



South Cambridgeshire District Council  
Cambourne Business Park  
Cambourne  
Cambridge  
Cambridgeshire  
CB23 6EA

Our ref:

Telephone



29 September 2020

Dear Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Team

### **North East Cambridge Area Action Plan – Reg 18 Draft Consultation 2020**

Thank you for your consultation in respect of the above document. 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.

Our detailed comments are listed in the attached document, Appendix A.

Our two key areas of concern relate to firstly the density and heights of development within the site and the potential impact of that upon the historic environment, and secondly the lack of a policy for the historic environment in the Plan.

#### **a) Building heights, densities and setting in relation to the historic environment**

We welcome the on-going work you are undertaking in relation to building heights, densities and setting in relation to the historic environment. As you know, we are very concerned about the current building heights and densities being proposed within this area as part of the Area Action Plan and the potential impact upon heritage assets and the wider historic setting of the City. We are also concerned that decisions regarding height and density are evidence-based and informed by the evidence, not simply justified by retrospective evidence. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this aspect of the Plan.

#### **b) Lack of policy for the historic environment**

Whilst we appreciate that the historic environment is addressed to some degree in the design and heights policies, it is our view that the Plan would benefit from a specific policy for the historic environment. Fuller discussion of this is provided in Appendix A but in essence, we consider that there is also a case for a specific historic environment policy to address this particular strategic site. The policy should cover nearby heritage assets and the need to conserve and where appropriate enhance these, discuss the wider setting of the historic city and should make clear





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the approach to archaeology within the site (we suggest further discussion with the County Council in this regard).

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 you have any questions with regards to the comments made then please do get back to me. In the meantime we look forward to continuing to work with you and your colleagues.

Debbie Mack  
Historic Environment Planning Adviser



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