

LOCAL PLAN COMMITTEE – WEDNESDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 2025

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Question from Mr M Elton

‘Your Plan Objective number 8 states that you will conserve and enhance our heritage. Drone footage over C77, prior to the fields being cut, identified a double-edged circle. Following discussions with a specialist, we have been advised that this is the probable site of a GIN mine. These were the 1st mechanical mines which were introduced within North West Leicestershire in the 17th century where shallow coal seams were common. This area has a very deep compression with water constantly sleeping through which suggests this could have Subsidence issues. A similar Heritage site exists and is open to the public at Hough Windmill in Swannington.

Were you aware of this probable heritage site and how will this impact upon your plans to build there?’

Response from the Chair of the Local Plan Committee

‘The Council has consulted with the Historic and Natural Environment team at Leicestershire County Council and no concerns have been raised which would suggest that site C77 (or the wider area) should not be allocated for development from the point of view of heritage matters. It is their view that any archaeological interests can be addressed through the planning applications process.

The site promoter has been contacted regarding the issue of a possible GIN mine. They have responded that a detailed Phase 1 geo-environmental site investigation has been undertaken which shows no evidence of a GIN mine. This has involved excavating 24 trial pits and 30 boreholes and 6 monitoring gas stations, none of which has highlighted any heritage matters. In addition, the Coal Authority surveys show no records of a GIN mine.’