



Examination of the Winchester District Local Plan 2020-2040

Matter 14

Historic England, Hearing Statement

14 April 2025

This statement addresses selected Inspector's questions regarding Matter 14 of the Winchester District Local Plan 2020-2040

This hearing statement should be read alongside Historic England's comments submitted at previous consultation stages of the Local Plan.

Historic England is the principal Government adviser on the historic environment, advising it on planning and listed building consent applications, appeals and other matters generally affecting the historic environment. Historic England is consulted on Local Development Plans under the provisions of the duty to co-operate and provides advice to ensure that legislation and national policy in the National Planning Policy Framework are thereby reflected in local planning policy and practice.

The tests of soundness require that Local Development Plans should be positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy. Historic England's representations on the Publication Draft Local Plan are made in the context of the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework ("the Framework") in relation to the historic environment as a component of sustainable development.

Matter 14: Biodiversity and the natural environment

Issue: Would the Plan's policy framework in relation to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and the natural environment be effective and justified and would the individual policies be clear, justified and consistent with national policy, and would they be effective?

Policy NE4 Green and blue infrastructure

3. Given the heritage policies in the Plan, would policy NE4 appropriately reference the suite of heritage green infrastructure, in particular scheduled ancient monuments and policy requirements in respect of heritage assets?

We refer to our response at Regulation 19, which acknowledges the scope for modifications to paragraphs 7.32 and 7.34 in the supporting text. The former already refers to historic parks but could usefully also refer to Scheduled Monuments and Registered Battlefields. The latter would be enriched by adding reference to features of heritage significance, for example:

"It should respect and respond to local landscape character, including features of heritage significance, and integrate with sustainable transport and green tourism initiatives, expanding upon existing provision."

Policy NE6 Flooding, flood risk and the water environment

5. Would policy NE6, together with the heritage policies in the Plan provide appropriate protection for heritage assets in relation to flood risk?

We refer to our response at Regulation 19, in which we suggest the Council adds a new paragraph in the text supporting policy NE6 that in high level outlines the relationship between flooding and heritage. This would connect with and help to underpin the second paragraph of the policy content on page 156. It would benefit from cross-referring to the heritage section of the plan.