

Heritage

Wasperton and Barford, are blessed with numerous Heritage assets - either in close proximity to, or immediately adjacent to sites 4 and 5 – The most immediate being Thelsford Priory, a Scheduled Ancient Monument and Seven Elms and Wasperton Farm which are Grade 2 Listed buildings.

As part of plan preparation, County were required to consult with statutory bodies, one of which was **Historic** England. Within their response **Historic** England stated that:

A full Archaeological Assessment and analysis **prior to allocation** is required. This has been totally ignored by County's planning dept. The recent report to cabinet **includes Heritage as** having –

“either **been** assessed or **will be assessed** as part of the planning application”. This DIRECTLY CONTRAVENES the advice of Historic England who are key in these matters. **Heritage has not been assessed by** Warwickshire County Council and it **should not be left** to be done at the planning stage as advised by the officer.

The officers continue in their observations of Site 5 to state that with regard to tonnage they - “**have no evidence to contradict the developer**”, which of course is the Counties Estates Department.

However, as part of the consultation process the planners have received **detailed information** demonstrating **HOW the figures** quoted by the Estates Department **are not possible**. -- The tonnage they **claim as available** is based on data prepared **in the 1980s** and does not allow for **standoffs specified by the planners** to –

- key heritage assets
- **the protection of Thelsford Brook** and hedgerow –
- and the **legal requirement** to maintain the access track

Yet again the officers' observations ignore recent professionally prepared, calculations - **supplied by respondents** in favour of antiquated estimates.

The Observations in this report also **fail to update** the cabinet of **their own “in house”** assessment report which concluded:

“it **will not be possible - to appropriately mitigate** in landscape **and** heritage terms **for mineral development in this location**. It goes on to say -

“Visibility, inherent rural character and **heritage setting are key considerations**” and recommended that in landscape terms Site 5 **should not be put forward**.

Finally, the inclusion of a site in a Mineral Plan now generally carries **a presumption to grant** at planning application stage.

In the light of recent legal challenges, it is now **enshrined in law** to have “special regard” for the preservation of heritage assets. It says “

“where adverse effects are significant –An Environmental Impact and Heritage Assessment **should be correctly** applied and transposed in **decision making**”. Again, there **is no evidence** that Warwickshire County Council Planning Department have adhered to this advice either.

Thank You for your time.