



Historic England

NORTH EAST OFFICE

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

Direct Dial: [REDACTED]

Our ref: P00556637

24 February 2017

Dear Mr Stanworth

**T&CP (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015
& Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990**

**THE SILL VISITOR CENTRE, ONCE BREWED, HEXHAM, NORTHUMBERLAND,
NE47 7AN
Application No. 17NP0016**

Thank you for your letter of 20 February 2017 regarding the above application for planning permission. On the basis of the information available to date, we offer the following advice to assist your authority in determining the application.

Summary

In light of the archaeological sensitivity of the site of this application, we would ask for clarification on aspects of what is proposed, to allow us to comment on its potential impact on the scheduled monument of the Hadrian's Wall Vallum from a better informed position.

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, with the Hadrian's Wall Vallum running through the northern part of the site. Hadrian's Wall represents the most complete of the frontiers of the Roman Empire, and its archaeological and historic 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.

This sensitivity has been dealt with throughout the development of proposals for The Sill, and has produced a scheme for this facility which avoids harm to the remains of the Vallum and also its setting. In principle, it is likely that the required signage to operate this development will be able to be similarly accommodated without such harm. However, in order to understand fully what is being proposed as part of the current application, and therefore provided the Authority with informed advice, we



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would ask for clarification on the following:

- The four submitted zoned plans for the signage do not show any works proposed for the scheduled monument area of the Vallum. However, the 'upper east' zone plan mentions that 'For all works north of the B6318 see dwg. no. SIL-GK-00-ZZ-DR-L-8200', and given that this area is part of the protected Vallum we would ask for clarification as to what works are planned in this area fall within the current application
- The document on your website 'additional plans' shows a sign type (type E), with one location within the protected vallum. This does not seem to be present on the zone plan for this part of the site, so we would ask for clarification as to whether this signage falls within the current application and, if so, details of its precise location

Recommendation

Historic England has concerns regarding the application on heritage grounds.

Paragraph 128 of the NPPF makes clear the need for sufficient detail to allow an informed understanding of the impact of any application, and therefore whilst we would be happy to provide further advice once clarification of the above has been provided, until this has been done we would advise against the determination of this application.

Your authority should take these representations into account and seek amendments, safeguards or further information as set out in our advice. If there are any material changes to the proposals, or you would like further advice, please contact us.

Yours sincerely

Mike Collins

Inspector of Ancient Monuments (Hadrian's Wall)

E-mail: [REDACTED]

cc. Chris Jones - NNPA

