



ENGLISH HERITAGE

EAST OF ENGLAND REGION

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Our ref: DG/NP/Woodbridge/01

12 February 2015

Dear Ms Hanslip

**Ref: Application for Neighbourhood Area Designation – Woodbridge Parish
(with part of Martlesham)**

Thank you for your electronic notification of the above matter. English Heritage has no objection to the designation of Woodbridge parish as a Neighbourhood Area and the proposed boundaries (including part of Martlesham).

A preliminary desktop study of the area covered by the proposed Neighbourhood Plan has shown the parish includes a large number of designated heritage assets. The majority of these are located within the Woodbridge Conservation Area, including approximately 320 listed buildings, of which 5 are listed at Grade I and 23 at Grade II*. The Conservation Area also includes a Grade II Registered Park and Garden (Woodbridge Cemetery). There are a further 10 Grade II listed buildings outside the Conservation Area, but there are no designated heritage assets within the part of Martlesham that is proposed for inclusion in the Woodbridge Neighbourhood Area. 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 consider that the planning team and historic buildings conservation officer at Suffolk Coastal District Council will be best placed to assist the parish in the development of their Neighbourhood Plan and, in particular, how the strategy might address the area's heritage assets. Consequently, we do not consider that there is a need for English Heritage to be involved in the development of this plan, but we would welcome the opportunity to comment on a draft in due course.

Furthermore, we would recommend that the Parish consult the Historic Environment Record to gain advice on designated heritage assets and archaeological matters, together with locally-important buildings, archaeological remains and landscapes. Some Historic Environment Records may be available on-line via the Heritage Gateway (www.heritagegateway.org.uk). It may also be useful for the Parish to



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www.english-heritage.org.uk

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involve local voluntary groups such as the local Civic Society or local historic groups in the production of their Neighbourhood Plan.

English Heritage has produced a number of documents which the parish might find helpful in helping to identify what it is about their area which makes it distinctive and how they might go about ensuring that the character of the area is retained. These can be found at:-

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/get-involved/improving-your-neighbourhood/>

The Parish Council may also find the advice in "*Planning for the Environment at the Neighbourhood Level*" useful. This has been produced by English Heritage, Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Forestry Commission. As well as giving ideas on how you might improve your local environment, it also contains some useful further sources of information.

In the event that Woodbridge Parish's application for designation as a Neighbourhood Area is successful, I would be grateful if you would provide them with a copy of this letter. If you have any queries about this matter or would like to discuss anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

David Grech

Historic Places Adviser

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