

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM FROM Archaeology Officer

Date Consultation Request Sent: n/a

Development Control Case Officer: David Tate

Application: Construction of 53 dwellings at
Little Down Quarry Bleadon

Reference Number: 14/P/0687/O

Location: As above

Formal comments from Vince Russett, Archaeology Officer regarding the above:

The desk-based assessment deposited with this application deals effectively with the issues (or lack of them) for archaeology with this application.

The one slight possible cause for concern is

HER00040 Site of Pleistocene bone cave, Bleadon Quarry

The 19th century references to this feature are vague as to exactly where in the quarry it was found. It always been presumed to have been quarried away.

These 'bone caves' contain nationally important bone deposits (and sometimes human artefacts) of Palaeolithic date (in the case of the bone caves, any period from 500,000 to 30,000 years ago. There is just a chance that some of this cave system survives under the concrete in the floor of the quarry, so to address this issue, in the event of a successful application, breaking up the concrete in the floor of the quarry should be accompanied by a (conditioned) archaeological watching brief to a WSI agreed in writing with the LPA.

Relevant Legislation / Planning Guidance: National Planning Policy Framework, principally paras 126 – 141 (2012)