



Historic England

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Our ref: 2019.06.19
Your ref: Wheatley NP
Submission
RLS
Comments
Telephone 01483 252028

19th June 2019

To whom it may concern:

Wheatley Neighbourhood plan Pre-submission Version Consultation

Thank you for consulting Historic England on the pre-submission version of the Wheatley Neighbourhood Plan. Historic England is the government's adviser on planning for the historic environment, including the conservation of heritage assets and champion good design in historic places. As such we have limited our comment on the plan to those areas that fall within our remit and silence on other matters should not be taken as agreement.

I am happy to confirm that, without prejudice to comments we may make on individual planning applications we do not have any in-principle objections to the plan's proposals. As such, our comments are either focused on policies or elements that we wish to express our particular support for or areas where we feel that amendments to policy wording could better help to secure the steering groups objectives.

Paragraph 8.2.2 reads as a series of policy requirements and set out helpful principles for the design of new development, which should help to inform decisions. To ensure these are given appropriate weight in decisions we recommend elevating this paragraph to policy. Nevertheless we feel it would be helpful to provide some further explanation of what a 'secondary space is considered to be. Are these communal green spaces within development that are not a focal feature with the development as a whole? We feel this could be helpful in guiding development that would affect the scheduled monument (a Civil War gun battery emplacement) within the grounds of OBU's Wheatley Campus.

We support the use of community energy schemes particularly where they enable property owners and tenants to invest in 'at-scale' renewable energy schemes that avoid impacts of micro-generation equipment on individual historic buildings and/or



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prominent locations in areas valued for their special historic or architectural character.

POLICY SPOBU – WHE25: We are pleased to support bullet point j. of this policy in particular but would suggest that an alternate wording would help to secure archaeological investigation prior to development, which should inform its design, as well as ensuring landscaping emphasises the historic and topographic interest of the monument:

“Preserves the ancient monument with a proposals informed by archaeological investigation that should identify the potential for potential associated features that may contribute to the significance of the monument and, as such, also merit preservation in-situ, and seek to increase understanding of the monument. This evidence should inform the landscaping strategy which should aim to emphasise the prominence of the monument as a feature of historic and archaeological interest forming an important topographical feature within the development.”

We are also pleased to support bullet point k. of the policy.

POLICY SPES2: WHE22: We support the provision of a small village green within the development as an addition to the commons and attractive means of providing a public realm focus within development. However, we recommend specifying that development should make provision for the maintenance of such space, alternative mechanisms exist but this could be through a service charge levied on new properties to the parish council.

We hope these comments are of assistance to the steering group but would be pleased to answer any queries relating to them or to provide further information if required.

Yours faithfully

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