

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Local Plan](#)
Subject: Warrington Borough Council Local Plan Consultation - Battlefields Trust Response
Date: 09 November 2021 19:29:44
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Dear Warrington Borough Council,

Thank you for the opportunity for the Battlefields Trust to comment on Warrington Borough Council's 2021 Draft Local Plan.

The Battlefields Trust only has comments on site OS6 – Winwick (Land to the north of Winwick between Golborne Road (A573) and Waterworks Lane). We are concerned about the impact of developing this site on the registered battlefield of Winwick (1648). The site, as noted by the draft Local Plan heritage impact assessment, is adjacent to the registered battlefield. A 2018 heritage impact assessment (see [cd-541-battle-of-winwick-registered-battlefield-heritage-impact-assessment-october-2018.pdf \(sthelens.gov.uk\)](#)) carried out on behalf of St Helen's Council by The Environment Partnership for the Parkside Link Road planning application found (at para 5.24) that:

South of Hermitage Green Lane the battlefield area is considered to be highly sensitive to change, as it has largely retained its historic landscape character. Development within views of this area could harm the significance of the heritage asset and may affect the ability to understand the battlefield as a historic site.

However, the heritage assessment for site OS6 in your draft Local Plan suggests only a moderate impact on the setting of the battlefield, but without explaining how this conclusion has been reached. Given that St Helens Council's heritage consultants described the area south of Hermitage Green Lane as 'highly sensitive' to development within views of that area (which would include site OS6), we judge the impact of the development would be more than moderate and that this provides a strong reason for restricting the overall scale of development on this site compared to what is proposed. Not restricting the scale of development would, in our view, make this site unsustainable in National Planning Policy Framework terms (para 11b refers). Given the reduction in scale that is likely to be necessary, we recommend that the site is removed as an option from the Local Plan.

The heritage impact assessment for site OS6 also fails to acknowledge the probability that the route taken by parliamentarian cavalry to cut off the Scots was via what is now Golborne Road and that battlefield related archaeology has, we understand, been located in the proposed development area. I am sure Historic England would acknowledge that the boundaries of registered battlefields are not necessarily firm and that, in many cases, fighting may have taken place outside existing areas of registration. The reassessment and extension of the battlefield at Bosworth (1485) following archaeological work there is a good example of this. In the event the OS6 site is progressed we would expect there to be further battlefield archaeology finds arising from the pre-development metal detecting survey that would need to be undertaken to inform the heritage impact assessment for any planning application. If this did result in battlefield archaeology, we would ask Historic England to extend the registration of the battlefield to include site OS6 on a spot listing basis given the critical role played by the cavalry on the parliamentarian left wing during the battle.

I have blind copied this response to Marie Smallwood at Historic England North West.

Best wishes

Simon

Simon Marsh [REDACTED]

