

22/4/15

Dear Ms Simmons,

### **Neighbourhood Plan for Earl's Barton**

Thank you for consulting Historic England about the Neighbourhood Plan for Earl's Barton.

The area covered by the Neighbourhood Plan encompasses the Earl's Barton Conservation Area and includes a number of important designated heritage assets including the grade I listed church of All Saints and the Earl's Barton Motte Castle scheduled monument. In line with national planning policy, it will be important that the strategy for this area safeguards those elements which contribute to the significance of these assets so that they can be enjoyed by future generations of the area.

We therefore welcome the emphasis the plan gives to the historic environment in *6.4 Environmental Design Policy* and *6.5 Open Space Policy*. We would however caution against using the phrase, "conserve and protect the best heritage assets", in the objectives, as this could conceivably be taken to simply mean the church and castle motte, which we are sure was not the intention. Also, the policies themselves relate to many more areas than this objective would suggest, and so we advise that it would perhaps therefore be more effective to have a separate policy for the historic environment, as well as referencing it where appropriate elsewhere.

If they have not already done so, we would recommend that the neighbourhood group speaks to the staff at Northamptonshire County Council who look after the Historic Environment Record. They should be able to provide details of not only any designated heritage assets but also locally-important buildings, archaeological remains and landscapes. Some Historic Environment Records may also be available on-line via the Heritage Gateway ([www.heritagegateway.org.uk](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk)).

If you have any queries about this matter or would like to discuss anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



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