

Rachel Tibbetts

From: Green, Victoria - Oxfordshire County Council <Victoria.Green@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>
Sent: 10 August 2022 11:39
To: Planning
Subject: Application ref: 22/02101/OUT

Dear Sir/Madam,

Ref: 22/02101/OUT Land Adjoining Withycombe Farmhouse, Stratford Road A422, Drayton

Thank you for consulting us on the above application. The site is in an area of archaeological interest and potential, as has been highlighted in the submitted archaeological desk based assessment. After discussions with the heritage consultant working on the project, an archaeological trenched evaluation will be carried out, likely in early September.

The proposal site includes a potential Bronze Age barrow, which was identified via aerial photography (PRN 29631), this will need to be investigated prior to the determination of the planning application. The development site immediately north of the proposal area has been subject to an archaeological investigation which recorded a shallow ditch and other evidence suggesting the site was circumferential to a settlement (EOX 6391). Immediately to the south east of the proposal site further archaeological investigations have taken place (EOX7140), which recorded Mid - Late Iron Age occupation evidence. Ditches, a possible trackway or surface and pits (some of them stone lined) were recorded, along with some post medieval ridge and furrow. In the wider area, Iron Age and Roman settlement activity has been recorded in a number of archaeological investigations, as discussed in the submitted desk based assessment. There is potential for Iron Age and Roman settlement activity to be present in the proposal area, as well as earlier remains relating to the possible barrow.

In accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2021) paragraph 194, we would therefore recommend that, prior to the determination of this application 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.

Kind regards,

Victoria

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