

Department for Place



Memorandum to: Charmain Eyre-Walker, Principal Planning Officer
From: Paul Driscoll, Archaeology and HER Officer
Date: 21/06/2023
Ref: P22/01300/O
Email: paul.driscoll@southglos.gov.uk

Site: Land At Sodbury Road Wickwar South Gloucestershire GL12 8PG.

Proposal: Erection of up to 180 dwellings, a local shop and associated infrastructure (Outline) with access to be determined; all other matters reserved.

Policy NPPF; South Gloucestershire Local Plan: Core Strategy (Adopted December 2013) Policy CS9; SG Policies Sites and Places Plan (adopted November 17) Policy PSP17.

Comments:

The applicants have now undertaken and presented the results of a geophysical survey (SUMO 2023 via EDP) as requested in my original comments (27/04/2023).

The results of this survey have demonstrated that there is limited archaeological potential and certainly nothing to warrant any further objection or pre-determination work. However, there will still be a requirement for archaeological work under condition. Whilst geophysical survey in this area is typically accurate, it doesn't always pick up all the archaeology that is present. This was the case on the nearby sites in Wickwar where small scale and limited significance Roman and other activity was found.

As such, there is still a need to undertake trial trenching to eliminate the possibility that geophysics has missed smaller archaeological activity and if so to plan for any necessary mitigation that might be needed. As geophysical survey has already taken place a sample strategy of 2.5% of the development area should be undertaken. If this proves to have archaeology, further work in the form of excavation may be needed.

To address this and ensure delivery of any mitigation work I recommend the following two conditions:

Condition 1: Prior to the commencement of development a programme of archaeological investigation and recording for the site shall be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority. Thereafter, the

approved programme shall be implemented in all respects, unless the Local Planning Authority agrees in writing to any variation.

Condition 2: The development shall not be brought into its intended use until (i) the results of the programme of archaeological investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation and (ii) that the provision for analysis, publication and dissemination of results (where necessary and based upon the significance of the archaeology found), and archive deposition, has been confirmed in writing to, and approved by, the Local Planning Authority.