

David,

The site is located in an area of archaeological interest and in line with paragraph 194 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2021) and archaeological desk-based assessment will need to be submitted along with this application. The applicant has submitted a heritage and archaeological assessment, but this has omitted a range of resources that should have been included.

Whilst this has reproduced the HER data it has not attempted to include any further data. This assessment was also not undertaken in line with the Chartered Institute for Archaeology's standards and guidance and no attempt was made to agree a written scheme setting out the methodology and sources that would be consulted and included as required by this standard. Aerial photographs have not been appropriately assessed and seems to rely solely on online resources such as Google Earth. Such online datasets cannot be considered as a reliable source of information about the historic environment and the photographic collection held by Historic England should have been consulted. Archaeological sites identified from aerial photographs within the vicinity of the site, and within the study area of this assessment, have been identified from photographs held by this collection but have not been mentioned in this assessment.

This assessment also omits any consideration of Historic Landscape Characterisation data or Lidar data. Both of these sources are freely available online and the HLC data was provided to the applicant's archaeological consultant as part of the HER data they were supplied. This assessment therefore does not contain an appropriate archaeological assessment of the site or study area.

A geophysical survey has been undertaken which has identified a number of possible archaeological features on the site. Such survey alone however does not provide any information on the date and survival of such features which is essential in understanding their significance. Geophysical survey alone can also not be relied upon to have identified all archaeological deposits on a site and therefore the results of such surveys need to be tested through field evaluation. In this instance we are aware that a modern service run crosses the site which has not been identified by this survey. It is therefore possible that archaeological features may survive on the site which have also not been identified by this survey.

An archaeological desk-based assessment will therefore need to be submitted with this application site in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2021) paragraph 194. This assessment will need to be undertaken in line with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists standards and guidance for desk-based assessments including the submission of an appropriate written scheme of investigation to agree the scope of the assessment.

A programme of archaeological field evaluation will be required ahead of the determination of any planning application for the site. This investigation must be undertaken in line with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists standards and guidance for archaeological evaluation including the submission and agreement of a suitable written scheme of investigation.

Regards

*Richard*

Richard Oram  
Lead Archaeologist