

Marianne Attard

From: Rountree, Kathryn [K.E.Rountree@massey.ac.nz]
Sent: 23 April 2017 23:01
To: Representations
Subject: Representation re PA/03770/16

Dear Executive Chairperson, Planning Authority

I apologise sincerely for the lateness of my submission re application PA/03770/16. I was only made aware of the requirement to lodge objections to this proposed development on Friday 21 April. I am extremely concerned to hear of this application for a substantial development in the area of Tal-Qares which contains a variety of forms of significant archaeological evidence, apparently dating to the prehistoric period. In 2016 I visited this site with an anthropological colleague and spent an hour or so walking around it observing the range of archaeological features. I do not know the extent of the archaeological investigation of this site to date, but from observation alone there is evidence of megalithic stones, some of which are included in a curved wall (similar to structures on well-known temple sites), numerous potsherds scattered over the ground, and a mysterious opening in the rock infilled with top soil. It seems not impossible that this is an opening to a cavity, perhaps a chamber, in the rock.

Given the variety and potential significance of these archaeological features, it is essential that a thorough archaeological investigation be undertaken before any development is approved. I sincerely urge MEPA to require an investigation to clarify the site's heritage status and the nature and significance of the remains.

Kind regards

Professor Kathryn Rountree, Anthropology, Massey University, New Zealand

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