

South Derbyshire Council
Civic Offices
Civic Way
Swadlincote
Derbyshire
DE11 1ZY

[REDACTED]
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Date: 30 January 2026

Dear Sir, Madam,

Re: South Derbyshire Local Plan Review consultation, January 2026

Thank you for consulting Historic England in relation to the proposed review of the South Derbyshire Local Plan under the new plan-making system. As the Government's adviser for the historic environment, we are keen to ensure that conservation and enhancement of heritage assets are taken into account at all stages and levels of the planning process.

Please note that as the new Local Planning Regulations are not yet published, and the NPPF is also currently under review, this response represents an interim position. We reserve the right to suggest adjusted or alternative policies and evidence as approaches to planning reform are confirmed and/or if new issues emerge.

How we wish to engage

Our first point of contact for the South Derbyshire Local Plan Review is our regional Historic Environment Planning Adviser: Kezia Taylerson Historic Environment Planning Adviser kezia.taylerson@historicengland.org.uk

We would be grateful if you could also add our general casework email address to the consultation database. This should be used for consultations and to get hold of us when our Planning Adviser is unavailable: Midlands Casework e-midlands@HistoricEngland.org.uk.

All consultations should be directed to our regional email address in the first instance.

Strategic issues, strategies, evidence and ongoing work

We suggest that careful consideration is given to preparing evidence-based planning policies in relation to the key themes outlined in the table below.

There may be opportunities for Historic England to work in partnership with you or to advise on your evidence base and we would welcome further conversations.

Suggested policy theme for consideration	Potential supporting evidence	Helpful guidance
Historic environment, views and setting		
Heritage assets to be conserved and enhanced by the plan, and included on the policies map	<p>Up-to-date Historic Environment Record</p> <p>Up-to-date Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan</p> <p>Local List of non-designated assets</p>	<p>Good Practice Advice Note on the Historic Environment in Local Plans</p> <p>Historic England's guidance on Local Lists including the revised version when finalised</p>
Policy approaches to specific types of local heritage	As above, plus we have other more detailed guidance depending on specific heritage issues such as historic farmsteads	
Policy approaches to re-use and retrofit of historic buildings		Historic England Advice Note on Adapting Historic Buildings for Energy and Carbon Efficiency
<p>Policy approaches to important views that need to be protected</p> <p>Policy approaches to conserving and enhancing the settings of any heritage assets of particular prominence, significance and sensitivity</p>	<p>Conservation Area Management Appraisals and Management Plans</p> <p>Any locally relevant views and settings assessments.</p>	Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 3 The Setting of Heritage Assets
Site allocation policies that account for the need to conserve and enhance heritage assets	Proportionate heritage impact assessment of site allocations in situations where they may impact the historic environment.	Historic England's Advice Note on: The Historic Environment and Site Allocations in Local Plans, which provides a 5-step methodology that can be useful in providing evidence for site allocations

Character of key settlements and areas		
Design policies, guides and codes that provide clarity on how development should respond to local character	Conservation Area Character Appraisal/ Management Plans Landscape and Townscape strategies Local Design Code	National Model Design Guide and Code, or any subsequent published version
Approaches to heritage in areas at risk of flooding		
Policy approaches to flood risk management	Local flood risk management strategies/ water management plans	

Specific comments on the detail of the questions posed to Historic England at this time.

Question 4 we consider that the Historic Environment should be fully embedded within any strategies around where new housing or other development is located, to ensure that the appropriate locations are chosen and the historic environment is protected and where possible enhancements are sought.

Question 6/7 we consider that any site allocations proposed will need to be accompanied by proportionate historic environment assessment to ensure that the sites are fully justified and deliverable. Historic England is available to offer advice on heritage assessment methodology and will require sight of this information, in order to make judgements about site suitability from a heritage perspective.

Question 14, the Historic Environment should be fully embedded in any strategies for town centre development and improvements. The development of a Design Code would be beneficial, and Historic England would be available to offer comments on any future consultations. Townscape strategies should be utilised as well as Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans, where appropriate.

Question 21/22 appropriate policies to protect and enhance the historic environment should be included within any forthcoming Local Plan Review and these should be nationally relevant and locally specific ensuring they are compliant with national policy and also are suitable to local issues of distinctiveness and character, as well as any local heritage issues.

Question 25 Historic England are available to discuss the preparation of your Local Plan and set out areas that we can engage constructively in the process.

Thank you again for consulting Historic England on the review of your Local Plan. If you have any questions or would like to discuss anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

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Historic Environment Planning Adviser

Midlands