

For the attention of Hayley Clark

Thank you for consulting Wiltshire Council's Archaeology Service regarding this planning application. Please note that my comments relate solely to the buried archaeological heritage and not to any impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OAV) of the Stonehenge World Heritage Site (WHS). The Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site Co-ordination Unit should be consulted in this respect.

I have commented on a pre-application enquiry for this proposal, and I can re-iterate my previous comments as follows.

Springbottom Farm originates from at least the 19th-century and can be considered an historic farmstead. The Farm lies within the Stonehenge World Heritage Site and there are several significant archaeological monuments in the vicinity. These include the impressive Wilsford Barrow Group to the south of the Farm, which is protected as a nationally important Scheduled Monument. There are traces of an ancient field system on the downland to the north of the Farm and a linear earthwork, possibly of later prehistoric date, a little to the west.

Intriguingly, Wiltshire's Historic Environment Record (HER) also notes a 'bowl barrow' a little to the south of the Farm. This is noted in the Victoria County History for Wiltshire, although the great recorder of barrows, Leslie Grinsell, was unable to locate the barrow in the 1960s(?). The HER also notes a barrow within the Farm complex itself. This barrow is recorded on a map of Salisbury Plain prepared by the famous archaeologist, O G S Crawford, in the early 20th-century. A search for evidence of this barrow by the Ordnance Survey in 1970 failed to locate it, although it may have been lost below the buildings of Springbottom Farm.

There is therefore an archaeological interest in Springbottom Farm. This application proposes the renovation, alteration and extension of the existing farmhouse and the construction of an adjacent carport and garage/store. As there will be below ground impacts outside of the footprint of the existing buildings and given the archaeological interest of this location, it would be appropriate as a precaution to provide for archaeological monitoring and recording during construction should this application be permitted. This can be secured by an appropriately worded condition as follows:

No development shall commence within the red line boundary on ML Architecture's undated Location Plan, Drawing No. 636/PL/01 until:

a) A written programme of archaeological investigation, which should include on-site work and off-site work such as the analysis, publishing and archiving of the results, has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority; and

b) The approved programme of archaeological work has been carried out in accordance with the approved details.

REASON: To record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost in a manner proportionate to their importance and to make this evidence and any archive generated publicly accessible in accordance with Paragraph 218 of the NPPF.

The programme of archaeological work should comprise archaeological monitoring and recording of below ground works that have the potential to impact on archaeological features and remains. The programme of archaeological work will conclude with the preparation of a report on the results commensurate with their significance.

I trust that this is satisfactory. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this further or require any further information.

Our reference: CWI24198

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