



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

Direct Dial: [REDACTED]

Our ref: P01096700

12 August 2019

Dear Mr Godfrey

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

**WALLTOWN FARM, GREENHEAD , BRAMPTON, NORTHUMBERLAND, CA8 7JD
Application No. 19NP0064**

Thank you for your letter of 12 August 2019 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

We note that this application is almost identical to one for this site which we commented on in August 2018. As such, our views remain the same as those outlined last year:

The farm complex at Walltown is an area with a high archaeological sensitivity because of its proximity to the line of Hadrian's Wall. This UNESCO World Heritage Site and scheduled monument is the best preserved and most complex of the frontiers of the Roman Empire, one of the world's great pre-industrial civilisations. The upstanding remains of the Wall and the wider frontier remain highly visible features in the landscape at Walltown, meaning that not only does Hadrian's Wall have great archaeological significance, but the area surrounding the remains themselves also allows an understanding and appreciation of the planning and subsequent operation/adaptation of the frontier by the Roman Army. This latter aspect is what Historic England is commenting on when we discuss the setting of the Wall.

Having considered the details of the application, it seems to us that although the application site does lie in the likely Roman military zone, between the Wall to the north and the major ditch system known as the Hadrian's Wall Vallum to the south, it is likely to be located just too far south of the Wall itself to directly impact on archaeological remains associated with it. In this case we do not believe it would be justified, as might be the case on some sites close to Hadrian's Wall, to ask the



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applicant to commission pre-determination archaeological works (as discussed in paragraph 189 of the NPPF).

Also discussed at pre-application stage was the potential of the proposal to impact on non-scheduled archaeological remains from a likely medieval tower at Walltown. Although primary responsibility for commenting on this lie with the NNPA's own specialist archaeological advisor, we agree with their assessment last year that given the location of the development and our level of knowledge about this tower, we agree that the current proposal wouldn't be sufficiently likely to impact on remains relating to medieval Walltown to require any pre or post-determination archaeological works.

With reference to the setting of the Roman frontier, although clearly visible from the line of Hadrian's Wall, any new agricultural building will be visually quite closely integrated into the existing complex of farm buildings at Walltown. In addition to this, although located within the likely Roman military zone between Wall and Vallum, it lies on low ground below the level of the Wall on the crags to its north. In our view a new development here wouldn't interrupt any Roman visual communication lines, which might have been the case if it blocked views between one of the Wall's milecastles and a signal station, which add to its significance by allowing understanding and appreciation of Roman military planning and control. Given this, we do not believe that the visibility of this development would amount to harm to the setting of Hadrian's Wall in NPPF terms. The tests set out in the NPPF for development which would cause harm to the setting of designated heritage assets like Hadrian's Wall (paragraphs 194-196).

Given these observations, we have concluded that the proposed development will not cause harm, in NPPF terms, to the Hadrian's Wall Roman frontier (including its setting). As such, we can confirm that we conclude we advise you that Historic England does not wish to object to the development as proposed.

Finally, for the sake of accuracy we have to note that the Design and Access Statement makes reference to having sought the views of Historic England on this revised scheme, but that comments were awaited - although we did provide pre-application advice on the 2018 scheme, I can find no evidence that our advice has been sought on the revised scheme.

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.



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Historic England

Yours sincerely



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