DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
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COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

To: **Matthew Burns**
(Assistant Planning Officer)
Planning Group

From: **Andrew Rorison**
Country Parks Development Officer

Date: **27 February 2009**

Subject: **PROPOSED EXTENSION TO GRASS CAR PARK AT BOSWORTH BATTLEFIELD HERITAGE CENTRE**

PROPOSAL

Following the success of the development of the above site it is proposed to extend the car parking facilities to accommodate the higher than expected visitor numbers. The existing car park provision was the subject of planning consent granted in 2004 (Ref 0867/04). It is proposed to extend this provision to the east of the existing area with a further section of car parking, designed in a similar vein.

Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan Policy REC 25 –Supports the development of existing Visitor Attractions.

EXISTING SITUATION

The existing car parks are of reinforced grass, surrounded in soft landscaping of hedges with back fencing with additional planted areas. These have been very successful. To accommodate the disabled visitors, a section of the car park was tarmac'd. The existing position is shown on the plans accompanying the application.

To the south west of the proposed development is the Scheduled Ancient Monument of the deserted medieval village of Ambion. The late 18th century farmstead which now forms the visitor centre lies between the proposal and thus the monument will be unaffected by the proposal.

Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan Policy BE12 - Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Nationally Important Archaeological Sites
Planning permission will not be granted for any proposed development which would adversely affect a scheduled ancient monument or other nationally important archaeological site or its setting.

The area also lies within DLE437, the Registered Battlefield site for the Battle of Bosworth, though current research suggests the battle took place about one mile to the southwest of the centre. The low key nature of the development is therefore unlikely to have a detrimental effect on the character or setting of the Battlefield Area.

Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan Policy BE 17 – Any development shall not affect the character or setting of the Bosworth Battlefield Area

RATIONALE

The area is currently used by visitors for ad hoc parking against which there are limited prescriptions. The proposal seeks to redress that issue and formalise the situation. As an enhancement to the proposal and to enrich the "Bosworth Experience" it is proposed to shield the western side with a hazel spinney which will be managed by the Rangers as hazel coppice. The hedge will be left to grow with limited trimming, until it is ready to lay, when the plants are 7-8 years old, or in about 5-6 year's time.

BIO-DIVERSITY

Within 100 metre of the proposal is a known colony of Great Crested Newts (GCN), discovered recorded and re-located from the original pond in the Centre in 2004. During the course of the trapping operation, prior to relocation, no newts were caught in the area of the proposal as the grass is always kept short mown and it proved an unattractive habitat for them. Given that no structural works are proposed, it is anticipated that the proposal, given the new hedges and spinney, will enhance bio-diversity on the site, so it is not deemed necessary to undertake a survey for GCN.

Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan Policy NE8 - Species Protection:
Development will not be permitted if it would be likely to result in harm to:
a badgers, or
b species protected by the wildlife and countryside act 1981, as amended, specifically those listed on schedules 1, 5 and 8; or
c species listed in schedules 2 and 4 of the conservation (natural habitats) regulations 1994;
d harm to habitats required by those species to complete their life cycle.
where development is permitted which may have an effect on species protected by the wildlife and countryside act 1981, as amended, the local planning authority will impose conditions and where appropriate will seek to use its powers to enter into planning agreements to facilitate the survival of individual members of the species, reduce disturbance to a minimum and provide alternative habitats to sustain at least current levels of population.

If you require any further information, please speak to me.