

Growing Baldock

Environmental Statement Addendum Volume 1: Text
Chapter 9: Archaeology



February 2026

Urban&Civic

Hertfordshire



9.1 INTRODUCTION

- 9.1.1 This chapter has been prepared by Oxford Archaeology and reviews the revisions to the Proposed Development in relation to any changes to impacts on archaeology reported in the original ES, and the requests for additional information in respect of archaeology under Regulation 25 of the EIA Regulations.

9.2 RESPONSE TO REGULATION 25 REQUEST

- 9.2.1 The table below summarises the Regulation 25 requests for additional information and the key issues raised by consultees in relation to archaeology issues and how the chapter responds to them.

Table 9.1: Regulation 25 Requests Summary

Commentary from Reg. 25 Request	Response from Applicant
Historic England Recommend that the Historic Environment Management Plan that is cited be provided with the application. This is in order to outline how important assets would be managed, and how the town's rich heritage will be celebrated and appropriately conveyed to residents and visitors in a consented scheme. This would provide evidence that both the Growing Baldock Masterplan's heritage vision and NPPF policy are being addressed. It could helpfully provide an overall picture of how settings harms will be managed, how preservation in situ would be agreed and managed post-consent, and importantly how the future interpretation, presentation and management of the site's heritage would be achieved. In the absence of this document, I am concerned that the proposals do not capitalise on Baldock's extremely rich heritage and risk unmanaged harm to it both during development and afterwards. Without a long-term management plan for the Roman town especially, it may not be possible to remove it from the HAR register.	A Historic Environment Management Plan and a draft WSI for fieldwork have been produced and appended to the ES Addendum. These address all comments raised.

Some impact would appear to be created on the South of Blackhorse Farm Roman settlement site (NHLE 1003548) by reason of placing new built development to its east. I am not able to agree with the Heritage ES in its statement (8.5.10) that no significant harm will be created to the setting of this asset, given the current outline nature of the proposals and the proximity of proposed development zones to the asset of up to three storeys.	This ES Chapter has assessed this site and concludes that Indirect (non-physical) impacts, relating to changes in the setting of the designated heritage assets, could occur during the post-completion stage of the Proposed Development due to the presence of new buildings, changes in the landscape and increased lighting and traffic (Paragraph 9.5.27). The significance of effect is considered minor adverse for the Settlement site south of Blackhorse Farm (NHLE 1003548) (Paragraph 9.5.36).
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9.3 UPDATE TO BASELINE CONDITIONS / ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

9.3.1 No changes to the baseline that were not accounted for in the original ES Chapter 9.

9.3.2 No changes to the assessment methodology have been made.

9.4 ASSESSMENT OF SCHEME AMENDMENTS

9.4.1 There are no scheme amendments that are relevant to this chapter.

9.5 MITIGATION MEASURES

- 9.5.1 There are no additional mitigation measures required beyond those considered in the original ES.
- 9.5.2 Notwithstanding this, a Historic Environment Management Plan and Draft Written Scheme of Investigation for fieldwork have been appended. This provides details on how heritage assets within the site will be managed to ensure their continued significance; and outline opportunities for community engagement and enhancement of public knowledge of the site.

9.6 RESIDUAL EFFECTS

Construction Stage

9.6.1 No changes to the effects reported in the original outline ES chapter are anticipated.

Post-Completion Stage

9.6.2 No changes to the effects reported in the original outline ES chapter are anticipated.