

Where complete replacement of substantially intact stone and slate buildings, such as churches, mills, farmhouses, granaries and schools, etc is being proposed, the Council will require the submission of evidence to their satisfaction as to why conversion or renovation is not being pursued.

Buildings that are robust and long-established, such as stone built steadings, stores and cattle sheds, may form part of a reuse or rehabilitation scheme. The replacement of temporary structures such as wooden or corrugated-iron sheds or stores, stables and cattlesheds will not be considered eligible under this category.

Supplementary Guidance (SG) has been produced in order to provide further advice on the interpretation of this policy, and will be used in the process of determining planning applications.

Other considerations such as noise contours, developer contributions and energy efficiency will be taken into account in the determination of a planning application, and advice on these matters can be viewed in the aforementioned SG.

Policy H7 New Housing in the Open Countryside

This policy assumes in favour of an application for a new house in the open countryside provided all of the following requirements are met:

Siting

- a) It reflects the traditional pattern of settlement in the locality and is sensitively integrated with the surrounding landform using natural backdrops, particularly where the site is clearly visible in the landscape. Obtrusive development (i.e. on a skyline, artificially elevated ground or in open settings such as the central area of a field) will not be acceptable;
- b) It does not detract from the character or setting of existing buildings or their surrounding area when added to an existing grouping or create inappropriate ribbon development;
- c) It does not contribute to a build-up of development where the number of houses has the effect of changing the rural character of the area. Particular attention will be given to proposals in the open countryside where there has been a significant growth in the number of new house applications; and,
- d) At least 50% of the site boundaries are long established and are capable of distinguishing the site from surrounding land (e.g. dykes, hedgerows, fences, watercourses, woodlands, tracks and roadways).

Justification

The Plan aims to allow housing in the open countryside that can be easily absorbed into the landscape. New development should be low impact and reflect the character of the surrounding area in terms of the traditional pattern of settlement and the scale and design of housing. The introduction of suburban layouts and house styles and the incremental build up of new houses have the potential to alter the rural character and detrimentally impact on the area's high quality rural environment.

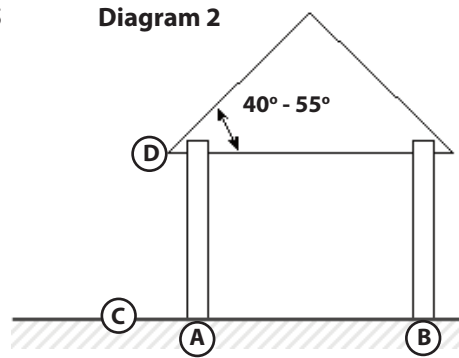
Proposals that add to an existing grouping, such as an established re-use or rehabilitation scheme, will be more satisfactorily integrated where they connect through built form, layout and landscape features. Development that adds to an existing suburban layout should be avoided. Infill development along a road or landscape feature may be appropriate where this does not detract from the character or setting of existing houses.

Innovative modern design and energy efficiency measures are encouraged to promote sustainable development.

If the above criteria for the setting of the new house are met, the following design requirements then apply:

Design

- i) A roof pitch between 40-55 degrees;
- ii) A gable width of no more than 2.5 times the height of the wall from ground to eaves level (see diagram 2);
- iii) Uniform external finishes and materials including slate or dark 'slate effect' roof tiles;
- iv) A vertical emphasis and uniformity to all windows and doors;
- v) Boundary demarcation that reflects the established character or style (e.g. dry stone dykes, hedges) in the locality;
- vi) Proposals must be accompanied by a landscaping plan showing an appropriate proportion of the plot, generally 25%, to be planted with native tree species at least 1.5 metres in height.



Ground Level:

A fixed point measured 100mm below the finished floor level of a house with a solid ground floor;

or 300mm below finished floor level of a suspended ground floor

Eaves:

The point where the front face of the external wall intersects with the uppermost point of the roof line

The width of the gable as measured from A to B should not be greater than 2.5 times the height of the ground to eaves measurement C to D.

Pitch on roof to be 40° - 55°

Exceptions to the above design requirements will only be justified on the basis of innovative designs that respond to the setting of the house.

Proposals which involve the loss of woodland will be assessed against policy ER2 and must take account of the Council's Supplementary Guidance on Trees and Development.

Supplementary Guidance has been produced in order to provide further advice on the interpretation of this policy, and will be used in the process of determining planning applications.

Proposals for holiday homes in the open countryside will be assessed against this policy.

Other considerations such as noise contours, developer contributions and energy efficiency will be taken into account in the determination of a planning application, and advice on these matters can be viewed in the aforementioned Supplementary Guidance.