



Historic England

Ms Laura Garth  
Northumberland National Park Authority  
Eastburn  
South Park  
Hexham  
Northumberland  
NE46 1BS

Direct Dial: [REDACTED]

Our ref: P01577654

30 May 2024

Dear Ms Garth

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

**ROMAN ARMY MUSEUM, CARVORAN, GREENHEAD, NORTHUMBERLAND, CA8  
7JB  
Application No. 24NP0046**

Thank you for your letter of 29 May 2024 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**

Historic England supports the suggested variation to Condition 4 of the planning permission for this development in order to best protect both the archaeology of the Roman site at Carvoran and its setting.

As suggested in the Design and Access statement presented with the application, this is a site of the highest archaeological sensitivity, taking in the Roman fort of Magna, its associated Roman-period settlement, and a section of the Hadrian's Wall frontier. These remains have a great potential to elucidate the story of the interaction of one of the world's great pre-industrial civilisations with the landscape and people who already populated this area. This is particularly important because of at Carvoran the archaeology includes installations all the way through from the Romans early attempts to establish a frontier, through the great construction work of Hadrian's Wall, and the later history and end of the Roman period in the British Isles.

The archaeological significance of this site is reflected in the protection given to most of its remains as a scheduled monument, and inclusion within the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site.

Historic England looks to support measures to achieve ecological and carbon benefits through the planning system, and in many cases even in the Hadrian's Wall area we



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would have no objection to planting schemes. However, in this case there is such a degree of sensitivity that we would be very concerned by any significant new planting required on this site. This concerns stems from the damage that root growth, and the drawing up of moisture by roots, can cause to archaeological deposits - in this case to the complex archaeology of the Roman period discussed above and in the D&A Statement.

In addition, although the Hadrian's Wall landscape can often accommodate planting without harm to the setting of the monument/World Heritage Site, part of the reason for the siting of the fort and settlement here is to allow an observation across the surrounding landscape. Whilst there has been a degree of compromise at Carvoran as a result of tree planting in the past, avoiding further planting in its immediate surroundings would allow the landscape to remain open and therefore a better appreciation of Roman military planning and land use.

These two factors together (direct impact on archaeology and impact on the setting of the World Heritage Site) mean that we think that the variation proposed by the Vindolanda Trust is a sensible and reasonable response to the sensitivity of the site.

## **Recommendation**

We consider that the application meets the requirements of the NPPF, in particular paragraph numbers 205, which is clear that great weight should be given to the conservation of heritage assets, and 206, which requires any harm to a heritage asset of this significance to have a clear and convincing justification.

Yours sincerely

### **Mike Collins**

Team Leader (Development Advice)

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cc: Andrew Birley - The Vindolanda Trust; Chris Jones - NNPA Archaeology



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