



## Directorate for Planning, Growth & Sustainability

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Date: 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024  
Ref: CBC17073

Dear Zenab,

**23/03875/APP | Development of a battery energy storage system (BESS), connected directly to the national Grid with associated infrastructure including access, drainage and landscaping | Rookery Farm Granborough Buckinghamshire MK18 3NJ**

Thank you for consulting the Buckinghamshire Council Archaeological Service on the above proposal. We maintain the local Historic Environment Record (HER) and provide expert advice on archaeology and related matters. We have consulted the HER and note that the following records are relevant:

HER reference	Designation Status*	Description
0611400000	PLN	540m South-East of Sion Hill Farm: Concentration of Roman Finds found whilst field walking
0203400000	PLN	Margaery Road 162: Roman road between Akeman Street at Fleet Marston and Thornborough, with possible extension to the Alchester-Towcester Road.
1557700000		Iron Age to Roman enclosures, pits, and ditches
MBC40923	HER	Find Spot: 17 <sup>th</sup> Century Coin

\* COA = conservation area; LB = listed building; RPG = registered historic park; SAM = scheduled monument; PLN = planning notification area (undesignated area of archaeological interest); HER = historic environment record

Note: some records relate to extensive areas such as historic landscapes, historic towns and villages or areas of high archaeological potential. For full HER information and a licence for commercial use please contact the Bucks HER Officer.

### Archaeological and related interests

The western part of the development site is within a planning notification area for a concentration of Roman finds and a Roman road between Fleet Marston and Thornborough is recorded as running through this area. The development site has previously been investigated through desk-based assessment and geophysical survey. The results of these have been included in the application

Environmental Statement appendices 7.1 and 7.2. The geophysical survey identified potential roadside ditches relating to the Roman road as well as areas of Iron Age to Roman archaeology.

As agreed with the applicant's consultant, preliminary trial trench evaluation was undertaken with the expectation that further mitigation be undertaken by condition should the application be approved. This targeted parts of the areas of the Iron Age to Roman features identified by the geophysical survey and was undertaken following the agreed Written Scheme of Investigation included as appendix document 7.3.

We have not received a copy of the report for the preliminary trial trench evaluation, and it is recommended that the applicant submit the report to us at their earliest convenience so this can be considered alongside the submitted planning documents prior to further archaeological works.

If planning permission is granted for this development, then it is likely to harm a heritage asset's significance so a condition should be applied to require the developer to secure appropriate investigation, recording, publication and archiving of the results in conformity with NPPF paragraph 205 and VALP Policy BE1. With reference to the NPPF we therefore recommend that any consent granted for this development should be subject to the following conditions:

- **No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, have undertaken a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the planning authority.**

The archaeological investigation should be undertaken by a professionally qualified archaeologist working to an agreed written scheme of investigation based on our on-line template briefs and take the form of trial trenching in the first instance, with further work as required.

Yours sincerely

Paul

**Paul Clements BA (Hons)**

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