

Tom Rea
Development Control
North Hertfordshire District Council

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Contact Andy Instone
Tel 01992 555241
My ref P01/22/2624-1
Your ref 24/02624/RM
historic.environment@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Date: 23 December 2024

Dear Tom,

Re: Reserved Matters application for approval of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for outline application 22/02942/OP granted 18.09.2024 for 10 dwellings. | Land At Heath Road Breachwood Green Hertfordshire SG4 8PL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

Thank you for consulting us on the above application.

We commented on planning application 22/02942/OP. Provided these recommendations are provided for we have no further comments to make. Our recommendations are repeated below:

"No archaeological finds are recorded from the proposed development or from its immediate vicinity, but the site is in a favourable location for settlement. It is close to the site of a probable Anglo-Saxon burial found by workmen in 1913, to the south-west of The Heath. The finds consisted of four Anglo-Saxon brooches, a pair of bronze tweezers, a girdle-hanger, fragments of bronze, and fragments of a coarse pot with three bosses on the shoulder interspersed with vertical incised lines [Historic Environment Record 1248]. The burial dates to c.AD 670, but is not precisely located. Geophysical survey carried out nearby in 1990 identified a possible small complex of pits and ditches, probably representing a Romano-British farmstead [HER 7358], and subsequent fieldwalking revealed a spread of Roman and medieval pottery.

I believe therefore 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, via trial trenching, of the proposed development site, prior to development commencing;*
- 2. Such appropriate mitigation measures indicated as necessary by that evaluation. These may include:*

- a. the preservation of any remains *in situ*, if warranted,
 - b. appropriate archaeological excavation of any remains before any development
 - c. commences on the site, with provisions for subsequent analysis and publication of results,
 - d. archaeological monitoring of the groundworks of the development (also including a contingency for the preservation or further investigation of any remains then encountered),
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 16 (para. 205, 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 required 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."

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.