

Ipswich Urban Characterisation Study Supplementary Planning Document
South East; North East; Castle Hill, Whitehouse and Whitton
Consultation Statement July 2019

Prepared under regulation 12(a) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning)
(England) Regulations 2012

A 'call for ideas' for the Urban Characterisation Study supplementary planning document was included in the February 2013 Local Plan Newsletter, which is circulated to everyone on the Local Plan mailing list and published on the website. This invited comment on the scope and content of the document prior to preparation commencing. The responses are reproduced in the table below together with the officer's response.

Respondent	Comment	IBC Response
Archaeological Officer, Suffolk County Council	Following February's Ipswich Local Plan Newsletter, I would like to comment that consideration of Ipswich's archaeological remains and the archaeological / historical / topographical evidence for the long development of the town should be within the scope and content of the Ipswich Urban Characterisation Study. The below-ground archaeological remains give a time depth to understanding the development of the town, and many elements of the town and its streets as it is today were shaped from its earliest days (as an internationally significant Middle Saxon trading centre). Identification of sites of particular interest and the nature of deposits across the town would also guide developers and planners as to archaeological concerns.	We have worked with the County's archaeological officer to identify and highlight important archaeological aspects of the Study. The officer has been invited to prepare archaeological summaries corresponding to each of the character areas, which have been prepared in draft form along with maps illustrating the location / extent of finds. These will be incorporated in late drafts of the character area summaries, in the 'history' section
Private Individual 1	In response to your consultation I assume that the following will be part of the special character and distinctiveness of Ipswich: the attractive old town-centre and its human scale the number and beauty of our parks the easy access to outstanding countryside, seaside and estuaries and their flora and fauna the Education Quarter and Waterfront businesses, etc. I think it is important that the town's manufacturing history, especially engineering (part of the family history of so many residents), is also included. It would have been good to feature some outstanding remaining buildings but I do not know of any. The volunteer-run Ipswich Transport and Engineering Museum does a first class job but in a poor location and it is just not good enough that the nearest agricultural models are at Stowmarket. I think the	The nature of the Study has been explained in a direct response to this correspondent. This is that it will not cover areas of the town centre already designated as Conservation Areas (although the complement with these areas is made clear in the Study). It will, however, cover areas of former industry, since these tend to lie in undesignated parts of the town. An example is the 'Valley' section which covers areas of former industry, the docks and the railway, especially in Stoke.

	answer would be to move the Transport and Engineering Museum to a central location where the engineering section could be expanded.	
Private Individual 2	<p>The Portsmouth Urban Characterisation Study March 2011 is suggested as a good example to look at. It sets out objectives of the study as follows (1.7):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify areas of the city that have broadly similar characteristics; • inform the Portsmouth Plan (Core Strategy) and other documents in the Local Development Framework; • identify the key elements that contribute positively and negatively to the overall character of the city; • provide the basis for more detailed character assessments including Supplementary Planning Documents, Area Action Plans and Conservation Area Appraisals, and • provide a benchmark for monitoring the impact of future development. 	<p>The Portsmouth Study was used as a basis for planning the document content, together with similar studies for Brighton and Plymouth. Like these studies, it uses a 'character area' approach based on shared physical characteristics, rather than existing administrative boundaries. Its intention is to provide a baseline for Planning Officers against which to judge the contextual aspects of planning proposals. It will also provide a resource for applicants, to inform design and the content of Design and Access Statements. It complements the existing suite of Conservation Area Appraisal documents, and will provide a point of reference for future planning publications such as Development Briefs.</p>

Following approval of the consultation draft of the North East, South East and Castle Hill, Whitehouse and Whitton Ipswich Urban Character Study supplementary planning documents at Executive on 8th January 2019, a six week consultation exercise was undertaken in accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement March 2018 and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) England Regulations 2012 ('the Regulations').

This was undertaken alongside consultation on the drafts of an additional Supplementary Planning Document and the Ipswich Local Plan (Preferred Options), and details were circulated to everyone on the Local Plan mailing list, published on the Council's web site, emailed to those on the Ipswich Direct email service and publicised through a press release and via social media. The Local Plan mailing list consists of specific and general consultation bodies, and private individuals who have expressed an interest in Local Plan matters.

The consultation ran for six weeks between Wednesday 16th January and Wednesday 27th February 2019. The minimum four week consultation period prescribed by the Regulations was extended to six weeks to match the consultation length of previous consultations on the Ipswich Urban Character Study supplementary planning documents. The responses are reproduced in the table below together with an account of how these have been addressed in finalising the SPD.

Respondent	Comment	IBC Response
Historic England	<p>Paragraph 185 of the National Planning Policy Framework sets out that plans should contain a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment. We therefore welcome the production of these Urban Characterisation Study SPDs to support Ipswich's local plan, and consider that they will form a useful part of the evidence base to support future planning decisions and the development of planning policy. We note that they form the final three of the set of eight SPDs, five of which have already been adopted. We are pleased to see that, although the areas described are not otherwise encompassed by historic environment designations such as conservation areas, the historic environment, including below ground archaeology, is nonetheless included throughout the discussion within the documents, and that key listed buildings are also identified.</p>	<p>General comments welcoming the final three Urban Characterisation Studies. No specific comments provided on the consultation drafts.</p>
Natural England	<p>Standing advice response requesting inclusion of additional biodiversity enhancements, provision of green infrastructure, landscape and habitat enhancement.</p>	<p>Comments noted and biodiversity section enhanced. However the Urban Characterisation Studies are not the appropriate documents to include all of Natural England's recommendations.</p>