Archaeological survey – Sizewell Link Road

Survey notification – 18/3/22

Work as part of our programme of archaeological surveys is currently being undertaken in the parish of Middleton-cum-Fordley. The work is being carried out on private land and is expected to take four weeks, though this timeframe can be significantly impacted by ground conditions and the extent of any archaeological finds.

This work is a continuation of activity related to the proposed Sizewell Link Road. If the plans for the proposed Sizewell C power station are approved, we intend to provide a combination of new roads and improvements to the existing road network to help reduce the effects of construction traffic on local communities.

These road works would be made in the early years of the project and, ahead of any work on them commencing, it is important that we establish whether there is archaeology present in the area.

There will be daylight working only, between 8am and 5pm, on weekdays. There will be no weekend working and no lighting or machinery running overnight on the site.

The work is archaeological trial trenching. A number of trenches will be dug to establish the presence or absence of archaeology and characterise any finds (their date, extent and importance).

If archaeology is found to be present, this will help us develop a mitigation strategy, most likely excavation and recording, although this work would not happen unless and until consent was granted for the Sizewell C Project.

This is a standard evaluation approach we are taking to all the development sites identified within the Sizewell C Project. The scheme of works has been agreed with Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) and they will monitor the works through weekly site visits. Any future mitigation strategy would also need to be agreed and monitored by SCCAS.

Access to the land and the conditions relating to the works have been agreed with the landowner.

Please note: This does not constitute the start of any road works or construction. Nor does the work imply that consent for the proposed development is assumed. The planning application for Sizewell C is being considered by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, with a decision to be announced in May.

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