

Heritage Statement

Grin Low (Buxton) Caravan Club Site

Reference: HPK/2015/0295

June 2015

Project scope

The proposed works will add a small extension to the rear of the existing toilet block, a short section of additional site spur road to improve traffic management and new all-weather caravan pitches

Significance of the historic fabric/area that will be affected:

Grin Low Caravan Club Site is set within the larger Buxton Country Park, adjacent to the park's visitor centre and car park.

The site is within Grin Quarry area an extensive area of limestone quarrying and lime burning, documented from the mid-17th century onwards. The south western tip of the site is within 200m of a sprawling complex of large earthen lime kilns, of which some 130 date from the 17th-19th centuries. (HER record number 2869).

The Historic Environment Record lists the location of the caravan site as the Grin Works, HER record No. 31155; the site of a 19th/20th century quarry and lime works with associated railway. This was operated by the Buxton Lime Company, formed in 1855 which considerably extended the existing lime works on Grin Hill. The lime works were taken over by the Clay Cross Company in 1923 with lime-burning finished in 1952 and the quarry closing permanently in 1972.

The area of Grin Works was acquired by Derbyshire County Council who landscaped the significant lime tips covering the area in 1979-1980, which were up to 40m deep and built up from waste from the lime burning process. The reclamation works also included demolishing a number of large masonry kilns built between 1858 and 1866. In 1979 the Caravan Club was invited by Derbyshire County Council to develop part of the site into a caravan site which opened in 1982. In 1985 Derbyshire Council received a Certificate of Commendation in the RICS/The Times Conservation Awards for reclamation work at the quarry. The caravan site, visitors centre and car park are constructed on the former quarry floor.

The impact of the proposed work(s) on the historic fabric/area:

The proposed improvements are fully in keeping with the characteristics of the existing caravan site and are most likely to have no effect on the historic fabric of the site or area. The history of development is such that the area containing the caravan site has been extensively reworked since the County Council began its reclamation works and removed the waste previously occupying the site. The land surrounding the caravan site on all sides, with the exception of visitors centre and car park, is designated a Special Landscape Area and Derbyshire Wildlife Site however the Local Plan shows the caravan site, visitors centre and car park do not carry this designation.

The materials to be used for all parts of the works will match the existing materials already used on site including a rendered masonry extension to the toilet block, macadam spur road and loose gravel chippings to top the all-weather caravan pitches.

The visual impact of the works to the area will be minimal due to the site being in a dip in the ground and also because the choice of materials as previously stated will match the existing on site. The extension to the toilet block has been sympathetically designed to be shielded by the existing building and large bank to the rear.

Summary

From the assessment of the caravan site's history the area was heavily quarried and used as waste tip up until the mid-20th Century. It is most likely the reclamation works by the County Council, including removal of the brick kilns dating from the mid-19th Century, have removed any features than would have been of historical interest. The proposed works are in keeping with the existing character of site and will complement its visual aspect.