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**To:** [info@historicengland.org.uk](mailto:info@historicengland.org.uk)  
**Subject:** Examining Authority's (ExA's) written questions and requests for information – ExQ3  
**Date:** 25 November 2025 12:52:07

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Dear Sirs,

Thank you for contacting Historic England regarding ExQ3.

Please see below our responses regarding the questions posed, specifically Q11.0.1.

**Magnitude of effects**

Historic England and the Applicant have a difference in opinion where it concerns the magnitude of effect regarding development in the setting of the Royal Observer Corp post atop of the Roman Vexillation Fort Scheduled Monument (NHLE: 1003608). Historic England's position is that the wide-reaching views from the Royal Observer Corp post are a designed view; the Royal Observer Corp post would have been positioned to be able to survey a wider landscape. While we appreciate the Applicant's assertion that the immediate landscape has experienced much development in recent years and that the Royal Observer Corp Post does not now look out upon the landscape as it was historically, we would suggest that in its historic context, the experience of the historic setting contributes to the significance of the asset. We would suggest the change in landscape would represent less than substantial harm in EIA terms, however the principal difference in opinion revolves around the degree that setting contributes to the significance of the asset.

**Impact upon built heritage assets (02-05, 02-06)**

Historic England and the Applicant have subsequently held discussions and shared updates and have reached a point of agreement on these items.

**(02-08)**

Point 02-08 refers specifically to the visual setting of Whimpton Moor medieval village and moated site (NHLE: 1017567). The applicant has walked us through the LVIA study, and demonstrated that the topography of the site means there is very limited visual relationship, due to the contours of the site.

However, we have had ongoing discussion regarding the archaeological setting of the monument. We expressed concerns regarding archaeological features associated with the scheduled monument, that could extend beyond the extent of the scheduling. We stated that due to the association with the scheduled monument, if they are demonstrably equivalent to the monument, they should be considered in the same manner.

The applicant has identified an area of archaeology that seems to follow an archaeological linear feature that leads from the west of the scheduled monument. They have excluded this from panel development, which we welcome. We also highlighted the potential for associated archaeology to the south of the scheduled monument. Lidar records suggest the presence of a linear feature running north-east-south-west, at an angle from the scheduled monument. We note the Applicant has included a small set back. This is not as much of a buffer as we had requested, however, we also note that content of the Archaeology Mitigation Strategy that works within that buffer will be subject to trial trench evaluation or a watching brief, which could serve to mitigate the risk of harm to non-designated archaeology associated with the scheduled monument.

We anticipate that we can reach a point of a final signed statement of common ground by Deadline 7. The only outstanding point of disagreement remaining is likely to be the contribution of setting to the Royal Observer Corp post and therefore the magnitude of effect. We do not foresee an approach that could lead to a consensus on this point, but note the applicant engagement on these topics, and accept the difference in assessment.

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