



Bicester Local History Society
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Development Management
Cherwell District Council
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For the attention of Bernadette Owens – Case Officer

Ref: 19/01740/HYBRID & 19/01743/OUT

The Society wish to object to the above linked applications and support the objections raised by Oxfordshire County Council (R. Oram) and Historic England on heritage grounds.

The historical importance of the nearby Scheduled Ancient Monument of Alchester cannot be stressed more strongly.

As mentioned by Historic England, Policy Bicester 10 of the local plan requires “Conservation and enhancement of the setting of Alchester Roman Town Scheduled Ancient Monument and the setting out of opportunities to better reveal its significance”. There is nothing to suggest in the application that the development would comply with this policy.

There is also concern that no provision has been made to ascertain that the development would not have a deleterious effect on water table levels in the area. The archaeologist responsible for the work on the Alchester site in 1996-2004 (Prof. Eberhard Sauer) raised concerns on the local water table in a paper written in *Oxoniensia*, (2006) and has suggested that an expert assessment be carried out on the impact that the proposed development would have on the area. We re-iterate those concerns.

We also have concerns that this development is encroaching on the Alchester site and will have a negative effect on its unique character as an abandoned Roman Town. It is a monument worthy of special care and protection.

Yours faithfully

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Bob Hessian
Chairman, Bicester Local History Society Committee