

Stroud District Local Plan (2020-2040)
HISTORIC ENGLAND STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

between

Stroud District Council
Historic England
Updated February 2023

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1 An updated Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared by Stroud District Council & Historic England.
- 1.2 A Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) covering heritage matters was prepared in October 2021, to accompany the submission of the Stroud District Local Plan (2020-2040). This Update to the original SoCG has been prepared in advance of the Examination hearing sessions and has been signed by Stroud District Council and Historic England, referred to hereafter as ‘the parties’.

2. Matters that are agreed

Context and actions taken to date

- 2.1 Section 110 of the 2011 Localism Act inserted the Duty to Co-operate as a new Section 33A into the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The duty requires local planning authorities, county councils and prescribed bodies to co-operate effectively with each other when preparing development plan documents, local development documents, marine plans and when undertaking activities that prepare the way for the preparation of, or support the preparation of, the above documents.
- 2.2 Historic England are a prescribed body under the Duty to Cooperate and are the responsible body for heritage matters. Para 190 of the NPPF requires that Plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats.
- 2.3 In order to comply with the Duty to Cooperate and the NPPF, Stroud District Council has engaged with Historic England throughout the Local Plan process, recognising the benefits that this co-operation brought for the last Local Plan adopted in November 2015.
- 2.4 In preparing the Local Plan, as well as through ongoing collaborative working, Stroud District Council has consulted Historic England on five formal consultation periods as set out below:

Issues and options	Autumn 2017
Emerging strategy	Autumn 2018
Final draft plan	Autumn 2019
Additional housing options	Autumn 2020
Pre-Submission	Spring 2021

2.5 Throughout this process Historic England have engaged and responded to all Stroud District Council public consultations and liaised with Officers as the Plan has developed. This has helped inform the preparation of the Local Plan and the evidence base so that the Local Plan has worked towards addressing the requirements both of the Duty to cooperate and the requirements of the NPPF on heritage matters.

2.6 The parties agree that Stroud District Council, in preparing the Stroud District Local Plan (2020-2040), has engaged proactively and positively with the Historic England relating to heritage and planning matters through the Duty to Cooperate.

Commitments for future work and collaboration

2.7 Historic England responded to the Stroud District Council Regulation 19 consultation setting out that:

‘Although there is much to commend, we do have several comments in relation to the soundness and legal compliance of the Plan. We do however hope that further clarification, discrete additional evidence and relatively modest associated changes may be able to satisfactorily address these matters.’

2.8 At the submission of the draft Stroud District Local Plan, the parties agreed to work together to resolve the outstanding matters and committed to investigating further discrete evidence where appropriate.

2.9 Since Submission, the parties have resolved some of the concerns referred to in 2.7, above:

- Stroud District Council commissioned a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the proposed Strategic Site Allocation G2 at Whaddon, which the parties agree to be proportionate evidence to inform the principle and form of the proposed allocation.
- The parties agree in principle that a minor modification to the wording of Strategic Site Allocation Policy PS20 would improve the policy’s effectiveness in terms of the statutory requirements of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, Section 72, and would present a more positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment. Precise wording has not yet been determined.

2.10 It should be noted that a number of important issues of concern to Historic England remain (see appendix A). The parties continue to be committed to working together through the examination process to resolve any outstanding matters, including by agreeing appropriate modifications to the Local Plan where necessary.

3. Matters that are not agreed

3.1 The issues referred to in 2.7 are not yet fully resolved, including in general terms:

- How best to ensure site-specific recommendations from the evidence base will be fully appreciated by prospective developers and given appropriate weight by decision makers (including advice in the Strategic Assessment of Land Availability (SALA) and the HIA for Land at Whaddon)
- Whether sufficient and proportionate evidence exists to ensure that archaeological potential at sites PS05 (East of Tobacconist Road, Minchinhampton) and PS37 (Wisloe new settlement) is appropriately addressed by the Plan.

3.2 Appendix A sets out the specific unresolved issues of concern to Historic England in more detail.

3.3 The parties will resolve these matters through the examination process, including by agreeing appropriate modifications.

4. Signatories

Signed on behalf of Historic England

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Signed on behalf of Stroud District Council

 Head of Planning Strategy and Economic Development


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Dated

21 February 2023

* Please note Historic England only provide electronic signatures for publication documents.