

Proposal rejected by TAE on 28th June 2017, following encouraging discussions. Summary.

Conservation management, Thorp Arch.

Within its boundary, Walton contains a very significant and important set of business enterprises incorporating the Thorp Arch Trading Estate (TATE).

This particular site is of major commercial importance – but equally of important historic merit. For the Steering Group and other historical parties, it is very clear that the significance of its former ordinance role should not be lost. The contribution to World War II; the significance of the dangerous work undertaken with the implications for the then Factories Act and the immediate post war commercial developments which, ironically, served to support the rebuild/refurbishment of war damaged properties in a broad scale.

We have held discussions with Historic England and separately with business owners within the site and whilst we are certainly not critical of the efforts to date in preserving the road configuration and some important historic building adaptation, we would add our weight and focus within the Neighbourhood Plan, to the conservation effort, just as we have reflected strongly on the importance of the continued economic benefit and business viability of the site. Both aspects of the site are of importance to the community of Walton.

We recognise the ‘informal understanding’ which has been reached between TATE and Leeds City Council in respect of a Conservation Plan. We support that endeavour and have included within our Neighbourhood Development plan a policy which strengthens the Parish commitment towards sensible, realistic and viable preservation. The story surrounding the war time ordinance production reflects an important historical feature during this country’s darkest hours and it should not be forgotten.

So, we remain committed to working with Historic England, Leeds City Council and Rocksprings to ensure that a reasonable and proportionate approach is taken to the preservation of this key and unique legacy landmark. We believe such an approach is shared by the other principle stakeholders on this issue.

Brodie Clark.