## Inland Waterways

12. Government policy on the transport use of inland waterways is set out in the Transport White Paper and is developed in the Governments policy document Waterways for Tomorrow(June 2000). Local authorities should work with all those concerned in the inland waterways industry - British Waterways (BW) and other navigation authorities, private operators and the voluntary sector concerned with restoring currently disused waterways - to develop the potential of inland waterways. In drawing up development plans and determining planning applications, they should seek to re-use disused wharves and basins, to retain boatyards and other services used in connection with water-based recreation, and to protect and enhance the waterway environment, where these are viable options. BW, the Environment Agency and the Association of Inland Navigation Authorities can provide local authorities with information on waterways.

13. In general, proposals for waterside development should seek to enhance the use, enjoyment and setting of the adjacent waterway. Development proposals, local plan policies, or new and improved infrastructure, such as road proposals, should not adversely affect inland waterways. Where this may happen, local authorities should consult BW or other navigation authorities, the Environment Agency in its regulatory capacity, the Inland Waterways Association and local waterway organisations. In liaison with these bodies, local authorities should identify and where appropriate protect disused waterways (by allocating the land in development plans and ensuring sites and routes are not severed by new development or transport infrastructure) where there is a reasonable degree of certainty of a restoration project proceeding, in whole or in part, within the development plan period.