

Henry Thomas
Development Control
North Hertfordshire District Council

**Postal Point CHN 108
Hertfordshire County Council
County Hall, Pegs Lane
HERTFORD SG13 8DN**

Contact Andy Instone
Tel 01992 555241
My ref P01/24/02277-1
Your ref **24/02277/FPH**
historic.environment@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Date: 13 November 2024

Dear Henry,

**Re: Single storey rear and side extension | 28 Downlands Baldock Hertfordshire
SG7 6SY**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

Thank you for consulting me on the above application.

The site lies within an Area of Archaeological Significance, as identified in the Local Plan. This notes that Baldock is an important Iron Age, Roman and medieval town. This includes Scheduled Monument (27913) which notes the Iron Age settlement and Roman town of Baldock. Numerous Iron Age and Roman burials have been found in Baldock, many very close to the surface there being very little subsoil in many parts of the town.

The Historic Environment Record (HER) records that this evidence of human burial at Baldock forms one of the largest and most important collections in the UK (over 2000 are known and many more remain to be discovered).

This site is in a part of Baldock that was subject to archaeological investigation prior to the development of housing from the 1970s to the 1990s. Some areas were properly excavated, some had incomplete rescue investigations and other parts were not looked at. It is not clear that this site was subject to investigation although the area to the south was. The HER (13192) notes that an Iron Age burial enclosure was found that was partially damaged by a late Roman sunken lane.

In this case the proposed development 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 foundation trenches, service 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,

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.