

From: Thompson, Alan [REDACTED]

Sent: 26 October 2023 16:24

To: Planning Policy <PlanningPolicy@eastdevon.gov.uk>

Subject: West Hill Neighbourhood Plan - Designation of Neighbourhood Area and Early Consultation Response

Dear Sir / Madame,

Thank you for your email inviting us to comment on the Designation of Neighbourhood Area (DNA) for the West Hill Neighbourhood Plan (22 September 2023). We note the new area of designation and have no immediate cause for concern.

It is helpful for us to be notified of a new Neighbourhood Plan designation, as it gives us the opportunity to share our guidance with the steering group. I wonder if we could ask you to share this email with the steering group?

Advice to Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Our role as a national statutory consultee for Neighbourhood Planning focuses mainly on ensuring there is no risk of undue harm to heritage assets. The most common way that risk of harm emerges in Neighbourhood Plans is when new, site-specific allocations for development are being made. When such allocations are proposed, we look to see that they are supported by appropriate evidence to demonstrate conformity with national policy for the protection and enhancement of the historic environment, as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Such evidence ought to demonstrate that there is not the potential for significant environmental effects, in terms of harmful impact to heritage assets. We are likely to take a keener interest in the emerging plan if site allocations do indeed come forward. However, in the meantime, it may be helpful for the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to consult our standard advice, on the preparation of neighbourhood plans, if they haven't already done so. Here is a link to our recently updated guidance:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/neighbourhood-planning-and-the-historic-environment/>

Further to this, I would like to suggest some general guidance that is likely to be helpful to the steering group in finessing the Neighbourhood Plan. I have attached a list of sources of information. I have also attached our generic guidance on plan preparation and a live list we have compiled of those plans in the Southwest that we have come across which are notable from a heritage perspective. You will see that this covers a wide range of themes to draw upon.

We have no further comments to make at this point in time; however, we look forward to being consulted at the Regulation 14 stage. We wish the steering group well with their ongoing work.

Kind Regards,

Alan

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