

BERKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

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8th October 2024

Planning CONSULTATION RESPONSE – Application 242380 39 St Patricks Avenue Charvil

Thank you for consulting Berkshire Archaeology regarding the above application. Berkshire Archaeology is part of Reading Borough Council's Museum and Town Hall Services and provides historic environment advice to the five unitary authorities of Bracknell Forest Council, Reading Borough Council, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Slough Borough Council and Wokingham Borough Council. This response relates solely to buried archaeological heritage, the Council's Conservation Officer should be consulted for any matters relating to the historic built environment.

This is a modest proposal, but one which lies within an area of high archaeological potential as demonstrated by Berkshire Archaeology's Historic Environment Record (HER). The site lies c.100m east of a cropmark complex that is protected as a Scheduled Monument (No. 1006964). The cropmark comprises a rectangular enclosure with an internal circle. This is just one of several cropmark complexes in the fields west of Milestone Avenue a number of which are also now protected as Scheduled Monuments. Additionally, Cropmarks are also evidenced to the north-east c.150m of the proposal site (No. 1006965).

Few of these cropmark complexes have been tested by archaeological investigation but most almost certainly indicate the presence of significant, extensive and complex prehistoric and Roman remains, including a number of rare prehistoric monuments. The gravel terraces of this part of the River Loddon were clearly a significant focus for prehistoric and Roman settlement, agriculture and ceremony.

As shown, the application site falls within an area of archaeological significance and archaeological remains may be damaged by ground disturbance for the proposed development. It is therefore recommended that the following condition is applied, should permission be granted, in order to mitigate the impacts of development. This is in accordance with Paragraph 211 of the NPPF(2023) which states that local planning authorities should '*require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible*'.

Condition:

- A) No development shall take place/commence until a programme of archaeological work, including a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been submitted to, and approved by, the local planning authority in writing.**

The WSI shall include an assessment of 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 WSI.

B) The Development shall take place in accordance with the WSI approved under condition (A).

The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the WSI approved under condition (A) and the provision made for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured.

Reason:

The site lies in an area of archaeological potential, particularly for, but not limited to, Prehistoric and Roman remains. The potential impacts of the development can be mitigated through a programme of archaeological work. This is in accordance with national and local plan policy.

In view of the nature and scale of the development and the low likelihood of the potential archaeology, should it exist, meriting preservation in situ, an **archaeological monitoring and recording** exercise in the form of a **Watching Brief** is likely to represent an appropriate programme of works.

Berkshire Archaeology would be pleased to discuss the approach with the applicant, or their archaeological consultant, should permission be granted.

Linden Ellicott
Archaeology Officer