

Anne McDonald
Development Control
North Hertfordshire District Council

**Postal Point CHN 108
Hertfordshire County Council
Farnham House, Six Hills Way,
Stevenage, SG1 2FQ**

Contact Andy Instone
Tel 01992 555241
My ref P01/26/0745-3
Your ref **26/0745/DOC**
historic.environment@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Date: 1 May 2026

Dear Anne,

Re: Details reserved by Condition 15A (Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation) of planning permission reference 24/02606/FP granted on 31.07.2025).|Land West Of Tuthill House Kelshall Tops Therfield Hertfordshire SG8 9PT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

As per previous correspondence to you, the applicant has re-submitted a written scheme of investigation, WSI (*Contour Archaeology*) directly to this office. In this instance only we have agreed to review within 24 hours and without direct consultation from yourselves.

Most of our comments regarding the first draft of the WSI have been addressed so we would like to thank the applicant for doing this.

However, one point has not been clarified, namely:

- Brief archaeological c.v.'s should be provided of the **onsite** staff; this may be done after approval of the WSI in which case it should state that fieldwork will not commence until this office has agreed the suitability of the onsite staff

Although c.v.s have been submitted it appears that these are for senior staff, including the company owner and project officer. What we required in particular is the onsite staff, namely the supervisor and digging staff. The final C.V, whilst appearing to be for a digger, does not include much archaeological information.

Therefore, these should be submitted either latter today, or as soon as possible next week. In *lieu* of this it should be confirmed at the very least that the Project Officer, Andrew Pasoce will be onsite supervising the investigations for the entire duration of the project. Should the fieldwork have been carried out, and this office not have approved these, then we may not feel able to conclude that the required standards have been met. This is because there have been sites recently where unsuitable staff have been used and this has caused problems, for example individuals been placed in situations outside

their areas of competence and confidence and archaeological remains with high significance damaged without proper recording and/or conservation.

Provided the above is complied with, in this instance only we can recommend that this archaeological WSI is approved and that onsite field work can commence.

Part 1, of condition 15 can be discharged.

We again note the following statements in the document which we concur with. Paragraph 2.4 of the WSI which states:

“This document represents a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the archaeological evaluation ONLY; this document alone will NOT result in the discharge of the archaeological condition.”

We also concur with paragraph 5.1:

“The aim of this programme of work (trial trenching) is to gather information on the archaeology of the site, so that an informed recommendation can be made to the local planning authority regarding the potential impact of development upon any archaeology within the development area.”

This is because trial trenching is potentially only the first phase of investigations. Depending on the results further phases of archaeological investigation may be required, together with addendums to this WSI to cover them, as well as reporting and if necessary, analysis and publication of the results.

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.