

## NORTH EAST OFFICE

Mrs Katherine Robbie  
Northumberland County Council  
County Hall  
Morpeth  
Northumberland  
NE61 2EF

Direct Dial: 0191 2691212

Our ref: P01041513

19 March 2019

Dear Mrs Robbie

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

#### **LAND AT COLD LAW, KIRKWHELPINGTON, NORTHUMBERLAND Application No. 19/00247/FUL**

Thank you for your letter of 27 February 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.

#### **Summary**

Historic England has considered carefully the potential impact of this proposal on the designated heritage assets that lie within our statutory remit. All of these are protected as scheduled monuments

- three prehistoric settlements near Ferneyrigg
- Ridsdale Ironworks
- Risingham Roman Fort and the Roman camp at Fourlaws
- prehistoric settlement at Great Wanney Crag

In each case although the proposal development is likely to be visible from these sites, because of its location and the relationship of the scheduled site to its surrounding landscape, this visibility will not amount to harm to their settings. We have therefore concluded that this proposal will not lead to harm to those heritage assets within our remit.

#### **Historic England Advice**

This proposed development will not impact directly on any heritage assets that Historic England has a statutory remit to comment on.

As with all such development there is the potential for this proposal to impact on other heritage assets, including non-designated archaeological ones. We would therefore advise, if you have not already done so, that you consult with your own Conservation

BESSIE SURTEES HOUSE 41-44 SANDHILL NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE NE1 3JF

Telephone 0191 269 1255  
[HistoricEngland.org.uk](http://HistoricEngland.org.uk)



## NORTH EAST OFFICE

advisors, who will be able to give you further advice on this issue.

Historic England's remit with reference to this application relates to its potential impact on the settings of a significant number of heritage assets, all of which are protected as scheduled monuments. In each case we need to understand the role that setting plays in the significance of these assets, and the impact of the development on this significance, rather than just looking at simple questions of visibility between the assets and the proposed development.

These can assets can be divided into four main groups, and I will deal with these separately.

### **Scheduled settlements west of Ferneyrigg**

A group of three scheduled Romano-British settlement sites are located around 1km to the east of the proposed development site. These sites are part of a wider pattern of intensive native settlement in this part of Northumberland in the Roman period. These sites are domestic in character, and although they are often protected to a degree through enclosure by ramparts and ditches, they do not seem to have been sited specifically to dominate high ground.

As a consequence, the role that setting plays in their significance seems clear - they were sited to allow observation over their immediate surroundings (particularly the kind of field systems that the northern-most of these three sites has associated with it), but not to visually command and be seen over the wider landscape. The setting of these sites that we are trying to protect is their open and uninterrupted visual relationship with their *immediate* surroundings, something which would not be interrupted by the proposed development.

Therefore, whilst potentially visible in long-distance views from these three settlement sites (particularly should the intervening forestry be felled at some stage in the future), we do not believe that this visibility would harm their settings.

### **Ridsdale Ironworks**

This important site is scheduled because of its importance in the industrial development of this part of Northumberland, something which might be difficult to appreciate and understand in what today appears to be a very wild and natural upland landscape. The ironworks was sited for functional reasons adjacent to a major road for access and also close to its raw materials, and not apparently with conscious thought to the wider landscape surrounding it. Whilst setting has a role in the significance of this site, this lies largely in its visibility from the adjacent A68 allowing an insight into the industrial past of this area for those who see on their journeys along this road.

BESSIE SURTEES HOUSE 41-44 SANDHILL NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE NE1 3JF

Telephone 0191 269 1255  
HistoricEngland.org.uk



## NORTH EAST OFFICE

The proposed development, being located around 1km to the east, will not detract from such an appreciation of the areas industrial past, and would not cut the site off visually from the adjacent road and the immediate raw material network that served it. Thus, whilst it would be visible from the scheduled site, we do not believe that the visibility of the proposed development would harm its setting.

### **The Roman fort at Risingham and Roman camp at Furlaws**

These sites are an important reminder of Roman control over this area, and particularly with reference to control over the area to the north of Hadrian's Wall from the mid-second century onwards. At this time, Risingham alongside sites like High Rochester functioned as outposts from the Wall, and it is presumed that they controlled the landscape through such installations at key points and patrolling rather than through a static frontier. These so-called outpost forts were linked back to Hadrian's Wall, in the case of Risingham via the Roman road now known as Dere Street.

The protection of this key route would thus have been very important to the functioning of the Roman system of control over the northern frontier zone, and visual communications and observation along the road would have been a major part of this. The role that setting plays in the significance of these sites lies in an appreciation and understand of their position on Roman Dere Street and the likely role that visual communication along this line between these sites played at this time.

The proposed development obviously lies around a 1.5km to the east of the line of Dere Street. Having examined the proposal in detail, the upper part of the proposed development will be visible from the Roman Wall. However, when looking between the scheduled sites or along Dere Street it will be a significant distance away to the east, and will not interrupt or distract in views along the key Roman communication line. Given this, although visible, we do not believe that the development would harm the setting of these scheduled Roman sites.

### **Settlement at Great Wanney Crag**

This late prehistoric settlement is built in a naturally defensible position, in which the defences constructed on its southern side are combined with the cliff-like drop from the crags to the north to provide a formidably protected position. This siting also places the settlement in a highly visible and visually-isolated position, in which long-distance views over a wide landscape allow observation of those passing through or approaching the site.

Setting plays an important role in the significance of this site. By virtue of its visual isolation, with steep slopes up the site from the south and cliffs to the north, the area

BESSIE SURTEES HOUSE 41-44 SANDHILL NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE NE1 3JF

Telephone 0191 269 1255  
HistoricEngland.org.uk



## NORTH EAST OFFICE

around Great Wanney allows an appreciation of both its defensible qualities, its commanding position over the surrounding landscape and its highly visible presence within this wider landscape.

The proposed development, located some 800m to the north of the scheduled site, will change to an extent this visually isolated context of the settlement on Great Wanney Crag. Although to some extent such a change has already occurred in views from the south as a result of the construction of wind turbines, to the north the proposed development will represent a tall and obviously human-made structure in this mixed upland environment, clearly visible in views north from Great Wanney Crag. Balanced against this is the fact that the development is some distance to the north and that, given its size and scale, it will only interrupt views within a small segment of the near 180 degree view to the north.

On balance, we believe that these two factors are crucial: together they mean that views of the settlement will from most angles be able to appreciate its isolation, prominence and defensive qualities, whilst the hilltop location, commanding and observing much of the surrounding landscape will only be interrupted over a very small area. Given this, although visible from Great Wanney, we do not believe that the impact of the proposal on the setting (and therefore significance) of the scheduled settlement will be sufficient to be classed as harm in NPPF terms.

In our view all other designated heritage assets within our statutory remit lie too far away from the proposed development to be harmed by it.

### **Recommendation**

Historic England has no objection to the application on heritage grounds.

Given our conclusion that the proposed development will not harm the sites or settings of designated heritage assets, within our statutory remit in our view there is no need for the Council to carry out a balance of heritage harm and public benefit as set out in Paragraphs 194-196 of the NPPF.

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.

Yours sincerely



**Mike Collins**

Inspector of Ancient Monuments (Hadrian's Wall)

E-mail: [mike.collins@HistoricEngland.org.uk](mailto:mike.collins@HistoricEngland.org.uk)

cc. Karen Derham - NCC Archaeology

BESSIE SURTEES HOUSE 41-44 SANDHILL NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE NE1 3JF

Telephone 0191 269 1255

[HistoricEngland.org.uk](http://HistoricEngland.org.uk)



## NORTH EAST OFFICE

BESSIE SURTEES HOUSE 41-44 SANDHILL NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE NE1 3JF

Telephone 0191 269 1255  
[HistoricEngland.org.uk](http://HistoricEngland.org.uk)



*Historic England is subject to both the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Environmental Information Regulations (2004). Any information held by the organisation can be requested for release under this legislation.*