

Heritage Statement

Shed at High Rochester for Upper Redesdale Show Society

Because of the value and importance of this site I have ensured that Historic England have been involved from the start. Email correspondence between the Rochester show committee and Historic England have been included in the appendix of this statement.

Bremenium is one of the largest and most important of the Roman Forts north of Hadrian's Wall with clear defence ramparts and a lot of original stone work especially at the well preserved West Gateway. The fort attracts a reasonable amount of visitors throughout the year.

The storage shed will be built on a "raft cast" to ensure no damage is done to archaeological remains.

At no stage of the project will it be necessary to excavate finds. All work will be on the surface.

The shed is sited in the corner of a small field on the fort. It will be protected by stone walls on the side and end that face onto the fort and only the roof will be seen. When trees are in leaf it will not be visible.

The shed will therefore not impact the fort either structurally or visually and every effort is being made to ensure it is a good quality structure.

Access to the site will be made over the existing farm track that runs past Green Cottage and along past Rochester Cottage heading south-west. This track has been in situ for many decades where its been used almost every day by farm vehicles such as tractors and quad bikes.

The new storage shed will be accessed at only one time of the year while the village show takes place. Vehicles used to load and unload the equipment from the shed will include farm vehicles such as tractors and quad bikes.

Malcolm Corbett
Upper Redesdale Show Society

Fwd: Rochester Show Planning Application

Wed 10/07/2019 13:53

To: [REDACTED]

As requested

Cheers

Malcolm

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject:Rochester Show Planning Application

Date:Mon, 1 Jul 2019 15:11:29 +0000

From:Collins, Mike [REDACTED]

To:Anne Corbett [REDACTED]

CC: [REDACTED]

Dear Malcolm and Jay,

Thank you for our separate conversations a couple of weeks ago, with reference to the proposed storage building at High Rochester. Apologies that it has taken longer than expected to come back to you. The issue we talked about was the provision of a shed at High Rochester, to provide facilities to allow the Rochester Show.

The first thing to say is that I don't think we're any distance apart in our initial views on the heritage issues at High Rochester –

- almost no-one knows the site as well as Malcolm from all his years there, and we're grateful that he involved us at pre-application stage
- I'm also very grateful to Jay for his speedy appreciation of the sensitivity of the site, and determination to make sure that the shed is acceptable in heritage terms.

The shed Malcolm and I talked about was to be modest in size, well-designed, and tucked away in the field in the western part of the Roman fort – this location is bounded by the strong visual presence of good high drystone field walls, and although the shed might be visible to a degree here, this would be in the context of these walls, and the existing farm and domestic buildings and trees in the area. In our view a well-designed and modest shed here would not harm the visual appreciation of the fort and its position in the Roman landscape, and as such we believed that in-principle (and subject to fuller details in due course) it wouldn't harm the setting of the fort.

With reference to direct archaeological issues, Malcolm was clear that the shed would be founded on a raft foundation, cast on the surface, specifically to avoid archaeological issues. There would be no need for services to be brought to the building as well. Again, on this basis, and subject to confirmation details, I saw no issue with this approach.

For the Planning Application it clearly it is for the National Park (as the Planning Authority) to decide what information is useful and relevant to the application, and therefore what to require from the applicant. I can, however, give advice from the point of view of Historic England, and suggest the amount and type of information that we would need to comment

on the planning application: I think a heritage is an important part of a future planning application here, but *for our needs* it can be a very short and focussed piece of work, and doesn't need to be put together by a heritage professional.

My feeling is that it just needs to be briefly set out:

1. The presence of the Roman fort, and the fact that the proposal has been designed to avoid harm to the *archaeology* and *setting* of the site
2. That the foundation is to be a raft, cast at ground level with no excavation, and that no excavations for services will be required
3. (as talked about above) that the site has been chosen to be screened by existing field walls, and will blend well with these and the existing farm and domestic buildings on the site, and therefore avoid harm to the setting of the Roman fort#

I hope this helps, and please just let me know if we can help any further at this stage.

All best wishes

mike

Mike Collins
Team Leader Development Advice
North East and Yorkshire
Inspector of Ancient Monuments: Hadrian's Wall
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Fwd: RE: Proposed site for shed at Bremenium

Anne Corbett [REDACTED]

Sat 18/05/2019 09:47

To [REDACTED]

Hi Jack,

Forwarding the info you need

Regards

Malcolm

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: RE: Proposed site for shed at Bremenium**Date:** Wed, 15 May 2019 09:50:42 +0000**From:** Collins, Mike [REDACTED]**To:** Anne Corbett [REDACTED]

Hi Malcolm,

Thanks for this. As we talked about – I do think it would be useful all round to get the SMC in place at the earliest stage, not least so that funders can see that we have no issue with it, but I do think this probably needs to wait until you have some more detailed plans.

As we talked about last week – what you're proposing seems fine in principle to me, but we can only formally consent something once we know exactly what is proposed, so size and design really need to be nailed down to go into the SMC application.

All best, and good to see you last week.

Mike

Mike Collins
Team Leader Development Advice
North East and Yorkshire
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From: Anne Corbett [REDACTED]**Sent:** 15 May 2019 09:58**To:** Collins, Mike**Subject:** Re: Proposed site for shed at Bremenium

Hi Mike,

Please find attached the Application for Scheduled Monument Consent.

Regards

Malcolm

On 07/05/2019 09:41, Collins, Mike wrote:

Great; thanks Malcolm

All best

mike

Mike Collins
Inspector of Ancient Monuments: Hadrian's Wall
Planning Group
Direct Dial: [REDACTED]

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From: Anne Corbett [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 May 2019 10:14
To: Collins, Mike
Subject: Re: Proposed site for shed at Bremenium

Hi, Mike,

10.00 on the 8th will be fine

Regards

Malcolm

On 01/05/2019 13:52, Collins, Mike wrote:

Hi Malcolm,

Apologies for messing you around, but would 10.00 on the 8th be Ok, instead of the 7th, as something has come up which means I need to be in the office.

All best

mike

Mike Collins
Inspector of Ancient Monuments: Hadrian's Wall
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From: Collins, Mike

Sent: 09 April 2019 08:55

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Proposed site for shed at Bremenium

Hi Malcolm,

Very much agree with you – to work together to try to achieve something we're all happy with is absolutely the right way to go.

Happy to meet on site: at the moment I could do the 25/4, 30/4, 7/5 or 8/5 if any of these are any use?

All best wishes

mike

Mike Collins

Inspector of Ancient Monuments: Hadrian's Wall

Planning Group

Direct Dia [REDACTED]

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From: Anne Corbett [REDACTED]

Sent: 03 April 2019 21:41

To: Collins, Mike

Subject: Re: Proposed site for shed at Bremenium

Dear Mike

Thank you for your positive reply regarding the proposed storage building at High Rochester. It was very positively revived at our AGM recently and the committee are now proceeding to get estimates required for potential grant funding. Would it be possible to meet you on site so we can both be clear on what is wanted and have a clear idea on how we can proceed? I think it is in both our interests to make sure we work together to ensure a satisfactory outcome for both parties.

If this is possible can I suggest we leave the meeting date until after the 15th of April as I am busy with lambing sheep at present.

I hope this is satisfactory.

Kind Regards

Malcolm

On 08/03/2019 12:09, Collins, Mike wrote:

Dear Malcolm,

Thank you for your email of 5th March 2019, which has been passed to me by my colleague Claire Botham. Thank you also for the clear details on the proposals you have provided, which allow us to see both the reason for the development and the design approach to be taken.

To me this issue is fairly simple, and I only have a few small comments to make:

- You've been clear in the supporting document that you're talking about a quality wooden structure, which would be founded on a raft, with no ground disturbance. This being the case, although you would still require scheduled monument consent to construct the shed, I can't see any direct archaeological issues here
- Although we'd want to see the design in due course, in the context of the existing buildings here it does not seem likely that a well-designed shed would harm the setting of the Roman fort
- The only thing we wouldn't support would be the suggestion of planting of trees and shrubs to screen the shed – as discussed above, I don't think the proposed shed is likely to harm the setting of the fort, meaning the screening wouldn't be necessary from our point of view, and we would be concerned about the potential impact on archaeological remains from the roots of these trees and shrubs

I hope that this advice is useful to you at this stage, and please don't hesitate to let me know if you need any clarification of the above.

All best wishes

Mike

Mike Collins
Inspector of Ancient Monuments: Hadrian's Wall
Planning Group
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