

From: William Kelly <William.Kelly@leics.gov.uk>
Sent: 26 August 2025 10:33
To: Sullivan Archer
Cc: Planning Folder New
Subject: 24/01142/FUL | Proposed erection of agricultural building | Oldlands Fenn Lanes Dadlington Nuneaton

Categories: Shaun

Dear Sullivan,

24/01142/FUL | Proposed erection of agricultural building | Oldlands Fenn Lanes Dadlington Nuneaton

Archaeological considerations

Please accept my apologies for not being able to respond to this consultation sooner. Following appraisal of the above development scheme, we recommend that you advise the applicant of the following archaeological requirements, for pre-determination evaluation (metal detector survey and targeted test pitting).

We note the concerns raised by Historic England (submitted 27/01/2025) and would recommend they are consulted further regarding the potential impacts of the development proposals upon the designated Registered Battlefield (Battle of Bosworth Field; NHLE Ref.: 1000004).

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) notes that the application site lies within the Bosworth battlefield (HER ref.: MLE3234) and therefore contains a significant archaeological interest. Battlefields are sites with a buried archaeological component that reflects their character, e.g. scatters of artefacts indicative of the formed up battlelines and the progress of the battle, earthworks and other features excavated/erected by the opposing forces involved, in addition to burial pits used to dispose of the casualties. In addition to the medieval battlefield the site also lies adjacent to the route of the Roman road from Leicester (Ratae Corieltauvorum) to Mancetter (Manduessedum), marked by current day roads and cropmarks (HER Ref.: MLE3019). The site therefore contains a potential for significant buried remains relating to the Battle of Bosworth, including burials, with an additional potential for buried remains relating to the Roman period.

Given the significance and sensitivity of the site, it is recommended the site is the subject of a detailed metal-detector survey, followed by test-pitting targeting the proposed stanchions locations. The former to establish the presence or otherwise of top/subsoil artefacts discarded or lost during the battle, the latter to establish the potential for additional sub-surface archaeological features, whether battle-related (e.g. burial pits) or other remains.

The preservation of archaeological remains is, of course, a “material consideration” in the determination of planning applications. The proposals include operations that may destroy any buried archaeological remains that are present, but the archaeological implications cannot be adequately assessed on the basis of the currently available information. Since it is possible that archaeological remains may be adversely affected by this proposal, we recommend that the planning authority defer determination of the application and request that the applicant complete an Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposals.

This will require provision by the applicant for:

1. A field evaluation, by appropriate techniques including metal detector survey and targeted test pitting, to identify and locate any archaeological remains of significance, and propose suitable treatment to avoid or minimise damage by the development. Further design, civil engineering or archaeological work may then be necessary to achieve this.

This information should be submitted to the planning authority before any decision on the planning application is taken, so that an informed decision can be made, and the application refused or modified in the light of the results as appropriate. Without the information that such an Assessment would provide, it would be difficult in our view for the planning authority to assess the archaeological impact of the proposals.

Should the applicant be unwilling to supply this information as part of the application, it may be appropriate to consider directing the applicant to supply the information under Regulation 4 of the Town and Country Planning (Applications) Regulations 1988, or to refuse the application. These recommendations conform to the advice provided in DCLG National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 16, paras. 207 & 208).

Should you be minded to refuse this application on other grounds, the lack of archaeological information should be an additional reason for refusal, to ensure the archaeological potential is given future consideration.

The Historic & Natural Environment Team (HNET), Leicestershire County Council, as advisors to the planning authority, will provide a formal Brief for the work and approve a Specification for the Assessment at the request of the applicant. This will ensure that the necessary programme of archaeological work is undertaken to the satisfaction of the planning authority, in a cost-effective manner and with minimum disturbance to the archaeological resource. The Specification should comply with relevant Chartered Institute for Archaeologists "Standards" and "Code of Practice", and should include a suitable indication of arrangements for the implementation of the archaeological work, and the proposed timetable.

Information on suitable archaeological organisations to carry out this work can be obtained from HNET. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

William

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