



Historic England

Examination of the Ipswich Borough Council Local Plan Review 2018 - 2036

Matter 6: Site Allocations:

Humber Doucy Lane (Policy ISPA4.1)

Question 98

Historic England, Hearing Statement

October 2020

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.

Historic England Hearing Statement

Introduction

- 1.1 This statement addresses the Inspector's questions with regards Matter 6: site allocations.
- 1.2 This hearing statement should be read alongside Historic England's comments submitted at previous consultation stages of the Local Plan, and the SoCG (I30.1) agreed with the Council.

Matter 6: Site Allocations - Humber Doucy Lane (Policy ISPA4.1)

Question 98. Has the impact of the proposed allocation on the setting and significance of surrounding heritage assets been fully considered? Do the proposed modifications to the Site Sheet for ISPA4.1 (Appendix 18 to I12) adequately reflect the findings and recommendations of the Heritage Impact Assessment (IP30.3) for the site. Are any specific mitigation measures required within Policy ISPA4 to ensure it would be consistent with national policy in conserving the historic environment and the statutory duty to preserve the setting of listed buildings?

2.1. Historic England is satisfied that the Local Plan offers adequate protection to the historic environment in and around Humber Doucy Lane and that sufficient evidence is available to allocate ISPA4.1 for development.

2.2. This site includes the Grade II Listed Everton School Westerfield House in the north-western portion of the site, and is adjacent to/within the wider setting of other Grade II Listed buildings, notably Allens House, and Lacey's Farmhouse which lie just outside the allocation boundary to the east. On this basis, and following our Regulation 19 representation, the Council commissioned an independent Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA). This followed Historic England's preferred approach to assessing sites and their impact on heritage assets as set out in Advice Note 3 (<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/historic-environment-and-site-allocations-in-local-plans/heag074-he-and-site-allocation-local-plans/>).

2.3. A sequential process was undertaken in line with best practice which firstly identified all those heritage assets likely to be affected by development and then assessed their significance. It then considered the contribution made by the site in its current form to the significance of the identified assets, which then allowed for an assessment of the impact that allocation might have on significance. Finally the HIA recommended a series of specific measures to avoid and/or mitigate harm to these assets.

2.4. Following completion of the HIA the Council produced a response paper which they shared with us. This summarised the conclusions of the HIA before setting out how the recommendations could be addressed. Through this paper the Council has begun to identify spatially which areas of the site would be most appropriate for development, taking into account the findings and recommendations of the HIA, and these have been incorporated into the Site Sheet for ISPA4.1. These include a reduction in site capacity from 496 to 449 dwellings. This work starts to bridge the gap between the HIA and the masterplanning work which will support a future planning application. Historic England will provide further feedback at the masterplanning and planning application stages of the development process.