

ENVIRONMENT

Groundwater Source Protection Zone

The Environment Agency defines Groundwater Source Protection Zones around groundwater abstraction points to safeguard drinking water quality by constraining the proximity of an activity that may impact on it.

Southern Water has a water pumping station in the Parish and so there is a Groundwater Source Protection Zone: Map 4 shows the various zones.

Policy FNP6: Groundwater Source Protection Zone

A proposal for development within the Groundwater Source Protection zones, as shown in Map 4, will only be permitted if there is no risk of contamination to groundwater sources which cannot be adequately mitigated.

Let us know if you agree or disagree with this policy, or have suggestions as to how it should be changed, and why, via the questionnaire (Question 8).

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Surface Water Flooding

The amount of drainage assets, coupled with the topography of the Parish, means that during heavy or prolonged periods of rain **surface water flooding runs in a continuous manner along the lane** at the foot of the valley, from south to north.

Particular areas with regular surface water flooding include:

- Junction of Fawkham Green Road with Valley Road, around the village green
- Baldwins Green/Castle Hill junction with Valley Road
- Valley Road, north of the village school
- Valley Road, south of Castle Hill and south of Pennis Lane
- Fawkham Road, north of junction with Steephill

Flooding is often across the full width of the carriageway and sometimes internal to properties. **Flints, silt and debris** are regularly washed down the valley sides and banks and onto the carriageway.

Climate change is predicted to result in wetter winters and increased summer storm intensity, which will increase the risk of surface water flooding. To minimise the risk, we have written the policy below.

Policy FNP7: Surface Water Flooding

A proposal for development should be designed to ensure it would not increase surface water run off and the risks of surface water flooding and, where mitigation measures are required, should give preference to Nature Based Solutions style SuDS, with engineering solutions used only when it has been demonstrated that no other form of SuDs is feasible. Where practicable, SuDs should be positively designed into schemes from the outset as public realm and/or biodiversity features.

Let us know if you agree or disagree with this policy, or have suggestions as to how it should be changed, and why, via the questionnaire (Question 9).

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Soil Conservation

The bedrock chalk geology is consistent across the Parish, but there are variations in the superficial geology. The highest land is covered with clay-with-flints deposits, giving heavy but fertile soils. Alluvial surface deposits, also relatively fertile, are found in the valley bottom.

The objectives of soil conservation are to retain the natural soil fauna and flora of the Parish; to assist the establishment of new native planting; to reduce the spread of undesirable and potentially invasive plant material and soil-borne diseases; and to reduce off-site traffic movements associated with the import and export of soils and any other excavated materials.

Policy FNP8: Soil Conservation

A proposal for development should demonstrate sustainable on-site soil management and minimise the import of subsoil and topsoil and the export of any excavated ground materials.

Let us know if you agree or disagree with this policy, or have suggestions as to how it should be changed, and why, via the questionnaire (Question 10).

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Character, Heritage and Identity

High Quality Design

The planning strategy anticipates limited development within the Parish. New development should comply with national guidance, local plan policies and Neighbourhood Plan policies which seek to ensure it is **designed to a high quality which responds to the distinctive landscape character and to any affected local heritage assets:**

- Policy FNP1 requires new development to respect the landscape qualities of the area within which it is situated
- Policy FNP 4 seeks development which would not result in unsympathetic change to the character of a rural lane
- Policy FNP9 seeks to conserve and enhance Baldwin's Green Conservation Area and the Parish's listed buildings and their settings.

Heritage

It is believed the area was settled in the Stone Age, and there is some evidence of Roman occupation. In the Domesday Book, Fawkham is named Falceham and shows a manor with around 400 acres of land, including a church, two mills, four meadows and enough wood for 30 swine. It is thought a Saxon wooden church was replaced with the present Norman one. The first Fawkham manor house is believed to have been in Church Meadow.

Listed Buildings

Fawkham contains 13 listed buildings/structures, shown here ranked by age:

12th Century - St Mary's Church

16th Century - Court Lodge

17th Century - Cross House, Gabriels, Pennis Farm, Scudders

18th Century - Brands Hatch Place, Pennis House (and gates/railings), The Old Rectory, The White House

19th Century - Fawkham Manor

20th Century - War Memorial

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Baldwins Green Conservation Area

This includes the cluster of historic buildings at the junction of Valley Road and Castle Hill: the Parish Church of St Mary; The Shaws (now Beech House and The Laurels); Churchdown House; Churchdown Farm and outbuildings.

Policy FNP9 - Heritage

Fawkham Parish's listed buildings and their settings should be conserved.

The open rural character of Baldwin's Green Conservation Area and its setting should be preserved and enhanced. Any development should be designed to a high quality and retain those buildings and other features, including open spaces, trees and views which make a significant contribution to the character of Baldwins Green Conservation Area.

Let us know if you agree or disagree with this policy, or have suggestions as to how it should be changed, and why, via the questionnaire (Question 11).