

Memorandum

From	Doug Moir	To	Jonathan Haine
Extension			
Our Ref	LCC_2021_0012-HET.DM.2	Your Ref:	LCC/2021/0012/ASPJMH
Date	25 th May 2023		

APPLICATION: LCC/2021/0012
EXTRACTION OF SAND AND GRAVEL INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ACCESS ROAD AND NEW JUNCTION WITH A59 PRESTON NEW ROAD, CREATION OF PLANT SITE, WEIGHBRIDGE AND STOCKPILING AREA, SILT PONDS, LANDSCAPING INCLUDING SCREEN MOUNDING, WITH PROGRESSIVE RESTORATION TO WETLAND AND PASSIVE FLOOD MANAGEMENT FACILITY, WOODLAND AND AGRICULTURE LOWER HALL FARM SAMLESBURY
GR: 359126 431260

The recently completed geophysical survey (SUMO, 2023) is considered to have satisfactorily demonstrated that the site does not contain extensive or well-preserved near-surface archaeological remains that might belong to the medieval period. Given that a large part of the site was quarried away in the last century the possibility that the primary archaeological interest in the site has already been lost is one that needs to be borne in mind. Consequently the likelihood of nationally significant archaeological remains of this date, which would be a constraint to the proposed development, being found, is thought to be low-nil.

Although the issue of the presence of earlier, i.e. prehistoric, remains being encountered has yet to be addressed definitively, the depth at which such deposits might be encountered, means this would only be possible through a time-consuming and costly programme of evaluation that would leave the site in a condition unlikely that it could be easily used again. In any case, given what was found at the nearby Lower Brockholes, it would appear that such remains that might be encountered would be unlikely to meet the criteria to be considered of national significance, and therefore merit preservation in situ, but rather that being of regional importance the impact of the proposals could be adequately mitigated through a programme of archaeological excavation and recording.

The HET is therefore of the opinion that sufficient archaeological investigation of the site has now been undertaken for it to consider, that on the balance of probabilities, it is highly unlikely to contain nationally significant archaeological remains, and that any such remains that might be encountered could be satisfactorily dealt with by a scheme of post-permission archaeological works secured by means of a planning condition. It is likely that such works would involve a methodology whereby the site is stripped using a suitable machine under archaeological supervision, and areas of archaeological interest are then subject to more detailed archaeological excavation and recording.

Should the MPA be minded to grant planning permission to this, or any similar scheme, the HET would advise that such works are secured by means of the following planning condition:

Condition: No ground disturbance, including development, site clearance/preparation, or landscaping shall commence until the applicant or their agent or successors in title has

secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which shall be submitted to, and approved in writing by, the local planning authority.

All archaeological works shall be undertaken by an appropriately qualified and experienced professional archaeological contractor and comply with the standards and guidance set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA).

The development shall be carried out in accordance with the agreed details.

Reason: To ensure and safeguard the investigation and recording of matters of archaeological/historical importance associated with the development.

Note: Relevant archaeological standards and a list of registered contractors can be found on the CIfA web pages: <http://www.archaeologists.net>. Contact details for other non-registered contractors can be found on the BAJR web site: <http://www.bajr.org>.

Thank you for your consultation

Doug Moir

For the Head of Service for Planning and Environment