



# The Coventry Heritage Detector Society

Mr A Charlish



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Ref
Officer
- 3 JUL 2013
SCANNED
CC CR PD MA
PRE GEN DIS

26<sup>th</sup> June 2013

Development Policy Manager  
Development Services  
Warwick District Council  
Riverside House  
Milverton Hill  
Leamington Spa  
CV32 5QH

Dear Sirs,

Re: Proposed Gypsy and Travellers Site Options – Response to site GT02

I attended a meeting held at the Warwickshire Exhibition Centre on 25<sup>th</sup> June to discuss the Council's proposals to acquire land abutting the Fosse Way at it's junction with the B425 and was quite shocked to learn that the site is, it seems, a serious consideration as a permanent site for the Gypsy/Traveller community.

There are so many reasons why the use of this land as a Gypsy/Traveller site cannot possibly fit the criteria that I have to question why it was considered in the first instance? I am sure there are experts in the various areas who will no doubt write to you regarding their concerns such as the ingress and egress of vehicles, many towing caravans and/or trailers onto a road that is known to be a high risk crash area. The impact on local residents and businesses, the loss of a currently thriving exhibition centre, loss of jobs, the inadequate accessibility to schools and GP surgeries, the list goes on.

However, my main area of concern, and that of my membership, is the impact on the environment both natural and historic. It appears that the research allegedly carried out on the site has completely failed to recognise that the area is of significant historical importance. I understand that one of the criteria points is that such areas should be avoided?

The Fosse Way is very well known to have been built following the invasion by the Romans in 43AD. There was also a Toll House at the junction of the Fosse and the B425 in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18 centuries. In 1974 a Roman Villa was excavated quite nearby and at various times Roman pottery, coins, artefacts etc. have been unearthed in the area. The town name originated in the reign of Henry I between 1100 -1135, but the history of the area goes back much further. In 1968 a Paleolithic flint hand axe and other flint tools were found. These

would have belonged to Ancient Britons over 30,000 years ago. How can this important historical area possibly be deemed to have little or no historical value?

To allow the use of this land to be used as a Gypsy/Traveller site would be a travesty affecting many people not only in Radford Semele, but also wider afield. We are fortunate to have the local area shaped as it has been since the Roman invasion and it would indeed be a huge mistake to have this changed by a Romany invasion in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

I sincerely hope that my protest along with those of others who will be adversely affected will be given due consideration in the final decisions.

Yours faithfully

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Alan Charlish  
Chairman  
Coventry Heritage Detector Society