Conservation and the Historic Environment

4.22.1 The aim of this policy is to ensure that all new development safeguards or enhances the historic environment. In so doing the policy contributes to meeting objectives 5, 6, and 7 of the Core Strategy and responds to issues 10 and 11.

Context

4.22.2 Bristol has a rich and varied heritage. Important Palaeolithic finds have been made in Shirehampton and at St Anne's, while a complex Bronze Age landscape has been revealed at Avonmouth. Iron Age hillforts at Blaise Castle, Kings Weston Down and Clifton Down are visible reminders of the late prehistoric heritage of the region. The area was prosperous in the Roman period and a number of important sites including villas and the small Roman town of Sea Mills are found within Bristol.

4.22.3 Bristol as an urban centre was established by the late 10th Century and quickly grew into one of the most important mediaeval ports and cities in the country. It was at the forefront of early transatlantic exploration, colonisation and trade and many important industries were established in the 17th and 18th centuries.

4.22.4 Bristol has fine examples of Georgian and Regency architecture, while Portland Square and Queen Square are two of the highest quality designed squares in Europe. Fine examples of Victorian engineering and industrial and commercial buildings may be found in Bristol. Its topography, complex geology and rich heritage have resulted in a diverse built form and the establishment of distinctive neighbourhoods and areas, qualities that have helped to define the city's appeal to both residents and visitors.

Policy BCS22

Development proposals will safeguard or enhance heritage assets and the character and setting of areas of acknowledged importance including:

- **Scheduled ancient monuments;**
- **Historic buildings both nationally and locally listed;**
- **Historic parks and gardens both nationally and locally listed;**
- **Conservation areas;**
- **Archaeological remains.**

Explanation

4.22.5 The historic environment is important not just for its own sake; it adds value to regeneration and has been a major draw in attracting businesses to the city, acting as a stimulus for local economic growth. It is also a source of immense local pride, as well as being a valuable educational resource. This policy seeks to ensure that sites and areas of particular heritage value are safeguarded for the future or enhanced both for their own heritage merits and as part of wider heritage regeneration proposals.

Policy Delivery

This policy will be delivered through the development management process.

Designated conservation areas, buildings that are statutorily listed and Scheduled Ancient Monuments are protected under national legislation.

More specific policies and proposals for the protection and enhancement of heritage assets will be outlined in detailed local policies through the Site Allocations & Development Management DPD. Further detailed guidance on design and the historic environment will be contained within a future supplementary planning document on urban design.

A citywide urban context analysis will be undertaken as set out under Policy BCS21. This will enable the production of a list of buildings and other heritage assets of special local interest.

Conservation Area Character Appraisals and the Bristol Historic Environment Record will also be used to inform and understand the contribution heritage assets make to the city's character, identity and history.

The following adopted supplementary planning documents and supplementary planning guidance will continue to be used to guide decisions on development proposals:

- SPD7 "Archaeology and Development" (March 2006)
- SPD1 "Tall Buildings" (January 2005)
- PAN8 "Shopfront Guidelines" (1997)
- PAN15 "Responding to Local Character – A Design Guide" (1998)
- "Conservation Area Enhancement Statements" (1993)
  (Until superseded by Conservation Area Character Appraisals)

PPS5 "Planning for the Historic Environment" and the accompanying "Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide" contain national planning policies and practice towards the historic environment and heritage assets. These will inform decisions on specific proposals.

Targets	Indicators
Reduction in heritage assets at risk on national register	Heritage assets at risk on national register
Reduction in listed buildings on the "Listed Buildings at Risk in Bristol" register	Number of listed buildings on the "Listed Buildings at Risk in Bristol" register
Additional conservation area character appraisals and management plans completed	Number of conservation area character appraisals and management plans completed