



John Mills/PL/WSCC
19/11/2012 16:17

To Chris Bartlett/PL/WSCC@WSCC, PL Planning
Applications/WSCC@wsc
cc
bcc

Subject WSCC/052/12/WC : Wood Barn Farm, Adversane Lane,
Broadford Bridge, Billingshurst : Siting and development of
temporary borehole, well site compound and access road
including all ancillary infrastructure and equipment, on land at
Wood Barn Farm, for exploration, testing and evaluation of
hydrocarbons : ARCHAEOLOGY

WSCC Environment and Heritage Response to : County Planning (FAO Chris Bartlett)

APPLICATION No.: WSCC/052/12/WC

LOCATION: Wood Barn Farm, Adversane Lane, Broadford Bridge, Billingshurst, West Sussex

PROPOSAL: Siting and development of temporary borehole, well site compound and access road including all ancillary infrastructure and equipment, on land at Wood Barn Farm, for exploration, testing and evaluation of hydrocarbons in the willow prospect.

RECOMMENDATION: No objection on archaeological grounds, subject to suitable archaeological safeguards (ref. recommended planning condition below).

Planning Condition

The Developer shall arrange for an archaeological organisation or appropriately qualified archaeologists to observe the excavations and record archaeological evidence that may be uncovered as a result of the development in accordance with a specification and timetable which shall be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority prior to the commencement of development.

Reason: In order to ensure that archaeological features and artefacts revealed during development works will be adequately recorded in accordance with paragraphs 132, 135, and 141 (Conserving and enhancing the historic environment) of the National Planning Policy Framework.

COMMENTS: The *Heritage* Statement submitted with this application (Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd, June 2012) presents a fair assessment of the known archaeology of the vicinity of this site. The presence to the north-west of the site of previous finds of 16th- to 17th-century glass working has been noted by West Sussex County Council during previous discussions and in comments on the Scoping Report (78/6/2012), and is referred to at 4.9.2 - 4.9.3 in the Heritage Statement

In mitigating the impact of these proposals, it should be borne in mind in particular that further buried remains of former glass working may survive within this site, and be exposed, reduced or removed during new ground excavations.

As suggested in 7.3 of the Heritage Statement, new ground excavations and topsoil stripping for the access road, well site compound, perimeter ditch and flare pit should be monitored by an archaeologist, in order any buried archaeological features and deposits may be observed, identified, and adequately recorded, sampled, reported, and the information made accessible to the public. Provision for this monitoring should be made by use of an appropriate planning condition.

Topsoil stripping for these new ground excavations should be carried out using tracked

mechanical excavators with smooth-edged buckets, in accordance with a method of working suitable for archaeological observation, and set out in a Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation.

For archaeological reasons, bulldozers should not be used for initial topsoil stripping, because their method of working will not allow clear views of the exposed ground surface, before that surface is scarred by the imprints of the heavy tracks.

John Mills
Senior Archaeologist
Strategic Planning
West Sussex County Council

[John Mills](#) | Senior Archaeologist, Strategic Planning, [West Sussex County Council](#) | Location: Northleigh House,
Tower Street, Chichester, PO19 1RH
Internal: 56851 | External: +44 (0) 1243-756851 | E-mail: john.mills@westsussex.gov.uk

Think sustainably. Do you have to print? Can you double side? Do you need colour?