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Our ref: PL00802837

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Dear Planning Policy team

**DROITWICH SPA NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: DESIGN GUIDE AND CODES -
FOCUSED CONSULTATION SUMMER 2026**

Thank you for the opportunity to engage with the consultation on the above design guide and codes document.

The document sets out clear and helpful design recommendations for new development within the Neighbourhood Plan ('the Plan') area through the different character areas.

As a general comment, we appreciate the inclusion of a heritage section within the document. There are opportunities to further strengthen the document on this topic by drawing clearer links between this section and the individual Character Area sections through additional cross-referencing where appropriate.

For example, this could be achieved through an additional Heritage section within the tables outlining the character of the areas, including within existing Landscape sections, or within the criterion of the design recommendations.

We also have more specific advice which is set out below:

Pages 30-31 - We recommend additional wording for A1. Town Centre West and Conservation Area design recommendations: Bullet point (BP) 20. This is recommended to allow more flexibility for different material use in the A1 character area, including the Conservation Area. Our suggested wording is set out in italics, and continues the existing BP20 wording as follows:

'Commonly used materials of red brick and white render should be used in new materials for infill development *unless local character and context requires a different approach.*'

Page 46 - Figure 64: Table outlining the characteristics of area - In the Landscape section under 'Green and Blue Infrastructure' we recommend including reference to



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the multi-period salt production remains in Droitwich Scheduled Monument which is adjacent to northern part of The Holloway area of this character area (A.4 Chawson Valley and The Holloway) - essentially the Vines Park area. The northern section has intrinsic links as open space alongside the water but also with the heritage of the former use of this area.

Section 4 - Area wide guidance - There are various references to Vines Park in this section as an existing park contributing to green space in the Plan area, but none that identify it being a Scheduled Monument. We have further observations set out on this below, but would suggest that an informative note or similar is included at the end of the coding document regarding the designation.

For example, a note could set out that a monument which has been scheduled is protected against unauthorised works, deliberate damage, and unauthorised metal detecting, and that written consent must be obtained before most work on a scheduled monument can begin. We would be happy for our advice to be signposted if that would be helpful: <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/consents/smc/>

It could help avoid any potential issues arising in the future if developers, or other parties, propose seeking off site planting or biodiversity net gain measures within Vines Park or the Roman settlement at Bays Meadow.

Page 76 - Part 4.2.3 Heritage and local character - These paragraphs mention listed buildings and Conservation Areas but don't refer to Scheduled Monuments or registered Parks and Gardens within the Neighbourhood Plan area. We suggest reference is made to these for completeness.

Page 78 - Part 4.3.1 Green Spaces - These paragraphs include reference to the importance of Vines Park as a green space, but do not indicate it is a Scheduled Monument. The openness of this space is a key feature of the monument's designation so that the multi-phase remains of the towns historic salt production are preserved and conserved.

In addition, the monument is part of the essence of the place as the historic salt production is synonymous with the availability of brine for baths in the town's spa heyday. We suggest it would be worth including a reference to the designation here in addition to a note at the end of the document for clarity.

Finally, we note the document was produced before the fire at The Raven Hotel and the included images portray it intact. You may wish to consider updating these to current images of the property, or alternative sites in the Plan area.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch should you have any questions on the above advice.



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Yours sincerely,

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