

## **Consultation response 2023/91406 Land south of, 98, Burn Road, Birchenclyffe, Huddersfield, HD2 2EG**

The site is proposed to be developed for 4 houses. The site is located at a cross roads and across the road to the west there is a new housing development. When this was developed a programme of geophysical survey and trial trenching was undertaken.

The geophysical survey and trial trenching identified the presence of a number of post holes and pits. The dating of these was problematic as only a few artifacts were recovered but these included a sherd of either Neolithic or Bronze Age pottery and Iron Age Pottery. Samples were taken for Radiocarbon Dating, and this has been requested, but the results of this are not available yet. The prehistoric pottery was found in association with the post holes and pits. The post holes suggest a wooden structure was present on the site and the prehistoric pottery suggest that the structure was probably prehistoric. Although the prehistoric remains were not well preserved their very presence in the area is significant as later prehistoric sites are not common on the Pennines. The evaluation trenches were expanded to an open area strip map and sample excavation and despite the absence of further pottery being recovered palaeo-environmental samples were taken that produced cereal grains and nut shells typical of the later prehistoric period.

Based on the results across the road there is the potential for prehistoric remains to be present on the site. In order to determine if such remains are present and the significance of such remains a programme of field evaluation should be undertaken to assess the archaeological potential of the site.

As a tennis court is present on the site a geophysical survey is not recommended and the structure of the tennis court would obscure the results of any geophysical survey.

### **Recommended Course of Action**

I would recommend that a programme of archaeological trial trenching is undertaken to determine if prehistoric remains extend into the proposed development site. The evaluation should be undertaken prior to the determination of the planning application as the evaluation would provide then data on which to assess the impact of the proposed development on any archaeology present on the site.

Should planning approval be granted a condition should be placed on the approval for a suitable programme of observation and recording.

### **Recommended Condition**

"No development to take place within the area indicated until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological recording. This recording must be carried out by an appropriately qualified and experienced archaeological organisation or consultant, in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority."

Or, as an alternative to the above model condition, which was first introduced in 1990, the following condition is suggested by Historic England in their Historic Environment Good

Practice Advice, Planning Note 2: Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment, 2015 paragraph 37:

“No demolition/development shall take place/commence until a written scheme of archaeological investigation (WSI) has been [submitted to and] approved by the local planning authority in writing. For land that is included within the WSI, no demolition/development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed WSI, which shall include the statement of significance and research objectives, and

- The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works
- The programme for post-investigation assessment and subsequent analysis, publication & dissemination and deposition of resulting material. This part of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the WSI”

#### **Detail of Archaeological Work**

Details of the necessary archaeological work, in the form of a specification, will be provided to the developer, on written request, by the WY Archaeology Advisory Service in our capacity as Kirklees Council’s advisors on archaeological matters. The WY Archaeology Advisory Service will also be responsible for monitoring the work of the archaeological contractor commissioned by the developer to undertake this work, on behalf of the Planning Authority. From the 1st of April 2011 in accordance with the agreement of the Council Committee that oversees our work the WY Archaeology Advisory Service will charge the developer for these and concomitant services. Please note that the production of a specification may take up to three working weeks from receipt of a written request. It is in the applicant’s interest that they be made aware of this likely timescale.

The WY Archaeology Advisory Service can also provide a list of archaeological contractors who may be available to tender for the work. In order to aid the developer to meet the requirements of the above condition I would suggest that it might be helpful to add the following as a note to the planning permission:

“For further information please contact: Glyn Davies, West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service: 0113 3782249.”

We would strongly suggest that the developer is advised that a reasonable period of time for the execution of the necessary archaeological work must be allowed for within the overall site timetable. Any commencement of work on site prior to the approval and implementation of an archaeological specification, and/or any failure to schedule work properly that results in inadequate archaeological recording, should be deemed by the Planning Department to be a breach of the planning condition.

Yours

Glyn



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West Yorkshire Joint Services

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