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Registrar of Local Land Charges Bassetlaw District Council Oueens Buildings Potter Street Worksop Nottinghamshire

Ref.: MPP54/ AA 30908/1

Date: 29th July 1998

MONUMENT NAME

: Roman fort and a section of Roman road 350m north west of

Holly House Farm

DISTRICT

: BASSETLAW

COUNTY

S80 2AH

: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

MONUMENT NUMBER: 29923

Dear Sir/Madam

ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS ACT 1979, AS AMENDED

I am requested by the Secretary of State to inform your Council that the scheduled area of the above-named monument has been revised. The monument (as revised) has been included in the Schedule compiled and maintained by him under Section 1 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended).

A copy of the amended entry in the Schedule relating to the monument is enclosed. The site of the monument is shown outlined in black and highlighted in red on the enclosed map extract. These documents are the official record of the above-named scheduled monument.

I also enclose a formal application in duplicate for the entry recording the inclusion of the monument in the Schedule to be registered as a local land charge in Part 4 of the appropriate local Land Charge Register. In due course, would you please complete and sign the duplicate copy of the application in the space provided at its foot and return it to me. A pre-paid envelope is enclosed for your use.

The application contains a description of the charge and the necessary particulars to enable your Council to register the charge in accordance with the Local Land Charges Rules 1977. The offices of English Heritage at the above address may be referred to in the register as the place from which copies of the relevant documents may be obtained, but it would be appreciated if you could arrange for the copy of the entry in the Schedule which is enclosed with this letter to be made available at your Council's offices for inspection upon request.

In addition, I would be grateful if you could ensure that any papers relating to the registration of the former scheduled area of this monument could be removed from the record and so ensure that only the current scheduled area is recorded in the register.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

ANCONT AMBI Re regulered 25/8/98.

ers faithfully Scheduling Section English Heritage

Encs: Schedule entry, 'Scheduled Monument' map extract, Land Charge

Registration document (2 copies), pre-paid envelope

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF A LOCAL LAND CHARGE

The Land Charges Act 1975

The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, as amended

The Local Land Charges Rules 1977

LOCATION (S)

SCAFTWORTH PARISH:

DISTRICT: BASSETLAW

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY:

MONUMENT NAME: Roman fort and a section of Roman road 350m north west of Holly

House Farm

Monument number: 29923

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE(S): SK65939274

I enclose a copy of the Schedule Entry which records the inclusion of the above-named monument in the Schedule compiled and maintained under Section 1(9) of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended) by the Secretary of State.

By virtue of the joint operation of the Acts and Rules named above, and at the request of the Secretary of State, English Heritage hereby applies for the registration of this scheduled monument in Part 4 of the appropriate local Land Charges Register.

The site of the revised scheduled monument is shown on the attached map extract outlined in black and highlighted in red.

Copies of the relevant documents may be obtained from the offices of English Heritage, Fortress House, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 1AB.

DATE: 29th July 1998

For and on behalf of English Heritage ..

The above local land charge has been registered this day of 19

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RIMENT FOR CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT BATCH NUMBER: 10456

FILE REFERENCE: AA 30908/1

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CHEDULE ENTRY COPY

ENTRY IN THE SCHEDULE OF MONUMENTS COMPILED AND MAINTAINED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE UNDER SECTION 1 OF THE ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS ACT 1979 AS AMENDED.

MONUMENT: Roman fort and a section of Roman road 350m north west of Holly House

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PARISH: SCAFTWORTH

DISTRICT: BASSETLAW

COUNTY: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

NATIONAL MONUMENT NO: 29923

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE(S): SK65939274

DESCRIPTION OF THE MONUMENT

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The monument includes the buried remains of Scaftworth Roman fort and an adjacent section of Roman road. The site is situated approximately 1.5km to the east of Bawtry in a field immediately east of the flood barrier bank of the River Idle.

The monument was first recorded as an earthwork on an early map of Nottinghamshire dating to 1774. By 1813 the site was no longer visible as an earthwork, having been levelled as a result of the land being taken into cultivation. The site was rediscovered from the air in 1944 as a crop mark. The land is low lying and, until relatively recently when modern agricultural drainage was installed, was frequently subject to floods although the sub soil of the site itself is sand and by comparison is much drier. The crop marks show that the rectangular fort is surrounded by a bank and triple ditch system, the innermost ditch enclosing an area of just under 0.4ha. The innermost ditch has almost right angled corners while the outer pair are more gently rounded at the corners. Access to the site would have been gained through an entrance which is visible on the north east side. The site is not precisely rectangular, the main deviation being the alignment of the south west side. The north west side has been degraded by the excavation of the large drainage ditch which forms the western field boundary. Excavation of parts of the ditches has shown them to be between 3.04m and 4.57m wide and just under 1.52m deep. The ditches are 'V' shaped in section and had been waterlogged. From the evidence of pottery and a coin the site can be dated to the second half of the fourth century AD. Fragments of pottery and tile are still widely scattered over the surface of the site. From the southern corner of the fort two parallel ditches run for a short distance to the south east and terminate at an area of lower and probably marshy ground. These appear to form a small annex but the precise relationship between the outer ditch of the fort and those of the annex is unclear. On the aerial photograph a large dark area is visible in the southern half of the fort interior. Two excavation trenches were cut into this deposit and found it to contain much occupation debris, confirming that the Roman levels

AUTHORISED BY: A R Middleton On behalf of the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport under batch no: 10456

had been little disturbed by ploughing. A post hole and a number of hearths

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NATIONAL MONUMENT NO: 29923

ESCRIPTION OF THE MONUMENT (Continued)

were recorded.

The fort lies very close to where the Roman road from York to Lincoln crossed the River Idle. A stretch of the road is clearly visible on the aerial photograph as a dark line running north west to south east just north of the fort. Recent excavations have shown there were two phases of road construction and has confirmed both the alignment and construction of these. To the west of the fort, in the river flood plain, the earlier road was built of turf and timber and provided a 'floating road' over the wet ground. This road ran across the site of the fort and was considerably earlier in date than the fort. Sometime later the timber and turf road was replaced by a more carefully constructed gravel road which was 6m wide and flanked by rows of oak pegs. A single radiocarbon date obtained from an oak post suggests a date in the third It is a section of the later road which survives as a crop mark to the north of the fort and is included within the scheduling. The fort is associated with the Theodicean recovery of the northern province in the mid to late fourth century (Roman Britain in the fourth century was divided into four provinces for administrative purposes), its position policing the route from the Trent valley towards Doncaster and then on to the Vale of York. The site appears to be a purely military post with no evidence of an associated civil settlement. All modern fencing is excluded from the scheduling, although the ground

beneath is included.

ASSESSMENT OF IMPORTANCE

Roman forts served as permanent bases for auxiliary units of the Roman Army. In outline they were straight sided rectangular enclosures with rounded corners, defined by a single rampart of turf, puddled clay or earth with one or more outer ditches. Some forts had separately defended, subsidiary enclosures or annexes, allowing additional storage space or for the accommodation of troops and convoys in transit. Although built and used throughout the Roman period, the majority of forts were constructed between the mid first and mid second centuries AD. Some were only used for short periods of time but others were occupied for extended periods on a more or less permanent basis. In the earlier forts, timber was used for gateways, towers and breastworks. From the beginning of the second century AD there was a gradual replacement of timber with stone.

Roman forts are rare nationally and are extremely rare south of the Severn Trent line. As one of a small group of Roman military monuments, which are important in representing army strategy and therefore government policy, forts are of particular significance to our understanding of the period. All Roman forts with surviving archaeological potential are considered to be nationally important.

Despite the lack of upstanding remains, Scaftworth Roman fort remains clearly identifiable on aerial photographs. The archaeological documentation of the site and its environs confirm that below ground remains survive extremely well. The fill of the ditches has been shown to contain high levels of (Continued ..)

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NATIONAL MONUMENT NO: 29923

ASSESSMENT OF IMPORTANCE (Continued)

organic remains and as such will preserve important environmental evidence relating to the use of the site and the development of the surrounding landscape. Taken as a whole, Scaftworth Roman fort will considerably enhance our understanding of the Roman occupation of the area and the impact it had on the wider environment.

MAP EXTRACT

The site of the monument is shown on the attached map extract outlined in black and highlighted in red.

SCHEDULING HISTORY

Monument included in the Schedule on 16th February 1953 as:

COUNTY/NUMBER: Nottinghamshire 56

NAME: Rectangular Camp east of Bawtry Bridge

The reference of this monument is now:

NATIONAL MONUMENT NUMBER: 29923

NAME: Roman fort and a section of Roman road 350m north west of Holly House Farm

SCHEDULING REVISED ON 24th July 1998

AUTHORISED BY: A R Middleton

On behalf of the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport under

batch no: 10456