

EFFECT TO SIGNIFICANCE AND MITIGATION

Mount Pleasant

Immediately adjacent to the Site on the south side of the Dorchester-London Waterloo railway line, is an area currently in arable cultivation which is in large part occupied by the Scheduled Monument of the Mount Pleasant henge enclosure, Conquer Barrow, and a Bronze Age barrow cemetery (HE No. 1002463; HER Ref. MDO2890; Figure 3 no. 1), as well as several associated components and non-designated assets of a similar period. The complex of assets covers an area of roughly 13 hectares. The principle elements are the buried remains of the Late Neolithic henge, a sub-rounded enclosure defined by a bank and interior ditch c. 370m by c. 340m, the outer extent of which is c. 200m from the Site boundary to its south-west, the northern edge of the monument possibly having been cut by the construction of the railway line. It was subject to an excavation in 1969-1971 (Wainwright 1979), which provided information on the construction of the bank and internal ditch, the presence of an associated palisade, and the existence of internal features, including a large penannular post-built feature (Site IV). To the east of the main enclosure is a substantial linear feature, c. 200m in length, which is included in the Scheduled area, and can be seen both on aerial photographs and as a depression on the ground. This runs from the eastern enclosure entrance in a north-easterly direction to meet the railway line immediately to the south of the south-eastern corner of the Site. The projected line of this feature would continue immediately to the east of the eastern Site boundary, across what is currently a field, towards the River Frome. Another part of the Scheduled Monument, the Conquer Barrow is situated on the western edge of the henge enclosure, on the higher part of the ridge. This Late Neolithic barrow is c. 30m in diameter with a surrounding ditch and stands c. 8m high and is therefore a very prominent landscape feature. The Scheduled area also includes an upstanding Bronze Age bowl barrow to the

south-east of the enclosure, c. 16m in diameter and c. 1.5m high. There are eight further non-designated ring ditches visible on aerial photographs which form discrete groups of probable barrows arranged in rows, as well as other closely adjacent archaeological features and find spots which are not included in the Schedule. The Mount Pleasant henge and associated features derives its significance from its evidential value as a field monument, whilst it has some limited aesthetic value as a landmark in relationship to the wider Frome Valley landscape and communal value as a well-known location in recent centuries. However, the majority of its significance is derived from the evidential value of the buried remains, and historical relationship with the surrounding landscape.

The earthworks of the henge are now much reduced although they were apparent on the 1889 OS map, although the Conquer Barrow still comprises

substantial remains. Prior to the construction during the mid-19th century of the railway line which runs along the base of the north-facing slope on which the enclosure is situated, the area of the Site was contiguous with the field covered by the Mount Pleasant enclosure and its associated monuments. This formed an open area, being, as seen in the historic mapping, in agricultural use. Historically the Site has therefore formed part of the immediate setting of Mount Pleasant. The linear feature which projects towards the north-east from the henge enclosure appears to link it with the course of the River Frome, in a similar fashion to other contemporary groups of monuments' relationships to rivers (for example, Stonehenge and Durrington Walls, Wiltshire); the Site forms part of the immediate setting of this arrangement. The original situation would have been an open landscape in which the monuments would have been understood and appreciated. This is also how it has been experienced in more recent centuries. The positioning of the henge and its associated



Plate 8. Interior of S part of Mount Pleasant Henge enclosure (facing N)

features, in common with other later Neolithic monument complexes of this type, was most likely located very specifically in relation to the local topography and the position of the river. The henge itself occupies the crest of a prominent hill above the river, primarily occupying the north/north-east facing slope and with its primary views therefore to the north over the meandering course of the Frome, to which it seems to have been connected.

However, despite these important relationships, the degree to which the earthworks have been reduced means that it is difficult to identify the monument. On the south side, it is just possible to identify slight variations in the ground level which are associated with the original bank and ditch of the henge and other features (**Plate 8**). From the north, not even slight variations are discernible, and therefore it is only really possible to appreciate the landscape location of the monument, rather than the monument itself. However, accounting for the importance of landscape location to the construction of these types of prehistoric monument, any alteration which reduces the open nature of the land surrounding the henge and its relationship with the River Frome will impact its setting.

The distribution of monuments in the area is also relevant, and the likely locations from which the Mount Pleasant henge enclosure and Conquer Barrow would have been visible during the prehistoric period. An extensive complex of monuments of the later Neolithic and earlier Bronze Age is distributed along the ridge which lies to the south of the River Frome. This stretches from Mount Pleasant at the east end to Maumbury Rings, c. 2km to the west, which is also situated on the rise of a north-facing slope. There are a number of other monuments between these upstanding monuments, of similar type and date now levelled and buried, some situated immediately to the west of Mount Pleasant (cf Randall 2017). The principle relationships between these monuments is therefore on the western side of Mount Pleasant, which would have been most visible from this aspect

and from high ground to the south and south-west, including most distantly the South Dorset Ridgeway and, from c. 2km to the south-west, Coneygar Hill which is the location for two Scheduled bowl barrows. In the past, the Mount Pleasant enclosure, covering a north-facing slope, would have also been prominent when viewed from the north side of the Frome Valley. However, these views emphasise the middle distance, and the Site is difficult to discern from these views.

It needs to be considered that the area of the Site has already been very considerably altered during the 20th century. The relationship between the henge and its associated features to the river and flood plain had effectively been severed by the construction of the Dorchester-London Waterloo railway line during the 19th century. This remains a main line route with regular services; as such it physically divides the monument from its context to the north, separates it visually in both close and medium range views due to vegetation along its length, and introduces regular noise into what would have been historically a peripheral and therefore tranquil location. In addition, the Site has been in the mid-20th century developed as part of the settling ponds of the sewage works, including construction of a metalled roadway on an east-west alignment through the Site. The rising main also runs along this track.

The proposal is to relocate the current recycling facility from its current location c. 100m to the west into the Site. This would therefore not necessarily immediately provide any additional traffic or machinery noise as the activity is already occurring adjacent to the Scheduled area. Whilst there is some expectation that use may increase as Dorchester expands, as traffic management is a fundamental aspect of the plan to reduce queueing time and unnecessary vehicle manoeuvring, there may actually be some reduction in waiting traffic and resultant noise. Access to the Site will continue to be via St Georges Road.

There may be some reduction in opportunities to enjoy views of the north-eastern part of the Scheduled Monument from the public footpath by the river as it progresses through the field east of the Site. However, this is already interrupted by the railway, and the best views are currently obtained from the path several hundred meters to the east of the Site. The proposal currently suggests low rise structures over part of the Site with hard standing areas for waste recycling containers, handling areas and roadways for access. The height of the building would be c. 6-7m, which is generally below the level of many of the closely surrounding trees. This also needs to be considered in relation to a currently existing but redundant building c. 100m to the west of the Site which is in excess of this and of considerable mass, located immediately to the north of the railway line. The scale and height of the proposal is less than that already present to the west. This existing building is difficult to pick out in medium and longer distance views, implying that a structure of similar or lower elevation on the Site would be similarly difficult to identify. There are mature deciduous trees lining the route of the railway (although it cannot be guaranteed that Network Rail will not need to remove these for safety or operational reasons); it is suggested therefore that the scale and mass of the buildings is likely to be less than those already present in the vicinity.

There would clearly be a change to the immediate open setting of the north-eastern corner of the Scheduled Monument. However, taking into account the changes which have already altered the original, the fact that existing activity is being relocated from one part of the overall site to another, and the low rise nature of the proposed structures it is suggested that there is likely to be no harm to the setting and thereby significance of Mount Pleasant henge. Consideration to suitable mitigation of disturbance to any potential below ground archaeology should however be taken (cf Randall 2017), and examination of this area may reveal additional information as to the original immediate setting of the monument and the landscape and



Plate 9. Kingston Maurward House (facing ENE)

Kingston Maurward

Kingston Maurward House (HER Ref. 1154732; Figure 3 & 4 no. 15; Plate 9) is a country house built in around 1717 for the Pitt family with subsequent 18th, 19th and 20th century alterations and additions (RCHME 1970a, 254-265). It comprises a double pile plan of three stories with a basement, constructed in brick with Portland stone ashlar cladding added c. 1794. The main front is oriented to the north, facing up a dry valley, and has a centrally placed neo-classical porch with pilasters. The eastern end of the building comprises a 19th century double storey extension, further altered in the 20th century. The house may be equated with Knapwater House in Thomas Hardy's novel *Desperate Remedies*. The house is Grade I listed, and there are a number of Grade II Listed structures within the immediately surrounding gardens including walls in the formal gardens and steps. The house is situated in 18th century parkland, landscaped particularly on the south side of the house, which comprises extensive ponds at the base of the slope on the southern edge of the garden and set within extensive deciduous tree planting (Plate 10). Formal gardens were laid out immediately around the house, particularly on the western side, during the 20th century (HER Ref. 1000719; Figure 3 no. 25; Plate 11). The grounds comprise a Registered Park/Garden with Grade II* listing.



Plate 10. Kingston Maurward Park from S side of house (facing SW)



Plate 11. Kingston Maurward formal gardens to W of house (facing S)

The house changed hands several times during the 19th century and was taken over in 1939 and used for the duration of the Second World War by the Royal Army Medical Corps and the US Army. The house and estate were acquired by Dorset County Council in 1947 and it has latterly served as an Agricultural and now Further Education college. The ground floor of the house is also used for a variety of public events and private functions and weddings. The gardens are accessible to the public as a visitor attraction, and the wider estate accommodates a number of teaching facilities housed in a range of farm buildings and structures and purposely constructed teaching spaces located on the west side towards Stinsford, immediately to the north-east of the main house, and in the north-east portion of the estate.

Kingston Maurward House derives its significance from the evidential value of its fabric, its associations with historical events derived from the families who have owned it, events which occurred there and its past literary associations. It has intrinsic aesthetic value, situated within its park and garden, and has communal value as a long-appreciated landmark, educational establishment, and events venue. The Registered Park/Garden

in which it is set derives its significance from its evidential value demonstrating the development of its layout over three centuries, its historical relationship with the house, its intrinsic aesthetic value which demonstrates several gardening styles. It derives communal value in relation to the house, and also as a visitor attraction.

The primary original views of and from Kingston Maurward House were oriented along the landscaped dry valley to the north of the building. The views to the south, from the rear of the building, are over the Frome Valley. The hill occupied by the Mount Pleasant henge enclosure and other monuments can be glimpsed as a distant view, although rarely from ground level and not immediately adjacent to the house. At ground level, both at the southern end of the garden, which is heavily wooded, and from the rise on which the house and the early 20th century formal gardens are situated, the views are very considerably screened by trees, both within the immediate area of the gardens, but also in the distance around the Site.

There are however long-distance views in which Mount Pleasant can be

glimpsed from the second floor of the rear of the house (**Plate 12**), and from this the location of the Site inferred at the base of the hill. However, the Site is not readily identifiable amidst the existing deciduous planting. The existing two-storey industrial building to the west of the Site cannot be discerned implying that a structure of similar height and mass within the Site would be similarly difficult to see from this location. Some allowance must be made for seasonal variation in the foliage nevertheless there is clearly only very limited potential intervisibility affecting a small part of the distant view, and then only from the upper floors of the east end of the house. Given the limited height of the proposed structures, the generally rural setting and vistas from the south side of the house and gardens will remain largely unchanged, and it does not appear that there will be any substantive alteration to the appreciation of the glimpsed and distant views of Mount Pleasant from this aspect. The appreciation and legibility of Kingston Maurward House from the wider landscape also will not alter. It is therefore judged that there will be no harm to the setting or significance of the Grade I Listed house of Kingston Maurward, the Grade II* Listed Park/Garden or the adjacent or any of the associated Grade II Listed structures within the grounds.



Plate 12. View from 2nd floor, E end of Kingston Maurward House with field containing Mount Pleasant Henge seen in middle distance (facing S)

The Old Manor (HE Ref.1119861; Figure 3 & 4 no. 16; Plate 13) comprises the house which was superseded by Kingston Maurward House. It is Grade I Listed and the adjacent garden walls are Grade II Listed. It is situated c. 500m to the east of Kingston Maurward, at a slightly lower elevation. It was constructed of squared and coursed limestone rubble with ashlar dressings on an E plan with two storeys and attics (RCHME 1970a, 256). It was built in the late 16th century and extended to the rear (east) in the earlier 17th



Plate 13. The Old Manor House from W front (facing E)

century, although there was a manorial holding here since at least the 14th century. The Old Manor became the estate farm house after the construction of Kingston Maurward House, saw use as an almshouse and tenements, and was restored in the mid-20th century.

The Old Manor derives its significance from the evidential value of its fabric as an Elizabethan building and its historical associations. It is aesthetically pleasing within the woodland setting and has communal value as part of

the area of the Kingston Maurward estate which can be enjoyed and appreciated by visiting members of the public. It is closely surrounded by mature deciduous trees; it is part way down the slope of the ridge on which Kingston Maurward stands, above the eastern extent of the lake. Whilst there is theoretical visibility with the Site, the lower elevation and dense surrounding vegetation means that there are no views between the Old Manor and the Site, and no expectation that there would be in winter. No discernible noise was noted from anything other than the use of vehicles immediately within the Estate, and as the proposed development on the Site will not be adding, only relocating activity, this is not expected to be altered. The setting of the Old Manor and its appreciation within the landscape will not be changed in any respect and there will be no harm to its significance.

The Roman Road from Dorchester is located at the north end of the Kingston Maurward estate (Figure 3 & 4 no. 13), and there is a Scheduled portion of it located c. 700m to the north-north-east of the Site. It derives its significance from its evidential value as an earthwork of Romano-British date. However, although it is theoretically intervisible with the Site, it is in practice entirely screened from all views to the south of Kingston Maurward House by the planting in the park/garden .

Stinsford Church and Conservation Area

St Michael's Church, Stinsford (HE Ref. 1119091; Figure 3 & 4 no. 14; Plate 14 DSC_0099) is situated on rising ground on the north side of the River Frome, c. 400m to the west of Kingston Maurward House. It is Grade I Listed has a number of closely adjacent structures within the churchyard (including the Hardy family monuments), and adjacent residential dwellings which are Grade II Listed. The immediate area of the church, with these surrounding buildings constitute the southern portion of the Stinsford Conservation Area (Figure 3 & 4 no. 29). The earliest fabric is in the chancel

and nave which dates to the earlier 13th century; the tower and aisles were added in the 14th and 15th centuries and the building was altered in the 17th and 19th centuries (RCHME 1970a, 252-253). There is however some carved detail incorporated which may have a Saxon origin. The church is constructed of rough squared and coursed rubble with ashlar dressings and



Plate 14. The N side of St Michael's Church, Stinsford (facing S)

slate roofs. The churchyard contains the graves of the family of the important 19th century novelist Thomas Hardy, including the interment of Hardy's heart. The church derives its significance from the evidential value of its fabric, and its historical associations as a place of worship at the heart of the medieval settlement, as well as the important connections with a significant British author. The church is aesthetically pleasing, and also has communal value as a place of worship and is also frequently visited by people interested in literary history.

The churchyard is closely adjacent on the west and east sides to residential buildings, and on the south side is bounded by a wall which screens immediate views to the south. There is an extension to the churchyard to the south-east, but this and the area to the south of the church, on the slope down to the Frome valley, is heavily wooded with deciduous and

evergreen trees and shrubs. There are no views of the southern side of the valley from the immediate grounds of the church or from the approaching road to the north, which is upslope. This is also true for the Grade II Listed buildings to the north-west of the church. Houses situated to the north of the church can be identified as the roof which is just visible between the trees from the north side of the Site, but these have no designation. There are no ground level views of the Site from land adjacent to this house. The A35 trunk road, situated to the south-west, can be glimpsed from the north side of the church. This part of the road is closer to the church and Stinsford Conservation Area, yet no road noise could be discerned. No noise was audible from the current waste facility, and it is not likely that this aspect would be any greater. Therefore the setting of St Michael's church, its adjacent structures, residential buildings and the Stinsford



Plate 15. The W front of Stafford House (facing NE)

Conservation Area will not be changed in any respect and there will be no harm to its significance.

Stafford House (HE Ref. 1303432; Figure 3 & 4 no. 17; Plate 15) is Grade I Listed, and situated c. 1km due east of the Site, broadly on the same level with it, as it is within the Frome Valley. Originally constructed in the 16th



Plate 16. View from W side of Stafford House (facing W)

century as the manor house to the now vanished medieval settlement of Frome Billet, it was enlarged into an E plan house in the 17th century and extended again in the 19th century (RCHME 1970b, 265-266). It is constructed of rough ashlar limestone blocks and stone slates. It derives its significance from the evidential value of its fabric, historical connections and pleasing aesthetic appearance, situated as it is in a partly wooded rural landscape. It is located at the western edge of the West Stafford Conservation Area (Figure 3 & 4 no. 28). Whilst there is theoretically potential visibility between Stafford House and the Site, in actuality, there is

none (Plate 16). The two locations are broadly on a level, there is some distance separating them and there are also interposed mature and dense hedgerows, patches of deciduous woodland and individual field trees. The situation is tranquil, and most sound is derived from passing cars and local use of farm machinery, but it is unlikely that this will be altered.

The Church of St Andrew, West Stafford (HE Ref. 1119840; Figure 3 & 4 no.



Plate 17. The S side of St Andrew's Church, West Stafford (facing NE)



Plate 18. St Andrew's Church & view to W (facing W)

19; Plate 17), is Grade I Listed and situated within the heart of the village, with a number of Grade II Listed residential buildings nearby, located in the centre of the West Stafford Conservation Area. The church has 15th century origins, with 16th century additions and is constructed in limestone rubble with stone slate roofs (RCHME 1970b, 264). It derives its significance from its evidential and historical value as the parish church, its aesthetic

contribution in the heart of the village and its communal value as a long-standing place of worship. Its immediate setting is one of a rural village, although it is situated on the main through route and on a junction and is therefore subject to local traffic noise. Whilst intervisibility with the Site is theoretically possible, in practice this is not the case with interposed trees and modern residential

buildings (Plate 18). This can also be said for nearby Grade II Listed structures and buildings. The Manor House at West Stafford (HE Ref. 1119843; Figure 3 & 4 no. 18) is located c. 150m further to the east and is situated at the eastern side of the Conservation Area. It has 17th century origins but was remodelled in the 18th and 19th centuries (RCHME 1970b, 267). It is constructed of course rubble walls with a rendered frontage and is Grade I Listed. Located on a slight elevation to the east of the village of West Stafford, it is however screened from any views of the Site by trees, hedges and the interposed buildings within the village.

None of the assets of the highest significance in this area to the east of the Site, which theoretically may have some relationship have, in practice, such views. Neither is there any intervisibility with the Site from either of the Grade II Listed bridges along the road to Lower Bockhampton, between the West Stafford Conservation area and the Site. In addition, no noise was noted from the direction of the existing recycling centre, and this is unlikely to change. Therefore, it appears that there will be no change to the setting of the Grade I Listed buildings or Grade II Listed structures and buildings adjacent or indeed the West Stafford Conservation Area, and there will be therefore no harm to their significance.

Conclusion

There are more than 30 designated heritage assets within a 2km radius of the Site. Of these, the majority are Listed buildings, 11 Grade I and one Grade II*. The majority of these are situated to the west of the Site within the town of Dorchester and Fordington and are associated with the Dorchester Conservation Area. Additional groups are associated with Stinsford village and church and the Stinsford Conservation Area, and Kingston Maurward House, West Stafford village and its Conservation Area, and Whitcombe and Winterbourne Came and the Whitcombe Conservation Area. Eleven of these, with potential intervisibility of the Site are Grade I Listed. Kingston Maurward House is also surrounded by a Registered Park/Garden which is Grade II*. There are also 10 Scheduled Monuments within a 2km radius. This includes the Scheduled Monument of Mount Pleasant Henge and associated features, immediately adjacent to the south of the Site.

Considering the relationship of the Site with these assets it is clear that the majority of the assets of the highest significance have no historical relationship or intervisibility with it, being screen by the topography, and separated by suitable distances to negate concerns of noise. Of the remaining assets, the majority were both distant from the Site and also screened by interposed extensive vegetation, in particular associated with the Stinsford Conservation Area, and the Kingston Maurward Park/Garden. The only actual direct relationship was between the Site and the Scheduled Mount Pleasant henge immediately to the south, and distant views of the southern edge of the Stinsford Conservation Area and Kingston Maurward House and its associated grounds.

Detailed consideration of these relationships has concluded that whilst there are glimpsed views from the Site of the Stinsford Conservation Area, and part of the roof of non-designated residence s to the north of the church, this is not reciprocal at ground level. A similar situation occurs with

respect to Kingston Maurward, where it is only possible to identify the probable location of the Site from certain upper floor windows, and there is no location within the southern part of the Park/Garden from which the Site is visible. The ambience and soundscape of both the Stinsford Conservation Area and Kingston Maurward is rural and tranquil and intrusive noise is contributed by local vehicle and agricultural traffic and equipment. No discernible, sound, dust or smell is anticipated to affect these assets at this distance. In these cases, it has been determined that there will be no harm to the setting or significance of these assets from the proposed development of the Site.

Whilst Mount Pleasant henge enclosure and its associated monuments is immediately adjacent to the Site on the south side, intervisibility between the monument and the Site is limited by the main line railway which severs the henge from the valley landscape to the north. The monument derives the majority of its significance from its intrinsic evidential value, with a contribution from its deliberate location in the wider landscape. Given the degree of degradation of the earthworks it is difficult to appreciate the monument from any of the aspects to the north of the Site. Long distance views from Kingston Maurward of the hill on which the Mount Pleasant henge enclosure is situated will not be compromised due to the location of the facility at the very base of the hill, screened by planting. The more immediate landscape setting of the monument has already been considerably compromised. The current brownfield nature of the Site (previously part of the Sewage Treatment Works), the existing industrial/commercial use of the land along St George's Road, and the position of a busy railway line between the Site and the Mount Pleasant henge indicate that the proposals would not constitute a major alteration to the setting. The proposed development does not comprise a single mass and at c. 6-7m high is below the height of an existing building to the west. As the recycling facility is being relocated from an area c. 100m to the west, it will not lead to any additional noise, dust or smell that does not already exist within the

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Areas Act, 1979 (as amended). *Available at: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46/pdfs/ukpga_19790046_en.pdf, accessed on 4 June 2018*
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), 2014a *Code of Conduct Reading: CIfA*
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), 2014b *Standard and Guidance for commissioning work on archaeology and the historic environment Reading: CIfA*
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), 2014c *Standard and Guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment Reading: CIfA*
- Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office*
- English Heritage, 2008 *Conservation Principles Policy and Guidance for the Sustainable management of the historic environment London: English Heritage*
- Historic England, 2015 *The Historic Environment and Site Allocations in Local Plans London: Historic England*
- Historic England, 2017 *Conservation Principles for the Sustainable management of the historic environment. Consultation Draft London: 2017*
- Historic England, 2017 *The Setting of Heritage Assets Historic Environment Good Practice in Planning, Note 3 London: Historic England*
- Keen, L., 1984 *The Towns of Dorset in J. Haslam (ed) Anglo-Saxon towns in southern England Phillimore: Chichester*
- Randall, C., 2017 *Proposed Dorset Waste Sites – Loudsmill (WP11) Heritage Assessment Context One Heritage and Archaeology unpublished client document*
- Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England) (RCHME) 1970a *An inventory of the historical monuments in the County of Dorset Volume II South East Part 2*
- Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England) (RCHME) 1970b *An inventory of the historical monuments in the County of Dorset Volume III Central Part 2*
- Wainwright, G.J., 1979 *Mount Pleasant, Dorset: Excavations 1970-1971 Society of Antiquaries: London*
- Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 *Available at: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/9/pdfs/ukpga_19900009_en.pdf, accessed on 4 October 2017*