

Historic England Comment., Hugh Beamish

Thank you for your letter of 9 July 2020 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

Due to current restrictions we have not been able to visit the site since receiving the application but on the basis of the information provided we can offer the following definitive advice.

We note that the location of this project is in proximity to a number of sensitive, designated heritage assets. These include:

The Scheduled Monument known as 'Battledown Camp' (National Heritage List for England ref. 1002083); and

Four grade II listed buildings at Hewlett's Reservoir; Reservoirs nos. 1 and 2, the pavilion, and the walls, gatepiers and gates (NHLE ref. 48853, 488556, 488557 and 488567).

The application thus has the potential to impact on the setting of designated heritage assets, possibly leading to a loss of significance. This matter is referred to in paragraphs 190 and 194 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

In our view, the application will result in an impact to the setting of the Scheduled Monument noted above. However, we assess the impact to be at the lower end of the scale referred to in paragraph 193 of the NPPF as 'less than substantial'. It is a matter for the Council to determine if the potential adverse impacts of the application to designated heritage assets may be out-weighed by the potential public benefits, as referred to in paragraph 196 of the NPPF.

While we assess the potential impacts on the scheduled monument to be modest, we note the potential for the proposed development to have a more significant impact on the setting of the adjacent reservoirs and associated features, which were listed at Grade II relatively recently. Impacts on Grade II listed structures are beyond Historic England's statutory remit, and we therefore suggest you consult your internal specialist conservation advisors for their views on how the significance of the Grade II listed structures may be affected by the impact of the proposed development upon their setting.

Recommendation

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

We consider that the issues and safeguards outlined in our advice need to be addressed in order for the application to meet the requirements of paragraphs 196 of the NPPF.