Environment and Infrastructure
Chief Executive: John Wood

Richard Tiffin
Development Control
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Contact Simon Wood
Tel 01992 588039
My ref P01/18/0422
Your ref 18/00422/FP
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Date: 30 May 2018

Dear Richard,

Re: Residential development comprising 2 x 4-bed houses and 2 x 2-bed bungalows together with associated vehicular access, parking and all other works - 47 Salisbury Road Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 5BZ

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 is located in close proximity to three Areas of Archaeological Significance (AAS), as identified in the Local Plan. The first AAS lies circa 200m to the west and contains within it the nationally significant multiperiod Iron Age, Roman, Saxon and medieval settlement site south of Blackhorse Farm (Historic Environment Record no. 6826), which is a Scheduled Monument. The second AAS, roughly the same distance to the north, covers a likely Bronze Age round barrow cemetery (HER nos. 2430 & 2431) and Iron Age field system (HER no. 31441). These remains have been investigated, along with much of Bygrave Common to north and east, by geophysical survey (Stratascan 2016) and archaeological trial trenching evaluation (MOLA Northampton 2017) in recent years.

The third AAS covers the historic core of Baldock itself. Baldock is archaeologically one of the most significant towns in Hertfordshire, and is perhaps second only to St Albans in the quality of its Late Iron Age/Roman archaeology. Around 1800 human burials from this period have been excavated since 1925, while a minimum of 21 formal cemeteries have been located (Fitzpatrick-Matthews & Burleigh 2008). It is likely to be an *oppidum* or Late Iron Age proto-urbanised settlement, perhaps a headquarters of the Catuvellauni, a

proposed pre-Roman tribe situated in the area. Along with the settlement at Blackhorse Lane, the core of the Late Iron Age and Roman town (HER no. 8), between Clothall Road and Yeomanry drive, is a Scheduled Monument.

The proposed development is a short distance to the south and west of the Iron Age field system identified in the recent evaluation on Bygrave Common, and circa 200m north of the Icknield Way (HER no. 4182), a major ancient routeway with likely prehistoric origins. The closest known cemetery is approximately 300m to the south east (HER no. 12879), but it is likely, albeit not certain, that the Iron Age and Roman cemeteries at Baldock do not stretch this far north.

This location has high potential for the presence of below ground non-designated heritage assets dating to the Iron Age and Roman periods, but on balance, given the character of known nearby archaeological remains and the moderate scale of the development, it is not considered that the potential for nationally significant remains is such that intrusive archaeological work is recommended prior to determination of the planning application as per NPPF para 128.

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 evaluation of the development area, via trial trenching, prior to any development commencing.

2. such appropriate mitigation measures indicated as necessary by this 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 12 (para. 141, 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 and methodology of site investigation and recording as suggested 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,

Dr Simon Wood FSA Scot
Historic Environment Advisor
Environmental Resource Planning