Dear Sir

Archaeological Consultation:
Staveley and Rother Valley Corridor Area Action Plan

Thank you for your consultation on the above Action Plan document.

The Action Plan document sets out some broad principles leading towards a
Masterplan for redevelopment of the proposed Staveley and Rother Valley
Corridor Area.

Because of the large-scale and complex industrial activity on the site over the
last four centuries, I feel overall that the lack of reference to cultural heritage in
the document is a missed opportunity. The key cultural heritage assets within
the site are the former ironworking sites and Chesterfield Canal with its
associated infrastructure. These assets offer opportunities for place-shaping
which draw on the unique history and character of the study area; the canal in
particular has potential to provide strong links between the history of the
corridor and the leisure and tourism appeal of the redevelopment masterplan.

I therefore feel that the ‘Vision and Objectives’ at 3.2 should include a cultural
heritage aim – something along the lines of ‘Drawing on and enhancing the
historic environment’. The ‘Key Issues’ at 4.0 could then include a brief
statement on cultural heritage assets – with particular relationship to the
canal, and the built heritage associated with the former ironworks sites –
noting how heritage drivers could contribute towards place-shaping and
economic regeneration.

Chapter 5: Character Areas: it would be useful to identify where historic
environment constraints and opportunities exist within ‘character areas’.
Where might there be opportunities for re-use of historic industrial buildings?
Are there features associated with the Chesterfield Canal which could be better enjoyed and interpreted? The Chesterfield Canal Trust has undertaken extensive surveys of canal-related structures and archaeology and it would be useful to bring this baseline data to bear when allocating areas for development close to the canal/new wharves etc. This might also identify where historic features could be brought back into use.

Although cultural heritage could therefore play a more central role in underpinning the masterplanning process, I feel that the majority of archaeological interests within the site are capable of being dealt with through the planning process, with appropriate pre-application studies up to and including Environmental Impact Assessment where required, and conditioned investigation and recording in line with NPPF para 141. To this end I reproduce below the brief historic environment baseline for the site I produced in 2010, with particular reference to the final section on ‘suggested archaeological requirement’. This approach should be used to guide potential developers towards an appropriately pro-active approach to cultural heritage studies.

Yours faithfully

Steve Baker
Development Control Archaeologist
for Chesterfield Borough Council
Staveley Works site

Statutory designations within site:
1-3 Cavendish Place, Barrow Hill: Grade II Listed buildings, c1845
HER records within site:
HER 13036: sandstone staddle post, Mill Green, Staveley
HER 99021: former Great Central Railway, Chesterfield Loop, 1892
HER 13045: Staveley Works railway station, Troughbrook Road, 1892
HER 13046: Staveley Works Railway house, Troughbrook Road, 1892
HER 13048: Staveley Works office buildings, Troughbrook Road, early 20th century
HER 13049: 1-3 Cavendish Place, Barrow Hill: 19th century housing
HER 13060: Chesterfield Canal deviation, Staveley Iron Works, late 19th century
HER 13004: 3rd century Roman coin found pre-1792
HER 13033: Staveley Ironworks: 17th-20th century ironworks site
HER 3998: Chesterfield Canal: late 18th century
HER 13014: Staveley corn mill: remains of a post-medieval corn mill, possibly on an ancient site

Statutory designations within 500m:
90m: Barrow Hill Primary School: Grade II Listed Building, 1853-6
140m: Garden walls of Staveley Hall: Grade II Listed, 17th-18th century
220m: Engine shed, west of Campbell Drive: Grade II Listed Building, c1870
220m: The Chantry: Grade II Listed Building, 13th century
220m: The School, Church Street, Staveley: Grade II Listed, 1844
230m: 34 and 36 High Street, Staveley, Grade II Listed, 1845
240m: 38 and 40 High Street, Staveley, Grade II Listed, 1845
240m: 42 and 44 High Street, Staveley, Grade II Listed, 1845
240m: St John The Baptist's Church, Staveley, Grade I Listed, 13th century
270m: St John's Church, churchyard cross, Grade II Listed, medieval
280m: Staveley Hall (UDC offices), Grade II Listed, 17th-19th century
280m: Staveley Hall, stables and coach-house, Grade II Listed 17th century
280m: Porter Street, Staveley, Grade II Listed workers' cottages, 1860
300m: 7 and 8 Church Street, Staveley, Grade II Listed, early 18th century
HER records within 500m:
20m: HER 13047: Barrow Hill Station, Staveley (site of)
20m: HER 2507: Cabbin Close plague graves (site of), 17th century
20m: HER 13044: Hollingwood Estate, early 20th century industrial housing
30m: HER 31528: Wagon works, New Whittington, 19th century
50m: HER 13050: Barrow Hill Memorial Club, 19th century
50m: HER 13051: Barrow Hill model village, mid 19th century
130m: HER 13053: Hartington Colliery, Staveley (site of)
150m: HER 13052: Allport, Midland and Traffic Terraces, Barrow Hill, late 19th century
170m: HER 13043: Barrow Hill Engine Shed, 19th century
220m: HER 13025: The Chantry, High Street, Staveley, 13th century
250m: HER 13009: Staveley Hall: 17th-19th century hall on medieval site
260m: HER 13010: Staveley Hall coach house and stables, 17th century
270m: HER 13012: Medieval stone cross, Staveley
270m: HER 13013: St John the Baptist's church, Staveley, 13th century
390m: HER 99052: Chesterfield to Worksop turnpike, 18th century

Historic land use:
- c1880: Staveley Works (Iron) shown in the central part of the site, with agricultural land in the Rother floodplain to east and west. The Staveley Works appears to be an integrated ironworks, with colliery and gasworks. A flour mill is shown on the Rother at Staveley, 'Dixon's Wharf' on the Chesterfield Canal may have been a trans-shipment wharf with a branch line to Whittington Station.
- c1900: Staveley Works has expanded to north and east, reducing the agricultural character of the Rother floodplain in the east of the site. A corn mill is still shown on the Rother at Staveley. To the west, the floodplain is still largely undeveloped, although the Great Central Railway Chesterfield Loop cuts across the south-western part of the site.
'Dixon’s Wharf’ no longer names, appears as an embankment just south of the GCR Loop.

- c1915: Further major expansion east of the Staveley Works, with extensive rail sidings and what looks like a new coking plant. Small remaining areas of floodplain adjacent to the Rother, with the Corn Mill still shown at Staveley. The western part of the site remains largely agricultural in character.

- 20th century: opencasting data shows that large parts of the site both east and west of the Staveley Works site have been subject to opencasting permissions. Major re-routing of the Rother has taken place since 1915.

Assessment of archaeological potential:
- Parts of the site have been subject to opencast coal extraction. The exact areas of extraction need to be confirmed as past permission boundaries can overestimate impact. Where opencast extraction has occurred there will be no potential for archaeological survival.
- In undisturbed areas of the site there is potential for palaeo-environmental deposits and/or archaeology of earlier periods associated with the Rother floodplain.
- The major archaeological interest in the site lies in the industrial period, with a major ironworking site originating in the 17th century. There is medium-high potential for below-ground archaeology associated with historic (17th-19th century) metal production and metalworking to survive within the site.
- There is also peripheral potential for below-ground archaeology associated with the canals and railways within the site, where undisturbed by later activity.
- The site as a whole has been subjected to large-scale and varied industrial activity over the last four centuries. This has created a landscape of great potential complexity.

Suggested archaeological requirement
- Pre-determination: because of the scale and complexity of industrial activity on the site over the last four centuries, any potential developer should submit a detailed cultural heritage assessment of the site, providing:
  - A full archaeological desk-based assessment consulting all known archival sources;
  - Buildings appraisal of historic buildings assets on the site, listed and unlisted;
  - Detailed map regression, relating in particular to the Staveley Works site;
  - A detailed assessment of the actual extent of opencasting on the site;
  - Mapping of archaeological potential, to show undisturbed areas with potential for palaeo-environmental remains and early archaeology, and core areas of historic ironworking activity with potential for below-ground archaeology.
- Pre-determination: it is possible that pre-determination field evaluation (trial trenching) of some areas may be required. This will be indicated by the results of the cultural heritage assessment.
- Pre-determination: consideration to the setting of designated heritage assets within and in the close vicinity of the site should be given, and explicitly treated in application documents.
- Conditioned: it is likely that an extensive conditioned archaeological programme will also be required, possibly including building recording, field evaluation (trial trenching), archaeological watching brief, preservation in situ, and more extensive archaeological excavation. This will be indicated by the results of the cultural heritage assessment. Conditioned work should be timetabled to take place following outline consent but before detailed matters submissions.