



## Directorate for Planning, Growth & Sustainability

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Buckinghamshire Council Aylesbury Vale  
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Date: 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024  
Ref: CBC17073

Dear Zenab,

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

Thank you for reconsulting 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 remain 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.

Following our previous advice letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024, we have received and approved the report detailing the results of the preliminary trial trench evaluation. This confirmed the presence of Iron Age and Roman activity and our advice for further evaluation remains the same.

The covering letter for the amended layout states, "As a result of the changes to the site layout there will be no disturbance of unknown buried archaeology within field 3". Although the battery storage has been removed from Field 3, new woodland planting is still proposed. The process of tree planting and subsequent root action can impact buried archaeological features, therefore, it would still be expected that the area of new woodland planting would form part of the second phase of evaluation, as with other areas of landscaping and tree planting across the development site.

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 development shall only be implemented in accordance with the approved written scheme of investigation.**

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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