



Historic England

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

Matter 7 – IP-One Area Action Plan:

Question 201 and 211

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 7 – IP-One Area Action Plan

Issue: Whether the AAP for the IP-One Area is sound, in terms of whether the policies and proposals are positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy?

Question 201: Has the Council considered the impact of regeneration of the IP-One Area on existing uses, including the Port of Ipswich, as well as the heritage assets in this area? What evidence is there to support this?

2.1. Historic England is satisfied that the Council has considered the impact of regeneration of the IP-One Area on heritage assets and that sufficient evidence has been provided for this stage of the development process.

2.2. The Plan is underpinned by a raft of evidence in relation design and the historic environment. These include the Council's Conservation Area Character Appraisals for all the conservation areas including those within and adjacent to the IP-One Area, the Ipswich Urban Characterisation Study Supplementary Planning Document (which cover parts of the town outside the conservation areas to explore the character and interest of these areas and provide design guidance to support the management of future development), an Urban Archaeological Database and Development and Archaeology Supplementary Planning Document. This has enabled the Council to identify all assets (designated and non-designated) likely to be affected by development within and around the IP-One Area.

2.3. This information has informed the Council's assessment of sites and development opportunities within the IP-One Area. Evidence of this analysis is set out in the IP-One Opportunity Area guidelines in Chapter 6 which identify spatially those areas which would be most appropriate for development, taking into account the relevant opportunities and constraints, including the presence or absence of heritage assets. In addition to these the Site Allocations Development Plan Document, includes site sheets identify where there are historic environment constraints which will need to be taken into consideration in the redevelopment of sites. Historic England has worked collaboratively with the Council to agree a series of proposed modifications to these and other sections of the Plan (see I30.1). These modifications stipulate the approach to be followed with reference to both designated and non-designated heritage assets to ensure their conservation in line with national policy.

Question 211: Has full consideration been given to the impact of the redevelopment of these Opportunity Areas on heritage assets and existing uses? Are the development principles consistent with national policy in this respect?

2.4. While we consider that sufficient evidence has been prepared to justify the inclusion of the opportunity areas in the Plan (see response to question 201), it is clear that further detailed archaeological investigation will be required to enable Opportunity Areas B & C to come forward. In particular, this technical work will be needed to inform the specific development principles (design, layout, construction methods etc.) for these sites.

2.5. To this end, Historic England has worked collaboratively with the Council to agree a series of proposed modifications to the Plan (see I30.1). These modifications stipulate the approach to be followed with reference to both designated and non-designated heritage assets; in particular making explicit where archaeological investigations will be required as part of the supporting evidence at the masterplanning/planning application stage. They also determine that the types and extent of archaeological remains will be a significant factor in informing the design, layout and construction methods of proposals.

2.6. Historic England is satisfied that this additional work required can be undertaken prior to the determination of any planning application for these sites, and will provide further feedback at the masterplanning and planning application stages of the development process.

2.7. Overall the modifications ensure that adequate protection is given to the historic environment in and around the IP-One Area and are consistent with national policy.