

Heritage Park - Charterhouse

Through the Local Plan and partnership working with Historic England and the Historic Coventry Charitable Trust, the Council are promoting through this Local Plan the creation of a City Heritage Park in the Sherbourne Valley and the grounds of the Charterhouse and London Road Cemetery. The designation reflects the historic significance of the two sites as well as their scale and strategic proximity to the city centre. There are also wider connectivity opportunities associated with the River Sherbourne. Proposals to establish the park will be supported along with measures to improve linkages to the area and improve accessibility between the city centre and the Charterhouse grounds. These should include a riverside walkway along the exposed section of the River Sherbourne, connecting Far Gosford Street with Charterhouse along the west side of the river crossing Gulson Road and Humber Avenue. A footpath and cycle route along the former Coventry loop line railway and a new pedestrian crossing on the London Road. These enhancements, in connectivity and green infrastructure, could facilitate comprehensive regeneration opportunities of brownfield land along the River Sherbourne, most notably between Gulson Road and Gosford Street and in Harper Road that will complement this part of the city. The Proposed City Heritage Park and its key routes and linkages are identified on the inset map at Appendix 4. The wider area will be supported by a Masterplan.

In addition, opportunities should be taken to improve the setting of the Charterhouse, the naturalisation of the river valley and the views through to the viaduct. Prime examples include land around Blue Coat School, where:

- the existing car park is to be removed from the area of the Charterhouse Scheduled Ancient Monument; and
- The all-weather sports and playground facilities are to be relocated away from the riverside in an appropriate and sustainable way.

These 2 areas should then be proactively re-naturalised or appropriately landscaped, adding to the Heritage Park where appropriate and supporting an extension to the current Local Green Space designation that is proposed for the land west of the river. The extension of the Local Green Space designation should be supported by new defensible boundary lines created as part of the Master planning process and brought forward in partnership with the local community, the school and the Charterhouse Trust.

To ensure Blue Coat School continue to offer a high-quality education offer to the city however, these facilities will then be relocated onto former allotment land to the east of the river, which will be removed from the Green Belt providing a firm boundary for future school expansion. The proposed Green Belt amendments around Blue Coat School and Charterhouse are shown on the Policies Map.

Policy HE3: Heritage Park – Charterhouse

1. Proposals for a City Heritage Park in the grounds of the Charterhouse and London Road cemetery will be supported along with measures to improve linkages to the area along the River Sherbourne (between Charterhouse and Far Gosford Street), the former Coventry loop railway line and across the London Road. Proposals that are detrimental to the establishment of the heritage park and the improvement of linkages will be resisted.
2. Land at Blue Coat School is to be removed from the Green Belt in accordance with policy GB1 to support the expansion of school facilities on condition that the existing school car park is removed from the area of the Charterhouse Scheduled Ancient Monument. In addition, the expansion of the school should also support the appropriate relocation of the all-weather sports facilities and playground areas to secure the enhancement of the riverside area. This should facilitate the re-naturalisation of the area in an appropriate way in order to enhance the setting of the Charterhouse, its precinct and the Heritage Park as a whole.
3. The creation of the Heritage Park and expansion of Blue Coat School should be guided by a comprehensive Master plan, which reflects the policies of this Plan (including Appendix 4).