

Merton Local Plan – EXAMINATION IN PUBLIC

Stage 1

Statement of Common Ground between Merton Council and Historic England – Addendum Matter 14 10/06/2022

These comments have been written in the context of, and with reference to, the [Proposed Schedule of Main Modifications \(Exam ref LBM03\)](#) and [Additional Modifications to Merton’s Draft Local Plan – 20 May 2022 \(Exam res LBM04\)](#), and [Merton Local Plan incorporating proposed modifications – 20th May 2022 \(Exam ref LBM05\)](#).

Matter 14

Historic England: Notwithstanding the issues raised in our Hearing Statement and previous representations regarding the lack of evidence, there is scope to draw more out from what already exists, and the policy’s soundness could be improved by amended wording and expanded development requirements.

Suggested modifications

Site Wi3: All England Lawn Tennis Club - Church Road – Allocation policy pp.289

- Design and accessibility guidance, amend:

Secure investment in the former golf course to invest in and conserve and enhance the historic landscape

Reason: As set out in our Hearing Statement, use of “reimagine” is probably a more accurate reflection of the proposed development as part of the specific planning application. We advise the language is changed to better reflect the language of the NPPF, to provide clarity (as it is not clear what “reimagine” would entail), and therefore set an effective, positive strategy for the historic environment.

- Design and accessibility guidance, amend:

Development proposal must respect the site’s historic setting including the views to St Mary’s Church and the surrounding area and the views from the Grade II listed Wimbledon Park, and those identified in the Wimbledon North Conservation Area Appraisal.*

Reason: to clarify what heritage assets need to be considered, and to improve a positive strategy for the conservation of the historic environment.

- Design and accessibility guidance, insert additional text to clarify HAR issues:

The Wimbledon Park Registered Park and Garden was added to Historic England's Heritage At Risk Register due to the following issues:

- Uncertainty around the future [of the entire historic landscape];
- The impacts of divided ownership on landscape management;
- Obscured views; and
- The deterioration of the Lake

Reason: to better comply with NPPF 190 and to set a positive strategy for heritage.

- Design and accessibility guidance, insert additional text to include policy provision for a conservation management plan:

Secure the production of a landscape management and maintenance plan as part of any development proposals that may come forward, to provide a comprehensive plan for the conservation, enhancement and ongoing management of the entire registered park and garden that takes full account of the site's historic development and significance, acting as a common agreed baseline for all parties to work from.

Reason: to better comply with NPPF 190 and to set a positive strategy for heritage, and to address specific reason behind the site's HAR status.

Action point:

The Council to produce a supplementary evidence document for the Local Plan that summarises the historic and current information from a heritage perspective and clearly defines the parameters for the allocation, taking on board the opportunities and constraints present on site.

It is important that the supplementary document is not seen to predetermine the planning applications. Both parties agree that the relevant information likely exists, but it is not easily identifiable or readily accessible as part of the new local plan's evidence base.

. Signatories

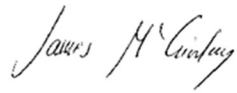
Both parties agree that this statement is an accurate representation of matters discussed and issues agreed upon.

Signatories

Signed for London Borough of Merton by:

Name - James McGinlay

Job Title – Assistant Director for Sustainable Communities



Signature -

Date – 10th June 2022

Signed for on behalf of the Historic England by:

Name – Katie Parsons

Job Title – Historic Environment Planning Adviser



Signature -

Date – 10th June 2022