

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.