



Historic England

NORTH EAST OFFICE

Mr Colin Godfrey
Northumberland National Park Authority
Eastburn
South Park
Hexham
Northumberland
NE46 1BS

Direct Dial: [REDACTED]

Our ref: P00772811

17 January 2018

Dear Mr Godfrey

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

**LONGSYKE FARM, HALTWHISTLE, NORTHUMBERLAND, NE49 9PR
Application No. 18NP0003**

Thank you for your letter of 16 January 2018 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.

Historic England Advice

Our advice remains the same as for an earlier application for this site:

The development site is in an area of archaeological sensitivity because of its position in relation to the Roman aqueduct, a component part of the Hadrian's Wall Roman frontier. This frontier represents the most complete of the frontiers of the Roman Empire, and its archaeological and historic significance is reflected in the protection given to most of its surviving remains, including the aqueduct, as a scheduled ancient monument, and its inclusion by UNESCO in its list of World Heritage Sites. In addition, the area around the Roman frontier adds further significance to this site by allowing an appreciation of the siting of the Roman frontier in relation to local topography, something which is crucial in understanding Roman military planning and land use.

Having considered the details of the application, we do not believe that this proposal would impact directly on any archaeological remains from the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site. The application incorrectly states that the aqueduct isn't visible on the ground, when through much of the section near the proposed turbines it is clearly visible as a shallow ditch with a bank on its downhill side. However, the very fact that the Roman aqueduct is visible is itself useful because it shows that the turbines proposed will not impact directly on this feature. This, and that we've no reason to expect any further related archaeological remains around the aqueduct, means that



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we do not believe that the development will harm any nationally significant archaeological remains, and we therefore have no objection to the turbines on these grounds.

With reference to the setting of the World Heritage Site, clearly the proposed turbines will be highly visible from the aqueduct and the wider frontier zone. When we discuss setting in this context, the visual presence of the aqueduct itself is important in allowing an understanding and appreciation of the sophisticated nature of Roman military planning and land use, particularly given that the supply of water to the fort at Great Chesters via the aqueduct all lies to the north of the formal frontier line. However, appreciation of this military planning is not conditional on seeing the aqueduct in isolation, and there seems no Roman functional reason why wholly clear views along all its line would be required. Having considered all of this, we have concluded that although visible from the aqueduct and wider World Heritage Site, this development would not have sufficient impact on its setting to be said to be harmful to its setting.

Given these conclusions, which are that this proposal would not cause harm to either archaeological remains relating to the Hadrian's Wall Roman frontier or its setting, it is our view that the NPPF paragraphs 132-134, which address planning and developments which would cause this kind of harm, do not apply in this case, and that there is no in-principle historic environment reason within our remit for planning permission to be refused in this case.

Recommendation

Historic England has no objection to the application on heritage grounds.

Your authority should take these representations into account in determining the application. If there are any material changes to the proposals, or you would like further advice, please contact us. Please advise us of the decision in due course.

Yours sincerely

Mike Collins

Inspector of Ancient Monuments (Hadrian's Wall)

E-mail: [REDACTED]

cc. Chris Jones - NNPA Archaeology

