



Historic England

Mr David Clarke
Malvern Hills District Council
Planning Policy, Planning Services
The Council House, Avenue Road
Malvern
Worcestershire
WR14 3AF

Direct Dial: [REDACTED]

Our ref: PL00755343

5 May 2022

Dear Mr Clarke

LEIGH AND BRANSFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN- REGULATION 16 CONSULTATION.

Thank you for the invitation to comment on the Leigh and Bransford Submission Neighbourhood Plan.

Our previous comments on the Regulation 14 Plan remain entirely relevant that is:

“Historic England is extremely supportive of both the content of the document and the vision and objectives set out in it. Full and effective use has been made of the professional advice available through the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) and the Plan demonstrates a good understanding of the historic environment and provides a sound evidence base and good context for well thought out Plan policies. In this and most other respects Historic England considers that the Plan takes an exemplary approach to the historic environment.

The recognition in the Plan of the importance of the local historic environment is highly commendable and Historic England strongly support that view. The emphasis on the conservation of local distinctiveness through good design and the protection of locally significant buildings and landscape character including archaeological remains, farm buildings, green spaces, biodiversity, strategic gaps between settlements and important views is to be applauded”.

We are, however, still concerned to note that in relation to the site allocation proposed in the Plan the SHELAA Assessment reproduced at Appendix J states that there would be a detrimental impact on four grade II listed buildings opposite the site. We note that Malvern Hills District Council Conservation and Archaeology Officers are of the opinion that harm would be caused to the four listed buildings but that it would be “less than substantial harm”.



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Nevertheless, this would still constitute harm that should wherever possible be avoided. The submission neighbourhood plan has not addressed precisely what adverse impacts are anticipated nor how any adverse effects on these designated heritage assets and their settings might be mitigated. We strongly suggest that this is explicitly addressed with a view to ensuring that any proposed development is as far as possible designed to avoid adverse effects on heritage assets or their settings.

It may be, for instance, that the “landscape buffer” shown on the indicative layout on Map 4a is intended as mitigation? If so, details of the proposed planting scheme should be provided, and provision made for the scheme to be maintained for the lifetime of the development. Any other possible mitigation should also be considered including whether to add a reference to the need to avoid adverse impacts on heritage assets into Policy LB/H/6.

I hope you find this advice helpful.

Yours sincerely,

P. Boland.

Peter Boland
Historic Places Advisor



cc:

