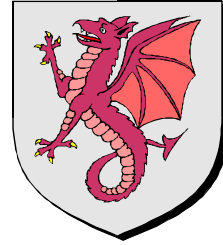


# THE RED WYVERN SOCIETY



28<sup>th</sup> September 2011

Ms. Yvonne Naylor,  
Case Officer,  
Selby District Council,  
Civic Centre,  
Doncaster Road,  
Selby,  
North Yorkshire.  
YO8 9FT.

Dear Ms. Naylor,

**Application No.** 2011/0844/FUL  
**Proposal:** Proposed erection of 3 stables and tack room  
**Applicant:** Mr. Reginald Robshaw Smith

**Application No.** 2011/0836/HPA  
**Proposal:** Additional residential accommodation and septic tank  
**Applicant:** Mr. Reginald Robshaw

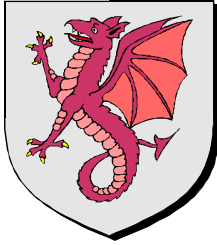
I write to express the opposition of the Red Wyvern Society to these planning applications.

We do not object to facilities being provided for the travelling community but we do believe that any development should be avoided on the sites of battlefields and other historic sites.

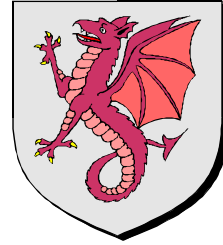
Our reasons for believing that battlefield sites in general and the site of the Battle of Towton in particular should be protected are that:

- Battlefields are of great cultural significance in that they are the locations of important events in our history that should be preserved for study and in commemoration of those who fought and died there.
- Many Battlefields are yielding important information about the course of the Battle and the nature of warfare and life in general at the time they were fought. If Battlefield sites are developed this destroys any remaining archaeological evidence of the battle.
- Battlefields are important to local communities as they contribute to a sense of 'place' and to the identity of the area.
- Battlefields are important for recreation and the economy as many people choose to spend time visiting battlefields and at the same time spend money in the location. Neither the people of today nor future generations should be denied access to the important historical landscapes that are represented by battlefields.

You will be aware that this application is on the very edge of the current registered area of the Battlefield and that in 2009 temporary permission for a travellers' site was granted until 2014. We had hoped that by 2014 the Council would have made alternative provision for travelers and that in the meantime further development would not occur.



# THE RED WYVERN SOCIETY



This new application is a significant change of land use at an important site and we would like to make the following specific points:

- In 2009, the Planning Inspector recognised that this was Green belt land and that this was not an appropriate development but because Selby District Council did not have sufficient Traveller sites in the area this made relocation difficult. Selby District Council are currently undergoing a process to install new traveller sites.
- Awareness of the importance of the Battle of Towton has greatly increased and a recent draft report produced for English Heritage (that is supported by others) indicated in 2010 that the Battlefield boundaries should be extended in light of increased knowledge since the Battlefield register was published.
- The area has increasingly become a tourist hub with the introduction of the new Battlefield Trail, increased media focus, new book publications and the regeneration of local business.
- In 2009 the highway was indicated as an area of concern and unfortunately since that time the road has suffered an increase in accidents and fatalities and therefore still remains a serious consideration.
- The application makes a shift from being a temporary site for travellers to one of a static development.
- The application requires intrusion into the ground which should be covered by an archaeological watch given all the new information available.

Yours sincerely,

Adrian Waite  
Organiser

Note: The Red Wyvern Society is a historical society that specialises in presenting re-enactments and living history displays of the fifteenth century including the Wars of the Roses of which the Battle of Edgcote was a part. Further information about the society is available on our website [www.red-wyverns.org.uk](http://www.red-wyverns.org.uk) or on request.