

Historic Towns Forum response to 'Preserving what is Special': the Conservation Strategy for South Northamptonshire 2010-2015

The Historic Towns Forum is pleased to have the opportunity to respond to the Conservation strategy for South Northamptonshire 2010-2015. HTF applauds the strategies key object to protect what is special in South Northamptonshire's historic built environment by preventing loss, managing change effectively, promoting understanding and contributing to sustainable development. We are pleased also to see how the strategy links in with other local, regional and nation policies affecting heritage and the built environment.

We do not have substantive comments to make as we fell the strategy takes account of most significant issues that affect the historic built environment, and takes account of them well; however, we were concerned to see scant mention of imminent forthcoming legislation and policy in the form of the Localism Bill, the National Planning Policy Framework, and the National Heritage Protection Plan. In particular our concerns are around Neighbourhood Development Orders, and Neighbourhood Development Plans. We feel the strategy should take account of these issues and mention how they will be addressed under the incoming new legislation and also in relation to the NPPF. For ease of reference and further guidance we have attached our responses to Govt concerning our issues with both the Localism Bill and the NPPF. While we realise the political landscape concerning these issues is still in flux, and to a degree under consultation itself, we feel it is important that those issues still be recognised in your strategy. They could have tremendous implications for planning and the historic built environment.

Noël James
Director
Historic Towns Forum
30 March 2011