

HART DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN: STRATEGY AND SITES (2016-2032)

HEARING STATEMENT

MATTER 12: ENVIRONMENT

ON BEHALF OF LIGHTWOOD LAND

TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 (AS AMENDED) PLANNING AND COMPULSORY PURCHASE ACT 2004

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Hearing Statement has been prepared by Pegasus Group on behalf of Lightwood Land in respect of the Hart District Local Plan: Strategy and Sites (2016-2032). This Statement seeks to respond to the questions raised by Mr Jonathan Manning (Inspector) in relation to Matter 12: Environment.
- 1.2 Lightwood has a major contractual interest in the identified Area of Search (AoS) for a new settlement at Murrell Green/Winchfield that is identified as part of Hart District Council's (the Council's) Vision and Objectives and under Policies SS1 and SS3.
- 1.3 Pegasus Group, acting on behalf of their client, have made representations on the emerging Local Plan at the Regulation 18 and 19 stages. Our responses to the questions and issues raised should be read in conjunction with these representations and the associated evidence base for the AoS.
- 1.4 These representations have been considered against the tests of 'Soundness' as defined by Paragraph 182¹ of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2012.
- 1.5 This Hearing Statement has been prepared in consultation with Gallagher Estates, the promoter of the Winchfield component of the AoS, as part of the on-going collaborative approach to the promotion and delivery of the future new settlement.
- 1.6 Pegasus, on behalf of Lightwood, wish to take a full and active part in the hearing session on **Tuesday 6th December 2018** in relation to all parts of Matter 12. Our responses to the questions and issues raised are set out within the remainder of this Statement.

¹ Previously Paragraph 35 of NPPF 2018

2. HEARING STATEMENT

2.1 Within this section of the Statement we identify the relevant question/matter and provide our response within the subsequent paragraphs. All references are consistent with those provided in the 14th September 2018 set of questions.

12.19 Is the Plan based on adequate, up-to-date and relevant evidence about the historic environment within Hart?

2.2 Yes, Lightwood considers that the Plan is based on adequate, up-to-date and relevant evidence.

2.3 Lightwood are aware that Historic England had previously raised concerns with regards the evidence base and whether the evidence base satisfied the requirements of paragraphs 158 and 169 of the NPPF 2012 as well as Historic England's Good Practice Advice Note 1: 'The Historic Environment in Local Plans'.

2.4 Lightwood agree that the Council has drawn upon a range of historic environment evidence to support the proposals within the Local Plan including those produced by third parties.

2.5 From the promotion of the Murrell Green element of the Area of Search (AoS) the assessment of historic environment information has been integral to the SHLAA site assessment process as well as the production of the Landscape Character Assessment 2016 (ENV6a and ENV6b) and the Green Infrastructure Strategy 2017 (ENV4).

2.6 Lightwood recognises that Historic England will have an active role to play in the future development of the New Settlement DPD and subsequent detailed management policies. Lightwood looks forward to working with Historic England and the Council.

2.7 Lightwood also note that Historic England as part of the Statement of Common Ground (July 2018) with the Council (SCG1) are satisfied with the Council's position and no longer object to the Plan on this basis.