

Henry Thomas
Development Control
North Hertfordshire District Council

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Contact Andy Instone
Tel 01992 555241
My ref P01/25/0531-2
Your ref **25/00531/DOC**
historic.environment@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Date: 16 May 2025

Dear Henry,

RE-CONSULTATION: Details reserved by Condition 5 (Archaeological works) of reserved matters application reference 24/01907/RM granted on 11.11.2024. | Greenleas Bygrave Road Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 5DS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

Thank you for consulting us on the above application.

The applicant has submitted a revised archaeological WSI, trial trenching method statement and a covering letter from their archaeological consultant.

Archaeological WSI (Abrams Archaeology)

In our letter to you dated 14 March 2025 we made six comments. I deal with them in order below, the original comment in italics, my latest responses in bold:

- *the document should cover the whole project not just the trial trenching and provision have been made for further phases of work and additional method statements to support it,*
this WSI simply needs to clearly state that after it has been approved and the trial trenching completed, further phases of work may be required and additional method statements be submitted in other words that the archaeological works have not necessarily been completed, this statement has now been included
- *we require the contractor carrying out the works to write the WSI or as a minimum to provide a method statement as an addendum to the WSI,*
this has now been included as an addendum (PCA Archaeology) and requires review by this office (see separate section below)
- *4.3.2. this office and the LPA require direct access if appropriate, to the onsite archaeological contractor,*
this has now been included in the WSI
- *5. the report should include a HER Summary Sheet*

this has now been included in the WSI

- *we require c.v.s of the onsite staff to be submitted for approval, although this may be done after the WSI has been approved on the understanding fieldwork will not commence until they have been agreed*

Abrams Archaeology have confirmed in their cover letter that this will happen, this statement should be considered a part of the WSI and be enforced on if required, both this office and NHDC should approve the onsite staff cvs before any onsite archaeological works commence for those works to be in compliance with the WSI

- *there should be confirmation that the museum has agreed in principle to take any archive generated by this project*

Abrams Archaeology have confirmed in their cover letter that they have received agreement for this from North Herts Museums - in this instance this is satisfactory but normally we expect this to be included within a WSI, this is important as deposition in a suitable repository is a requirement of the NPPF and many museums in Hertfordshire are now full and unable to take archives which means alternative arrangements will need to be made to the agreement of this office/NHDC

Method Statement for Trial Trenching (PCA Archaeology)

We note that paragraph 2.6.1 refers to an in-house manual for fieldwork. Normally reference to in-house manuals is not acceptable and the procedures to be followed should be clearly set out in any WSI/method statement.

However, in this instance we will advise that this document is satisfactory, provided the requirements of bullet point 5 (above) regarding onsite staff c.v.s are adhered to.

Recommendations

In this instance we can recommend that the archaeological WSI and method statements are approved and that on site archaeological works can commence. However, we do not recommend that the archaeological condition(s) are fully discharged until it is clear that no further phases of onsite archaeological works are required, any reporting is completed and approved by this office and any arrangements for analysis and publication of results have been agreed.

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

Yours sincerely,

Andy Instone
Senior Historic Environment Advisor, Hertfordshire LEADS
Environmental Sustainability

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