[redacted]

From: Archaeology DC [redacted]
Sent: 29 May 2025 16:43
To: Charlotte Dew
Cc: Control, Development (Planning)
Subject: 25/00743/AGDETLand South East Of 1 To 4 Hill Top Cottage Alconbury Hill Alconbury Weston - Archaeology

25/00743/AGDET|Agricultural building for the conditioning and long-term storage of UK grown onions|Land South East Of 1 To 4 Hill Top Cottage Alconbury Hill Alconbury Weston

Dear Charlotte,

I am writing to you regarding the archaeological implications of the above referenced planning application. The proposed development is located in an area of extremely high archaeological potential. A number of recorded cropmarks in the area indicate Iron age or Roman enclosures and potential settlement, (Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record MCB29758, MCB29757) including a network of enclosures across the area of the proposed new building (CHER MCB29756). Iron age and Roman finds have been found across the field increasing in frequency towards the north and peaking in the area just to the north of the proposed building (CHER 01724, 00806A, 00809). Community archaeological excavations in the same area found significant stone rubble and tile and very high volumes of roman finds including 13kg of tesserae and 82kgs of building material, significant quantities of pot, and other finds like painted plaster and gaming pieces indicating a high-status roman building (CHER ECB5803). This work followed a programme of geophysical survey both manometer and ground resistivity survey which gives more detail about the site seen in the cropmarks, indicating several possible buildings within the enclosures and a programme of fieldwalking again indicating a very high level of finds increasing towards the crest of the hill and in fact the location of the proposed Barn and track (Sawtry History Society).

This site is of high significance, likely of demonstrably of equivalent significance to a scheduled ancient monument so as per the NPPF chapter 16 paragraph 213 and particularly footnote 75, "*Any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of [...} should be wholly exceptional"*. Due to the very high potential of the site we would recommend that the application is inappropriate and should be refused.

Kind regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
Archaeological Officer

Cambridgeshire County Council

Historic Environment Team
Place and Sustainability
Cambridgeshire County Council
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HET has high caseloads at present. We apologise for delays in response times.
For urgent planning related enquiries, please also contact
archaeologydc@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

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