



Historic England

Greater Cambridge Planning Policy Team
Planning Policy
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Our ref: PL00797634

Your ref:

Telephone



Dear Greater Cambridge Planning Policy Team

Draft Greater Cambridge Health Impact Assessment Supplementary Planning Document 2024

Thank you for providing Historic England with an opportunity to comment on the Draft **Health Impact Assessment** Supplementary Planning Document 2024.

As the Government's adviser on the historic environment Historic England is keen to ensure that the protection of the historic environment is fully taken into account at all stages and levels of the local planning process.

Historic England welcomes the preparation of an SPD on Health Impact Assessments.

There is currently no reference to the role of the historic environment and heritage in improving health and wellbeing.

Our website highlights some of the research and evidence around this topic, and considers the relationship between heritage and [physical health](#), [mental health](#) and [wellbeing](#).

For example, our website highlights that the design and layout of historic towns and cities can support people to keep physically active. Natural England, in their Green Infrastructure framework (2023) emphasise the important role of heritage to high quality green space which should respond to and enhance the character and history of an area to create beautiful, well

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designed and distinctive places. Evidence also demonstrates that heritage contributes to life satisfaction.

Therefore, we recommend that some text is added to the SPD to highlight the potential for positive impacts of heritage in relation to health and wellbeing and to build this into the framework for Health Impact Assessments.

Involvement of Council Conservation and Archaeological Staff

We advise that the conservation and archaeological staff of the Council are involved in the preparation of the SPD and its assessment. They are best placed to advise on local historic environment issues and priorities, as well as identifying opportunities for securing wider benefits for the future conservation and management of heritage assets within the borough.

Finally, we should like to stress that this opinion is based on the information provided by the Council in its consultation. To avoid any doubt, this does not affect our obligation to provide further advice and, potentially, object to specific proposals, which may subsequently arise where we consider that these would have an adverse effect upon the historic environment.

If there any issues you wish to clarify or discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Debbie Mack
Historic Environment Planning Adviser

