**ADDERLY, MORTON SAY AND NORTON IN HALES NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AREA DESIGNATION CONSULTATION**

Thank you for giving notice that the above Parishes have applied for designation as a Neighbourhood Area under Part 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

Historic England has no objection to this proposal.

**The proposed neighbourhood plan area contains a varied range of designated and undesignated heritage assets including several grade II\* buildings and the Norton in Hales designated conservation area. Due account should be taken of the conservation of all of these assets and their settings in formulating the neighbourhood plan proposals. Consideration should also be given to the protection of undesignated heritage assets including farmsteads and archaeological remains (both known and potential) within the Parish. Many of these will be recorded in the Shropshire** **Council Historic Environment Record (HER) which should be consulted.**

Having a sound evidence base for the Plan is important so as to form a properly supportive context for plan policies. The National Planning Policy Framework (paragraph 125) requires design policies to be developed with local communities so they reflect local aspirations, and are grounded in an understanding and evaluation of each areas defining characteristics. Neighbourhood plans can play an important role in identifying the special qualities of each area and explaining how this should be reflected in development.

Government neighbourhood planning guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2>

advises that a “*policy in a neighbourhood plan should be clear and unambiguous. It should be drafted with sufficient clarity that a decision maker can apply it consistently and with confidence when determining planning applications.* *It should be concise, precise and supported by appropriate evidence. It should be distinct to reflect and respond to the unique characteristics and planning context of the specific neighbourhood area for which it has been prepared”.*

Neighbourhood Plans are a positive way to help communities care for and enjoy the historic environment. Historic England is expecting that as Parish and Town Council’s come to you (and perhaps particularly to your specialist conservation staff) to seek advice on preparing Neighbourhood Plans they will value guidance on how best to understand what heritage they have, as well as assistance on preparing appropriate policies to secure the conservation and enhancement of this local heritage resource.

Information held by the Council and used in the preparation of your Core Strategy/Local Plan is often the starting point for Neighbourhood Plans as for example the Historic Landscape Characterisation Surveys completed by Shropshire Council. Comprehensive data on Heritage Assets including archaeological remains in your area will be available from the Shropshire Historic Environment Record held by the Council and local environmental and amenity groups often also hold useful information.

Plan preparation also offers the opportunity to harness a community’s interest in the historic environment by getting them to help add to the evidence base, perhaps by creating and or reviewing a local heritage list, inputting to the preparation of conservation area appraisals and undertaking or further deepening historic characterisation studies.

Historic England has a statutory role in the development plan process and there is a duty on either you as the Local Planning Authority or the Parish Council to consult Historic England on any Neighbourhood Plan where our interests are considered to be affected as well as a duty to consult us on all Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders.

Historic England will target its limited resources efficiently. We will directly advise on proposals with the potential for major change to significant, nationally important heritage assets and their settings. Our local offices may also advise communities where they wish to engage directly with us, subject to local priorities and capacity.

Historic England fully recognises that the neighbourhood planning process is a locally-led initiative and communities will shape their own neighbourhood plan as informed by the issues and opportunities they are most concerned about and relevant to the local area. As a national organisation we are able to draw upon our experiences of neighbourhood planning across the country and the Historic England Advice Note (HEAN 11) on our website, which references a wide range of relevant guidance, will be of assistance:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/neighbourhood-planning-and-the-historic-environment/neighbourhood-planning-and-the-historic-environment-historic-england-advice-note-11/>

It is envisaged that the website will be progressively updated to share good practice in the management of the historic environment through neighbourhood planning.

Appendix I contains links to a number of Neighbourhood Plans that Historic England considers are exemplary in their treatment of the historic environment.

Should you wish to discuss any points within this letter, or if there are issues about this Neighbourhood Plan Area where the historic environment is likely to be of particular interest, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**It would be appreciated if this letter could please also be forwarded to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.**

**Appendix I (Revised June 2018)**

NP’s & THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT– GOOD EXAMPLES

Wellington- Herefordshire- “made” 2016.

<https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/wellington>

Tettenhall- Wolverhampton MBC- “made” September 2014.

<http://www.ourplaceourplan.org.uk/>

Brimfield & Little Hereford- Herefordshire- “made” 2016.

<https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/brimfield-and-little-hereford-group>

Colwich- Stafford Borough- “made” 2016.

<http://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/Colwich-Neighbourhood-Plan>

Marchington- East Staffordshire- “made” 2016.

<http://www.eaststaffsbc.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/neighbourhood-plans/marchington>

Denstone East Staffordshire- “made” 2017.

<http://www.eaststaffsbc.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/neighbourhood-plans/denstone>

Clifton upon Teme- Malvern Hills Council- “made” 2017.

<http://www.temetriangle.net/neighbourhoodplan/>

Martley- Malvern Hills Council- Regulation 16 Draft 2017.

<https://www.malvernhills.gov.uk/documents/283188/8607639/MartleyKnightwickDoddenhamDraftNDP_020517.pdf/779e69ea-218b-d4aa-3933-304e0883472f>

Middleton on the Hill and Leysters- Herefordshire Council- Regulation 16 Draft 2017

<https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/media/1977981/middleton_leysters_ndp.pdf>

Bredon- Wychavon Council- “made” 2017.

<https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/bredon-bredons-norton-and-westmancote-neighbourhood-plan>

Hednesford- Cannock Chase District Council- Examination Version

<https://www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/residents/planning/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning>