

**ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH TOWN COUNCIL
RESPONDENT NUMBER: 24**

EXAMINATION OF THE NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE LOCAL PLAN

Hearing commencing: 5th January 2017

Matter 9 – Environmental and Heritage

Issue 9a.

Do Policies En1-4, En6 and He1-2 make appropriate provisions for the protection of recognised environmental, ecological and heritage interests in accordance with national policy? (BP/10, BP/11]

The chapter on Environment fails to protect existing open green spaces, relying on the Neighbourhood Plans to designate Local Green Spaces. With only two parishes in the District producing Neighbourhood Plans this leaves tracts of open green space vulnerable to development.

Within the He1 there is strong protection for heritage assets, including significant views within and in and out of conservation areas. This is welcomed and will offer some protection to key areas of open space. However open spaces can be heritage assets in their own right and this should be acknowledged. For example the Bath Grounds in Ashby by its nature cannot be a listed building. Therefore it is unclear whether it is classed as 'A Heritage Asset'. If it is intended that areas like the Bath Grounds, the fields of Prior Park Road and Hood Park are heritage assets then this should be made clearer in the text. Within the 1991 Local Plan protection was given to Sensitive Areas of open land and these included the Bath Grounds. This designation should be retained.

If the intention of the policy is not to protect these heritage assets then it should be amended to include significant areas open space.