



Historic England

**Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Consultation:  
*Working with Communities – Implementing Geological Disposal***

**Historic England Response**

Historic England is the Government's statutory adviser on all matters relating to the historic environment in England. We are a non-departmental public body established under the National Heritage Act 1983 and sponsored by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). We champion and protect England's historic places, providing expert advice to local planning authorities, developers, owners and communities, to help ensure our historic environment is properly understood, enjoyed and cared for.

The majority of the consultation questions lie outside the scope and expertise of Historic England and we have therefore restricted our response on Question Six:

**Q. 6 Do you agree with the proposed approach to the way community investment funding would be provided? Are there alternatives that we should consider?**

In order to align with the Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government, 2012), paragraph 4.66, bullet two, should be rephrased to: '*conserve and enhance the natural, built and historic environment including cultural and natural heritage ...*'. This also applies to the 'Community Investment Funding' heading on page seven, bullet point two.

We also note under paragraph 4.72 that 'Once the Potential Host Community is identified, funding applications for projects, schemes and initiatives within the Potential Host Community may be prioritised, using a method decided by the Community Partnership'. Such an approach provides the Community Partnership considerable flexibility to exercise their own preferences with regard to the implementation of the funding, and it would be helpful if that freedom continued to be informed by set criteria – if not encouragement – to direct funding towards the environment (including the historic environment).

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