

Planning Ref: 21NP0016
Date of consultation: 18/03/21
Proposal title: Proposed construction of 4 new dwellings to provide principal residence housing.
Location: Land south of Gallow Law, Alwinton, Northumberland
Case Officer: Colin Godfrey

Thank you for your consultation on this application, which I have reviewed and provide the following advice

Policy

The application is assessed in line with Policy 15 *Archaeological Heritage* of the Northumberland National Park Local Plan and paragraph 189 of the National Planning Policy Framework (Rev 2019).

Archaeological Background (from the Historic Village Atlas)

Alwinton is a bifocal village, with the main settlement located to the north and a smaller hamlet around St Michael's Church [12] to the south.

The history of Alwinton is bound up with that of the so-called 'Ten Towns of Coquetdale', of which it was the principal parochial centre (serving eight of the townships, the other detached pair falling in Ingram Parish in the Breamish Valley to the north). The surrounding landscape of upper Coquetdale contains a wealth of archaeological sites, belonging to a wide variety of periods, including a hillfort and a subsequent Romano-British settlement on Gallow Law, which hints at an earlier form of community in this part of the valley

The area proposed for development is situated within an archaeologically sensitive area (Alwinton Historic Village Atlas) and in the area of the deserted medieval village of Alwinton.

Aerial photographic evidence shows the field to consist of improved grassland, though LIDAR reveals the remains of broad ridge and furrow cultivation which may be associated with the medieval settlement.

Proposal

Proposed construction of 4 new dwellings to provide principal residence housing.

Assessment of development

There is the potential for the development to impact upon archaeological remains, including ridge and furrow cultivation of possible medieval date or remains associated with the deserted medieval village of Alwinton.

Advice

The development may cause harm to heritage assets and further information on the presence, absence, state of preservation and significance is recommended. This can take the form of an archaeological evaluation is recommended in line with NPPF para. 189. The evaluation might consist of a staged approach including non-invasive means (geophysical survey) and, depending on the results, a programme of trial trenching.

Engaging an archaeologist

Applicants requested to carry out programmes of archaeological work might find the links below helpful. Northumberland National Park Authority does not recommend, endorse nor comment on the appointment of archaeological contractors.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: <http://www.archaeologists.net/regulation/organisations>
British Archaeological Jobs and Resources: <http://www.bair.org/RACsmap/default.asp>