



Historic England

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## Stroud District Local Plan Review Draft Plan - Additional Housing Options Consultation December 2020

Dear Sirs

Thank you for consulting Historic England on the spatial options and potential additional housing allocations to accommodate further growth. Please note that the following comments are further to those we have previously made and continue to be of relevance.

In relation to the historic environment, it appears the Sustainability Appraisal and recommendations in respect of this consultation are informed by a Strategic Assessment of Land Availability 2020 (SALA).

In our previous correspondence we highlighted the importance of ensuring that you considered, through evidence, the means to enhance the significance of any affected heritage asset and or to avoid harm that would in turn inform a proposed site's suitability. This would then inform any required design principle(s) or condition to be included in the relevant policy including potential below ground archaeology. The same requirement applies in relation to this consultation.

Historic England welcomes your evident consideration of the potential implications of your options and allocations for the historic environment, and that you appear to be seeking to positively respond. Consequently we have no reason, at this stage, to challenge the soundness of the emerging Plan and look forward to further positive dialogue as the plan evolves; do keep in touch.

I do however have to end on a sour note regarding your disappointing reference to the historic environment or heritage asset as being seen as a "constraint"; a dated concept contrary to the positive emphasis in national policy. The historic environment/ heritage assets should be seen as a helpful place shaping matter, an attribute that defines local identity.

My sincere regards and festive best wishes

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