



ENGLISH HERITAGE

FENLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL PLAN CORE STRATEGY

EXAMINATION IN PUBLIC

FURTHER WRITTEN STATEMENT BY ENGLISH HERITAGE

Matter 12: Rural Areas

Q1. Should Policy CS12 refer to the need to consider the impact of development on the significance of heritage assets in rural areas?

**Q3: Is Policy CS12 and the supporting text, consistent with the NPPF in terms of:
(b) Part A (g)? The NPPF refers to heritage assets (as does Policy CS6)**

1. English Heritage's responsibilities, as the Government's adviser on the historic environment, include the protection and management of England's heritage assets. In planning terms, this role includes providing advice to ensure that statute and national policy, particularly in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), are reflected in local planning policy and practice. English Heritage is consulted on Local Plans under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. This statement covers relevant questions relating to Matter 12.
2. Our original representation regarding Policy CS12 was broadly supportive of the policy wording and we considered there were sufficient caveats regarding the historic environment. Criteria (c) and (d) in Part A seek to ensure that proposals are in keeping with the character and appearance of the settlement and surrounding area, which would include heritage assets such as conservation areas and listed buildings. Criterion (g) also refers to the need to respect archaeological assets within the site. Parts B and C of the policy also contain helpful references to the historic environment with regards to the re-use, conversion and/or replacement of rural buildings. It should also be noted that Part A requires development in villages to satisfy the applicable policies elsewhere in the Core Strategy, which could include Policy CS18 on the historic environment.

3. It may be beneficial for Policy CS12 to be more explicit with regards to the historic environment and the NPPF, bearing in mind the wording used in other policies such as CS6 and CS18. However, we do not consider it to be a soundness issue. For greater clarity, a minor modification could be made to Policy CS12 stating that the significance of heritage assets in rural areas should be protected. We would be happy to comment on any draft wording.

Tom Gilbert-Wooldridge MRTPI
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