

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 January 2020 00:29
To: _WEB_Local Plan
Subject: Future Housing Growth

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I am writing to register my objections to the Council's proposals for future housing growth, in particular those relating to Wisloe Garden Village.

My two main objections are that valuable archaeological remains will be destroyed in the process and there will be a noticeable detrimental effect on the quality of life for inhabitants of villages surrounding the area.

On the first point about valuable archaeological remains, as a committee member of Slimbridge Local History Society I am well aware of the conclusions following the geophysical survey carried out in 2019 by Archeoscan. To quote three of the conclusions:

1. Following a number of metal detecting rallies - organised by third parties not local residents - in the fields surrounding Slimbridge, an unusually high number of Roman coins and other ancient artefacts have been recovered. The distribution of these artefacts is quite wide and dispersed across a number of fields that surround the village but there are a few distinct concentrations. The finds not only include Roman but pre-historic coins and artefacts and coins from later periods. These rallies have been stopped because it was evident that the finds were being looted.
2. The volume and nature of artefacts recovered are suggestive of a large, and potentially significant, settlement in the vicinity. As the majority of the finds are of a Roman date it is highly likely that a significant Roman settlement is located in the area.
3. Archeoscan conducted a gradiometer survey on 4 separate sites covering an area of approximately 17.92 hectares. This is the first tranche of a possible more extensive geophysical survey in the area around Slimbridge. It is clear that the surveyed fields surrounding Slimbridge, particularly Lynch field, contain extensive archaeological remains. Combined with the evidence of the material artefacts there is a picture emerging of a large site of some importance in the area to the South of Slimbridge. The form of the enclosures revealed by the geophysics, combined with evidence of the metal artefacts, suggests occupation in the area from at least the Late Iron Age and peaking in the Roman period.

It has been known for some time that within and surrounding the Parish there has been evidence of ancient settlements. In the Slimbridge Village Design Statement of December 2016, under 2.2 Historical Development it says:

Some evidence exists to show that there was Roman occupation in Slimbridge. An example of this is the remains found in the field to the East of Lane's End Bungalow opposite the end of Gossington Lane. This was probably a resting area for travellers between Aust and Gloucester or Cirencester. Another Roman feature discovered is a ford across the River Cam at Old Ford Farmhouse.

There is a strong case for stating that the Vikings had a camp, possibly on the River Cam, when they made a major assault up the River Severn to the Midlands.

The mention of Roman occupation arose out of a one-day field walk in 2001 of a field adjoining the A38 when hundreds of sherds of Roman origin were found including building fragments and tiles used in the

heating systems of Roman buildings. The full report was published by the journal of the Gloucestershire Archaeology Society and is public record.

Any building work in the area of Wisloe will inevitably destroy valuable ancient assets.

My second point about quality of life for residents in the area is quite obvious. The high number of houses proposed will create a large conurbation merging Slimbridge, Cambridge, Wisloe and Gossington into one.

There is already development in the Cam/Dursley areas and this new development will only serve to exacerbate that. As an aside, I am amazed that an organisation like the Ernest Cook Trust who I believe own much of the area to be developed are a party to this project. This is totally alien to their ethos which has been observed since it was founded and is still emphasised on their website. The following factors will all have an effect on quality of life:

- Noise levels - the noise levels on the M5 and A38 are already beyond permitted levels. There is no use in proposing more trains because that simply will not happen.
- The hubs of employment are not in the vicinity so these routes are going to get even more congested.
- Pollution levels will increase.
- Conservation will be affected - as a member of the WWT in Slimbridge I am well aware of the Red Data listed birds that will suffer.
- We already have a high water table in Slimbridge - this will worsen.

I also understand that part of the development is to be built on land that has been classified in the past by Natural England as Grade 2 which should not be considered for housing development. Has this been conveniently re-classified to a lower grade?

My final point is this. Are planners and landowners no longer concerned about the impact on rural areas, parts of which are classed as an AONB?

