SOUTH KESTEVEN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK
SITE ALLOCATIONS AND POLICIES DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT
EXAMINATION IN PUBLIC
FURTHER WRITTEN STATEMENT BY ENGLISH HERITAGE

Session 8: Omission Sites (Local Service Centres)
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1. Introduction

1.1 English Heritage’s responsibilities, as the Government’s adviser on the historic environment, include the protection and management of England’s historic assets. In planning terms, this role includes providing advice to ensure that statute and national policy, particularly in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), are reflected in local planning policy and practice. English Heritage is consulted on Local Development Frameworks under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

1.2 This statement addresses the number of omission sites put forward by representors as alternatives Local Service Centre (LSC) allocations. It should be read alongside our statement for Session 7 and our objections to LSC1e in Harlaxton. Although we are not due to appear at Session 8, we hope the following comments are of assistance.

2. Comments on Omission Sites

2.1 In terms of impact on the historic environment, particularly on designated heritage assets, we do not have any concerns with most of the proposed omission sites. The two exceptions are the sites proposed for Castle Bytham and Morton. Even with these two sites, we do not feel that our concerns render either site undevelopable. Subject to overcoming other planning issues, any of the omission sites could offer reasonable alternatives to Site LSC1e.

2.2 With regards to the Old Quarry site in Castle Bytham, it appears that this is the same site as ADD11 which we provided comments on in September 2010. In our previous comments, we pointed out that
virtually all of the existing village of Castle Bytham is designated as a conservation area, which underlines the historic significance of the village as a whole. Any development on the edge of Castle Bytham therefore needs to be carefully designed in order to avoid harming its character, appearance and setting. There are also a number of listed buildings within the village (including the Grade I listed church and Grade II* listed priory) and the scheduled remains of the castle whose setting could be affected.

2.3 The omission site is on the edge of the village to the south of the above heritage assets. Although the site already has been allocated for employment use in the Local Plan, residential development could have quite a different impact and the site itself remains undeveloped. Any development in this location would need to be carefully designed to avoid negative impacts.

2.4 With regards to the omission site in Morton, it appears that this is the same site as ADD26 which we also provided comments on in September 2010 (i.e. site to west of A15). In our previous comments, we pointed out that the site adjoins Morton Conservation Area and as such, any development would have to preserve and, where possible, enhance the character, appearance and setting of the conservation area. It will need to be carefully designed to avoid negative impacts, although we note that planning permission has already been granted for part of the site.

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