

Dear Sir/Madam,

Heritage Comments: Pre Submission Draft Melton Local Plan

Chapter 3: Vision and Strategic Priorities

3.1 Vision for Melton Borough - The recognition of the strong historic and landscape character of the Borough is welcomed, as is the aspiration for development to reflect the particularities of place and setting.

Delivering the Vision - Again welcome recognition of the significance of heritage, character and tranquillity of the environment, all of which contribute to sustainable development, whilst addressing the distinctiveness of the Borough, the historic market town and villages.

3.3 Strategic Objectives

- 17. Conserve the historic environment and Melton Borough's heritage assets
- 18. Protect the rural character of the Borough

Melton possesses a rich and diverse cultural heritage, reflecting settlement and utilisation of the present and former landscapes from the distant prehistoric (Lower Palaeolithic: 500,000-700,000 years ago) to the recent past (Cold War missiles based at Melton Airfield). This diversity encompasses heritages asset of local, regional, national and even international significance. On that basis we support clear recognition of the importance of the historic environment at a strategic level.

Chapter 4: Growing Melton Borough – The Spatial Strategy

4.1 Sustainable Development

Policy SS1 - Presumption in favour of Sustainable Development

We support the recognised need to improve environmental conditions including factors affecting the historic environment. We also affirm the need to take account of material considerations when determining applications.

Policy SS2 – Development Strategy

Broadly support the balance of development envisaged in the policy, with the majority located around the main urban area, due to the capacity to accommodate the level of expansion required, and a greater opportunity to accommodate and integrate components/elements of the historic environment, e.g. landscape features within green infrastructure, the existing built environment, etc.. Notable in this respect are the two northern and southern sustainable neighbourhoods, and the tiered development options outlined in SS2.

Policy SS3 – Sustainable Communities

- 2. The development respects the Borough's landscape and settlement character such that it conforms with policies EN1, EN4 & EN6; and that (where *relevant*), the

- design conforms with Policy D1;
- 4. The development respects ecological, heritage and biodiversity features and provides mitigation to prevent any potential harm;

We welcome reference to the importance of retaining and building upon landscape and settlement character (EN6), and the need for development to respect heritage features, avoiding harm where possible and delivering effective mitigation where required in accordance with the NPPF.

4.3 Growing Melton Mowbray through Large Scale Development Sites

We support the principle of the two new large scale ‘sustainable neighbourhoods’. In addition to their intrinsic capacity to support the growth of economically and socially sustainable communities. They offer the opportunity to integrate development into the landscape and, through recognition of and engagement with the historic environment, achieve sustainable and durable communities with a sense of place.

4.4.3 Welcome confirmation that the SSN will respect the town’s heritage and that of the surrounding hinterland as well as giving critical consideration to the separation of Burton Lazars and its nationally important scheduled monument (SM should be marked on Figure 7). The latter occupies a key and visibly prominent location at the south-east end of the SSN. Design and form of the development at this key pinch point will be critical to achieving a sustainable and successful development.

Policy SS4 – South Melton Mowbray Sustainable Neighbourhood (Strategic Development Location): Environment en1 & en3; Master planning and delivery m2

4.5 Melton Mowbray North Sustainable Neighbourhood

Welcome reference to the setting of the town and respect for heritage (4.5.6-7), in Policy SS5 – en2 and m3

Chapter 5: Melton’s Communities – Strong, Healthy and Vibrant

Policy C1 (A)

In the majority of cases the sites identified have no specific heritage concern, although several are not without known heritage implications. In the latter context are BOT1, BOT4, CROX1, HAR1, HOS2 and 3, WAL1 and 2, WYM2, EAS1 and FRIS2. Development management decisions should give careful consideration to the heritage implications as required by national and local planning policy and informed by relevant guidance. A number of sites poses greater concern including LONG2, SOM2, EAST1, GADD2 and THOR1, these latter sites have significant and outstanding heritage implications potentially warranting objection in principle to their development.

Policy C1(B)

As above the in the majority of cases the sites identified have no specific heritage concern, however WAL3 is likely to pose significant heritage concerns due to its known proximity to

recorded heritage assets.

Policy C9 Heathy Communities

Should make reference to the contribution that can be made by the historic environment in promoting and sustaining healthy, vital and engaged communities, offering a sense of place, well-being and continuity.

Chapter 7: Melton Borough's Environment – Protected and Enhanced

We welcome the reference to historic features such as ridge and furrow.

Policies EN1 Landscape, EN 3 Green Infrastructure, EN6 Settlement Character and EN13 Heritage Assets are all mutually supportive. It is important to recognise the inter-relatedness of the environment, and similarly the multiple opportunities and shared beneficial outcomes presented by working across the various environmental areas.

Regards,

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