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F.a.o: Mr A Hough

Place-shaping and Economic Growth
Harrogate Borough Council
P.O Box 787
Harrogate HG1 9RW

17 February 2022

Dear Sirs

Planning Application ref. no: 20/02973/EIAMAJ
21 And 38 Engineers Claro Barracks, Chatham Road, Ripon, North Yorkshire HG4 2RD

The Society wrote to you on 9th October 2020 in response to your receipt of this application. We write now in response to the submission of supplementary documents, specifically on matters of heritage and archaeology. (You will receive a separate letter from us with regard to other matters.)

You will recall that our representation was expressed as a set of 'asks' both with explanation and in a summary table and with regard to heritage and archaeology:

> Ask: Refresh the documentation to include understanding of the WW1 elements of the site and wider area and identify their significance for the proposed development. Complete the assessment of Laver Banks. Enter into agreements to carry out the archaeological investigations identified by Historic England. This needs to be the responsibility of Homes England now and not left to any developer responsible for a reserved matters application. Commit to the relocation of a barrack block from Deverell in principle and expedite identification of a suitable partner and location, not merely contingent upon the involvement of others.

I should like to bring you and your colleagues up to date on the steps that the Society has been taking. At the time of submission of the application all parties were focussed on the existence and significance of the World War 1 camp and buildings in Deverell and Claro barracks.

Having asked for completion of the assessment of Laver Banks we felt bound to deepen our knowledge, working with others, to research the camp exploring its role in World War 2 and beyond throughout the Cold War. This research has revealed substantial additional evidence beyond that contained in our initial representation as well as that of the applicant. We believe that this is significant and needs to be addressed in determination of the application.

We have shared our work with Homes England and have been pleased with the interest shown in it. We have also listened to the need to look at the implications for incorporation of heritage assets within the masterplan and the responsibility for delivery. Accordingly the opportunity has been grasped to set up the Ripon Military Heritage Project. Following recent engagement with various parties it has been possible for the Society to prepare an initial proposal for the heritage project which I am pleased to attach.

Ripon Barracks has played a most important role in military bridge engineering and training which you will be able to read. This has been international in the sense of the theatres where the British army has operated as well as the liaison and participation of other nations, notably Canada and the USA.

We have shared this research not only with Homes England but also Historic England and the North Yorkshire County Council archaeologist. We know of Historic England's submission on heritage and archaeology in 2020 and that this is addressed in the Design Guide Addendum.

Our proposition is that outline planning permission needs to contain measures that will protect and interpret the military heritage of Ripon Barracks. We recognise that there is a strong commitment to green space, ecology and biodiversity within the masterplan and that what has been revealed by our research falls within Laver Banks south of Clotherholme Road. We understand that the distribution and extent of playing fields may be awaiting confirmation.

We are firmly of the view that there is no irreconcilable conflict between green infrastructure and the military heritage assets we explain. Indeed, military heritage can make a valuable contribution to the recreational enjoyment of Laver Banks.

The implication for the application is how to incorporate military heritage. As you will read there are assets in situ which are either not recognised in the documents for approval and the extensive supporting documentation or are explicitly at risk. Accordingly we urge you and Homes England to take all necessary steps, in particular:

Ask:

- **record the structures identified as non-designated heritage assets**
- **prevent the dismantling of the Demolition Bridge and the Heavy Girder Bridge by whatever measure is most acceptable to all parties**
- **allocate the two sites identified (in the initial proposal) within Laver Banks for heritage protection on a relevant Parameter Plan(s) being a document(s) for approval**
- **amend all wording, plans and captions within the Development Specification and Framework and the Design Guides as documents for approval (and relevant supporting documents including the Planning Summary) to include heritage interest as being equivalent to ecological interest within Laver Banks**
- **amend the Demolition Plan being a document for approval to exclude the Twynham Hut(s) and acknowledge their relocation**
- **review the capability to protect and retain examples of the wooden huts (precise number and type to be agreed) as contained in RNP Community Action B4 and acknowledge their relocation**
- **include heads of terms within the s106 agreement to provide for the transfer of defined military heritage assets to an agreed third party, including Twynham Hut(s),**
- **acknowledge the emerging Ripon Military Heritage Trust in documentation regarding delivery and stewardship of Clotherholme**

I am advised that only 21 Engineers are based at Claro. You and the applicant may wish to consider this for clarity.

If you would like to discuss this with us please let me know and I'll be happy to arrange this with you and your colleagues.

Yours faithfully,

Christopher Hughes

Chairman, Ripon Civic Society