

Naomi Reynard
Development Control
North Hertfordshire District Council

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Contact Andy Instone
Tel 01992 555241
My ref P01/23/2889-1
Your ref **24/02889/FP**
historic.environment@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Date: 30 January 2025

Dear Naomi,

Re: Residential development of 281 dwellings and associated roads, parking, realignment of Back Lane, drainage, landscaping, open space, servicing facilities and associated works |Land At Roundwood Back Lane Graveley Hertfordshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

Thank you for consulting us on the above application.

This site was subject to a similar proposal for planning application 23/02492/FP. Our advice remains the same as for that application and is quoted below:

The site was subject to an archaeological geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation in 2010 via prior application 10/00583/1. This office also commented on a subsequent application ref 16/01713/1 and pre application ref 23/1649/1 and the relevant archaeological reports were submitted with the former application (Haddrell, Simon, & Biggs, Melanie, *Geophysical survey report: Round Wood, Church Lane, Great Ashby* (Stratascan 2010) and Keir, Wesley, *Land adjacent to Round Wood, Church Lane, Graveley (NES phase III), Herts: archaeological trial trenching* (Albion Archaeology 2010).

The 2010 investigations revealed several archaeological features located in the southern part of the proposed development site that relate to settlement dating from the late Bronze Age through to the middle Iron Age. A quantity of pottery of apparently earlier (middle) Iron Age date was recovered and several sherds were sooted, indicating domestic use [Historic Environment Record Nos 16655, 16656]. Remains of this date are rare regionally, and could contribute to the understanding of settlement patterns within the area in the late prehistoric period.

We therefore advised with regard to 16/01713/1 and 23/1649/1 that the proposed development was likely to have an impact on heritage assets with archaeological interest, and that appropriately worded conditions to mitigate the impact of the development should be placed on consent, should consent be granted. This advice remains valid with regard to the currently proposed development.

I consider that the position of 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 excavation of a defined area (based around the archaeologically sensitive area revealed during the earlier evaluation) of the proposed development before any development commences,
2. the preservation of any archaeological remains *in situ*, if warranted, this may require the re-design of parts of the proposed development;
3. the archaeological monitoring of all other groundworks within the proposed development site should this be deemed necessary from the results of the excavation,
4. a contingency for the archaeological investigation and recording of any remains encountered during the monitoring programme,
5. 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, as appropriate.

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, and relevant guidance contained in the National Planning Practice Guidance, and in the Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2: Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment (Historic England, 2015).

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 suggested by the archaeological 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.

I hope that you will be able to accommodate the above recommendations.

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.