



Isobella Wise
Wiltshire Council
County Hall
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge, Wiltshire
BA14 8JN

Our Ref: P01605153
16 September 2026

Dear Ms Wise

**T&CP (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 & Planning
(Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990**

**Land at Sling Road, Bulford, Wiltshire, SP4 9AP
Application No. PL/2026/00782**

Thank you for your letter of 26 August 2026 regarding further information on the above application for planning permission. On the basis of this information, we offer the following advice.

Summary

The proposed site is located approximately 58m north-west of the nationally important scheduled monument, a bowl barrow: one of a group of six round barrows, Sheepridge Road, Sling Camp (NHLE 1009966). The planning application comprises the construction of eight houses and associated garages. Historic England in a previous response of 17 March 2026 expressed concern that the proposed housing development has the potential to impact the setting of the bowl barrow scheduled monument (NHLE 1009966). We were also of the opinion that moving the housing development approximately 40m north-west, in line with existing development and character of the area, and retaining the eastern area as open land with its pre-existing trees would allow for retention of some of the open land that forms part of the scheduled monument's former rural setting which contributes to its significance. On the basis of the information provided since our previous response, our position is that the development will cause harm, and this is contrary to HE4 and HE6 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2026), in which decision-makers should give great weight to the conservation of designated heritage assets.

Historic England Advice



Proposals

The planning application comprises the construction of eight houses and associated garages, the installation of associated hard landscaping, soft landscaping and sustainable drainage system. The eight homes include a 2-bedroom flat and 2, 3 and 4 bedroom houses in a mix of detached and semi-detached buildings.

Significance

The proposed site is located approximately 58m north-west of the nationally important scheduled monument, a bowl barrow: one of a group of six round barrows, Sheepridge Road, Sling Camp (NHLE 1009966). The significance of the barrows is discussed in our previous letter of 17 March 2026.

Impact

While there are no direct physical impacts, the proposed housing development is located approximately 58m north-west of the bowl barrow. This has the potential to impact the historic setting of the scheduled monument through the removal of open land, which contributes to its significance. The presence of other housing and road development in the vicinity means that there is a potential cumulative impact on the setting of this scheduled monument, which may adversely detract from the significance of this high value designated heritage asset.

Position

We have reviewed the submitted material and note the applicant's position that the proposed development would result in "less than substantial harm" to the significance of the scheduled bowl barrow and associated barrow group through impacts on setting. We also note the conclusion that the proposed dwellings would be located approximately 58m from the nearest scheduled monument.

Historic England's concerns remain substantially as set out in our previous advice.

The scheduled bowl barrow forms part of a wider group of six prehistoric barrows of national importance. The significance of these monuments derives not only from their archaeological interest, but also from their spatial and visual relationships within the surviving funerary landscape of Salisbury Plain. The applicant's own assessment recognises the importance of the group's intervisibility and its relationship with the surrounding open landscape, and concludes that the setting of the assets makes a medium contribution to their significance.



We acknowledge that the setting of the monuments has been affected by previous twentieth-century military development. However, the existence of existing change does not in itself justify additional adverse change. The relevant consideration is the degree to which the current proposal would further affect the contribution that setting makes to significance. The applicant's assessment accepts that the development would introduce additional built form into views from the monument and would result in harm to significance through impacts on setting.

We note the applicant's view that relocating the dwellings further west would have implications for trees and the wider site layout. Nevertheless, the information submitted does not demonstrate that reasonable opportunities to avoid or reduce harm to the scheduled monument have been fully explored.

HE4 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2026 states that development proposals which would affect the significance of heritage assets, including any contribution made by their setting, should avoid or if that is not possible, minimise harm to that significance.

In applying paragraph HE6 of the NPPF, decision-makers should give substantial weight to the conservation of designated heritage assets. Where harm is identified, that harm needs clear and convincing justification and it should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal. Before undertaking that balancing exercise, it is important to establish whether the scheme has been designed so that harm is avoided or minimised as far as reasonably possible.

On the basis of the information currently available, Historic England remains concerned that the proposal would result in harm to the significance of the scheduled monument through development within its setting and that insufficient justification has been provided to demonstrate why a less harmful design solution could not be achieved.

We therefore continue to advise that the local planning authority should seek further consideration of design and layout options that would reduce the impact on the significance of the scheduled monument before determining the application.

Recommendation

Historic England advises that your Council should seek the following amendments to this application in order to limit the harm the proposals would do to the significance of a bowl barrow: one of a group of six round barrows, Sheepridge Road, Sling Camp (NHLE 1009966).

- moving the housing development approximately 40m north-west, aligning it



directly south of the Sling Cottage; and

- retaining the eastern area as open land with its pre-existing trees.

Should the proposals remain unchanged, it will be for your Council to assess whether the harm to the scheduled bowl barrow's significance would be outweighed by public benefits secured by the development. In doing so, it should give great weight to the conservation of these designated heritage asset/s.

If there are any material changes to the proposals beyond those we have suggested, please contact us. If you propose to determine the application in its current form, please inform us of the date of the committee and send us a copy of your report at the earliest opportunity. Please also advise us of the decision in due course.

Yours sincerely

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