

Vicki Wood
Development Control
North Hertfordshire District Council

Postal Point CHN 108
Hertfordshire County Council
County Hall, Pegs Lane
HERTFORD SG13 8DN

Contact Peri Horsley
Tel 01992 588039
My ref P01/24/0771-1
Your ref 1/24/0771/FPH
historic.environment@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Date: 11th June 2024

Dear Vicki,

Re: Retention of swimming pool and associated pump house in rear garden.- 109 High Street, Barkway, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 8ED

ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

Thank you for consulting me on the above application.

The development lies within an Area of Archaeological Significance, as identified in the Local Plan. This covers the historic core of the village of Barkway, which has medieval or perhaps Saxon origins. Most of the medieval settlement was burnt down during a series of fires, the latest in 1748, and survives only as below-ground archaeology. Roman occupation is also apparent at Barkway, with a coin hoard coming from somewhere within the village bounds (Historic Environment Record no. 491) and ditches/pits containing large quantities of Roman pottery found during excavations at Highfield Farm in 2015 (HER no. 31038).

The development is close to the High Street, and may be within the extent of the medieval village. It is also only 30-40m from where the Roman features at Highfield Farm were found. There is therefore a relatively high potential for surviving below-ground archaeology of those dates at this location.

Although a previous evaluation by Oxford Archaeology East in 2018 on the site produced no archaeology, the development sits back from the main house, closer to Highfield Farm. Therefore, there is still some potential for archaeological remains to be present, including features from the Roman period. Because the development has already taken place, we recommend that the area immediately adjacent to the pool is archaeologically evaluated. Should archaeological features be found a programme of mitigation may then be devised.

I believe that the development is such that it should be regarded as likely to have an impact on heritage assets of archaeological interest and I recommend that the following provisions be made, should you be minded to grant consent:

1. The archaeological evaluation, via trial trenching, of the development area;
2. such appropriate mitigation measures indicated as necessary by that evaluation. These may include:
 - a. the preservation of any remains *in situ*, if warranted,
 - b. appropriate archaeological excavation of any remains before any development commences on the site, with provisions for subsequent analysis and publication of results,
 - c. archaeological monitoring of the groundworks of the development (also including a contingency for the preservation or further investigation of any remains then encountered),
 - d. such other provisions as may be necessary to protect the archaeological interests of the site;
3. the analysis of the results of the archaeological work with provision for the subsequent production of a report and an archive, and the publication of the results;
4. such other provisions as may be necessary to protect the archaeological interests of the site;

I believe that these recommendations are both reasonable and necessary to provide properly for the likely archaeological implications of this development proposal. I further believe that these recommendations closely follow the policies included within Policy 16 (para. 211, etc.) of the National Planning Policy Framework. In this case three appropriately worded conditions on any planning consent would be sufficient to provide for the level of investigation that this proposal warrants. I suggest the following wording:

A No programme of archaeological works should commence until an Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. The scheme shall include an assessment of archaeological significance and research questions; and:

- 1. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording***
- 2. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording as required by the evaluation results***
- 3. The programme for post investigation assessment***
- 4. Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording***
- 5. Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation***
- 6. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation***
- 7. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation.***

B The programme of archaeological works shall take place/commence in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition (A)

C *The development shall not be occupied/used until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition (A) and the provision made for analysis and publication where appropriate.*

If planning consent is granted, I will be able to provide detailed advice concerning the requirements for the investigations, and to provide information on professionally accredited archaeological contractors who may be able to carry out the necessary work.

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

Yours sincerely,

Peri Horsley
Historic Environment Advisor, Hertfordshire LEADS
Environmental Sustainability

Hertfordshire LEADS provides Landscape, Ecology, Archaeology, Design and Sustainability support to planning departments in Hertfordshire.