With regard to the further consultation relating to the NPPF, we have the following comments:

The draft NPPF includes the core land-use planning principle of protecting heritage assets and requires local planning authorities to set out their strategic priorities in the Local Plan which should include strategic policies to deliver the protection and enhancement of the historic environment. The draft NPPF further highlights the need to understand and manage the significance of heritage assets as part of plan-making, through the development of conservation strategies by local planning authorities.

English Heritage intends to formally respond to the current public consultation on the draft NPPF, and will, if the Inspector considers it helpful send a copy of that response through to him. In the meantime, we note that the draft NPPF is a material consideration to be taken into account, although, of course, it may be changed to take account of consultation responses. We confirm that until such time as the NPPF is adopted and cancels all PPGs and PPSs, PPS 5 remains the Government's adopted policy in relation to the historic environment and the principal document to use when considering the Three Rivers Core Strategy.

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