

Vicki Wood
Development Management
North Herts District Council

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Contact Peri Horsley
Tel 01992 555276
My ref P01/24/1564-1
Your ref 24/01564/FPH
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Date: 12th September 2024

Dear Vicki,

Re: Erection of detached greenhouse and installation of wildlife pond to rear garden.- Sells Close House , High Street, Barley, Hertfordshire, SG8 8HY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

Thank you for consulting me on the above application.

Please note that the following advice is based on the policies contained in the National Planning Policy Framework.

The proposed development area lies within Area of Archaeological Significance no. 67, as identified in the Local Plan. This covers the historic village of Barley (Historic Environment Record no. 2689), along with the fields to its north and west. The earliest (11th century) documented references to a settlement at this location refer to 'Berenlei' or 'Beoronleam', which has been interpreted as a reference to the Old English 'byrgen' or 'burial place'. The village is mentioned in the Domesday book in 1086 as 'Berlai', with the entry referring to a manorial estate at this location.

Barley and its surroundings are richly populated with archaeological remains dating from the Iron Age to the medieval periods. A large Middle Iron Age settlement (HER no. 176), excavated between 1959 and 1961, is located in the field to the north of the village, circa 250m to the north of the proposed development. Two Romano-British cemeteries (HER no. 4029), comprising both cremations and inhumations, were found and excavated a short distance to the west of the village in the 1950s.

The proposed development is within the historic core of the village. The 1843 Tithe Map shows a series of dwellings of unknown date along this part of High Street, most now demolished. In 2020 archaeological investigations were undertaken at the adjoining property, to the south. A number of features were identified, the earliest of which could be dated to the Early Medieval period, although may have been Prehistoric or Roman origin (Groundworks Archaeology 2021).

I believe that the proposed 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 monitoring of all groundworks related to the development, including excavating for the wildlife pond, foundation trenches, hard landscaping, and all other ground impact, including a contingency for the preservation or further excavation of any remains encountered;
2. 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;
3. 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 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 for post investigation assessment*
3. *Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording*
4. *Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation*
5. *Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation*
6. *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,

Peri Horsley
Historic Environment Advisor, Hertfordshire LEADS
Environmental Sustainability

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