

Development and Archaeology Supplementary Planning Document – Call for Ideas

Ipswich Borough Council, in partnership with Suffolk County Council, is preparing a Development and Archaeology Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The SPD will provide additional guidance to policies contained in the Ipswich Local Plan adopted in February 2017. Further information on the Local Plan can be found at www.ipswich.gov.uk/localplan. The SPD will not set new policies, but it will be a material consideration in taking decisions on planning applications. The Council has already adopted a number of SPDs which can be found at www.ipswich.gov.uk/services/supplementary-planning-documents.

Ipswich has a long and rich heritage as a port engaged in international trade, and the Anglo-Saxon archaeology of the town particularly is recognised as being of European significance: Ipswich was one of only a handful of Middle Saxon *wic* or ‘emporium’ sites in England (8th-9th centuries AD). Waterlogged remains along the river front, including wooden structures, contribute to the town’s rich and complex archaeological record which spreads across most of the historic core of the town today. Archaeological remains at several sites in Ipswich are protected through designation as Scheduled Monuments, and, in the context of development, remains on all development sites are managed through the implementation of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Local Plan policies.

Across the Borough, there are different archaeological management considerations for development sites, ranging from those related to large scale development of agricultural land to those relating to regeneration of derelict sites on or near the waterfront, at the heart of the Anglo-Saxon town. Under the NPPF, the developer is responsible for bearing the cost of archaeological work. The scope of the proposed SPD is to provide guidance that will help to promote early consideration of archaeological remains across different sites, facilitate understanding of different risks, encourage dialogue on options and approaches, and promote heritage as part of sustainable development.

At this stage, we are asking for ideas on what the SPD should contain. This consultation is being carried out under Regulation 12 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. Following this initial Call for Ideas consultation, there will be a public consultation on the draft SPD which is anticipated to take place during winter 2017.

We would appreciate any ideas you may have on the content of the SPD – the questions below may act as useful prompts:

- If you are planning development, what guidance would you find it useful to have about how to think about archaeological sites at an early stage in the design process?
- If you are planning development, what guidance would you find it useful to have about the processes for managing archaeological work?
- Are there any particular policies contained in the adopted Local Plan relating to archaeological heritage assets which would benefit from additional guidance?
- Are you aware of good guidance and best practice elsewhere that the SPD could refer to?
- What measures should be taken to promote archaeological heritage through new development?

Please send any comments by **11.45pm on Wednesday 26th July 2017** to the planning policy team via e-mail at planningpolicy@ipswich.gov.uk or by post to Planning Policy, Ipswich Borough Council, Grafton House, 15-17 Russell Road, Ipswich, IP1 2DE. A

comments form is available on our website at www.ipswich.gov.uk/consultations. If you would like further information, please contact Planning Policy on 01473 432019.