

The process of extending the Thatcham Conservation Area boundaries – guidance from West Berkshire Council

provided by Bryan Lyttle, Planning Policy Officer

In short, any changes must be justified to be of sufficient quality to warrant designation, subject to public consultation, then formally adopted by West Berkshire Council as they can be legally challenged.

The council has produced a FAQ paper which although dated is still relevant [Conservation Area Appraisals \(CAA\) - West Berkshire Council](#).

However, since the Thatcham Conservation area was designated in 1980 it will be interesting to see what changes have occurred with regards to its “special architectural and/or historic character which would suggest the boundary should be extended.

The first port of call would be a brief proposal showing the area of the town that the Town Council wished to see brought in to the conservation area and a reason why.

The more information that was included in the report the better. WBC are reluctant to predetermine anything, but the bar set by Historic England is pretty high especially as it is to be used to help manage development in an area and has a direct impact of householder and building owners rights.

If the report is successful and a review of the CAA takes place this would involve public consultation and when the final report is ready another consultation is held.

The final stage would be to take the report to Council to be adopted by the CAA and then we wait and see if we are taken to the courts by someone who does not like it.

In short, there are lots of hurdles a few water jumps and then the race might be called invalid (which we seek to avoid at all costs).