

[REDACTED]

From: Pritchard, Laura (E,I&S) <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 18 May 2026 16:39
To: Planning (SMDC)
Subject: EC3210SM -SMD/2026/0187 - Land East Of Leek Road, Wetley Rocks - SCCHET advice - no impact

Categories: [REDACTED]

Dear Arne,

Thank you for consulting with the Staffordshire County Council Historic Environment Team with regards to the above application. The proposals are located on and in the vicinity of the former line of the mid-19th century Consall Plateway, a railway which was constructed c. 1841 to assist with the transportation of burnt lime from Consall to Rangemore. The line closed in 1849, however it was still depicted as a track in the late 19th century and early 20th century Ordnance Survey Maps, and indeed the line of the plateway (as a track/footpath?) can be seen on recent aerial photographs on a southwest-northeast alignment. The Staffordshire Moorlands Historic Environment Character Assessment (HECA- CWWHECZ 5) identifies this plateway as a reminder of historic industrial activity in the wider area, and that a better understanding of this, either through the recording of surviving earthworks or below ground archaeology would contribute significantly to an understanding of early industry in the wider Churnet Valley/Staffordshire Moorlands.

We have formerly provided advice on a previous application at the site (SMD/2019/0197) and recommended that an archaeological watching brief be maintained on all groundworks required for the access track and the agricultural building in order to record any surviving earthworks and below ground features associated with the plateway directly impacted by the proposals. Following the refusal of planning permission SMD/2019/0197, it is disappointing that we were not then consulted on the subsequent application DET/2025/0011, or that our previous comments were not considered. Given that the work is now complete, there is little that can be done retrospectively and hence there are no issues I can raise with this application. However, if the applicant did indeed uncover any trace of the plateway during the development, we would be grateful for any information they can offer that we can add to the Staffordshire Historic Environment Record.

Please let me know if you have any questions or queries.

Kind regards,

Laura



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Learn more about Staffordshire County Council's Historic Environment Team, how we can help, and our fees, in Staffordshire County Council's [Archaeology Standard](#), where you can also find our Model Briefs, which set a minimum standard for archaeological works in the county.

-----Original Message-----

From: Planning (SMDC)

Sent: 18 May 2026 09:33

To: DSD HER

Subject: External Consultation Letter - App ref SMD/2026/0187

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