



Historic England

Tim Spurway
Neighbourhood Planning Officer
East Devon District Council
Knowle
Station Road
Sidmouth
EX10 8HL

Our ref: PLo0014608
Your ref:
Telephone 0117 975 0680
Email david.stuart@historicengland.org.uk

30th March 2016

Dear Mr Spurway

NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA CONSULTATION – SIDMOUTH

Thank you for giving notice that Sidmouth Town Council has applied to designate Sidmouth as a Neighbourhood Area under Part 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

Historic England has no objection to this proposal.

We would like to take the opportunity of the consultation to outline the range of support Historic England is able to offer in relation to Neighbourhood Plans. It would be helpful if this response can be copied to the Parish Council for their information.

Research has clearly demonstrated that local people value their heritage and Neighbourhood Plans are a positive way to help communities care for and enjoy the historic environment.

Historic England is expecting that as Neighbourhood Planning Forums come to you to seek advice on preparing Neighbourhood Plans they will value guidance on how best to understand what heritage they have, as well as assistance on preparing appropriate policies to secure the conservation and enhancement of this local heritage resource.

Information held by the Council and used in the preparation of your Core Strategy/Local Plan is often the starting point for Neighbourhood Plans. Other useful information may be available from the Historic Environment Record Centre or local environmental and amenity groups. For example, our records indicate that the area is rich in heritage assets, having 16 Grade I and II* and 340 Grade II Listed Buildings, 6 Conservation Areas and 6 Scheduled Ancient Monuments (3 of which are on the national Heritage At Risk Register). Historic



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Please note that Historic England operates an access to information policy.

Correspondence or information which you send us may therefore become publicly available.



England also publishes a wide range of relevant guidance. Links to these can be found in the appendix to this letter.

Plan preparation also offers the opportunity to harness a community's interest in the historic environment by getting them to help add to the evidence base, perhaps by creating and or reviewing a local heritage list, inputting to the preparation of conservation area appraisals and undertaking or further deepening historic characterisation studies.

Historic England has a statutory role in the development plan process and there is a duty on either you as the Local Planning Authority or the Neighbourhood Planning Forum to consult Historic England on any Neighbourhood Plan where our interests are considered to be affected as well as a duty to consult us on all Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders.

Historic England will target its limited resources efficiently. We will directly advise on proposals with the potential for major change to significant, nationally important heritage assets and their settings. Our local offices may also advise communities where they wish to engage directly with us, subject to local priorities and capacity.

Historic England fully recognises that the neighbourhood planning process is a locally-led initiative and communities will shape their own neighbourhood plan as informed by the issues and opportunities they are most concerned about and relevant to the local area. As a national organisation we are able to draw upon our experiences of neighbourhood planning across the country and information on our website might be of initial assistance <http://www.historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/plan-making/improve-your-neighbourhood/>. It is envisaged that the website will be progressively updated to share good practice in the management of the historic environment through neighbourhood planning.

Should you wish to discuss any points within this letter, or if there are issues about this Neighbourhood Plan Area where the historic environment is likely to be of particular interest, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

David Stuart
Historic Places Adviser

Appendix



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The National Heritage List for England: a full list with descriptions of England's listed buildings: <http://www.historicengland.org.uk/advice/hpg/heritage-assets/nhle>

Heritage Gateway: includes local records of historic buildings and features
www.heritagegateway.org.uk

Historic England's Advice by topic: you can search for advice on a range of issues relating to the historic environment in the Advice section of our website

Heritage Counts: facts and figures on the historic environment
<http://hc.historicengland.org.uk>

HELM (Historic Environment Local Management) provides accessible information, training and guidance to decision makers whose actions affect the historic environment.
www.helm.org.uk or www.helm.org.uk/communityplanning

Heritage at Risk programme provides a picture of the health of England's built heritage alongside advice on how best to save those sites most at risk of being lost forever.
<http://www.historicengland.org.uk/caring/heritage-at-risk>

Placecheck provides a method of taking the first steps in deciding how to improve an area.
<http://www.placecheck.info/>

The Building in Context Toolkit grew out of the publication 'Building in Context' published by English Heritage and CABE in 2001. The purpose of the publication is to stimulate a high standard of design when development takes place in historically sensitive contexts. The founding principle is that all successful design solutions depend on allowing time for a thorough site analysis and character appraisal of context. <http://building-in-context.org/toolkit.html>

Knowing Your Place deals with the incorporation of local heritage within plans that rural communities are producing,
<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/knowing-your-place/>

Planning for the Environment at the Neighbourhood Level produced jointly by English Heritage, Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Forestry Commission gives ideas on how to improve the local environment and sources of information.
<http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/PDF/GEHO0212BWAZ-E-E.pdf>

Good Practice Guide for Local Heritage Listing produced by English Heritage uses good practice to support the creation and management of local heritage lists.
<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/good-practice-local-heritage-listing/>

Understanding Place series describes current approaches to and applications of historic characterisation in planning together with a series of case studies
<http://www.helm.org.uk/server/show/nav.19604:>



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