

Planning Note: Pinewood Close, HA5 4BW

This Planning Note assesses the scope of redeveloping the site to provide housing. This desktop appraisal includes a review of the relevant planning history for the site and surrounding area and a commentary on the planning policy framework, before assessing the scope of residential development.

Existing Site and Surroundings

Site Area
697 sqm.

Site Description

The site comprises a row of 16 single storey garages and hardstanding, accessed off Pinewood Close. To the rear of the garages the western boundary of the site is characterised by trees and overgrown vegetation. The desktop review shows that there may be some existing mature trees within the site boundary.

Surroundings

The surrounding area is predominantly characterised by residential properties.

To the west of the site are the rear gardens of detached and semi-detached properties along Rowlands Avenue. Along the northern boundary are mature trees with the rear garden of 2 Sequoia Park beyond. To the south is 4 Pinewood Close, a two storey semi-detached house with garden and garage. There is an existing window on the flank wall at first floor level which faces directly onto the site.

5 Pinewood Close and its rear garden border the site to the east. There is an existing gate which provides direct access from the rear garden into the development site. In addition, there is an existing outbuilding, with a garage door on the side elevation which faces directly into the site. It is currently unknown whether this property has a pedestrian and/or vehicular right of way across the development site. A number of windows on the flank wall of this property face directly onto the site.

Transport Accessibility

The site has a Public Transport Accessibility Level (PTAL) of 1b-2 on a scale where 0 is the lowest level of accessibility and 6b is the highest. The closest bus stop (Hatch End, Headstone Lane) is approximately 450 metres from the site and is served by routes H12, H14 and 182. The nearest station is Hatch End which is approximately 1.1 km to the south-west of the site and provides London Overground services to London Euston and Watford Junction Rail Stations.

Conservation Areas/Listed Buildings

The site does not fall within a Conservation Area nor does it contain any listed buildings.

	<p>Flooding The site falls within flood zone 1 on the Environment Agency’s flood maps and is therefore at low risk of flooding.</p> <p>Trees There are no trees on-site protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). However, the land just beyond the northern boundary contains multiple mature trees which are protected by TPOs and are subject to a TPO Area Order (area 18). The western site boundary is also characterised by multiple trees.</p>
<p>Planning History Search</p>	<p>A desk-based planning history search of the London Borough of Harrow’s (LBH) online statutory records has been undertaken.</p> <p>The Site There have been no recent applications for the site’s redevelopment.</p> <p>Surroundings There have been a number of planning applications submitted for extensions along Pinewood Close. On 31st May 2016 planning permission was granted for a single storey side to rear extension (following the demolition of a shed/store) at 4 Pinewood Close, which is located directly to the south of the site (reference P/1605/16).</p>
<p>Site Specific Designations</p>	<p>The site falls within the following designations on Harrow Council’s adopted policies map:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core Strategy Sub-Area: Pinner and Hatch End • Critical Drainage Area • RAF Northolt Safeguarding Zones <p>The site also falls in close proximity to a number of planning designations, notably:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To the north of the site is a Tree Preservation Area Order. • To the east of the site beyond the A4008 Oxhey Lane is Green Belt Land. • To the east of the site beyond the A4008 Oxhey Lane is an Area of Special Character.
<p>The Development Plan and Other Material Planning Considerations</p>	<p>The statutory development plan for the London Borough of Harrow (LBH) comprises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The London Plan (LP, 2016) • Core Strategy (CS, 2012) • Development Management Policies Local Plan (DMP, 2013) • Harrow and Wealdstone Area Action Plan (AAP, 2013) • Site Allocations Local Plan (2013) <p>Material planning considerations to consider in the determination of a planning application include the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2019) and the Intend to Publish London Plan (ItP, 2019). Relevant Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) include the Harrow Residential Design Guide SPD (RDG SPD, 2010) and the Planning Obligations SPD (2013).</p>

Principle of Residential

The site has not been designated for any specific use in planning policy terms and constitutes previously developed land. The site is surrounded by housing on all sides and therefore a residential use would be consistent with surrounding land uses.

The London Plan (2016) sets a minimum annual target of 593 residential units in Harrow, equating to 5,927 new homes over a 10 year period. The 10 year target in the ItP London Plan (2019) increases this target to 8,020 homes, which translates to an annual average of 802 net completions. In addition, Harrow CS Policy CS1 also sets out the need for the provision of additional housing across Harrow. A residential development at the site would contribute towards the housing stock in the Borough.

The ItP London Plan seeks to utilise previously developed small sites for housing (Policies GG2 and H2). Table 4.2 sets a minimum 10 year target of 3,750 net housing completions on small sites (below 0.25 hectares) for the Borough.

In this context, it is considered that the redevelopment of the site for housing is acceptable in principle, subject to overcoming other planning policy considerations.

Height

Surrounding residential properties rise to two storeys in height. In line with policy DMP DM1 and paragraph 4.16 of the RDG SPD, new development should reflect the scale, massing and roof form of surrounding buildings.

Quantum/Density

The site has a PTAL of 1b-2 (majority 2) and lies in a suburban area. Taking the PTAL level of 2, the London Plan density matrix sets out a density guideline of up to 250 habitable rooms per hectare (hr/ha) and 95 units per hectare (u/ha) for a site with this level of accessibility. This equates to a maximum of 17 habitable rooms and 7 units. However, it is recognised that the density matrix is a guide only and should not be applied mechanistically. The emerging ItP London Plan seeks to remove the density matrix and in its place promotes an approach which makes the most efficient use of land (Policy D6).

The appropriate quantum of development will also be determined by other considerations such as residential amenity (including daylight and sunlight impact and ensuring appropriate separation distances to surrounding properties), the level of car parking (both for the new units and any re-provision parking required as a result of the loss of the garages) and the RPAs of retained trees (further information set out in the sections below).

Going forward, it is advised that an architect develops a capacity study for the site to ascertain the appropriate quantum of development, with consideration of the factors highlighted above.

Unit Mix

The Borough's DMP Policy DM24 supports proposals that secure an appropriate mix of housing on site and which contribute to the creation of inclusive and mixed communities. Harrow's CS Policy SC1J identifies that for development sites with a capacity to provide ten or more units, the Council will seek the maximum reasonable amount of affordable housing.

It is advised that the unit mix should be discussed and agreed in principle with Planning Officers from the London Borough of Harrow at the pre-application stage.

Residential Quality

Residential development coming forward at the site should accord with the minimum internal space standards set out in Table 3.3 of the London Plan (2016) and Table 3.1 of the ItP London Plan. Any future development should accord with the accessibility standards in London Plan Policy 3.8 and emerging ItP Policy D5.

Residential Amenity

Policy DM1 states that “*proposals that would be detrimental to the privacy and amenity of neighbouring occupiers, or that would fail to achieve satisfactory privacy and amenity for future occupiers of the development, will be resisted*”. The Harrow Residential Design Guide SPD also provides design guidance in relation to new homes, including new build developments, and sets out standards in relation to internal and external layouts and design features, including streetscape and amenity considerations.

There are a number of windows on the flank wall of 5 Pinewood Close and one window on the flank wall of 4 Pinewood Close which face directly onto the site. The degree of outlook for these properties is likely to be minimised as a result of new development. The windows to the rear of properties at Rowlands Avenue and Sequoia Park may also be impacted, however there are a series of tall, mature trees at these boundaries which can provide an element of screening.

The relationship with neighbouring properties in terms of overlooking, privacy and daylight and sunlight should be considered, having regard to the guidance in Harrow's SPD.

Parking

The site currently provides 16 garages. JLL strongly recommend that a parking beat survey (including garage usage survey) is commissioned to determine how many of the existing garages are occupied (including how many are used for car parking and how many for storage) and to understand on-site and surrounding parking stress and whether there is any existing capacity. This will determine whether any car parking need to be re-provided as a result of the loss of the existing garages, which may affect the overall developable area.

DMP Policy DM42 states that the Council will expect development to comply with the London Plan maximum parking standards, which are: less than 1 parking space per 1-2 bedroom unit, up to 1.5 spaces per 3 bedroom unit and up to 2 spaces per 4 bedroom+ unit. The London Plan states that for outer London areas with a low PTAL boroughs should consider higher levels of provision to address overspill parking.

Turning to emerging policy, Table 10.3 of the ItP London Plan provides lower maximum standards and seeks up to a maximum of 1 space per dwelling for areas in Outer London with a PTAL of 2.

It is currently unknown whether property 5 Pinewood Close has a pedestrian and/or vehicular right of way across the development site. This would need to be looked into further as the access may need to remain intact as part of any future development.

Amenity Space

Policy DM27 states that the appropriate amount of amenity space should be informed by the Mayor's Housing Design Guide. Standard 26 of the Mayor of London's Housing SPG (2016) requires a minimum of 5 sqm of private outdoor space for a 1-2 person dwelling with an additional 1 sqm for each additional occupant. In addition, paragraph 4.65 of the Council's RDG SPD states "*where balconies are accepted as the only form of amenity space to be within a development, then they should be at least 1.5 metres in depth and of sufficient size to be used as a sitting out area*".

Trees

There are a number of mature trees which are protected by TPOs located just beyond the northern boundary and which also fall within a TPO Area Order (area 18). Land along the western boundary is also characterised by multiple mature trees. Furthermore, it is not certain from a desktop analysis whether some of these trees along the boundary are within the site. It is therefore strongly recommended that a tree survey is undertaken in order to assess the quality of the any existing trees on-site and determine whether or not they are suitable for removal, as well as assess whether there would be any significant impact on surrounding trees and their root protection areas (RPAs) as a result of the proposed development.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)/Planning Obligations

Mayoral Community Infrastructure Levy (MCIL)

Any additional floorspace will be subject to the Mayoral Community Infrastructure Levy (MCIL). This came into effect on 1st April 2019. MCIL is chargeable at £60 per sqm of net additional floorspace in Harrow (+ index linking).

Harrow CIL

The Harrow charging schedule applies CIL for residential (Use Class C3) at £110 per sqm (+ index linking).

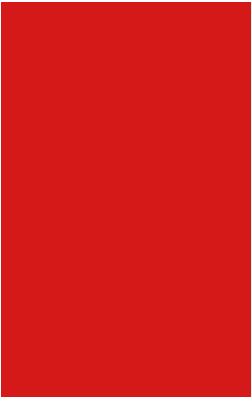
Social housing relief can be sought for both Mayoral and Harrow's levies. It is also possible to deduct any existing floorspace from the calculation if it has been in use for 6 out of the last 36 months.

Section 106 Contributions

Whilst Harrow's CIL is the primary means by which developments contribute towards infrastructure provision, the Section 106 planning obligations system in Harrow continues to be used to secure on-site affordable housing and justified site-specific mitigation requirements. The Council have a Planning Obligations SPD (2013) which helps to clarify the site specific or local circumstances when planning obligations will be used.

Summary and Conclusions

To summarise, there is considered to be strong planning justification to provide housing on this site, subject to overcoming other planning policy considerations.



In the first instance, we recommend that a parking beat survey (including garage usage survey) is undertaken to determine the level of car parking that needs to be re-provided as part of the development due to the loss of the garages. We also recommend that a tree survey is conducted to ascertain the quality of existing trees on and adjacent to the site, determine which need to be retained/removed and the impact of development on surrounding trees and their RPAs. The overall developable area/quantum of development should be tested through an initial capacity study, which also considers the relationship with neighbouring properties in terms of overlooking, privacy and daylight and sunlight.

Going forward it is strongly recommended that formal pre-application discussions take place with the London Borough of Harrow.