

Mr Chris Stanworth
Northumberland National Park Authority
Eastburn
South Park
Hexham
Northumberland
NE46 1BS

Direct Dial: [REDACTED]

Our ref: P00535856

24 November 2016

Dear Mr Stanworth

**Arrangements for Handling Heritage Applications Direction 2015
& T&CP (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015**

**TWICE BREWED INN, BARDON MILL, HEXHAM, NORTHUMBERLAND, NE47 7AN
Application No 16NP0103**

Thank you for your letter of 7 November 2016 notifying Historic England of the above application. We have assumed, in light of the information presented on the application form, that this proposal is limited to the extension of the public house to form a micro-brewery only, and that any access or additional car parking requirements are the subject of a separate application, and that no excavation beyond that necessary for the extension forms a part of the current application. If we are mistaken in this, and further car parking or access works is a necessity of this development, we would need to give additional advice here and would be grateful if you could make us aware of this at your earliest opportunity.

Historic England Advice

This proposed development lies in an area of very high archaeological sensitivity. This sensitivity derives from its position in relation to the Hadrian's Wall Roman frontier. Hadrian's Wall represents the most complete of the frontiers of the Roman Empire, and its archaeological and historical significance is reflected by the protection given to most of its surviving remains as a scheduled ancient monument, and its inclusion by UNESCO in its list of World Heritage Sites.

In this case, the proposed development lies just to the south of the Hadrian's Wall Vallum, a major Roman ditch system imperfectly understood but which seems to have marked the southern limit of a military zone associated with the Wall, and to the north of an important series of Roman camps probably used for the protection of troops and materials connected with the construction of the Roman frontier. As such, although this proposal lies outside of the protected scheduled monument, its position nevertheless places it in an area of high archaeological sensitivity. Balanced against this is the fact that undoubtedly the area has been the subject of some disturbance in



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connection with the existing public house and previous development in the area.

Having considered these issues, in this case we do not believe it would be justified to require the applicant to commission a pre-determination archaeological evaluation of the site (as can be required in some cases, drawing on the advice contained in paragraph 122 of the NPPF). Equally, our assessment of the potential impact of the proposal is that it would be sufficiently unlikely to impact on nationally important archaeological remains such that this could not be classified as harm to the Hadrian's Wall frontier. As such, we don't believe that paragraphs 132-134 of the NPPF are relevant here, as they deal with development that will cause harm (or various degrees).

Instead, we would advise that the residual risk to archaeology associated with the Roman frontier could be dealt with by means of a condition imposed on any permission issued to require an archaeological watching brief on the excavations necessary for the development. In such an exercise a professional archaeologist would be commissioned by the applicant, and would need to be given time to excavate and record any archaeological remains revealed and immediately threatened by the development. This need to record any heritage assets to be lost as part of development in a manner proportionate to their significance and the impact is in line with advice contained in paragraph 141 of the NPPF.

In addition, having considered the location and scale of development, and likely functioning of the Roman frontier, although the development will be visible from the Roman frontier it will not harm the understanding and appreciation of Roman military planning and land use, which is what we are trying to protect when we talk about setting in this context.

Taking all this into account, in our view this development proposed cannot be classed as causing harm to those aspects of the historic Environment that fall within Historic England's remit.

Recommendation

We recommend that any permission issued for this development should have appropriate condition(s) imposed on it to require an archaeological watching brief on all excavations necessary for the development. Provided this is done, we do not believe that this development will cause harm to the significance of archaeological remains associated with the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site and their settings.

It is not necessary to consult us again on this application. Please send us a copy of the decision notice in due course. This will help us to monitor actions related to changes to historic places

Yours sincerely



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Mike Collins
Inspector of Ancient Monuments (Hadrian's Wall)



CC. Chris Jones - NNPA



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