

Ben Glover  
Development Control  
North Hertfordshire District Council

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Contact Andy Instone  
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My ref P01/24/2595-1  
Your ref **24/02595/DOC**  
[historic.environment@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:historic.environment@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

Date: 23 December 2024

Dear Ben,

**Re: Details reserved by condition 10 Part A (Archaeology) of planning permission reference no 18/01502/OP granted 25.07.2023 | Land Between Royston Road And Cambridge Road Barkway Hertfordshire**

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS**

Thank you for consulting this office on the above application.

Further to previous correspondence we do not yet recommend that either the archaeological WSI, nor the archaeological excavation method statements which have been submitted should be approved.

Please note that we have had to make a significant number of comments. In this instance only we have detailed them below. Should this be the case again the archaeological consultant/contractor will be asked to re-submit an appropriate document and review it before sending it in.

We have the following comments:

### Archaeological WSI

- Paragraph 2.1.1 notes, “*Across the eastern field, where trial trenching has not taken place, it is proposed to undertake an intermittent watching brief during development.*” This is not acceptable; the strategy has not been agreed with LEADS/NHDC.
- Paragraph 2.3.8, there should be provision for the areas of excavation to be extended should the LEADS team feel it is appropriate, as per part 1 of our archaeological advice to North Herts DC.
- Part 2.4, as noted above this strategy is not acceptable.
- Part 2.5, this is not a mineral extraction development.
- Paragraph 3.2.5, in agreement with the LEADS team.

- Paragraph 3.2.6, the receiving museum should be contacted when the WSI/Method statements are being prepared so that any issues with archiving can be agreed before these documents are approved.
- Paragraph 4.3, this is an encouraging statement, however any public outreach should be in consultation with the LEADS team.
- References should include Herts Archive Standards.

#### Archaeological Excavation Method Statement

- All paragraphs should be numbered, this will make any comments easier to understand.
- Part 1.1, page 2 says *"In the event of the identification of an exceptional number and complexity of archaeological deposits, sample excavation will be more circumspect, relying on the professional judgement of the supervising archaeologist on site, aiming to be minimally intrusive."* This should be done in agreement with the LEADS team.
- Part 1.1, there should be provision for the areas of excavation to be extended should the LEADS team feel it is appropriate, as per part 1 of our archaeological advice to North Herts DC.
- Part 1.2, an archaeological watching brief has not been agreed or recommended by this office, so the strategy for this part of the site needs to be changed.
- Part 1.3 The recording methodology should be outlined in full, referring to company procedures is not acceptable, this office is not aware of them, and they might be changed at any time.
- Part 1.5, page 5, given this is mitigation work for development which is likely to destroy/damage any archaeological remains, there should be a presumption that human remains will be lifted.
- Part 2.2 Reporting, page 6, for clarity, any variations from the WSI should be agreed with LEADS before they are carried out.
- Part 2.2, A fully completed Herts HER Summary sheet should be included in any reports.
- Part 2.2, documents submitted to discharge a planning condition are normally public, so clarification of the second to last paragraph should be made.
- Part 2.3 The receiving museum should be contacted when the WSI/Method statements are being prepared so that any issues with archiving can be agreed before these documents are approved.
- Part 3. c.v's of onsite personnel should be provided, and LEADS should agree if they have sufficient/appropriate significance.
- Part 3.2, it should be confirmed that the specialists in the list have local/regional expertise, the acronym OCAS should be explained.

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  
Growth and Infrastructure Unit

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