

Appendix 1 – Historic Environment Policies:

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South Worcestershire Development Plan Review – Regulation 19 Publication Consultation (November 2022)

SWDPR 8: Historic Environment

- A. Development proposals should conserve and enhance heritage assets, including assets of potential archaeological interest, subject to the provisions of SWDP 29. Their contribution to the setting and character of the landscape or townscape should be protected in order to sustain the historic quality, sense of place, environmental quality and economic vibrancy of south Worcestershire.**
- B. Development proposals will be supported where they conserve and enhance the significance of heritage assets, including their setting. In particular this applies to:**
 - i. Designated heritage assets; i.e. listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens and registered battlefields, as well as non-designated heritage assets¹.**
 - ii. The historic landscape, including locally distinctive settlement patterns, field systems, woodlands, ancient and veteran trees and commons and historic farmsteads and smallholdings.**
 - iii. Designed landscapes, including parkland, gardens, cemeteries, churchyards, public parks, urban open spaces and industrial, military or institutional landscapes.**
 - iv. Archaeological remains of all periods.**

¹ As identified in extant local lists and heritage assets recorded in Historic Environment Records.

- v. **Historic transportation networks and infrastructure including roads and trackways, canals, river navigations, railways and their associated industries.**
 - vi. **The historic core of the cathedral city of Worcester, with its complex heritage of street and plot patterns, buildings, open spaces and archaeological remains, along with their settings and views in and out of the city.**
 - vii. **The civic, religious and market cores of south Worcestershire's city, town and village fabric with their wide variety of building styles, materials and street and plot patterns.**
- C. Development proposals will be supported where they conserve and enhance the historic environment in order to encourage tourism, inward investment and increase the vitality and attractiveness of their location. In particular the adaptive reuse of historic assets will be supported to achieve these objectives.**

Reasoned Justification

1. When considering development proposals Policy SWDP 8 should be read in conjunction with Policy SWDP 29 and any relevant neighbourhood plan.
2. South Worcestershire's historic environment is a valuable, finite and irreplaceable resource, which is central to the character and identity of the area. It has a crucial role in supporting sustainable development through enhancing the quality of life of those currently living in and visiting the area and for generations to come, as well as delivering wider economic benefits through tourism and uplift in wider regeneration benefits. In addition to designated assets, south Worcestershire possesses a wealth of non-designated heritage assets from various periods that are significant for their historic, archaeological, architectural, or artistic interest and a variety of building styles and materials. The informed management of this resource, based on up-to-date evidence, will benefit current and future generations, with its importance being recognised in legislation and policy.
3. The Policies Map specifically identifies conservation areas, registered parks and gardens and battlefield sites, and Scheduled Monuments. Others, e.g., listed buildings are identified in local lists (where they are in use) and Historic Environment Records.
4. Prehistoric and Romano-British settlement and ceremonial remains are widely distributed and often extensive in the Severn, Avon and Teme valleys, which also contain important *palaeoenvironmental* deposits. These are juxtaposed with prehistoric hill forts on the higher ground of the Malvern Hills and Bredon Hill. Some earlier settlements, including the major urban centre of Worcester, continued to develop through the medieval and post-medieval periods. The medieval period saw the development of the main market towns, followed by Malvern during the 19th century. Varying influences and uses include market functions, monastic and church ownership and the later development of spas.

5. The villages and hamlets are mostly of medieval or earlier origin. Many of them have surviving medieval assets, such as the parish church, moats, ponds and extensive earthworks. All are set within a landscape that is characterised by diverse and important historic field systems, punctuated by ancient and semi-natural woodlands, veteran trees, commons and historic parklands. Dispersed settlements and farmsteads dominate the west of the area, with nucleated villages and clustered farmsteads characteristic of the south-east. The rivers formed important transportation networks, linking with roads and tracks, 18th and 19th century canals and latterly the railways. These are described in further detail in part two of the South Worcestershire Design Guide SPD.
6. Designed landscapes include parks, both private (e.g., Croome Park) and public (e.g. Fort Royal Park, Worcester; Priory Park Malvern; or Lido Park Droitwich Spa). As well as landscape interest, these heritage assets have significant architectural and archaeological interest and often contain other monuments and memorials.
7. Proposals for development should have regard to the locally distinctive character of south Worcestershire and appropriate weight will be given to those characteristics identified when determining proposals. Neighbourhood plans, along with conservation area appraisals provide an additional layer of statutory policy and guidance that provides the 'fine grain' for decision making purposes. Historic Landscape Characterisation studies² have been produced for the county. These also provide an evidence base that can be used to inform assessments of local distinctiveness and the heritage value of historic landscapes and their associated heritage assets.

² See Worcestershire County Council website for report:
http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/downloads/file/4584/hlc_report

SWDPR 29: Management of the Historic Environment

- A. Development proposals affecting all categories of heritage assets will be considered in accordance with the NPPF, relevant legislation and published national and local guidance.**
- B. Proposals which are likely to affect the significance of a heritage asset, including the contribution made by its setting, should be accompanied by a Statement of Heritage Significance. This should be informed by available evidence including the Historic Environment Record. It should describe the affected assets and their significance in sufficient detail to allow any potential impacts to be adequately assessed and suitable mitigation of any harm to be specified. Where there is potential for any heritage assets with archaeological interest to be affected, this description should be supplemented by desk based assessment and, where appropriate, field evaluation to investigate the significance of known or potential heritage assets.**
- C. The sympathetic and creative reuse and adaptation of historic buildings will be encouraged particularly where the proposed reuse can be considered to have less than substantial harm to the historic asset. Such proposals, and other proposals for enabling development that provide a sustainable future for, or seek to improve the condition of, heritage assets identified as at risk, will be considered in accordance with SWDPR 8A.**
- D. Where a material change to a heritage asset has been agreed, recording and interpretation should be undertaken to document and understand the asset's archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic significance. The scope of the recording should be proportionate to the asset's significance and the impact of the development on the asset. The information and understanding gained should be made publicly available, as a minimum through the relevant Historic Environment Record and where appropriate at the asset itself through on-site interpretation.**
- E. Proposals for development within or affecting the setting of conservation areas will be required to preserve or enhance their character and appearance.**

Reasoned Justification

When considering development proposals Policy SWDPR 29 should be read in conjunction with Policy SWDPR 8 and any relevant neighbourhood plan.

The various elements of the historic environment contribute to making south Worcestershire a desirable place to live and work and attract tourism and economic investment to the area.

Applications affecting heritage assets must reflect a sufficient understanding of their significance, including both their setting and their wider context in the landscape /

townscape. This should take the form of a Statement of Heritage Significance which should describe the significance of the assets affected. A Statement of Heritage Significance may also set out the anticipated impacts on or harm to the significance of the affected assets and describe ways in which significance may be retained by avoiding, reducing or mitigating impact or harm. It is recognised that many heritage assets, in particular archaeological remains, are currently unidentified. Appropriate information, where necessary from field evaluation, is crucial to well-informed decision-making.

Early pre-application discussions are encouraged, as this will allow the early identification of heritage issues, save time, reduce risk and improve the quality of applications. These discussions should involve the LPA, applicants, architects and agents and heritage specialists. Proposals involving new build, repair, alteration or extension of heritage assets can conserve the significance of the existing asset and its setting. This may be achieved by means of appropriate siting, massing, form, height, scale, design and use of local materials.

The sympathetic reuse, repair and adaptation of existing buildings can act as a catalyst for economic regeneration, support tourism and encourage the sustainable use of resources. Enabling development can be considered where it can be justified and where it accords with the NPPF. In all instances where this leads to less than substantial harm to the significance of a heritage asset this impact should be considered alongside the benefits of securing a viable reuse. This approach contributes towards delivering the national policy aim of achieving sustainable development. It is important that any climate change mitigation / adaptation measures do not cause harm to the significance of heritage assets.

South Worcestershire Development Plan Review – Regulation 18 Preferred Options Consultation (November 2019)

SWDPR 5: Historic Environment

A. Development proposals should conserve and enhance heritage assets, including assets of potential archaeological interest, subject to the provisions of SWDPR 28. Their contribution to the setting and character of the landscape or townscape should be protected in order to sustain the historic quality, sense of place, environmental quality and economic vibrancy of south Worcestershire.

B. Development proposals will be supported where they conserve and enhance the significance of heritage assets, including their setting. In particular this applies to:

i. Designated heritage assets, i.e. listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens and registered battlefields, as well as non-designated heritage assets (15).

15 As identified in extant local lists and heritage assets recorded in Historic Environment Records

ii. The historic landscape including locally distinctive settlement patterns, field systems, woodlands, ancient and veteran trees and commons and historic farmsteads and small holdings.

iii. Designed landscapes, including parkland, gardens, cemeteries, churchyards, public parks, urban open spaces and industrial, military or institutional landscapes.

iv. Archaeological remains of all periods.

v. Historic transportation networks and infrastructure including roads and track ways, canals, river navigations, railways and their associated industries.

vi. The historic core of the cathedral city of Worcester, with its complex heritage of street and plot patterns, buildings, open spaces and archaeological remains, along with their settings and views of the city.

vii. The civic, religious and market cores of south Worcestershire's city, town and village fabric with their wide variety of building styles, materials and street and plot patterns.

C. Development proposals will be supported where they conserve and enhance the historic environment in order to encourage tourism, inward investment and increase the vitality and attractiveness of their location. In particular the adaptive reuse of historic assets will be supported to achieve these objectives.

Reasoned Justification

9.6 When considering development proposals SWDPR 5 should be read in conjunction with SWDPR 28 and any relevant neighbourhood plan.

9.7 South Worcestershire's historic environment is a valuable, finite and irreplaceable resource, which is central to the character and identity of the area. It has a crucial role in supporting sustainable development through enhancing the quality of life of those currently living in and visiting the area and for generations to come, as well as delivering wider economic benefits through tourism and uplift in related development benefits. In addition to designated assets, south Worcestershire possesses a wealth of heritage assets from various periods that are locally significant for their historic, archaeological, architectural, or artistic interest and a variety of building styles and materials. The informed management of this resource, based on up to date evidence, will benefit current and future generations, with its importance being recognised in legislation and policy.

9.8 Prehistoric and Romano-British settlement and ceremonial remains are widely distributed and often extensive in the Severn, Avon and Teme valleys, which also contain important palaeoenvironmental deposits. These are juxtaposed with prehistoric hill forts on the higher ground of the Malvern Hills and Bredon Hill. Some earlier settlements, including the major urban centre of Worcester, continued to develop through the medieval and post-medieval periods. The medieval period saw the development of the main market towns, followed by Malvern during the 19th century. Varying influences and uses include market functions, monastic and church ownership and the later development of spas.

9.9 The villages and hamlets are mostly of medieval or earlier origin. Many of them have surviving medieval assets, such as parish churches, moats, ponds and extensive earthworks. All are set within a landscape that is characterised by diverse and important historic field systems, punctuated by ancient and semi-natural woodlands, veteran trees, commons and historic parklands. Dispersed settlements and farmsteads dominate the west of the area, with nucleated villages and clustered farmsteads characteristic of the south-east. The rivers formed important transport action networks, linking with roads and tracks, 18th and 19th century canals and latterly the railways. These are described in further detail in part two of the South Worcestershire Design Guide SPD.

9.10 Designed landscapes include parks, both private and public, e.g. Croome Park; Fort Royal Park, Worcester; Priory Park Malvern and Lido Park Droitwich Spa. The Policies Map specifically identifies specifically conservation areas, registered parks and gardens and Scheduled Monuments. Others are identified in local lists (where they are in use) and Historic Environment Records. As well as landscape interest, these heritage assets have significant architectural and archaeological interest and often contain other monuments and memorials.

9.11 Proposals for development should have regard to the locally distinctive character of south Worcestershire and appropriate weight will be given to those characteristics identified when determining proposals. Neighbourhood plans, along with conservation area appraisals provide an additional layer of statutory policy and guidance that provides the 'fine grain' for decision making purposes. Historic Landscape Characterisation studies (16)

have been produced for the county. These also provide an evidence base that can be used to inform assessments of local distinctiveness and the heritage value of historic landscapes and their associated heritage assets.

SWDPR 28: Management of the Historic Environment

A. Development proposals affecting all categories of heritage assets will be considered in accordance with the NPPF, relevant legislation and published national and local guidance.

B. Proposals likely to affect the significance of a heritage asset, including the contribution made by its setting, should be accompanied by a description of its significance in sufficient detail to allow the potential impacts to be adequately assessed. Where there is potential for any heritage assets with archaeological interest to be affected, this description should be informed by available evidence, desk based assessment and, where appropriate, field evaluation to establish the significance of known or potential heritage assets.

C. The sympathetic and creative reuse and adaptation of historic buildings will be encouraged particularly where the proposed reuse can be considered to have less than substantial harm to the historic asset. Such proposals, and other proposals for enabling development that provide a sustainable future, or look to improve the heritage assets identified as at risk, will be considered in accordance with SWDPR 28 A.

D. Where a material change to a heritage asset has been agreed, recording and interpretation should be undertaken to document and understand the asset's archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic significance. The scope of the recording should be proportionate to the asset's significance and the impact of the development on the asset. The information and understanding gained should be made publicly available, as a minimum through the relevant Historic Environment Record and where appropriate at the asset itself through on-site interpretation.

E. Proposals for development within or affecting the setting of conservation areas will be required to preserve or enhance their character and appearance.

Reasoned Justification

14.49 When considering development proposals Policy SWDPR 28 should be read in conjunction with Policy SWDPR 5 and any relevant neighbourhood plan.

14.50 The various elements of the historic environment contribute to making south Worcestershire a desirable place to live and work and attract tourism and economic investment to the area.

14.51 Conservation of heritage assets must reflect a sufficient understanding of their significance, including both their setting and their wider context in the landscape / townscape. It is recognised that many heritage assets, in particular archaeological remains, are currently unidentified. Appropriate information, where necessary from field evaluation, is crucial to well-informed decision-making.

14.52 Early pre-application discussions are encouraged, as this will allow the early identification of heritage issues, save time, reduce risk and improve the quality of applications. These discussions should involve the LPA, applicants, architects and agents and

heritage specialists. Proposals involving new build, repair, alteration or extension of heritage assets can conserve the significance of the existing asset and its setting. This may be achieved by means of appropriate siting, massing, form, height, scale, design and use of local materials.

14.53 The sympathetic reuse, repair and adaptation of existing buildings can act as a catalyst for economic regeneration, support tourism and encourage the sustainable use of resources. Enabling development can be considered where it can be justified and where it accords with the NPPF. In all instances where this leads to less than substantial harm to the significance of a heritage asset this impact should be considered alongside the benefits of securing a viable reuse. This approach contributes towards delivering the national policy aim of achieving sustainable development. It is important that any climate change mitigation / adaptation measures do not cause harm to the fabric or significance of heritage assets.

14.54 Where opportunities for creative, contemporary and innovative architectural design arise they will be supported. The introduction of a successful new building can enhance the historic setting, or an extension add to the evolution of a building, becoming a valued addition to a locality and contributing to a sense of place.

14.55 Alongside the relevant policies in this plan, planning practice guidance and Historic England advice regard should be had to the provisions of relevant legislation, including the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

South Worcestershire Development Plan Adopted February 2016

SWDP 6: Historic Environment

A. Development proposals should conserve and enhance heritage assets, including assets of potential archaeological interest, subject to the provisions of SWDP 24. Their contribution to the character of the landscape or townscape should be protected in order to sustain the historic quality, sense of place, environmental quality and economic vibrancy of south Worcestershire.

B. Development proposals will be supported where they conserve and enhance the significance of heritage assets, including their setting. In particular this applies to:

- i. Designated heritage assets; i.e. listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens and registered battlefields, as well as undesignated heritage assets (25).**
- ii. The historic landscape, including locally distinctive settlement patterns, field systems, woodlands and commons and historic farmsteads and smallholdings.**
- iii. Designed landscapes, including parkland, gardens, cemeteries, churchyards, public parks, urban open spaces and industrial, military or institutional landscapes.**
- iv. Archaeological remains of all periods.**
- v. Historic transportation networks and infrastructure including roads and trackways, canals, river navigations, railways and their associated industries.**
- vi. The historic core of the cathedral city of Worcester, with its complex heritage of street and plot patterns, buildings, open spaces and archaeological remains, along with their settings and views of the city.**
- vii. The civic, religious and market cores of south Worcestershire's city, town and village fabric with their wide variety of building styles, materials and street and plot patterns.**

(25) As identified in extant local lists and heritage assets recorded in Historic Environment Records

Reasoned Justification

1. When considering development proposals Policy SWDP 6 should be read in conjunction with Policy SWDP 24.
2. South Worcestershire's historic environment is a valuable, finite and irreplaceable resource, which is central to the character and identity of the area. It has a crucial role in supporting sustainable development through enhancing the quality of life of those currently living in and visiting the area and for generations to come, as well as delivering wider economic benefits through tourism and uplift in related development benefits. In addition to designated assets, south Worcestershire possesses a wealth of heritage assets from

various periods that are locally significant for their historic, archaeological, architectural, or artistic interest and a variety of building styles and materials. The informed management of this resource will benefit current and future generations, with its importance being recognised in legislation and policy.

3. Prehistoric and Romano-British settlement and ceremonial remains are widely distributed and often extensive in the Severn, Avon and Teme valleys, which also contain important palaeoenvironmental deposits. These are juxtaposed with prehistoric hill forts on the higher ground of the Malvern Hills and Bredon Hill. Some earlier settlements, including the major urban centre of Worcester, continued to develop through the medieval and post-medieval periods. The medieval period saw the development of the main market towns, followed by Malvern during the 19th century. Varying influences and uses include market functions, monastic and Church ownership and the later development of spas.

4. The villages and hamlets are mostly of medieval or earlier origin. Many of them have surviving medieval assets, such as the parish church, moats, ponds and extensive earthworks. All are set within a landscape that is characterised by diverse and important historic field systems, punctuated by ancient and semi-natural woodlands, commons and historic parklands. Dispersed settlements and farmsteads dominate the west of the area, with nucleated villages and clustered farmsteads characteristic of the south-east. The rivers formed important transportation networks, linking with roads and tracks, 18th and 19th century canals and latterly the railways.

5. Designed landscapes include parks, both private (e.g. Croome Park) and public (e.g. Priory Park in Malvern, or Lido Park in Droitwich Spa). The Policies Map specifically identifies conservation areas, registered parks and gardens and Scheduled Monuments. Others are identified in local lists (where they are in use) and Historic Environment Records. As well as landscape interest, these heritage assets have significant architectural and archaeological interest and often contain other monuments and memorials.

6. Proposals for development should have regard to the locally distinctive character of south Worcestershire and appropriate weight will be given to those characteristics identified when determining proposals. Historic Landscape Characterisation studies(26) have been produced for Worcestershire. These provide an evidence base that can be used to inform assessments of local distinctiveness and the heritage value of historic landscapes and their associated heritage assets.

SWDP 24: Management of the Historic Environment

A. Development proposals affecting heritage assets will be considered in accordance with the Framework, relevant legislation and published national and local guidance.

B. Proposals likely to affect the significance of a heritage asset, including the contribution made by its setting, should be accompanied by a description of its significance in sufficient detail to allow the potential impacts to be adequately assessed. Where there is potential for heritage assets with archaeological interest to be affected, this description should be informed by available evidence, desk-based assessment and, where appropriate, field evaluation to establish the significance of known or potential heritage assets.

C. The sympathetic and creative reuse and adaptation of historic buildings will be encouraged. Such proposals, and other proposals for enabling development that provide a sustainable future for heritage assets identified as at risk, will be considered in accordance with SWDP 24 A.

D. Where a material change to a heritage asset has been agreed, recording and interpretation should be undertaken to document and understand the asset's archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic significance. The scope of the recording should be proportionate to the asset's significance and the impact of the development on the asset. The information and understanding gained should be made publicly available, as a minimum through the relevant Historic Environment Record and where appropriate at the asset itself through on-site interpretation.

Reasoned Justification

1. The various elements of the historic environment contribute to making south Worcestershire a desirable place to live and work and attracts tourism and economic investment to the area.

2. Conservation of heritage assets must reflect a sufficient understanding of their significance, including both their setting and their wider context in the landscape / townscape. It is recognised that many heritage assets, in particular archaeological remains, are currently unidentified. Appropriate information, where necessary from field evaluation, is key to well-informed decision-making.

3. Early pre-application discussions are encouraged, as this will allow the early identification of heritage issues, save time, reduce risk and improve the quality of applications. These discussions should involve the relevant local planning authority, applicants, architects and agents and heritage specialists. Proposals involving new build, repair, alteration or extension of heritage assets can conserve the significance of the existing asset and its setting. This may be achieved by means of appropriate siting, massing, form, height, scale, design and use of local materials.

4. The sympathetic reuse, repair and adaptation of existing buildings can act as a catalyst for economic regeneration, support tourism and encourage the sustainable use of resources.

Enabling development can be considered where it can be justified and where it accords with the Framework and planning practice guidance. This approach contributes towards delivering the national and local policy aim of sustainable development by supporting the principles contained in SWDP 1. It is important that any climate change mitigation / adaptation measures do not cause harm to the significance of heritage assets. Where appropriate, when opportunities for creative, contemporary and innovative architectural design arise, this will be encouraged.

5. Alongside relevant policies and guidance regard should be had to the provisions of relevant legislation, including the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.