

Astwood and Hardmead Neighbourhood Plan, Reg 16 consultation responses

Historic England

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Historic Places Adviser**

Thank you for consulting Historic England on the submission version of the Astwood and Hardmead Neighbourhood Plan. Historic England is the government's advisor on planning for the historic environment including supporting the conservation and enjoyment of heritage assets and champions good design in historic places. As such our comments are limited to those areas that fall within our remit. Silence on other areas should not be treated as agreement or consent.

Policy H2. We support the requirements to protect the setting of the Grade II* listed building of St Peter's Church and the sensible design parameters set out in the policy to guide proposals to deliver a development with a design that enables views of the church to be enjoyed and of materials that will complement the character of the village and create an attractive entrance to it. We do ask the examiner to consider whether the mitigation for potential harm is sufficient and whether the need to avoid or minimise harm to the significance of this Grade II* heritage asset has been given sufficient weight in considering its suitability in comparison to sites with less potential for harm to heritage assets. If it is not clear that the site has advantages over others such as (for example) Site AH6 Land to the West of Elm Hall Farm, can it truly be said to promote sustainable development? Given the identified potential for harm to the designated heritage asset and the potential to place this development elsewhere to avoid that harm we feel that this allocation is insufficiently well justified at present or that the alternatives have been not been fully explored.