Consultation Response from WY Archaeology Advisory Services

2025/92301 Land at, Windmill Lane, High Flatts, Huddersfield, HD8 8XU

Erection of an agricultural building following demolition of existing agricultural building

Date Responded:23rd sept 2025
Responding Officer: Glyn Davies
Responding Ref: DWY305

The application is for a new agricultural building on the site of an existing building.
The site is located to the immediate east of a scheduled ancuient monument castle hill denby common

The monument includes a late prehistoric enclosed settlement, situated on Denby Common, on the south side of Windmill Lane, on the south edge of a plateau. This earthwork enclosure is c.4kms. south west of Denby Dale in an arable field (English Heritage, 1999).

The remains of the earthwork comprise an L-shaped rampart standing 1-3 metres above the bottom of the ditch which is quite broad (3-4 metres). A slight lowering of the inner bank on the west side may be an entrance, but the O.S. investigator in 1961 suggested that this depression in the bank was probably a later path trodden down by cattle, so the validity of the entrance remains in doubt. The site is not in a good defensive position, being overlooked from the north and east. A landslip on the south side caused by modern quarrying has altered the form of the bank, and the outer ditch on the north west side has been greatly ploughed down and was apparently very difficult to survey. Various functions have been suggested for this site - a fortified site seems unlikely in view of its location; a vaccary is another possibility (it has been compared with the assumed Iron Age earthwork called Meg Dyke - MWY13, PRN 21) though it is not the vaccary referred to in 1086 as the reference to Denby there is to the Denby in Penistone. Date of the earthwork is uncertain - it is probably Iron Age and possibly has Neolithic origins (English Heritage, 1999).

As a scheduled monument the site at castle hill is of national significance and is associated with a stone axe that was found in the site and a scatter of flints found to the south east of the enclosure of probable neolithic or bronze age date.

Due to the proximity of the proposed development to the enclosure a heritage statement or archaeological desk based assessment should normally be supplied with the application, however this has not been supplied. This should assess the impact of the proposed development on the archaeology in order to fully assess the impact of the development.

Should the application be determined without the submission of a desk-based assessment then a programme of archaeological mitigation works should be undertaken on the proposed development this should comprise an archaeological watching brief on all ground works associated with the development, with the proviso that should archaeological remains be identified that the watching brief could be converted to a programme of strip map and record excavation following consultation with WYAAS.