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Your ref:
Our ref: ASM/ASP/DM
Date: 25 November 2014

F.A.O Adam Birkett

Dear Mr Macholc

PROPOSED: Conversion of an agricultural building to a camping bunk barn with pedestrian access from public right of way. Far Lathe, Hill House Farm, Sawley Road, Grindleton (3/2014/0986)

The applicant's Statement of Heritage Significance and Impact states that "the building has been little altered since it was first built (c.1770-1820), exhibits many key features of this barn type, and is a distinctive and valued element of the rural landscape." The current proposals will unavoidably require the removal or alteration of some of the key features outlined in the report.

The period 1750-1880 has been recognised as the most important period of farm building development in England. The proposed conversion will have a significant impact on the historic character and appearance of the building, and may result in the loss of some historic fabric. The CBAs '*An Archaeological Research Framework for North West England: Volume 2, Research Agenda and Strategy*' has indicated that "there is an urgent need for all local authorities to ensure that farm buildings undergoing adaptation are at least considered for recording" (p. 140) so that "a regional database of farm buildings can be derived and variations across the region examined." (ibid.).

Consequently should the Local Planning Authority be minded to grant planning permission to this or any other scheme, the Lancashire Archaeology Service would recommend that an archaeological record of the building be made prior to conversion, and that such works are secured by means of the following condition:

Condition: No works shall take place on the site until the applicant, or their agent or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of building recording and analysis. This must be carried out in accordance with a written

scheme of investigation, which shall first have been submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure and safeguard the recording and inspection of matters of archaeological/historical importance associated with the buildings.

Such a recommendation is in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework, para. 141 – Local planning authorities should make information about the significance of the historic environment gathered as part of plan-making or development management publicly accessible. They should also require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible.

Please note that these comments have been made without the benefit of a site visit. If you have any questions or require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Doug Moir

Doug Moir
Planning Officer (Archaeology)