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Please ask for: Mr. S. Dean

Our Ref: HoEP/EC3210/SM/SD/CST5105      Your Ref: SMD/2015/0360      09 July 2015

Dear Mr. Swithenbank,

**Land at Lea Farm, Mill Lane, Rushton Spencer: Request for a Scoping Opinion**

There are no archaeological heritage assets recorded on the Historic Environment Record (HER) for area of the scheme although it does record a range of heritage assets in the surrounding vicinity. The Historic Landscape Character for the area reflects small irregular field systems which appear to have developed during the earlier post-medieval period and since have experienced relatively little boundary loss. The fields are surrounded by a series of small farmsteads and outfarms which date to the nineteenth century although one (Wood House Green Farm) is of 17<sup>th</sup> century origin. The HER also records a series of Listed buildings in the surrounding area and there remains the potential for previously unrecorded archaeological remains within the site.

Bearing in mind the scale of the proposed scheme and the potential sensitivity of the site and the surrounding historic landscape it is advised that if the need for an Environment Impact Assessment is identified, that historic environment be included within the assessment process. This advice accords with NPPF para 128 which advises LPAs to require appropriate assessment (i.e. an Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (HEDBA)) where there is the potential for heritage assets of archaeological interest to be present.

The HEDBA should be prepared by an appropriately experienced organisation/individual and should follow the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) standards and guidance for '*Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment*' (2014). The results of this work will inform the production of an Environmental Statement and the scope of future historic environment discussions.

Yours sincerely,

*Stephen Dean*

**Stephen Dean**  
Principal Archaeologist