30 March 2017

Dear Ms. Daft

Request for screening for SEA - Irchester Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you for consulting Historic England on the above 07 March 2017.

For the purposes of this consultation, Historic England will confine its advice to the question ‘Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?’ in respect of our area of concern, cultural heritage. We note the SEA screening statement considers that an SEA is not required.

We observe that the Plan proposes site allocations. Specifically, the current draft plan includes one housing allocation to the south of James Street which may impact upon the setting of heritage assets, including the Grade I Listed Church of St Katharine. This has not been subject to SA/SEA as part of the Local Plan process. As such there may be significant environmental effects upon the historic environment.

Therefore, we are of the view, at this time, that there may well be significant impacts on the historic environment and it is our view that a SEA is likely to be required. We understand that our views, together with the views of other statutory consultation bodies should be taken into account before the overall decision on the need for SEA is made. I should be pleased if you could send a copy of the determination when this is issued.

We would like to stress that this is based on the current information provided in the screening request and the current draft Neighbourhood Plan. To avoid any doubt, this does not reflect our obligation to provide further advice on the SEA process, and subsequent draft Plan’s.
Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss any of these comments.

Yours sincerely

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