

Rural County (Environmental Advice)

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FAO Ben Hurst

Planning Support
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
Moorlands House
Stockwell Street
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Staffordshire ST13 6HQ

16 December 2025

Our Ref: HoEC/EC3210/SM/LP/CST10587

Your Ref: SMD/2025/0516

Dear Ben,

THORNBY LODGE, CONSALL FORGE, CONSALL, WETLEY ROCKS

Thank you for your consultation request regarding the proposed erection of single storey outbuilding to form residential annex at the above site. This letter outlines the response of Staffordshire County Council's Historic Environment Team regarding the historic environment implications of the proposals.

Archaeological/Historic Environment Interest

I have reviewed the application against the information held by the Staffordshire Historic Environment Record (SHER) and associated datasets such as historic Ordnance Survey mapping. The proposed site lies just outside the Caldon Canal Conservation Area, and the remains of Consall lime kiln are located just 20m to the north of the proposed building. These are both a Scheduled Monument and a Grade II listed structure, comprising a bank of four early 19th century (disused) lime kilns. The kilns themselves consist of stoke holes and pots, aligned north-south, with a retaining wall built into a stone-faced bank. This type of structure is called a draw kiln and allowed high level access in order to feed the kilns, and low-level access for the extraction of the quicklime in a continuous process.

The SHER identifies that the site itself lies within an area for which there is documentary evidence for the site of an iron forge and slitting mill, in use from 1655, and still in use up to 1709-1710. The forge refined pig iron and most of the bar made was slit and sold as rod iron, mainly for the nailing trade in South Staffordshire. The exact site of the forge is uncertain, although the SHER records that on either side of the river, around the weir, is dark earth, slag, and building debris. The main concentration of debris (squared stones, tiles, etc.) on the north-east side of the river probably indicates the site of the forge buildings.

Although it seems likely that the main activity at Consall Forge was located away from the proposed development, it is possible that ancillary buildings and activity associated with the forge was occurring within the proposed site itself. This, together with the location of the Scheduled lime kilns to the immediate north, indicate that the site and immediate vicinity have been the focus of sustained industrial activity from at least the C17th onwards, and hence there is some archaeological potential within the site.

Please note, this advice focusses on the below ground archaeological concerns with regards to the application. The proposed site is located within the setting of several designated heritage assets, including the Scheduled Monument of Consall Forge, the Caldon Canal Conservation Area, and a Grade II listed bridge. It is strongly advised that you consult with both Historic England and your Conservation Officer colleague with regards to the potential impact of the proposed development on these nearby designated heritage assets.

Recommendations

Whilst we do not wish to raise any archaeological objections to the proposed development, taking the above into account, it is advised that, should permission be granted, an **archaeological watching brief** be carried out during all groundworks associated with the proposed development. The watching brief should be scalable to a strip, map and sample excavation should significant archaeological remains be observed during the archaeological monitoring works.

This approach, i.e. watching brief/ historic building recording is supported by NPPF (2024) 218. All archaeological works must be undertaken by an appropriately experienced archaeological organisation (with suitably experienced personnel) or historic environment professional/ archaeologist working an approved Project Design, the production of which should be informed by our relevant Model Brief (which can be found in our [Archaeology](#)

[Standard](#)), the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of Conduct (or equivalent), and to a level commensurate with the relevant CIfA Standards and Guidance.

Suggested Condition

The above works* could be most satisfactorily secured via a condition attached to any planning permission for the scheme. This condition should read:

A) Prior to the commencement of the development hereby permitted, an Archaeological Project Design shall be submitted for the written approval of the Local Planning Authority. The Archaeological Project Design shall provide details of the programme of archaeological works to be carried out within the site, including post-excavation reporting and appropriate publication.

B) The archaeological site work shall thereafter be implemented in full in accordance with the Archaeological Project Design approved under condition (A).

C) The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and post-excavation assessment has been completed in accordance with the Archaeological Project Design approved under condition (A) and the provision made for analysis, publication and dissemination of the results and archive deposition has been secured.

Should you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

Laura Pritchard

Environment Specialist (Archaeology)

[Redacted contact information]

[Redacted contact information]

*Applicant please note that in May 2018 Staffordshire County Council's Historic Environment Team, archaeological advisors to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, introduced a charged-for curatorial service for planning applications with archaeological conditions. Our curatorial service will be charged at a single fee per application and may include: production of a brief/specification (where deemed necessary), review and validation of any submitted written schemes of investigation, monitoring visits (if deemed necessary), review and validation of any submitted reports, liaison with local planning authority and anything that will enable us to recommend discharge of conditions. Fees are based on the size of the development. The production of a brief/specification to inform the tendering process and additional

monitoring visits can also be purchased separately. These fees should be paid in advance by your appointed archaeological/historic environment organisation/contractor (who should include them in their tender quote) or by the applicant/agent using our online payment system. More details can be found here: <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/environment/Environment-and-countryside/HistoricEnvironment/Advice-and-guidance.aspx>