



# Collingham & District Local History Society

Newsletter March 2021

## Time for Action!

*Appeal to members and our friends  
to take up the pen and the sword!*

This newsletter is dedicated to the Roman villa remains and its surrounds which lie just across the A46, opposite the Station/Potter Hill Road junction. We ask you to submit an objection to the resubmission to Lincolnshire County Council of a proposal to build a large, industrial scale animal waste by-products facility at Villa Farm, Folly Lane, Norton Disney in the midst of this historical environment. **The more individual objections the better. The deadline is 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021.** Please read this newsletter and object, going into as much detail as you wish. Although there have been over 1,000 objections to previous applications, **they would not have re-applied unless they thought that they could succeed.**

The contents of this newsletter are:

1. What are we talking about?
2. The villa site and its surrounds
3. The proposals ←
4. Some objections
5. How to object
6. Further information.

**If you only read one  
thing read this!!**

## **What are we talking about?**

Those of you who have read Irregular 5 (available at Gascoignes, Collingham for £5) or attended our recent 'Zoom' talk by Richard Parker (go to YouTube and search for CDLHS) will already know something of the Roman villa site on Folly Lane and the recent discoveries that reveal that this was an active industrial area in the Iron Age.

Lincoln Proteins, who are currently based at Skellingthorpe, aim to build a plant on Folly Lane that will take animal (including carcasses etc) and catering waste from around the country for processing. The plant will operate 24 hours a day, will be floodlit and cover some 23 acres.

There are many aspects of this development that you may wish to object to e.g. increased heavy traffic, the smell and the difficulties of enforcing restrictions placed upon these, but they will only be lightly considered by the Council as they would be common objections no matter what the location. We must therefore concentrate on the unique aspects of this locality.

Along with the Norton Disney History and Archaeology Group (NDHAG) and their lead Richard Parker (who has done most of the work on this) your Society will be objecting on the unique heritage aspects of this site and we encourage you to do the same. The more objections the greater the likelihood of stopping this unfortunate development.

### ***For more information on the application go to***

<http://lincolnshire.planning-register.co.uk/>

*and enter **PL/0012/21** in the 'Application Number' box then on the page that opens click on the blue **PL/0012/21** which will open the page from which you can view the current documents. If you go through the same process but enter **PL/0036/18** you will see the previous application and objections. However, Lincoln Proteins would not have*

*reapplied with so few changes unless they were confident of success. So, **your pen and your words matter!***

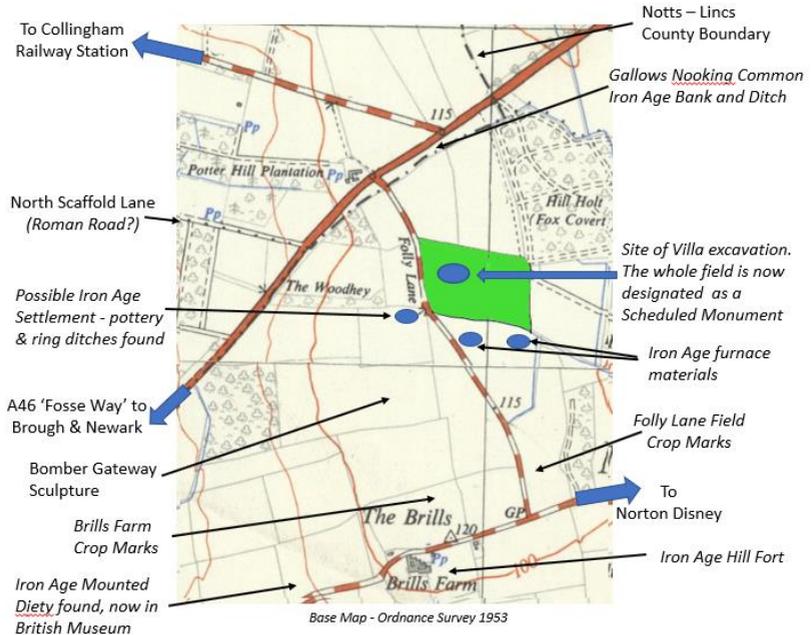
### **The villa site and its surrounds.**

The villa site was discovered and excavated in the 1930s the cost of which was borne largely by local subscription and support from Nottinghamshire's Thoroton Society, The Duke of Portland and Newark Corporation. A number of the finds are in the care of the National Civil War Centre - Newark Museum.

The villa stood in a prominent position above the Fosse Way looking towards the Roman town of Brough and Newark with views across the Trent and Witham valleys. This prominent positioning is viewed as a sign of status. It is thought that the villa was the centre of an agricultural estate. The name Potter Hill comes from the large amount of pottery waste found thereabouts. This is probably the result of local production of low-grade pottery that was used for storage and to carry manure to be spread on the land. Placing a ruler, on a map along North Scaffold Lane, shows an almost perfect alignment between the villa, the lane and the river crossing at Cromwell Lock. So, the villa was placed in a dominant position in relation to this crossing point as well as the Fosse, both of which probably had pre-Roman origins.

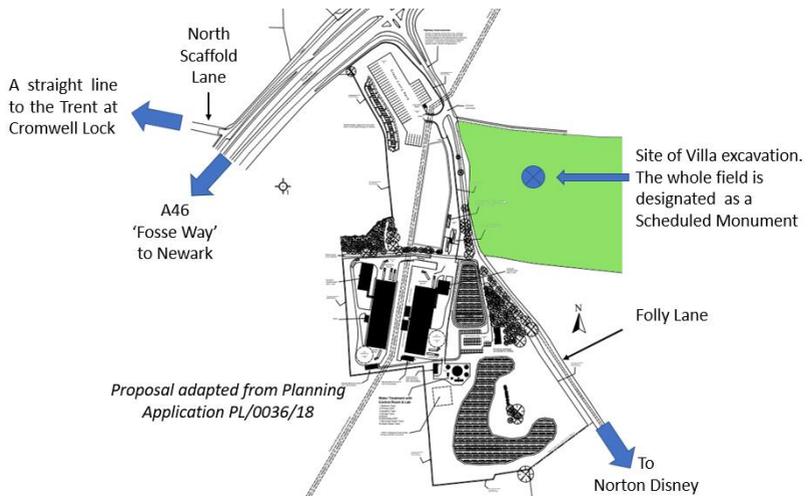
Iron Age finds and the orientation of the villa led to suggestions that it belonged to a Romanised, Celtic Briton and was built on an established site. Recent work by Richard Parker and NDHAG have revealed that a large area around this site was used for pre-Roman iron smelting, which supports this theory. Furthermore, although they have had limited access they have commissioned surveys which suggest that there are further remains to be found in the area. One result has been that designation by Historic England has been extended from just the excavated area to the whole of

the field in which the villa was found. However, a comprehensive survey of the wider landscape has not yet been possible. The villa is situated between Hill Holt Wood and the proposed industrial site.



## The proposal

The proposal involves building on some 11.4 hectares (28 acres) for this industrial site which will involve 24-hour operation and include a 10m x 30 m x 10m high building with chimney, two boiler houses and two 20m x 15m filtration beds each with an 8m high domed roof. There will also be a water treatment plant, two employee welfare buildings, stores and administration buildings Plus, two large water lagoons with controlled discharge into local water courses and a clean water lagoon.



There will also be temporary parking and a petrol station for 40 lorries to facilitate continuous 24-hour operation. At least 75 lorry arrivals and 75 departures per day were envisaged in the 2020 application. The plant will be floodlit.

### **Some of the grounds for objection**

You may wish to object as a group, such as a household, but individual applications carry more weight. Do not just copy word for word but choose and write your objections in your own words and present them in your own way. You may object on grounds of odour, traffic flows, visual amenity etc, but these objections will carry little weight as they will apply wherever the plant is built. **We need to object on grounds that highlight that this location is important and unique.** Some of which may include:

- With any item, especially historical and archaeological, context is important. The proposed development as well as being potentially significantly destructive will significantly destroy the context of the villa. For example, its dominant position over the route to Lincoln from

Newark and the Trent. Also, its dominance over the Iron Age tribal and Roman villa lands.

- The villa is an integral part of an Iron Age and a subsequent Roman landscape that we are only just beginning to discover and unravel. This includes Iron Age finds within the proposed site and in the area immediately surrounding the villa site, also the Brills Farm Iron Age Hill Fort (which is rare in Lincolnshire). The proposed development will also stand between the villa and Brough (Roman Crococalana) which exhibits significant and continuous Iron Age, Roman and Saxon occupation and activity.
- The presence of Iron Age remains, such as at Gallows Nook Common and Brills Farm, were well known. The Iron Age origins of the villa site were suspected. Recent work has shown that there is much more to be seen and to be found here, which is why English Heritage extended their designation to include the whole of the field surrounding the villa. Also, a possible Iron Age settlement has been found that will be destroyed. What more is to be found that would be destroyed by this development, which is only 10 metres, across a narrow country lane, from the designated Scheduled Monument? The development lies in a direct line between the villa and the Roman road of North Scaffold Lane and the Cromwell crossing on the Trent.
- This greenfield site is unique in the region, whereas local brownfield sites that could potentially accommodate this facility exist that were not listed in the 2020 application as having been considered.
- The proposed development would significantly undermine and detract from the iconic, Bomber Gateway Sculpture which has attracted interest and financial support locally

and regionally. When completed it will, be larger than the Angel of the North and in the present landscape will prove to be (or not if this development goes ahead) a significant tourist and image asset to the City and County of Lincolnshire. The floodlit proposed development will significantly detract from this and will prevent any potential development of this landscape as a heritage and tourist asset spanning the Iron Age to WW2. And, with DfT figures showing a daily average of 39,300 vehicles passing by in 2019 (22% increase from 2016). This is a significant location in image and marketing terms!

- Objections are also being submitted on nature conservation grounds.

### **How to object**

**Write** to or email Marc Willis. Planning Services. Lincolnshire County Council. Lancaster House. 36 Orchard Street. Lincoln. LN1 1XX.

**Email** [marc.willis@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:marc.willis@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

**Website** <http://lincolnshire.planning-register.co.uk/>

**Quote** reference **PL/0012/21 & Villa Farm, Folly Lane. Norton Disney.**

**Do not forget to include your name and address on all objections.**

**The more individual objections based on the unique character of this locality the better.**

**The deadline is 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021.**

**Tell the County Council what you think!**

**For Further Information**

CDLHS Facebook Channel

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**There are two articles on the Villa in *Irregular 5* (November 2020).**

*The Irregular* is the Journal of the Collingham and District Local History Society. It is on sale at our events and at **Gascoignes** (the Post Office) in Collingham or from the Society for £5

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**Visit the following web pages**

[www.nortondisneyromanvilla.wordpress.com](http://www.nortondisneyromanvilla.wordpress.com)

[www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1005018](http://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1005018)

[www.eleanorscottarchaeology.com/els-archaeology-blog/2018/1/20/the-intriguing-roman-villa-at-norton-disney-a-conundrum-under-a-threat](http://www.eleanorscottarchaeology.com/els-archaeology-blog/2018/1/20/the-intriguing-roman-villa-at-norton-disney-a-conundrum-under-a-threat)

[www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1005018](http://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1005018)

*Contact the Society (CDLHS) or Richard Parker of NDHAG through the contact page on our website.*

**[www.collingham-history.org.uk](http://www.collingham-history.org.uk)**

Collingham Archives. 11, Swinderby Road. Collingham. Newark. NG23 7PH