



ENGLISH HERITAGE

WEST MIDLANDS REGION

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Dear Ms Lowe

WELFORD-ON-AVON DRAFT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN CONSULTATION

Thank you for your consultation and English Heritage has the following comments to make upon the draft plan.

Having looked carefully at the plan we note and commend the inclusion of several positive policy areas designed to recognize and conserve important aspects of the historic environment. However, we are of the opinion that overall the historic environment is currently considerably under-represented in the content of the plan and believe that this imbalance should be addressed.

In our view the heritage assets (both designated and undesignated) of the whole parish and not just the designated conservation area are worthy of recognition and deserve appropriate and proportionate consideration. This is also a core planning principle of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as the government's view is that all heritage assets should be conserved "*in a manner appropriate to their significance so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations*". Importantly, having a more rounded evidence base clearly referenced in the Plan will provide a more meaningful and supportive context for associated policies in the Plan. A very good example of a Plan with comprehensive historic environment policies is Chaddesley Corbett, which was

recently "made" by Wyre Forest District Council. I set out a link below for your information:

<http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning/chaddesley-corbett-neighbourhood-plan.aspx>

The whole range of heritage assets in the Parish will be recorded in the Warwickshire County Council Historic Environment Record (HER) and it is not clear that this source has actually been consulted. There is also no reference to the Warwickshire County Council Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) or more detailed Historic Environment Character Assessments that may have been carried out for Welford-on-Avon in order to identify potentially sensitive areas of historic landscape significance. Ben Wallace the County HER Manager is the relevant Officer in relation to all this and I have copied him into the e-mail that accompanies this letter. We strongly urge you to speak to him about your Draft Plan before proceeding further.

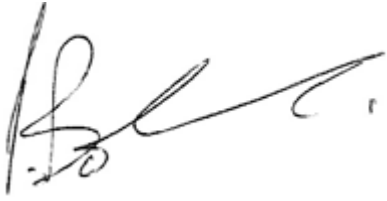
In relation to the wider historic environment historic maps make it clear that a number of historic farmsteads exist in the rural area of the Parish and they are doubtless associated with historic field systems, hedgerows, route ways and other man-made features such as woodlands and ponds. All of these features can be classed as "undesigned heritage assets" (other than those that might actually be statutorily listed) and this should be acknowledged.

Since historic farmsteads appear to be a feature of the Neighbourhood Plan area the Plan might usefully include a policy requirement for applicants for planning permission affecting historic farmsteads to demonstrate that they have made positive use of the information below (The County Council HER Manager can advise further on this). This would assist in ensuring sensitive proposals are put forward that are capable of conserving the buildings historic significance whilst at the same time maintaining farmstead character and thus local distinctiveness.

<http://heritage.warwickshire.gov.uk/archaeology/historic-environment-record/historic-environment-record-projects/historic-environment-record-historic-farmstead-characterisation-project/>

I hope you find this advice helpful. If you have any queries about this matter or would like to discuss anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pete Boland', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Pete Boland

Historic Places Adviser

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