



## STEVENAGE LOCAL PLAN EXAMINATION

### STATEMENT BY HISTORIC ENGLAND

Matter 4: General Matters

Hearing Session on Tuesday 21 February 2017

References:

Publication draft – January 2016, policy HO3: North of Stevenage

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#### Introduction

1. In carrying out its role in protecting and managing the historic environment Historic England gives advice to local planning authorities on certain categories of applications affecting the historic environment. Historic England is the principal Government adviser on the historic environment, advising it on planning and listed building consent applications, appeals and other matters generally affecting the historic environment.
2. Historic England is consulted on Local Development Plans under the provisions of the duty to co-operate and provides advice to ensure that legislation and national policy in the National Planning Policy Framework are thereby reflected in local planning policy and practice.
3. The tests of soundness require that Local Development Plans should be positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy. Historic England's representations in relation to the Publication Draft Local Plan are made in the context of the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework ("the Framework") in relation to the historic environment as a component of sustainable development.
4. This statement addresses the Inspector's questions with regards to Matter 4 and site allocation to the North of Stevenage. In line with the requirements of the Framework, we challenge the soundness of policy HO3.

#### Inspector's Questions

5. We set out below our responses to the Inspector's questions in light of our historic environment role.

**Inspector's Question 3. Are there any policies in the Plan that do not accord with the National Planning Policy Framework (the Framework) or advice in Planning Practice Guidance?**

- 5.1 Policy HO3 does not accord with the National Planning Policy Framework. Our reasons are set out in our previous submissions (dated 17 February 2016, 23 July 2015, and 18 July 2013) and will be set out in our Hearing Statement for Matter 12 questions one, two and four.

Please see also our Matter 12 Hearing Statement.

Dr Natalie Gates  
Principal, Historic Places Team  
Historic England