

**Application no: 21/03426/OUT**

**Location:** Land Opposite Hanwell Fields Recreation Adj To, Dukes Meadow Drive, Banbury

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## **Archaeology**

### **Recommendation:**

Objection

### **Key issues:**

see below

### **Detailed comments:**

We have previously provided archaeological advice on a pre application consultation for this site under the reference number 21/01880/PREAPP where we advised that an archaeological evaluation would need to be undertaken ahead of the determination of any planning application for the site.

The applicant has submitted an archaeological desk-based assessment but this was not undertaken in line with the standards and guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeology and no attempt was made to agree a written specification for this site as set out in this standard. As such this assessment omits a number of archaeological sites to the west of this proposal which should have been taken into account for any such assessment. This would have been highlighted to Thames Valley Archaeological Services had they contacted us to agree the scope as set out in the ClfA standards and guidance.

The applicant has also submitted the results of a geophysical survey. Although a written specification was agreed for this survey the work was not undertaken in line with this agreed specification.

The site is located in an area of archaeological interest with later prehistoric through to Roman archaeological deposits recorded in the immediate vicinity. Two prehistoric ring ditches were recorded 600m west of the site along with prehistoric ditches and a number of undated post holes and pits which are likely to be of a similar date. A post medieval ring ditch, probably from a windmill, was also recorded on the site. This may have been built on a surviving prehistoric barrow mound. Iron Age and Roman settlement evidence has also been recorded 1km to the west of the site. Historic England have recorded the line of a Roman Road (RR 161a) from Harwell to Oxford 277m west of the application site.

Considerable Iron Age and Roman settlement has been recorded to the west of the application area, just 860m west of the application boundary. These excavations recorded a Bronze Age ring ditch and part of a probable middle Iron Age to Roman settlement. The Iron Age activity consisted of three enclosures, two of which had associated internal features containing pits and postholes. The Roman activity comprised three corn driers, beam slot and posthole structures, a metalled trackway and other ancillary features. A middle/late Iron Age crouched burial, supine burial and two cremations were also excavated.

The details of this site should have been included in the desk based assessment submitted as part of this application.

It is therefore likely that further archaeological deposits could survive on the site and a programme of archaeological evaluation will need to be undertaken

In accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, paragraph 194), 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.

**Officer's Name: Richard Oram**  
**Officer's Title: Archaeology Lead**  
**Date: 15-11-21**