

Thomas Howe
Development Control
North Hertfordshire District Council

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

Contact Andy Instone
Tel 01992 555241
My ref P01/25/1094-1
Your ref **25/01094/FP**
historic.environment@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Date: 5 June 2025

Dear Thomas,

**Re: Erection of nine dwellings including access, parking and landscaping .| Land
To The Rear 34 Arlesey Road Ickleford Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 3UU
ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS**

Thank you for consulting us on the above application.

This office has been consulted pre-application for this proposal and advised that we were likely to recommend that archaeological conditions should be attached if planning permission was granted. We recommended that a programme of archaeological investigations would be required to discharge these planning conditions and that this would likely include an archaeological evaluation, via trial trenching, of the development area, prior to the commencement of any development followed by such appropriate preservation and or mitigation measures indicated as necessary by that evaluation.

The applicant has submitted an archaeological desk-based assessment with this planning application (*Land rear of 34 Arlesey Road Ickleford, Hertfordshire, Heritage Statement Minerva Archaeology Ltd 2024*). Although it was not recommended by this office it does conclude that *"the site is located within a well-documented, known archaeological landscape"* (paragraph 3.35). It goes on to say that the site may contain archaeological remains of *"sufficient significance...to warrant a programme of detailed archaeological investigation of the site, should it be developed, to mitigate the impacts of the development on their survival and ensure that they are preserved by record, with the collected data made publicly accessible. Such a programme would normally be secured through a standard archaeological condition attached to any planning consent that might be granted"* (3.41)

With the above in mind, I believe that the position of the proposed development is such that it should be regarded as likely to have an impact on heritage assets with archaeological interest, 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, prior to the commencement of any development;

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 and historic 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 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 demolition/development shall take place/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*
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 demolition/development shall take place/commence in accordance with the programme of archaeological works set out in 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,

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.