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Also submitted via online consultation

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Date: 13th October 2025

Dear Greater Cambridge Planning Policy Team

re: Draft Greater Cambridge Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document

Thank you for providing Historic England with an opportunity to comment on the Draft Planning Obligations 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.

Cambridge is a city with a rich historic environment and yet is experiencing sustained pressure for rapid growth which may threaten the very features that make this city so unique and special. It is important that development appropriately mitigates for any harm to the historic environment and the SPD provides an appropriate vehicle and context for this

Historic England therefore welcomes the preparation of an SPD for Planning Obligations. We have previously commented on the first draft of this document in January 2025 (see letter submitted by e-mail on 23rd January 2025). Please refer to our earlier comments – we will not repeat the advice here but our comments still stand.

We appreciate your recent response to our earlier comments. We do consider this a missed opportunity and would recommend that further consideration is given to how the historic environment may be more appropriately referenced in the final version of the SPD as set out to you in our previous response.

We continue to recommend a more detailed section on the Historic Environment in the SPD. Whilst we appreciate that obligations may vary between sites, that is the case for other topic areas such as the natural environment.

We note a recent example of a draft SPD in London currently out for consultation which sets out a clear strategy S106 in relation to the Historic Environment [Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document](#) which you may find helpful in considering how to reference this in your SPD.

In particular, we recommend that your SPD should include a section of when heritage requirements would be sought.

The SPD should also set out examples of what sort of obligations might be required including:

- **Repairing, restoring or looking after historic buildings and places** – including listed buildings, scheduled monuments, historic parks and gardens, and locally listed buildings.
- **Putting up heritage information panels or boards** to help people understand the history of a place.
- **Opening up historic sites to the public more often**, such as through open days or special events.
- **Improving signs and directions** to help people find and learn about historic places.
- **Creating, updating and implementing Conservation Management Plans** to guide how historic sites are cared for.
- **Sharing information about local history** with the public – for example, with new residents, schools, or community groups.
- **sustainability improvements** for historic buildings
- measures for preservation or investigation, recording and recovery of **archaeological remains** and sites
- display of **archaeological sites**

Furthermore, the SPD should include a section on addressing Heritage at Risk.

In addition, the SPD should state that heritage requirements may be identified either through Heritage Impact Assessments for the Local Plan (in which case the requirements should be include in Plan policy) or through the Planning application process.

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 local authority area.

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

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