

## **TSS HERITAGE WORKING GROUP REPORT APRIL 2019**

TSS heritage working group continue to assess the heritage implications of planning applications from the ADC weekly list and comment as appropriate.

### **Land of Gilcroft Street/Vere Avenue**

TSS forum have objected to several planning applications relating to this development as there are heritage issues, together with environmental and ecology concerns.

The housing plot off Gilcroft Street (north plot) may affect the setting of Skegby Hall, an HER Grade 11 listed building which was built around 1720 on the foundations of a much earlier dwelling. Surrounding the listed building and within 30 metres of the plot are Skegby Hall Gardens, a non-registered historic park and garden which is shown on the OS 1879 map. In 1991 part of these gardens were acquired by ADC for improvement and public access. They are regularly accessed and visited by both residents and tourists. This site is identified as '*riparian woodland*' and should be protected. Footpaths within Skegby Hall Gardens extend to cover most of the 'north' block of the proposed site and beyond. These footpaths promote health and well-being and are used for many outdoor pursuits. TSS are currently working to have these footpaths adopted by NCC.

The housing plot (south) has no listed buildings in the vicinity but views of the open countryside from Stoneyford Trail (footpath 49) would be lost if the southern plot were approved.

### **Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)**

Access to the south plot would be via a new road, off Stoneyford Road, which cuts through 'Skegby quarry' and 'Stanton Hill Grasslands' which are both Local Wildlife Sites (LWS). 'The Wildlife Trust' has expressed concern that there would be an adverse impact on the LWS's including loss and fragmentation of part of Skegby Quarry 111 LWS and Stanton Hill Grasslands LWS and likely long-term deterioration of both sites.

**Fissures and break lines** The Coal Authority notes the Geotechnical and Geo-Environmental Site Investigation Report (3 October 2018, prepared by Eastwood & Partners), the content of which appears to confirm that the fissures within the site may not just be confined to the area corresponding with the High Risk Area (i.e. the southerly access road linking Stoneyford Road to Development Area 2) and that 50% of plots may be underlain by fissures.

### **Footpaths**

The adoption of the 2 footpaths between Stoneyford Road and Skegby Hall Gardens/Skegby bottoms is in progress. The applications have been recorded as:

Application 1186. Stoneyford Road to Skegby Hall Gardens.

Application 1187. Stoneyford Road to Sutton in Ashfield Footpath No. 49

The documentation for applying for a footpath (signed witness statements/landowners notices served/County Council modification orders etc) were all delivered to Notts County Council's Countryside Officer in December. Members of the heritage working group met up with the Countryside Officer and walked the 2 footpaths and, as a result of this meeting, it was suggested that the proposed footpaths should join with official footpath 49. The meeting was very constructive, with the Countryside Officer able to see that the paths are extremely well used. Aerial photography showed that the footpaths have been there for over 20 years, and together with the evidence that we have managed to provide, we have a solid application for both footpaths with the process taking up to 12 months to complete. The Countryside Officer is very positive about the adoption of both footpaths, and Ashfield District Council are already in agreement where the proposed footpaths traverse their land in and around Skegby Hall Gardens.