

From: Sophie Clarke <Sophie.Clarke@leics.gov.uk>
Sent: 25 January 2021 12:58
To: Planning Folder
Cc: Helen Knott
Subject: Archaeological Comments: 20/01012/OUT Land West Of Workhouse Lane Burbage Leicestershire

20/01012/OUT Land West Of Workhouse Lane Burbage Leicestershire Residential development up to 40 dwellings, public open space and associated Infrastructure (Outline - access only)

Dear Helen,

Thank you for your consultation on the above Outline planning application- please accept our apologies for the delay in responding to you.

In line with our pre-planning advice given to the planning authority in respect of this development, the applicant has submitted an Archaeological Desk-based assessment and has undertaken a Geophysical Survey of the site. Whilst the desk-based assessment is welcomed, we are concerned that the author has mis-interpreted the archaeological evidence and may have underestimated the archaeological potential of the site. As per our previous advice, the Historic Environment Record shows that the development site lies within an area of considerable archaeological potential. Archaeological excavations undertaken in advance of housing development to the immediate north of the area in identified several phases of archaeological activity here, including the remains of a Middle Bronze Age cremation cemetery which comprised 21 pits and 8 urned cremations (MLE23172), in addition to a large Iron Age ditched enclosure (MLE21696), and the remains of a Roman agricultural site comprising various features including stock enclosures and field systems (MLE18736 & MLE20670). To the immediate north-west of the site an undated ring-ditch has been identified through aerial photography (MLE20838) and a scatter of Roman pottery and metal-work finds located to the north-west is indicative of a nearby settlement and occupation site (MLE2846). Aerial photographs and Lidar survey of the application area appear to show a number of linear features running across the site, but the provenance of these is unknown at this stage.

Contrary to the findings of the desk-based assessment, although the Geophysical Survey was inconclusive (as opposed to negative), this does not indicate that the activity identified to the immediate north of this site does not extend into the present application area. It is well-known that prehistoric remains, such as those identified to the north, do not commonly provide strong geomagnetic responses and are therefore rarely identified through geophysical survey alone. The geophysical survey here has identified two curvilinear anomalies identified as being of uncertain, but possible origin. A similar uncertain anomaly identified through geophysical survey on land to the north was found through trial trenching to represent the remains of Roman rectilinear enclosure, part of wider agricultural site comprising a range of associated remains that were not identified by geophysics. In our view it seems most likely that the archaeological activity recorded to the north will continue into this development area and will need further evaluation in order to assess the character, quality and extent of those remains.

In view of the archaeological potential of this area, and in line with our previous advice, we recommend that the applicant should be required to complete their Archaeological Impact Assessment of the development site, in order to assess the archaeological implications of development and to assist the planning authority in making an informed planning decision.

This will require provision by the applicant for a field evaluation by trial trenching, to test the results of the geophysical survey, to identify and locate any archaeological remains of significance, and to propose suitable treatment to avoid or minimise damage by the development. Further design, civil engineering or archaeological work may then be necessary to achieve this.

This information should be submitted to the planning authority before any decision on a planning application is taken, so that an informed decision can be made, and the application refused or modified in the light of the results as appropriate. Without the information that such an Assessment would provide, it would be difficult in our view for the planning authority to assess the archaeological impact of the proposals.

The Historic & Natural Environment Team (HNET), Leicestershire County Council, as advisors to the planning authority, will provide a formal Brief for the work and approve a Specification for the Assessment at the request of the applicant. This will ensure that the necessary programme of archaeological work is undertaken to the satisfaction of the planning authority, in a cost-effective manner and with minimum disturbance to the archaeological resource. The Specification should comply with relevant Chartered Institute for Archaeologists "Standards" and "Code of Practice", and should include a suitable indication of arrangements for the implementation of the archaeological work, and the proposed timetable.

Information on suitable archaeological organisations to carry out this work can be obtained from HNET. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

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