



ENGLISH HERITAGE

WEST MIDLANDS

Policy Plans Team (Planning and Housing)
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Worcestershire
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Our ref: I294

Your ref:

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11 February 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA CONSULTATION- HARVINGTON

Thank you for giving notice that Harvington Parish Council has applied for designation as a Neighbourhood Area under Part 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

English Heritage has no objection to this proposal.

The proposed neighbourhood plan area contains a varied range of designated and undesignated heritage assets including the Harvington designated conservation area. The Parish also hosts numerous grade II listed buildings whilst the church of St. James is listed at grade I. Due account should be taken of the conservation of all of these assets and their settings in formulating the neighbourhood plan proposals. Consideration should also be given to the protection of undesignated heritage assets and archaeological remains (both known and potential) within the Parish. Many of these will be recorded in the Worcestershire County Council Historic Environment Record (HER).

Having a sound evidence base for the Plan is important so as to form a properly supportive context for plan policies. The National Planning Policy Framework (paragraph 58) requires Neighbourhood Plans to develop robust and comprehensive policies setting out the quality of development that will be expected in an area based upon an understanding and evaluation of its' defining characteristics. The aim is to ensure that developments (inter alia) "respond to local character and history, and reflect the identity of local surroundings and materials....."

Neighbourhood Plans are a positive way to help communities care for and enjoy the historic environment. English Heritage is expecting that as Parish Council's come to you (and perhaps particularly to your specialist conservation staff) 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 as for example the Historic Environment Character Assessments completed by Worcestershire County Council. Comprehensive data on Heritage Assets including archaeological remains in your area will be available from the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record held by the County Council and local environmental and amenity groups often also hold useful information.

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. English Heritage has a statutory role in the development plan process and there is a duty on either you as the Local Planning Authority or the Parish Council to consult English Heritage 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.

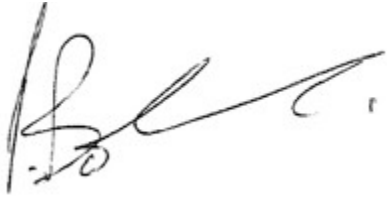
English Heritage will target its limited resources efficiently. We will directly advise on proposals with the potential for major change to significant, nationally important heritage assets and their settings. Our local offices may also advise communities where they wish to engage directly with us, subject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

English Heritage 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.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/get-involved/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.

English Heritage also publishes a wide range of relevant guidance. Links to this can be found in appendix I to this letter. Appendix II contains links to a number of Neighbourhood Plans that English Heritage consider to be exemplary in their treatment of the historic environment.

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 faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pete Boland'. The signature is stylized with a large initial 'P' and 'B'.

Pete Boland
Historic Places Adviser

Appendix I

The National Heritage List for England: a full list with descriptions of England's listed buildings: <http://list.english-heritage.org.uk>

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

English Heritage'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.english-heritage.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.english-heritage.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: The purpose of this publication is to stimulate a high standard of design for new development in historically sensitive contexts. 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, <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/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. <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/listing/local/local-designations/local-list/>

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>

Toolkit for Historic Characterisation

<http://www.oxford.gov.uk/PageRender/decP/CharacterAppraisalToolkit.htm>

Appendix II

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS & THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT– SOME POSITIVE EXAMPLES

<http://madeleytowncouncil.gov.uk/useruploads/files/madeley-plan-section-1.pdf>

<http://www.ourplaceourplan.org.uk/>

<http://www.chaddesleyplan.org.uk/Submission%20Neighbourhood%20Plan.pdf>

<http://www.eaststaffsbc.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/neighbourhood-plans/tatenhill>

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/media/1360732/CH_Draft_Neighbourhood_Plan_Final_blue_141114.pdf