

Jessica Cheadle

From: Steve Baker (Place) <Steve.Baker@derbyshire.gov.uk>
Sent: 03 December 2021 11:35
To: Planning
Cc: neil.thompson@southderbyshire.gov.uk
Subject: DMPA/2021/1698 Land off Mount Road Castle Gresley. An energy storage facility, together with associated equipment, infrastructure and ancillary works - archaeology

Dear Neil,
Thank you for consulting on the above planning application.

The proposal site is c265m from the Scheduled Monument 'Castle Gresley motte and bailey castle'.

The castle sits within a landscape with plentiful urban encroachment, although there are rural vistas to the south which preserve a sense of the original domination position of the motte in the landscape. Within this landscape are remains of field systems and field boundaries (e.g. Derbyshire HER MDR7079 which includes part of the proposal site) which appear to preserve elements of the medieval open field landscape contemporary with the castle, for example where boundaries still extant in the late 19th century seem to have preserved the line of headlands within the medieval field system. These landscapes have archaeological potential to capture evidence relevant to the development of the castle in its landscape.

To the south-east of the proposal site (c350m) is a prehistoric site identified during archaeological evaluation 2019, with a 'bivallate hilltop enclosure' of probable late prehistoric date. This also suggests that there may be a background prehistoric potential within the area of the proposal site.

Although the applicant's 'heritage statement' discusses the setting of the Scheduled Monument, I can find no statement giving the heritage credentials of the author. Although views between the proposed storage site and the Monument are discussed there is no photography to illustrate this. Discussion is limited to the storage site and does not consider the new built access arrangements to north and south, which appear fairly extensive. I am therefore not convinced that the applicant has sufficiently addressed significance and impacts in relation to the Scheduled Monument in line with NPPF para 194. You may wish to guided further on this matter by Historic England.

The heritage statement does not provide any assessment of archaeological interest or significance within the site despite the potential as discussed above and despite having been advised of this by the local planning authority at the pre-application stage. The application does not therefore meet the minimum requirement at NPPF para 194 in relation to archaeology.

The application does not therefore meet the heritage information requirements at NPPF para 194 and in its current form should not be granted consent.

To remedy this situation the applicant should submit the results of a professionally authored heritage impact assessment to sufficiently assess heritage and archaeological impacts. In relation to the Scheduled Monument this should include some illustrative photography showing views between the site and the castle motte, and consideration of the visual impacts of the proposed access roads in views from the Monument. In relation to archaeology a desk-based assessment should be provided, with map regression to assess below-ground potential within the site and along the new-build access roads.

Once this information has been provided we should be re-consulted.

Best wishes

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