

Jamie Turpin

From: Nick Truckle <nicholas.truckle@surreycc.gov.uk>
Sent: 01 December 2023 10:38
To: Kelly Jethwa
Cc: Jamie Turpin
Subject: Burnt Common Nursery - Archaeology

Dear Kelly,

I hope you are well - I understand that you are dealing with the applications for the Burnt Common Nursery site.

As you will know the two areas proposed for development under 20/P/00816 and 22/P/01079 have required archaeological assessment and investigation under the 0.4ha policy in the Local Plan. Desk based assessment suggested that the potential of both sites was uncertain due to a lack of previous archaeological work in the area and so an archaeological trial trench evaluation was recommended for both sites. As the two sites are adjacent, the evaluation of both was carried out in a single phase of work by Wessex Archaeology which resulted in the discovery of archaeological features across the western site (22/P/01079) with a smaller area of interest in the eastern site (20/P/00816)

A written scheme of investigation for the exaction of the two areas requiring further investigation was submitted by Thames Valley Archaeological Services and the work commenced in mid-October. The excavations have revealed a series of interconnected enclosures (a 'ladder' settlement in archaeological terms) representing a subsistence farming settlement dating to the early Roman period. In the centre a roundhouse was recorded, with the ring ditches containing quantities of early roman pottery. Close by was an area of stone hardstanding and there was also an area that may have been used as a stock enclosure. This type of settlement is fairly rare in this part of the County and this site presents the first evidence of rural Roman settlement in the Burnt Common area.

The work was completed last week, and I visited site to sign off the fieldwork. I can confirm that the excavations have been successfully completed in accordance with the fieldwork requirements in the approved Written Scheme of Investigation and that a full record has been made of the archaeological features in mitigation against their loss. I can also confirm that no further archaeological fieldwork is required on the site and so I have no objection to the development works now progressing.

Thames Valley Archaeological Services will now assess the artefacts and samples and produce a report that will summarise the main findings of the work, make recommendations for a programme of detailed analysis and set out the further resources that will be required to complete this and produce a final report for publication. To ensure that provision can be made to secure the post excavation work that is required, I advise that the archaeological condition should not be fully discharged until the assessment report has been submitted and an appropriate level of resources to complete the work is confirmed to be in place.

I hope that this is acceptable but please contact me if you have any questions.

Kind regards

Nick



Nick Truckle
Archaeological Officer

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