



Environment, Planning & Enforcement

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11 December 2018

Your Ref: Y18/1035/FH
Our Ref: SH 18 1035 LE01

Miss Beth Lennon
Planning and Building Control
Folkestone & Hythe District Council
Civic Centre
Castle Hill Avenue
FOLKESTONE
CT20 2QY

SENT BY EMAIL

Re: Y18/1035/FH

Location: Land Adjoining The Mount, Barrow Hill, Sellindge, Ashford, Kent

Proposal: Outline application for the erection of 11 dwellings with the formation of a new access with all other matters (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) reserved for future consideration

Dear Miss Lennon

Thank you for your letter consulting us on the above planning application. I am sorry for the delay in responding and hope that my comments can be taken into account. The application is accompanied by an archaeological desk-based assessment which was produced on behalf of the applicant by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust. I do not entirely agree with the conclusions reached in that assessment.

Archaeological and historical background

The name of the modern-day settlement of Barrowhill almost certainly derives from the presence of numerous prehistoric burial mounds (barrows) in and around the village.

The site in question lies only 55m to the south of one such barrow, which probably represents the upstanding portion of a bowl barrow, most likely of Late Neolithic to Bronze Age date – i.e. circa 2400 to 1500 BC, although (more rarely) such mounds were also erected in the Roman and later Anglo-Saxon periods. Bowl barrows in

Kent typically take the form of an earthen mound, usually surrounded by a substantial ring-shaped ditch, with the mound covering single or multiple burials. It is not unusual for additional 'satellite' burials to accompany such barrows, located around the edges of the monument. Sometimes such mounds acted as a focus for burials in later periods, including extensive Anglo-Saxon cemeteries.

There are further known barrows surrounding the modern-day village, including an example around 575m to the east of the proposed development site and at least eight further barrows located a similar distance to the west/south-west. Of particular interest is the suggestion within the desk-based assessment that the crop-mark of a possible ring-ditch has been identified within the northern part of the development site. Such a ring-ditch could very well represent the ditch that once surrounded another (now plough flattened) barrow.

In addition to the site's potential for barrows and associated burials, I would note that the site lies within an area that is generally rich in archaeological remains. Recent archaeological works undertaken in the wider area has demonstrated the presence of extensive archaeological remains of Prehistoric and Romano-British date around Barrowhill.

Recommendations

The proposed development site has the potential to contain important archaeological remains, including the potential for funerary monuments and burials. Paragraph 189 of the NPPF notes that where a site includes (or has the potential to include) heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation. In this instance I would suggest **it would be appropriate and reasonable to request field evaluation works prior to determination of the planning application**. This is because heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource (as described in paragraph 184 of the NPPF) and it is possible that the proposed development site includes archaeological remains whose significance is such that they should be preserved in situ.

If you are minded to determine the application without seeking further information from the applicant, then I would welcome the opportunity to advise further.

I trust that the above information is helpful and would be pleased to discuss further if required.

Yours sincerely

Ben Found

Senior Archaeological Officer
Heritage Conservation