

## **MATTER 10 - HERITAGE**

### **Issue 10: Has the Plan been positively prepared and is it justified, effective and consistent with national policy in respect of its policies and proposals for heritage in Leicester?**

#### **386. Should Policies HE01 and HE02 be combined into a single policy as they both relate to the Historic Environment?**

The Council have proposed a Main Modification to policy HE01 as per MM19 which combines the two policies together.

#### **387. Should Policies HE01 and HE02 address the consideration of harm in respect of public benefit in order to be consistent with national policy?**

The wording in the two policies is in line with the para. 190 of the NPPF (September 2023) that details: "Plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment...". The heritage policy details that the Council will support works that enhance the significance of heritage assets. This 'support' is part of the positive strategy for the historic environment. The support is of course to be balanced against the other needs for development, such as provision of new housing and other socially beneficial facilities (e.g. healthcare facilities) with development management balancing any assessment in terms of the NPPF policy.

#### **388. Should the supporting text to Policy HE02 refer to the need for Scheduled Monument Consent for the avoidance of doubt and outline that in some cases substantive investigations may be required ahead of submitting an application?**

Yes. The Council would be happy to propose this as supporting text and suggests this as a Main Modification. This will include an amendment to MM19 and include a new paragraph, this should be para 10.11 based on the current sequencing in the Plan. The following wording is proposed to be added to the supporting text (See MM19):

*Leicester's Archaeology*

*10.8 Leicester has a substantial number of significant archaeological remains, including several scheduled monuments*

*reflecting its 2000 years of continuous occupation.*

*10.9 The council has a duty to pay special regard to the preservation of these sites. The city's Historic Environment Record (HER) indicates that many remains lie beyond the city's historic core, however not all archaeological remains lie below the ground.*

*10.10 Leicester has a wealth of archaeological evidence of its history. The city is fortunate that a significant proportion of its archaeological alert area has been investigated through excavation and the findings in each case, thoroughly and professionally recorded over time. This has given the city a comprehensive picture of the city's development over time.*

**10.11. Proposals and development affecting a scheduled monument will require advice from Historic England and where necessary, Scheduled Monument Consent prior to commencement of any works.**

**389. Diagram 9 indicates the location of the City's heritage assets. Should these be shown on the Policies Map for clarity?**

The Council have a separate map for heritage related constraints on the online mapping system, which can be viewed through the conservation webpage: [Heritage conservation \(leicester.gov.uk\)](https://www.leicester.gov.uk/heritage-conservation/). Due to the changing nature of heritage assets and the number of these, the Council did not include heritage assets or archaeological alert areas on the policies map. However, the Council would be happy to include this link within the Plan as a minor modification to para 10.4 of the Plan. The Council proposes for this to read as follows:

*10.4 Leicester currently has 11 Scheduled Monuments, protecting 'nationally important' archaeological remains. In addition to this, there are currently 397 listed buildings within the city, reflecting their national importance as buildings of special architectural or historic interest. There are also 25 conservation areas currently and over 430 buildings and sites of local interest, as well as 6 nationally listed Historic Parks and Gardens. All forms of heritage assets will be regularly reviewed and may be subject to changes. The many trees within conversation areas also make a positive contribution to their character and appearance. **All heritage assets are updated***

***as necessary and further detail can be found on the Council's website: <https://www.leicester.gov.uk/planning-and-building/conservation/heritage-conservation/>.***

390. **Policy HE02 refers to the 'Archaeological Alert Area' - although this is shown on Diagram 9, should the geographical extent of this area be included on the Policies Map?**

Please see answer to question 389.