05.12.23

Georgina Wright
Wiltshire Council
County Hall
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JN

Dear Ms Wright ,

Application No. PL/2023/08661

Westfield Farm, Upper Woodford, Salisbury, SP4 6PG

Thank you for consulting the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site (WHS) Coordination Unit on this application for the conversion of cattle barn to grain store with associated alterations; location of external grain handling/ drying equipment adjacent to south-west elevation and location of generator at Westfield Farm.

This application takes place within the Stonehenge part of the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites WHS and the site is in close proximity to Scheduled Monuments that form the WHS including Lake Down Round Barrow Cemetery. The role of the WHS Coordination Unit is to monitor the impact of all development on the Attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) as inscribed by UNESCO to maintain the Integrity and Authenticity of the WHS. For full details of OUV please refer to the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites WHS Management Plan (2015) with grain stores featured at 7.4.11 -7.4.12.

The proposal represents a change in character to this existing agricultural development within the WHS, with an increase in operation of a redundant building and increase in size of structure – minimum 4m above the southwest corner with additional height and mass for the grain elevator, dryer/cleaner and generator.

The Coordination Unit notes the applicant's awareness of the area's archaeological significance and welcomes the evaluation of impact to OUV detailed in the Statement. This evaluation focuses on visibility of the site which relates to Attributes 3, 5 and 6 of OUV regarding intervisibility and character of the WHS landscape.

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The evaluation states that the application site isn't visible from the Stonehenge monument based on assessment from Rox Hill Clump. Equally the evaluation states that the highest point of the development, the grain elevator, is approximately 3.81m below the height of the tree belt which shields the site from the east. This is confirmed by the tree belt identified as ST20 in the WHS Woodland Strategy (2013) with a screening function around farm buildings.

To fully assess the sensitivity of the location it's also necessary to confirm the impact of the development to the OUV of Scheduled Monument Lake Down Barrows to the north-east. To do I would recommend that a viewpoint from this site is provided and for Historic England to be consulted as to impact to nearby Scheduled Monuments.

The cumulative impact of light pollution in the WHS and its setting must be carefully monitored in order to maintain Attribute 4 of OUV. The Coordination Unit would welcome detail of the location and nature of any additional lighting to support the operation of this facility, or confirmation that no further lighting is required.

Regarding Attribute 2 of OUV, the physical remains of the site, I support the response given by Assistant County Archaeologist Roland Smith (09.11.23).

In summary the Coordination Unit:

- Notes consideration of other locations and the proposal to convert a redundant structure with existing access tracks is preferable to construction of a new structure.
- Advises for views from Scheduled Monument Lake Down Barrows to be included in the Statement and for Historic England to be consulted regarding impact to nearby Scheduled Monuments.
- Would welcome confirmation of lighting associated with this development.

Yours sincerely,

Claire Selman

Partnership Manager (Acting)

Stonehenge & Avebury World Heritage Site Coordination Unit

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