

LOCAL PLAN COMMITTEE – WEDNESDAY 29 JANUARY 2025

QUESTIONS AND ANSWER SESSION

Question from Mr Chris Taylor

We are wondering about the measures the Council intends to take to protect and assess the historic and archaeological significance of Monument No. 1581539, located on the West Whitwick Valley (Grid Reference: SK4260016630) (C47). This 'D-shaped' enclosure, visible as crop marks on 2011 aerial photographs, is believed to date back to the Iron Age or Roman period and features two opposing entrances to the north-east and south-west.

Given its significance and the possibility of linked settlements, how does the Council plan to:

Conduct proper **archaeological assessments** of the site, including ground surveys with archaeologists (as opposed to desktop studies)?

Preserving this site is vital to safeguarding our shared heritage, and I am eager to understand the steps being taken to address its protection.

Response from the Chair of the Local Plan Committee

'Leicestershire County Council Heritage Team Manager has confirmed that within the boundary of site C47 there is a known heritage asset as outlined in the question. He has advised that:

“the presence of a known heritage asset within the boundary of the site (C47) warrants pre-determination consideration of the site’s archaeological potential, in line with NPPF policy and supporting guidance”. However, I don’t feel it prevents allocation of the site.”

He has also noted that there are other heritage assets in the near vicinity which suggests that there is some archaeological interest more generally within the site. Again, he has advised that “I don’t believe the evidence is sufficient to prevent their allocation”.

He goes on to state:

“I would suggest the archaeological interest of all the sites, will be adequately addressed through the planning process, this may result in the discovery of significant archaeological remains that could influence the delivery of the sites, however at this stage there is insufficient information to be more specific. I would however encourage the promoter/future developer of the site(s) to undertake early

assessment of their site's archaeological interest to support and inform their design proposals and subsequent planning determination".

This request has been passed on to the site promoter.'