

Glossop & District Heritage Trust

Glossop & District Heritage Trust

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Supported by



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Patron Edward William Fitzalan Howard, 18th Duke of Norfolk
Chairman Anthony Wright

27/6/24

Development Control, High Peak Borough Council

Dear Sirs

HPK/2024/0154 Land off Cottage Lane, Gamesley

The public footpath, Glossop FP68, which runs diagonally across the development site and would be diverted by the development, is marked on the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record (MDR 11569) as the possible line of the Roman road from the fort at Brough (Navio) to the fort at Gamesley (Melandra).

The likelihood that this is indeed the correct line has increased following recent revision by Peter Wroe, in conjunction with members of Glossopdale and Longdendale Archaeological Society (GLAS) of his and the late Peter Mellor's original survey of the road in the 1970s, and the investigations by Archaeological Research Services (ARS) on Adderley Fields in respect of HPK/2022/0456 (Land at Dinting Vale). Wroe's revised projection from the last excavated section at Hob Hill, Whitfield, takes the road along the general line of Hollincross Lane/Pikes Lane, and from there the most likely line is along the track, Glossop FP50, across Adderley Fields.

Investigations by ARS either side of this track revealed no sign of the road, the likelihood therefore being that it lies under the track. This track is in turn in dead-straight alignment with Glossop FP68 on the opposite side of the A626, which follows a field boundary marked on mid C19th maps, and projected forward this line would meet the Roman road from Buxton to Melandra at the point where it crossed the defensive ditch of the *vicus* (civil settlement) adjacent to the fort. In the post-Roman period the approximate Roman line appears to have remained in use as a local way between Whitfield and Lower Gamesley but would have been closed off when the Marple Bridge-Glossop turnpike (A626 – A57 – A6016) was constructed in 1804-5.

An appropriate archaeological condition is therefore required in relation to FP68. Bearing in mind that this is only 650 metres from the fort, account also needs to be taken of the possibility of burials, shrines or other remains off the immediate line of the road.

Yours faithfully

Roger Hargreaves, for Glossop and District Heritage Trust

Cc Steve Baker, County Archaeologist.

