

Our ref: TP/294344/14.11.25

Friday 14 November 2025

Via e-mail

To whom it may concern,

Re: Hallgates to Elms Farm Pipeline – additional information request (Archaeology)

Wessex Archaeology have been instructed, on behalf of Severn Trent Water, to provide additional information on the ongoing and forthcoming programme of archaeological investigation associated with the *Hallgates to Elm Farm pipeline project*. This letter provides an update on the archaeological works currently underway and outlines the proposed approach to further investigation, which will be detailed in an *Archaeological Management Strategy (AMS)* and an *Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation (OWSI)*.

Current progress

Since August 2025, Wessex Archaeology have been undertaking a geophysical survey along the proposed route. To date, approximately 70% of the route has been surveyed, and as of the week commencing 10 November, we are redeploying to complete the remaining accessible areas. The survey to date, has identified limited archaeological anomalies, which mainly take the form of linear features. It has also confirmed the presence of ridge and furrow in several locations which were known to exist based on the evidence collated for the Archaeological Desk-based Assessment.

We intend to share a draft assessment of the geophysical survey results with the Severn Trent Water project team in December. Following internal review, the report will be shared with the planning archaeology team at Leicestershire County Council, who provide archaeological advice to the local planning authorities for the areas in which the project is located.

Next steps – AMS and OWSI

We are currently preparing the AMS and OWSI for the project, informed by the ongoing geophysical survey. These documents will be updated as further field data become available.

The AMS will set out the proposed approach to archaeological evaluation, including how, why, and when evaluation will be undertaken. The approach will be guided by the potential for archaeological remains along the pipeline route and by the significance of any archaeology encountered.

The broad methodology would be to:

- Target areas where the potential for remains of archaeological interest has been identified; and
- Test areas that have not been assessed through geophysical survey, or where previous investigation results are inconclusive.

Areas where archaeological evaluation is not proposed would include those where:

- Previous investigations clearly demonstrated no potential for remains of archaeological interest; or

- Previous investigations identified modern disturbance that has truncated or destroyed any archaeological deposits.

As part of the AMS, we propose to outline the approach to any further archaeological work that may be required, led by the significance of remains encountered. Further work may include targeted archaeological excavation or archaeological monitoring and recording during construction. The approach will be developed in consultation with the archaeological planning team at Leicestershire County Council.

The purpose of the OWSI will be to establish the methods and procedures for each form of archaeological fieldwork across the project. This will ensure that all parties are aware of the required actions and timescales and will allow methods to be agreed with the council at an early stage.

The OWSI will be followed by site- or fieldwork-specific Written Schemes of Investigation (WSIs), which will adhere to the processes and standards set out within the OWSI.

Both the AMS and OWSI will be prepared in accordance with industry guidance, best practice, and standard assessment methodologies, informed by national and local planning policy.

It is acknowledged that any adverse impact on buried archaeological features resulting from the development would be permanent and irreversible in nature. However, through the implementation of the AMS and OWSI and based on the current evidence we have collated so far to date (including for the ADBA and the current results of the geophysical survey), it is unlikely that the project will result in significant adverse effects in terms of EIA, and archaeology can be appropriately managed and mitigated in line with recognised standards.

I hope that the information provided in this letter, together with the details included in the EIA Screening Opinion submission, will be sufficient to inform a decision on the proposals. However, should any further information or clarification be required, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Thomas Piggott

Thomas Piggott
Senior Historic Environment Consultant
t.piggott@wessexarch.co.uk

