

5th June 2018

Our ref UFHN/3147/mr01

Lesley-Ann Mather
County Archaeological Advisor
One Angel Square
Angel Street
Northampton
NN1 1ED

By email; LMather@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Dear Lesley-Ann,

Re; Plastics to Liquid Fuel Recycling Facility, at, Upper Higham Lane, Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire, NN10 0SU – archaeology

Further to our communications I am writing to clarify your requirements for stages of archaeological work as set out in your advice note of 15th February 2016.

The proposed development is located within a landscape containing several Prehistoric and Romano-British sites identified through find spots and aerial photography. The Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record lists 42 entries in all within 1km of the site boundary.

I understand that the Site has been used as a part of a WWII airfield as a hospital and mortuary and then from 1952 as a leather processing plant as set out in the Dallol supporting statement which you have seen (p. 21). The existing concrete slab dates from its use for leather reprocessing. An impact from the airfield hospital/mortuary may have affected any archaeological remains that may have been present.

The proposed recycling facility will use the existing concrete slab across the Site with the exception of a balancing pond to the north and foundations for new structures, which are to be bases for uprights. There has been no ground investigation survey to determine what lies beneath the slab.

As you point out, there is still the potential, though perhaps a slight one, that archaeological remains survive beneath the slab.

However, given the nature of the existing impacts and the limited impact of the proposed development, we believe that a desk based assessment would not be fruitful. As the foundation proposals are fairly limited, it may be worth conducting a watching brief on any works that penetrate the existing slab such as foundations or the balancing pond, as we consider the potential for archaeological remains to survive with the Site to be low.

I hope this is clear and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Mark Roberts BA(Hons) MLitt MCIfA
Regional Manager



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