoming whilst others found it muddled or utilitarian.

| COMMENTS | |
|------------------|-------------|
| Muddle | Restricted |
| Conflict | Unwelcoming |
| Bland | Utilitarian |
| Basic | Enclosed |
| Uninviting (x2) | Uninviting |
| Barrier | |
| Cyclists beware! | |
| Open | |
| Functional | |
| Closed | |

WORKSHOP 2 - DOES IT WORK FOR US?

BOUNDARIES



LIKE DISLIKE

1 6 7 4 1

NUMBER OF RESPONSES

The floor tiles in this boundary treatment received a mixed response by workshop participants. Comments about the boundary reflected the range of opinions, including busy, average interesting and creative.



LIKE DISLIKE

0 6 5 5 3

NUMBER OF RESPONSES

Some people considered the residential boundary in this image interesting whilst others found it heavy, ugly, messy or unpleasant. Scores given in relation to the boundary ranged from four to one.



LIKE DISLIKE

3 0 3 3 0

NUMBER OF RESPONSES

This boundary was popular and many people gave it a score of four to reflect its popularity. Comments about the boundary highlighted that people liked its open nature and thought it was colourful, friendly and cared for.



LIKE DISLIKE

6 8 4 1 0

NUMBER OF RESPONSES

The final boundary image was also popular and many people gave it a score of four or five. The boundary was considered attractive, welcoming and neat.

| COMMENTS | |
|------------------|-----------|
| Messy | Neat |
| Blurred | Symbolic |
| Busy | Creative |
| Average | Discreet |
| Jazzy tiling | Too fussy |
| Interesting | |
| Publicly private | |
| Quite subtle | |
| Detail | |
| Attractive | |

| COMMENTS | |
|------------------|-----------|
| Average | Wine rack |
| Protective | Messy |
| Heavy | Ugly |
| Ugly | Harsh |
| Open shapes | |
| Interesting (x4) | |
| Keep out | |
| Artificial | |
| Unpleasant | |
| Passable | |

| COMMENTS | |
|------------------|-----------|
| Pleasant | Soft |
| Open (x2) | Haphazard |
| Nice | Fussy |
| Pretty | Pleasant |
| Charming | Cared for |
| Colourful | |
| Attractive | |
| Pretty | |
| Urbanised garden | |
| Friendly | |

| COMMENTS | |
|------------------|------------|
| Public | Tokenistic |
| Small | Pretty |
| Attractive (x4) | Too weak |
| Smart | |
| Nice flowerboxes | |
| Welcoming | |
| Attractive | |
| Quite pleasant | |
| Neat | |
| Contained | |

WORKSHOP 2 - DOES IT WORK FOR US?

CONCLUSIONS

BUILDING MATERIALS

The workshop revealed that traditional materials in local styles were the most popular. More modern designs or those that did not reflect local characteristics were less popular. In general, simple styles and materials were preferred.

MOST POPULAR IMAGES



SHOP SIGNS

Simple, understated signs emerged as the most popular in the workshop. People appeared to prefer those shop signs that had a traditional style and were unfussy and clear. Bright, modern and colourful signs were unpopular and some people found these garish and tacky.



FOOTPATHS

The most popular footpaths were those that were open and natural in appearance. Footpaths with elements of planting or green space were more popular than those that were dominated by the built environment.



BOUNDARIES

The most popular boundary treatments were those that were open and colourful. Boundaries that included some elements of planting were also favoured. Those boundaries that combined different styles and materials were less popular than those that were simple and coordinated.



WORKSHOP 3 - WHERE ARE WE GOING?

Routes and connections

A short presentation was given to the group by Adam Lubinsky of Urban Practitioners about why certain aspects of the built environment have evolved in a particular way. The presentation examined the relationship between the built form and streetscape of an area and the paths that people chose to move around. In addition, the relationship between building density and street form, building heights and views were also discussed within the presentation.

Following the presentation, participants were asked to identify what they liked about their town by looking at a series of photographs examining building materials, shop signs, footpaths and boundaries. Participants were asked to consider four photographs under each heading

and assign each one a mark between one and five to indicate which ones they liked the most (with five representing those that were liked the most). In addition, participants were asked to write a word or phrase to describe how they felt about the image.

The following pages outline participants' responses to each of the images and the words that were selected to describe them. Beneath each image and the number scale are the total number of participants that allocated the image that particular score.

Next, participants used the pens to highlight the routes and connections that they would like to make within the town on foot, by car and by bicycle. Finally, they marked favourite views and places to visit.



Routes and connections

DACORUM URBAN DESIGN ASSESSMENT BERKHAMSTED



- Where do you live/visit?
Destination ●
- What are your routes?
Walking ———
Cycling ———
Driving ———
- What are the barriers/edges you encounter?
Barrier XXXX
- What other routes/connections would you like to make/take?
Walking ●●●●●
Cycling ■■■■■
Driving ■■■■■
- Where is your favourite place?
Favourite place *
- Where is your favourite view point?
Favourite view point ◀

WORKSHOP 3 - WHERE ARE WE GOING?

Routes

The most popular vehicular route in Berkhamsted was the High Street. The majority of people used this road to travel into and out of the town. Other common driving routes included New Road, Durrants Lane, Shooters Way, Kingshill Way and Chesham Road.

Popular pedestrian routes included those linking the town to the surrounding countryside to the north and south. Closer to the town centre, pedestrians often walked through the allotments and playing fields, leading to the south of Berkhamsted.

The main cycle route used by workshop participants

ran alongside the canal. The hilly nature of Berkhamsted and the surrounding area was perceived to prevent some people from using a bike.

Barriers

Barriers discussed at the workshop included traffic congestion occurring at the beginning and end of the school day around local schools. Traffic congestion on the High Street was also discussed, and the traffic lights at the junction with Kings Road were considered as a barrier to movement across the High Street. It was noted that congestion was exacerbated on the High Street by vehicles preferring to use this route rather than the bypass.

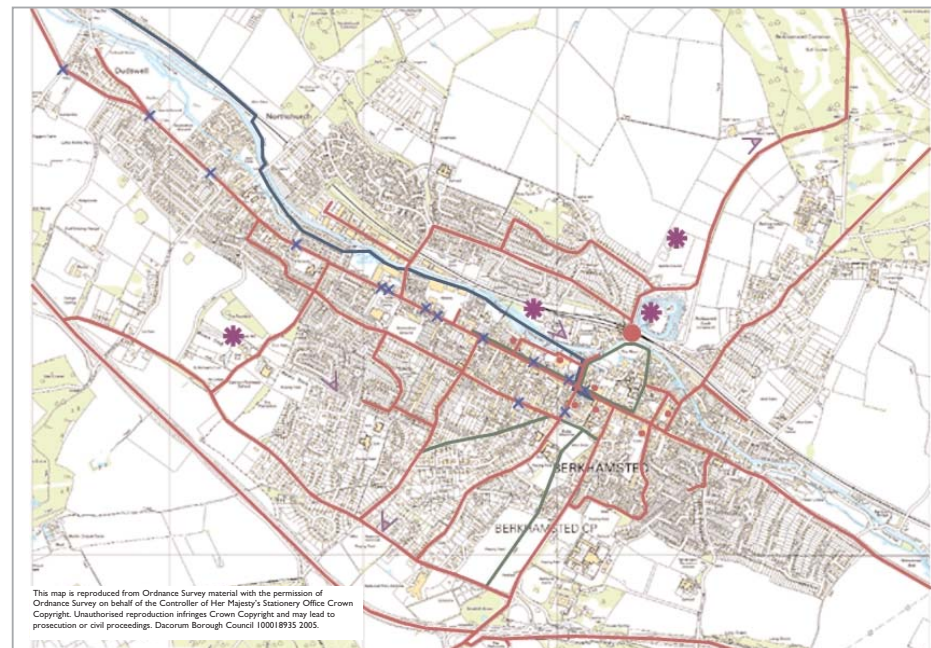
Narrow roads with cars parked on either side were perceived as another barrier to vehicular movement. One example in particular was Boxwell Road.

Other barriers that were discussed included the link road which encourages cars to drive through Northchurch.

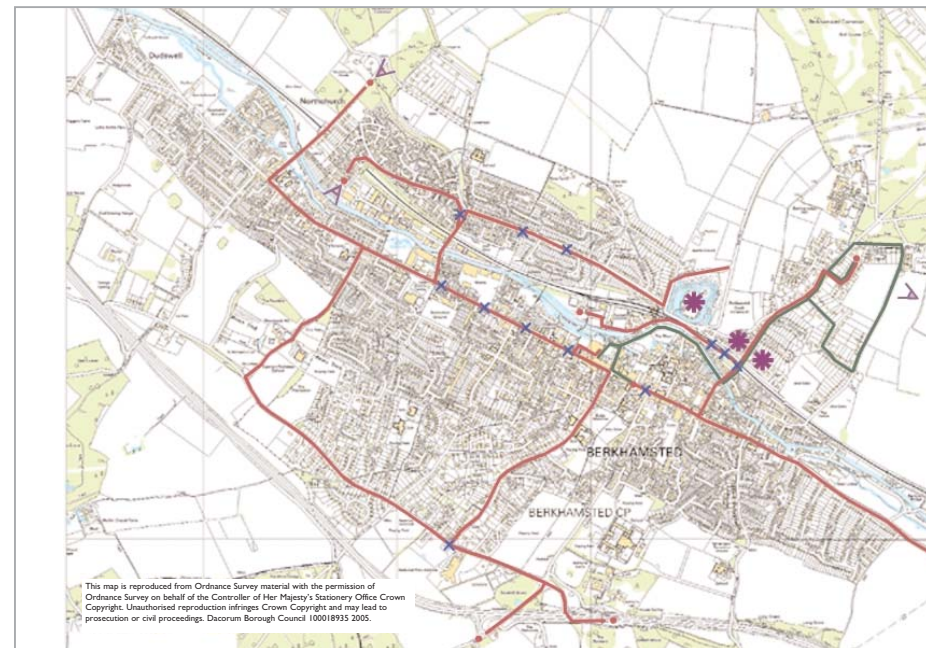
The lack of a town square or focal point was considered a negative element and some people thought that a public space along the High Street would benefit the town centre.

Views and favourite places

The historic buildings and abundant open space were cited as favourite aspects of Berkhamsted. In particular, the castle mount was very popular. The Pavilion, the canal and the town's recreation grounds were also listed as the favourite places of many people.

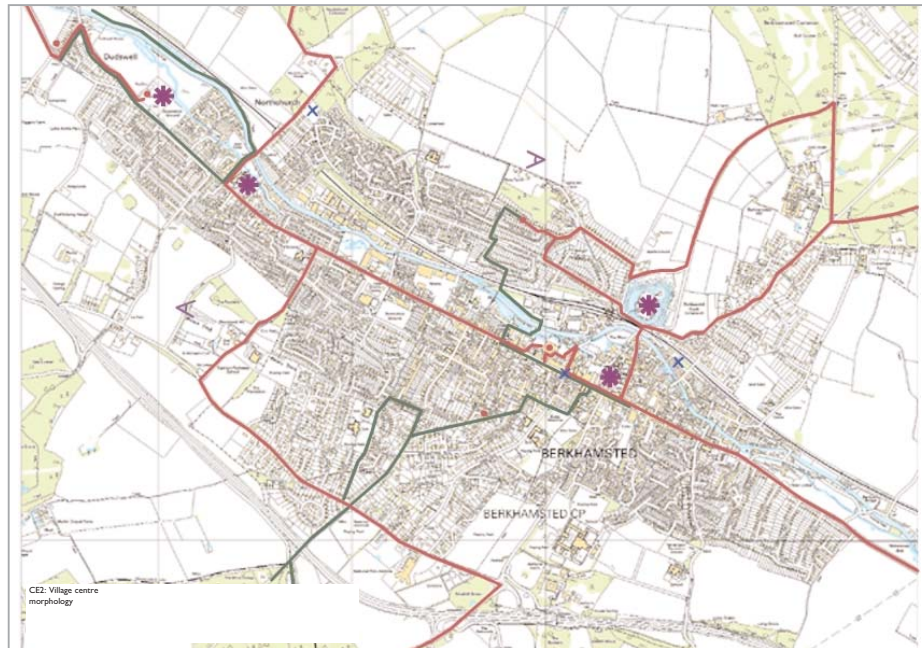


Group 1: Driving was the most common mode of transport



Group 2: Congestion on the High Street acts as a barrier





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