



TETRA TECH

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Our Ref: 794-PLN-HER-02031

1 June 2026

BY EMAIL ONLY: Paul.Chaston@north-herts.gov.uk

Dear Mr Chaston,

Land at Pound Farm Bedford Road Ickleford Hertfordshire SG5 3RS: response to Hertfordshire LEADS consultation response re archaeology.

We are writing further to the consultation response received from Hertfordshire LEADS (Andy Instone, refs P01/26/0558-1; 26/00558/HYA, 27 April 2026) in respect of this application, which recommends archaeological evaluation works be undertaken prior to determination.

We wish to highlight that the application site is currently in active agricultural use and planted with a barley crop, which will not be harvested until July 2026. As a result, the land is not practically available for either intrusive archaeological evaluation works during the current growing season. Requiring this work to be completed prior to determination would therefore introduce a significant and unavoidable delay to the determination of the application.

The application is supported by an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment prepared by Tetra Tech (January 2026), together with the results of non-intrusive geophysical survey, which provides a comprehensive and proportionate assessment of archaeological potential. The DBA concludes that:

Any archaeological remains likely to be present would relate to later prehistoric, Roman, Saxon or Medieval activity and would be of low / local significance; geophysical survey has identified remains of probable and potential archaeological origin.

There is no indication of remains of national importance; and on this basis, any necessary archaeological mitigation can appropriately be secured following the grant of planning permission, by means of a planning condition."

The DBA explicitly states:

In view of the perceived archaeological potential, and in line with relevant planning policy and guidance, it is anticipated that the planning authorities archaeological planning advisors will require further archaeological mitigation measures in association with redevelopment impacts.

The available information indicates that in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and proportionate to the impact of development, these works can follow the granting of planning consent, secured by an appropriate archaeological planning condition.

In our view, this approach is entirely consistent with the NPPF requirement for proportionate decision-making, and would ensure that archaeological interests are fully safeguarded without delaying determination of the application where no exceptional heritage risk has been identified.

Given the practical site constraints and the conclusions of the submitted DBA and geophysical survey report, we respectfully request that the application proceeds to determination with an appropriately worded archaeological condition, rather than requiring pre-determination evaluation.

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TetraTech Consulting Limited (01470149)

We would of course be happy to agree suitable condition wording with the Council and Hertfordshire LEADS to ensure a robust and transparent post-determination archaeological strategy.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any further information or clarification.

Yours sincerely,
for Tetra Tech Consulting Limited



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