

Application no: 21/01224/OUT

Location: Land at former RAF Bicester Bicester

Archaeology

Recommendation:

Objection

Key issues:

The results of an archaeological evaluation will need to be submitted with this planning application in line with paragraph 189 of the NPPF.

Legal agreement required to secure:

Conditions:

Informatives:

Detailed comments:

The site is located in an area of archaeological interest immediately adjacent to the line of the Roman Road from Alchester to Towcester road (Margary Road 160a). A possible Bronze Age barrow cemetery has been recorded within the area of the airfield and seven ring ditches have been recorded from aerial photographs in the vicinity.

The archaeological background has been set out in an archaeological desk-based assessment. This was however undertaken in 2018 for the wider site and does not assess the impact of this specific development.

The proposed development would also have an impact on the site of Hungerhill Farm, shown on the 1st edition OS map and presumably demolished to make way for the airfield. The date of this farmhouse is unknown but it is possible that it could date from the late medieval/early post medieval period. This area has not been subject to any major truncation and therefore the remains of this farmhouse could be relatively well preserved. A well preserved medieval or early post medieval farmhouse would be of significance.

The development of the airfield would have had an impact on a number of areas within the airfield and the former quarries to the northern edge of this proposal

would have also removed any heritage assets. Lidar images however show that a number of areas within the airfield were not heavily disturbed and so archaeological deposits related to these sites could survive within these areas.

In accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, paragraph 189), we would therefore recommend that, prior to the determination of any planning application for this site the applicant should therefore be responsible for the implementation of an archaeological field evaluation.

This must be carried out by a professionally qualified archaeological organisation and should aim to define the character and extent of the archaeological remains within the application area, and thus indicate the weight which should be attached to their preservation. This evaluation 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.

This information can be used for identifying potential options for minimising or avoiding damage to the archaeology and on this basis, an informed and reasonable decision can be taken.

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Officer's Title: Lead Archaeologist

Date: 13-5-21
