

## Statement of Common Ground between Bromsgrove District Council and Historic England

Historic England (formerly English Heritage) submitted comments in relation to the Bromsgrove District Plan in the form of a statement for the hearing session which was to take place on the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2014, the reference for this statement is XB1/18, in light of this session being postponed the inspector responded as follows.

*The Inspector notes the comments set out in your e-mail dated 5 December 2014. In respect of your reference to section 110 of the Localism Act, he asks you to note that his Interim Conclusions paper (dated 17 July 2014) has already assessed whether Bromsgrove District Council has complied with the Duty to Co-operate. This was the subject of a hearing session in June 2014. He notes that English Heritage did not raise any concerns in respect of the Duty in its representation on the Bromsgrove District Plan dated 11 November 2013. He also asks you to note that the Duty applies to 'strategic matters' as defined by the section 33A(4) of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).*

*Nevertheless, in respect of your substantive concern about the Ravensbank employment allocation, the Inspector confirms that this is a matter that he has already raised in his Matters, Issues and Questions document and that he will hear at the rescheduled XB session if English Heritage wishes to participate. However, in view of the delay that will now take place before that session is heard, he encourages English Heritage and Bromsgrove District Council to meet and, ideally, to agree a statement of common ground prior to the hearing itself.*

To resolve the concerns expressed by Historic England the following minor revisions have been agreed to ensure harm to the setting of Gorcott Hall is minimised and the significance of the grade II\* listed building is safeguarded. If these modifications were enacted Historic England agrees that it would no longer wish to challenge the suitability of the allocation nor the soundness of the Plan in this respect.

Proposed Minor Amendment

*New para 8.67 on page 33 of the submitted plan*

### **Ravensbank expansion site**

**8.67** This site is located to the south/east of the existing Ravensbank employment site and is approximately 10 hectares in area, as indicated on map 8. The original employment site caters for Redditch Borough's needs and it is envisaged that this expansion site will provide additional capacity for Redditch's future needs on a similar basis. The site is within the setting of Gorcott Hall, a Grade II\* listed building. The Gorcott Hall Setting Assessment (Bromsgrove DC, 2014) has been prepared to inform the principle of development and its future form, and should be applied to ensure the significance of the Hall and its setting is conserved. This site is part of the Redditch Eastern Gateway, a strategic employment site, which is being promoted by the Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership.

*New foot note to be added in relation to the Ravensbank site as in table 3 of the submission plan on page 34*

To ensure protection of Gorcott Hall's significance, future proposals should be in conformity with Policy BDP20 and informed by an understanding of the Hall's setting, mindful of the Gorcott Hall Setting Assessment (Bromsgrove DC, 2014) and English Heritage guidance on setting matters. Historic

Environment Good Practice Advice Note 3 (GPA3) The setting of Heritage Assets (Historic England, March 2015)

<http://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/>