

Hayley Holden

From: Steve Baker (Economy Transport and Environment)
<Steve.Baker@derbyshire.gov.uk>
Sent: 15 October 2019 14:56
To: Planning
Cc: Chris Nash
Subject: DMPA/2019/1097 Infinity Garden Village, Land South of Wragley Way, Stenson Fields, Derby. Outline application (all matters reserved except for access in part) for up to 1,850 dwellings etc - archaeology

Dear Chris,

Thank you for consulting on the above planning application. I have previously commented on the A50 Link Road proposals as presented to Derbyshire County Council (CD9/0319/110 Land between Deep Dale Lane and Infinity Park Way, Sinfen, Derby) and on the 'Infinity Garden Village' proposals as submitted to Derby City Council (DER/19/00877/OUT).

The site comprises a residential section running east-west to the south of existing housing development at Stenson Fields, and a 'mixed use' section which covers and extends to the east of the corridor associated with the proposed A50 link road associated with the Infinity Park development further to the north.

The central part of the site has been subject to some archaeological evaluation in 2006 (scanning geophysics and some targeted evaluation trenches) and revealed little of conventional archaeological potential, although there was well-preserved palaeo-environmental evidence associated with a stream palaeo-channel. The area at the west of the residential site has however not previously been evaluated archaeologically, and is immediately adjacent to a known archaeological site (DHER MDR4594) comprising cropmark ring ditches and significant quantities of medieval pottery.

The eastern part of the site is partly covered by the corridor of the proposed A50 Link Road, for which geophysical survey has been carried out and archaeological/geo-archaeological assessments produced. The potential of conventional settlement archaeology within this corridor appears low, but geo-archaeological potential has been identified corresponding to the location of a late-glacial palaeo-lake, which may be associated with important palaeo-environmental deposits and fluctuating lakeside activity.

The heritage information presented with the application provides only a partial assessment of potential. The geo-archaeological potential of the site (palaeo-channel deposits within the residential site and palaeo-lake deposits along the road corridor) is not discussed, and the geophysical/geo-archaeological results within the road corridor are not presented. The lack of geophysical data for the area at the site's western extent is not identified, nor is the potential associated with the proximity of the Swarkestone Lowes monuments to the east.

I therefore object to the application in its present form because of a lack of sufficient information to understand heritage significance as required by NPPF para 189. This could be addressed by

- 1) Identifying those areas not previously evaluated and carrying out geophysical survey, with trial trenching to follow as appropriate;
- 2) A joined-up discussion of geo-archaeology and palaeo-environment potential drawing on the work already carried out along the link road corridor.

Regards

Steve Baker MA MCifA | Archaeologist
Conservation, Heritage and Design Service, Derbyshire County Council
Shand House, Dale Road South, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 3RY
01629 539773 steve.baker@derbyshire.gov.uk

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