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FAO A Birkett

Dear Mr Macholc,

**Planning Application 3/2016/0468: Construction of an above ground circular slurry store alongside existing store; Lower Alston Farm, Riverside, Ribchester PR3 3XS**

The above planning application is for a new slurry store to be located alongside the existing store. The proposed site is a little under 60m south of the Scheduled Monument at Ribchester, but is separated from it by an existing slurry store and two agricultural buildings (although only one is noted on my OS mapping and aerial photography).

Whilst a plan of the tank is given. It is not noted how the slurry will be transported from the existing sheds into the new store, although the application form states that '*slurry will be pumped into tower using existing pump.*' Suggesting that no new channels, etc. are required.

A watching brief was held in 1992 during the construction of the existing slurry store and its associated channels from the sheds to the east and whilst some Roman material was recovered near the sheds there was no indication at that time of in-situ deposits that merited preservation at the expense of development. It is also notable that the construction of the agricultural building (or buildings) located to the north of the slurry store does not appear to have been monitored archaeologically.

Given the negative result in 1992 and the fact that the new tank will be partially erected on ground disturbed by existing hard standing, it is not considered that any formal archaeological work is necessary as part of this new scheme.

Please note that the above comments have been made without the benefit of a site visit.

Yours sincerely

*Peter Iles*