Mrs L Forman
Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
Council Offices
Argents Mead
Hinckley
Leicestershire
LE10 1BZ

Date: 01 July 2009
My ref: CLE 5563
Your ref: 09/00414/FUL
Contact: Lucy Griffin
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Dear Mrs Forman,

Planning Application No: 09/00414/FUL; Change of use and extension of existing barns to form 4 no. B1 use office units with associated car parking and erection of double garage for use by existing farm house; Sheepy Parva Farm, Wellsborough Road, Sheepy Parva.

Archaeological considerations

Thank you for your consultation on this application. We recommend that you advise the applicant of the following archaeological requirements.

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest. It is within the immediate vicinity of a house reputed to have been built in at least the 17th century and possibly re-using significantly earlier material. That buried medieval settlement remains may be expected to be present on the site is suggested by the earthworks that survive to the rear of Sheepy Parva Farm, showing the former extent of the village (MLE16138). An early medieval building platform was excavated at Sheepy Mill and sherds of pottery dating from the 11th to the 14th centuries were recovered (MLE 8953). Consequently, there is a likelihood that buried archaeological remains will be affected by the development. Although more recent land use in the farm yard, coupled with the extent of the buildings shown on the late 19th century map is likely to have damaged any underlying archaeology, there may still be remains present that the proposed extension, garage and landscaping etc will destroy.

To ensure that any archaeological remains present are dealt with appropriately, the applicant should provide professional archaeological Attendance for inspection and recording during the groundworks for the proposed development. A contingency provision for emergency recording and detailed excavation should be made, to the satisfaction of your authority in conjunction with your archaeological advisors in this Department's Archaeology Section. The Archaeology Section will provide a formal Brief for the work at the applicant's request.

The applicant should, if planning permission is granted, also obtain a suitable written Specification and costings for the archaeological recording from an archaeological organisation acceptable to the planning authority. This should be submitted to this Archaeology Section, as archaeological advisors to your authority, for approval before the start of development.

The Specification should comply with the above mentioned Brief, with this Department's "Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland" and with relevant Institute of Field Archaeologists "Standards" and "Code of Practice". It should include a suitable indication of arrangements for the implementation of the archaeological work, and the proposed timetable for the development.

We therefore recommend that any planning permission be granted subject to the following planning condition, to safeguard any important archaeological remains potentially present:

1. No development shall take place within the application area until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted and approved in writing by the planning authority.

Reason: To ensure satisfactory archaeological investigation and recording.

This condition is as advised in paragraph 55 of DoE Circular 11/95. The "Programme of Work" referred to in the recommended condition will in this case be the archaeological recording during development, in accordance with the Specification to be agreed.

The Historic and Natural Environment Team, as advisors to the planning authority, will monitor the archaeological work, to ensure that the necessary programme of archaeological work is undertaken to the satisfaction of the planning authority.

Please will you ensure a copy of the Decision Notice is sent to us in due course, to enable us to continue to monitor and safeguard the archaeology of this site. Should you or the applicant have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Lucy Griffin
Assistant Planning Archaeologist

c.c. David Granger Architectural Design Ltd (Agent)