

Caring For Our Borough - The Coast and Natural Environment

- 10.28 The borough has a rich and diverse natural environment with an extensive coastline including two harbours, rivers, streams, open spaces and woodlands. The council recognises the importance of this unique environment and the need to protect and enhance it for both its nature conservation value and its recreation and public access opportunities. At the same time, the current standard of flood protection and water quality needs to be maintained.

DM8 Conservation, Protection and Enhancement of Existing Natural Features

Development will only be permitted where it protects and enhances local habitats and landscape distinctiveness and which addresses all of the relevant criteria as set out below:

- 1. Protects natural features of nature conservation and/or amenity importance on the site, for example trees, woodlands, hedgerows, soils, streams, stream corridors, springs, ditches or ponds from damage, destruction and a deterioration in quality.**
- 2. Sympathetically incorporates existing features into the overall design of the scheme including measures taken to ensure their continued survival.**
- 3. Provides new landscape works that integrate successfully with the local environment and existing natural features, using local materials and plant species and making provision for future maintenance of new landscape works associated with new developments.**
- 4. Ensures sequences of greenspaces are maintained and protects the attractiveness and visual amenity of all green open spaces that contribute to the identity of the borough.**