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Your ref: 3/2021/0955

Our ref: 3/21/0955/LCCHET

Date: 1st November 2021

FAO John Macholc

Dear Mr Macholc,

Application no. 3/21/0955. Erection of building for offices, land at Old Sawley Grange, Gisburn Road, Sawley.

The name of Old Sawley Grange suggests that the site was that of a "grange" of the monastery of Sawley. A grange was a farm, sometimes at a considerable distance from the monastic establishment which held it and which was farmed for the benefit, either in produce directly or from the sales of the produce of the grange, of the monastery.

Sawley Abbey was founded in the 12th century and is recorded as having been granted land scattered over a wide area, partly due to the locality of the abbey being unsuitable to raise sufficient produce to maintain it. Old Sawley Grange has at least parts of the building (an aisled barn) believed to date to the 1500s and which may be a surviving fragment of the later buildings of the grange, details of the origins of the grange being uncertain in terms of date, donor and buildings.

Aerial photographs of the site show earthworks in the area proposed for the development of the office buildings. Comparison of the earthworks with the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of the site (Yorkshire Sheet 183, surveyed in 1849) suggest that these earthworks are the surviving traces of field and paddock boundaries, one enclosing a small orchard. It is possible that the origins of those boundaries is as part of the core of the monastic grange which would have had orchards and kitchen gardens attached to the building for the sustenance of the staff working the farm. There is also the possibility that the buildings on site moved around over the period it has been in occupation as new structures were erected to replace standing buildings that were coming to the end of their useful lives or when there were changes in the farming economy of the grange in response to market conditions, changes in the climate, or other factors such as local disturbances due to conflict over the long period when the grange was potentially in operation.

We have no objections in principal to the development but we would advise that prior to the start of the development an archaeological evaluation of the site should be carried out to determine, if possible, the date of the former boundaries and the presence or absence of other archaeological deposits or features relating to the medieval occupation and use of the site and any changes affecting it after the Dissolution of the Monasteries in the 16th Century when monastic property was sold by the Crown into private ownership (not always a straightforward process, the last two abbots of Sawley were executed for their resistance to the Crown's actions).

We would advise that any evaluation is best carried out prior to the determination of the application, but if this cannot be achieved then a condition on any permission granted will secure the work advised. The following wording for a condition is appropriate:

Condition: No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agent or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a phased programme of archaeological investigation, 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. The programme of works should comprise an archaeological evaluation and any subsequent works to mitigate the impact of the development should significant remains be encountered. All archaeological works should be undertaken by an appropriately qualified and experienced professional archaeological contractor to the standards and guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (www.archaeologists.net).

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

Note: Relevant archaeological standards and a list of registered contractors can be found on the ClfA web pages: <http://www.archaeologists.net>. Contact details for other non-registered contractors can be found on the BAJR web site: <http://www.bajr.org>.

This is in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework paragraph 205: "*Local planning authorities should 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 the above comments have been made without the benefit of a site visit.

Yours sincerely,

Peter McCrone

Planning Officer (Archaeology)
Historic Environment Team