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Your ref: 3/2025/0489  
Our ref: 3\_2025\_0489-LCC2  
Date: 10<sup>th</sup> October 2025

### FAO K Hughes

Dear Ms Hopkins,

**Application 3/2025/0489: Proposed extension to manufacturing facility with associated HV Substation, external plant compound and new/displaced car park.**

**BAE Systems, Samlesbury Aerodrome, Myerscough Smithy Road, Balderstone BB2 7LF**

Thank you for your re-consultation on the above application and the two new documents. The comments made on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September relating to the newly uncovered concrete emplacement are still relevant, but as the structure is now back within the development red line, it would appear to be appropriate to place a condition on any consent granted relating to the recommended research, recording and presentation of the structure as part of the development. We would stress that great care needs to be taken when cleaning the structure out so that any surviving WWII fixtures and fittings, graffiti, wall art, etc. are not unnecessarily damaged or removed. It is probable that an archaeological contractor with experience of WWII structures could undertake these works, but other professionals and enthusiasts may have a role to play in the recording, research and interpretation of the site. Particular expertise may be found with specialists at Historic England (and their publications e.g. <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/twentieth-century-military-sites/>), or with the Pillbox Study Group ([www.pillbox-study-group.org.uk](http://www.pillbox-study-group.org.uk)).

Suggested wording for conditions might be as follows:

- (i) Recording:  
**Condition:** The recently revealed WWII concrete structure within the site boundary shall be carefully uncovered and retained in situ as part of the development. A Written Scheme of Investigation for the necessary excavation, emptying and careful cleaning shall be developed, along with a scheme of archaeological building recording to level 2-3 as set out in '*Understanding Historic Buildings*' (Historic England 2016) This Written Scheme shall be submitted by the applicant, or their agent or successors in title, and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority prior to the



first operation of the consented facilities. The agreed scheme shall be implemented by an appropriately qualified and experienced professional contractor to a timetable included in the scheme and to the standards set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. The recording works shall include:

- a) A programme of documentary research on the history and intended role of the structure, putting it into context with other contemporary defensive works at the airfield;
- b) The production of a set of plans and elevations of the structure and at least two appropriate sections;
- c) The provision of a full written description; and
- d) A comprehensive set of photographs of the interior and exterior of the structure.

They shall result in the compilation and appropriate deposition of a formal report on the works undertaken and the results obtained. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the agreed details. A digital copy of the report shall be placed in the Lancashire Historic Environment Record.

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

**Note:** Relevant archaeological standards and lists of potential contractors can be found on the ClfA web pages: <http://www.archaeologists.net> and the BAJR Directory: <http://www.bajr.org/whoseWho/>. '*Understanding Historic Buildings*' can be accessed online at <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/understanding-historic-buildings/>.

(ii) Presentation:

**Condition:** A formal scheme of presentation of the remains of the recently uncovered WWII concrete structure within the site boundary shall be developed and agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority prior to the facilities consented coming into use. That scheme shall be implemented according to a timetable agreed as part of the scheme. It shall include the provision of at least one permanent, accessible and free-standing information board located immediately adjacent to the structure setting out its date, functions and how it related to other contemporary structures and features for the defence of the airfield.

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

**Note:** Relevant archaeological standards and lists of potential contractors can be found on the ClfA web pages: <http://www.archaeologists.net> and the BAJR Directory: <http://www.bajr.org/whoseWho/>.

This is in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (MoHCLG 2024) paragraphs 218 and 219:



*"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 [Copies of evidence should be deposited with the relevant historic environment record, and any archives with a local museum or other public depository]*

*Local planning authorities should look for opportunities for new development within Conservation Areas and World Heritage Sites, and within the setting of heritage assets, to enhance or better reveal their significance. Proposals that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to the asset (or which better reveal its significance) should be treated favourably".*

We would be happy to discuss these matters further with yourselves or the applicants if this would be helpful.

Yours sincerely

*Peter Iles*

Peter Iles  
Planning Officer (Archaeology),  
Historic Environment Team

