



Historic England

Our ref: HD/P5229/  
Your ref:

Telephone 01483 252040  
Fax

2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017

Dear Ms Hopkinson,

### Old Basing and Lychpit Neighbourhood Plan SEA Screening Opinion

Thank you for your e-mail of 11<sup>th</sup> September advising Historic England of the proposed addition to the Old Basing and Lychpit Neighbourhood Plan of a new policy on the historic environment. You enquire whether that addition would overcome our concerns about the potential effects of the policies and proposals of the Neighbourhood Plan on the historic environment such that the Plan need not be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment. I apologise for the delay in responding but have been away on leave and otherwise out of the office.

In my letter of 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017 in response to the draft Screening Opinion I noted that

*"We do not know at this stage whether or not the policy(ies) of the Plan allowing this new housing development will contain criteria requiring the protection/ conservation of the historic environment and heritage assets therein, or whether there will be a specific policy in the Plan for the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment. There would appear, therefore, to be the potential for significant effects on the historic environment of the Plan area arising from what little we know of the Neighbourhood Plan at this time."*

However, I also said:

*"If the Plan was to include a policy to conserve and enhance local heritage assets (as we would encourage, in line with the advice in the National Planning Practice Guidance that it would be helpful for the Plan to include enough information "about local heritage to guide decisions and put broader strategic heritage policies from the local plan into action at a neighbourhood scale" and "about local non-designated heritage assets including sites of archaeological interest to guide decisions").....we would be likely to be satisfied that the Plan would be unlikely to lead to any significant effects on the historic environment such that SEA would not be required."*

We therefore welcome the proposed addition of a policy for the historic environment and are happy to confirm that we consider that this addresses the potential for harmful effects on the historic environment.



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Consequently, we are also happy to confirm that if such a policy is included in the Plan, based on what other limited information we have about the Plan, we now do **not** consider that the Plan should be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment. However, as before, we may wish to revise this opinion once we see the draft Plan, particularly if it does, contrary to the advised expectations, allocate a site or sites for development.

I would just suggest that the policy may need slight tweaking so as to specifically relate the conservation and enhancement of designated heritage assets to the consideration of proposals for development to be in accordance with paragraph 154 of the National Planning Policy Framework

Thank you again for seeking the views of Historic England on the Screening Opinion following this amendment. If you have any queries, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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