



Historic England

Planning Policy
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Date 26 February 2024

Dear Sir or Madam

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's Response to the Inspector's Initial Findings Letter Consultation

Thank you for your email of 15 January 2024 inviting comments on the above consultation document.

As the Government's adviser on the historic environment Historic England is keen to ensure that the protection of the historic environment is fully taken into account at all stages of the planning process. This includes formulation of local development policy and plans, supplementary planning documents, area and site proposals, and the on-going review of policies and plans.

Our comments on the Regulation 18 stage draft Local Plan indicated that we were concerned about a number of potential impacts on the historic environment of the proposed allocation of strategic sites at Tudeley Village and Paddock Wood. We think that the proposed amendments by the removal of the strategic policy STR/SS 3: The Strategy for Tudeley Village from the Local Plan, and the revision of the strategic policy STR/SS 1: The Strategy for Paddock Wood and land at east Capel, are likely to be beneficial in historic environment terms. We have no comments on the other proposed changes to the draft Local Plan.

We should like to stress that this opinion is based on the information provided by the Council in its consultation. To avoid any doubt, this does not affect our obligation to provide further advice and, potentially, object to specific proposals which may subsequently arise where we consider that these would have an adverse effect upon the historic environment. We hope that these comments are useful.

Yours sincerely

Alan Byrne

Historic Environment Planning Adviser



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