

## WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL – STRATEGIC PLANNING

### Environment & Heritage Archaeological Response to: -

#### County Planning (FAO James Neave)

**DATE:** 7<sup>th</sup> January 2014

**APPLICATION No.:** WSCC/083/13/KD

**LOCATION:** Land south of Boxal Bridge, Northup Field, Wisborough Green, West Sussex, RH14 0DD

**PROPOSAL:** The installation of a well and associated infrastructure, including access road and soil bunds, for the drilling of a vertical borehole and contingent horizontal borehole from the same well for the exploration, testing and evaluation of hydrocarbons for a temporary period of three years

#### Additional response (Archaeology)

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** No objection subject to suitable archaeological safeguards, to be provided for through the use of a suitable archaeological condition. The geoarchaeological assessment and geophysical survey reports, recently completed, should be submitted now in support of this planning application.

#### Recommended planning condition

No development shall be carried out on the land until the applicant, or their agents or successor in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of heritage asset mitigation works in accordance with a written Heritage Asset Mitigation Strategy and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: In order to ensure that buried archaeological heritage assets will be properly investigated recorded before and during development and subsequently reported.

**SUMMARY:** Further information has been provided in support of this planning application (geoarchaeological assessment and geophysical survey reports). Sufficient archaeological information now exists to inform West Sussex County Council's archaeological response. A small number of archaeological features have been identified from geophysical survey. Archaeological mitigation proposals for these, and for the impact of development on river terrace deposits on the site, are acceptable; depending upon their findings, further, targeted investigation and recording may be merited, before and during development.

**COMMENTS:** Both of the requested surveys (geoarchaeological assessment and geophysical survey) have now been carried out, supplying the most essential information required. There will be no development impact on the (especially) archaeologically sensitive alluvium, and while probable archaeological features are present, they are apparently only present at a low density.

As a proportionate response, I consider that further investigation could reasonably be carried out as part of an overall Heritage Asset (archaeological and geoarchaeological) Mitigation Strategy, provided for through the use of a suitable planning condition.

The further investigation, to be carried out before the start of development, should involve initially geoarchaeological test pits and augering (as proposed in the geoarchaeological assessment), and exploratory trench investigation, targeted particularly at the two linear features, and at the terrace gravel edges (also as proposed).

Arising from the results of that investigation, some further investigation and recording of archaeological/ geoarchaeological features at risk may be required.

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