

CONSERVATION TEAM CONSULTATION APPLICATION RESPONSE

APPLICATION REF:	25/02332/FP
CASE OFFICER:	Tom Rea
APPLICATION SITE:	1 High Street Graveley Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 7LE
DESCRIPTION OF WORKS:	Erection of one self-build dwelling including cycle storage; landscaping and parking (as amended by drawing nos. 02C, 03C & 04B received 14.10.2025)

RECOMMENDATION:

There is **NO OBJECTION**. The scheme will satisfy the provisions of Sections 16(2) (LBC) and /or 66(1) (FP/FPH) and/or 72(1) (both) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and the aims of Section 16 of the NPPF and Policy HE1 of the North Hertfordshire Local Plan 2011-2031.

SUGGESTED CONDITIONS:

SHORT SUMMARY:

Impact on listed building's special character – None
Impact on character and appearance of the conservation area

1 High Street is located on the western part of Graveley Conservation Area, the link to the character statement is copied below.

[Graveley CA Character Statement 0.pdf](#)

As stated in the above statement this conservation area has two distinct characters. The application is centred on the western part which is dominated by a wide High Street and predominantly a linear pattern of development.

The wide High Street does enable open and distant views through the conservation area which has a diverse range of architectural styles. The eastern side of conservation area is evidently more rural due to its sparser development whilst the western side is linear in its development character.

The proposal seeks to erect a new dwelling on the western part of the conservation with a small portion of the development sited within the conservation area and given the building pattern on this side as already described the principle of a new dwelling is considered to be supportable.

There are key views identified in the character statement but no particular emphasis on open spaces. The identified key view 1 is the most relevant to the proposal. However, this view is from the south of the conservation area on the High Street looking north focussing on the width and openness of the High Street rather than the development pattern.

The proposal is considered not to cause harm to this view given the character of development on this side (west) of the conservation area and its set back from the main road.

The scale of the proposed new dwelling is not out of character given the diverse mix of styles, fabrics between the two character areas.

In summary the proposal is considered to cause less than substantial harm at the lowest end of the spectrum for the reasons stated above.

Site Context:

[Please see comments in summary section.](#)

DETAILED ANALYSIS AND CONSIDERATIONS:

Please see summary section above.

HERITAGE POLICY ASSESSMENT:

Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990:

North Hertfordshire Local Plan 2011-2031:

NPPF (December 2024):

The Local Plan and NPPF

North Hertfordshire Local Plan 2011-2031 and the policies contained within it i.e., Policy HE1. The plan was adopted November 2022.

The relevant paragraph numbers at Section 16 of the July 2021 version of the NPPF have been changed as follows:

197. In determining applications, local planning authorities should take account of:

- a) the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;*
- b) the positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic vitality; and*
- c) the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness.*

199. When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance.

200. Any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification.....

202. Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use.

206. Local planning authorities should look for opportunities for new development within Conservation Areas and World Heritage Sites, and within the setting of heritage assets, to enhance or better reveal their significance. Proposals that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to the asset (or which better reveal its significance) should be treated favourably.

The Setting of Heritage Assets: Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3 (Second Edition) – December 2017

At para 14 under the sub-heading 'Landscape Assessment and Amenity' it states that "Analysis of setting is different from landscape assessment. While landscapes include everything within them, the entirety of very extensive settings may not contribute equally to the significance of a heritage asset, if at all. **Careful analysis is therefore required to assess whether one heritage asset at a considerable distance from another, though intervisible with it – a church spire, for instance – is a major component of the setting, rather than just an incidental element within the wider landscape.**"

At para 17 it states (my emphasis in bold): "All heritage assets have significance, some of which have particular significance and are designated. The contribution made by their setting to their significance also varies. **Although many settings may be enhanced by development, not all settings have the same capacity to accommodate change without harm to the significance of the heritage asset or the ability to appreciate it.** This capacity may vary between designated assets of the same grade or of the same type or according to the nature of the change. It can also depend on the location of the asset: an elevated or overlooked location; a riverbank, coastal or island location; or a location within an extensive tract of flat land may increase the sensitivity of the setting (i.e. the capacity of the setting to accommodate change without harm to the heritage asset's significance) or of views of the asset. This requires the implications of development affecting the setting of heritage assets to be considered on a case-by-case basis."

CONCLUSION:

There are no objections to the proposal for the reason stated in the summary section.

OFFICER: Tricia Craggs

DATE: 8 December 2025