

F/22/93194 – The Ageas Bowl, Marshall Drive, West End, SO30 3XH.

Context.

Lying to the east of West End between the village and the M27 the site is away from any statutory listed buildings or conservation areas, but there are however other heritage assets in the vicinity. To the north of the Tennis Club on the opposite side of Botley Road is the original building of Moorgreen Hospital, built as a workhouse, now converted into flats and locally listed.

Some eight hundred metres to the west are Orchards Way Conservation Area and St. James's Church listed Grade II dating from 1890 and designed by Sir Arthur Blomfield. While these will not be affected by the proposed developments at the Ageas Bowl there are two Scheduled Ancient Monuments close to the site that might well be. These are the Telegraph Woods Beacon adjacent to the southern end of Telegraph Road west of the site and even closer, Hickley Wood Hillfort just to the south-west of this site within the crook of the overall land ownership.

The Proposal.

The two heritage assets likely to be affected by this proposed development are the long view to other telegraph points in the chain from Telegraph Woods and the setting of Hickley Wood Hillfort which will be primarily affected by the new housing in character area 5.

The aspects concerning the above two assets have been comprehensively covered by Iain Bright in his response for Historic England with which I would concur. Sadly the settings of a lot of Scheduled Ancient Monuments have been compromised by our forebears, from which we have now learnt, so it is all the more important not to repeat these errors and guard these precious assets with the respect they deserve.

Conclusion.

The advice of Historic England should be followed regarding the safeguarding of these two Scheduled Ancient Monuments so close to the proposed development site.

26.09.2023.

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