

Email response from David Stuart, Historic England to Jo Witherden, Dorset Planning on 20 April 2017.

Hi Jo

I have now gone through your further amendments and can confirm that we are happy that there is now sufficient qualification to avoid reference to possible development sites or areas being interpreted as de facto site allocations. The need for further investigation to confirm suitability in principle and specific uses and quanta of development is made explicit and such exercises will consider more comprehensively the settings of relevant designated heritage assets and how their significance should inform eventual outcomes.

We are also happy that this level of provision within the Plan is consistent with the available evidence base.

On the basis of the information provided I can confirm that we have no objection to any conclusion that an SEA is not required for the Plan and that there are no outstanding issues for us concerning its conformity with national and local planning policy.

I know this has been a rather drawn out somewhat teeth pulling process focussing on what might seem to be just semantics but we know that it is on such matters that future development is often determined. It is therefore important to avoid potential hostage to fortune scenarios.

Obviously this advice is not binding upon South Somerset as the local planning authority and they may have their own views on the issues we have addressed.

Should there be further changes to the Plan, especially relating to possible development areas or sites, please do not hesitate to consult with us again.

Kind regards

David

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