

Sarah Kasparian
Development Control
North Hertfordshire District Council

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Contact Andy Instone
Tel 01992 555241
My ref P01/25/1880-1
Your ref **25/01880/DOC**
historic.environment@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Date :26 August 2025

Dear Sarah,

Re: Details reserved by Condition 19 Parts A and B (Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Mitigation) of planning permission reference 22/03092/FP granted 15.03.2024. | Land To The East Of Foxholes And Gainsford House And On The West Side Of Crow Furlong Hitchin Hertfordshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

Thank you for consulting us on the above application.

The applicant has submitted an archaeological WSI written by PCA Archaeology on behalf of RPS Consulting. This office has provided draft comments directly to the applicant, and these have been repeated and augmented below:

- PCA should do a HER search – Section 3 Site Background is reliant on 2017 data from a previous report
- There should be geo-referencing on the figures – it's much clearer if the OS grid is added, with appropriate NGRs (rather than just having a couple of standalone grid reference points). If this can't be done now, this should be included at the reporting stage.
- 5.1.8 – the metal-detector should not be set to discriminate against iron
- 5.2.1 – methodology outlined is OK, but some aspects (e.g. the decisions on the adoption of 'a sliding scale of reduced sampling of larger enclosures' would be subject to our agreement).
- 5.2.4 – inhumation burials - this appears to be written for trial trench evaluations, not open area investigations. It's improbable that exhumation will not be required, given the nature of the development. **This paragraph must be clarified**; it infers that burials will be partially excavated. The methodology also seems at odds with that for cremation burials in 5.2.1, which is for 100% excavation. A systematic programme of sampling (including below the burials, once lifted) should be carried out.
- 5.3.6 and 6.2.3 refer to trenches.

- 6.5.1 – ‘working shots’ should include general overviews of the site, to provide context.
- 8.2.2 – Depending on the extent and significance of the results, consideration of the county journal Hertfordshire Archaeology and History might also be appropriate.
- there should be confirmation that the museum has agreed in principle to take any archive generated by this project, a standard requirement of this office

Therefore, **we do not yet recommend that condition 19 is fully or partially discharged** nor that any onsite archaeological works commence.

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.