

HS2 Response to comments from Historic England (GLAAS)

West Ruislip Golf Course (Ref: 10737/APP/2020/3359)

Officer Query	Applicant Response
Clack Lane can be readily appreciated and enjoyed as a fragment of surviving Middlesex countryside and so would be worthy of retention within the new scheme, as is proposed.	Noted. Clack Lane is planned to be retained within the scheme, including the existing crossing and vegetation.
The historic parish boundary (probably of medieval origin) crossed the site and although not well marked on the ground would be worthy of recognition in the new scheme.	It is possible to locate evaluation trenches across the parish boundary but there is possible water management issues here given that a drainage ditch currently sits close to the former boundary. A section of Hedgerow which follows the boundary and others from the medieval system has been retained. Additional methods of recognising the historic boundary will be reviewed during the detailed Design Stage so we are open to having this conditioned as part of a Management Plan/Heritage Interpretation Plan
The Design & Access Statement recognises the ridge and furrow and hedgerows as of historic interest but doesn't mention Clack Lane or the parish boundary which should also be covered.	Context is provided in the DDBA and key heritage features such as positioning of retained alignment of historic hedgerows and Clack Lane are retained within the design. Heritage Interpretation and communication of heritage features will be reviewed within the proposed Management plan for condition .
The application site and its immediate environs were not well understood archaeologically prior to the current campaign of investigations by HS2. To a certain extent those investigations are reinforcing an earlier perception that most pre-medieval activity occurred close to stream channels only expanding away from them in the medieval and post-medieval periods. commons. Unfortunately the desk-based assessment does not include the results of the latest trial trenching within and close to the application site which ought to be taken into account. If significant remains have been found then the detailed design may need to be amended and/or they could present an opportunity for community involvement in an archaeological investigation.	Significant archaeology has been identified and is being considered as detailed design progresses. The focus moving forward will be on communicating this information to communities. Please see the comment in Row 12 below regarding the results of the recent CSJV excavations. It has been anticipated for some time that guided walks of the medieval landscape at WRGC would be undertaken, individually tailored towards children, young adults and adults. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, this was not possible - we would continue to look at undertaking these walks when restrictions are lifted. We are also looking at alternative methods of engagement - e.g. GO-Pro as mentioned at the December Archaeological sub-group. Should restrictions be lifted in the near future, it is envisaged a community dig would take place.
The extensive earthworks and drainage could cause serious harm or complete loss of buried archaeological remains as well as causing minor loss of ridge and furrow. Accordingly, additional studies set out below are advised:	
Evaluation: An archaeological field evaluation involves exploratory fieldwork to determine if significant remains are present on a site and, if so, to define their character, extent, quality and preservation. Field evaluation may involve one or more techniques depending on the nature of the site and its archaeological potential. This report will usually be used to inform a planning decision but can also be required by condition to refine a mitigation strategy after permission has been granted. In this case what is needed is submission of a report on the field evaluation trenching already carried out within and adjacent to the golf course and a review of its implications in relation to the site's archaeological potential and appropriate mitigation. Public engagement in archaeological investigations in this accessible location should be sought if significant remains are found.	Accepted: evaluation and mitigation proposals are currently being developed. Reports will be submitted to GLAAS as part of a planning condition which will include the final details of this evaluation/mitigation strategy. Please see the comment above for further details on public engagement.
Management Plan: Provision for conservation and interpretation of the site's heritage should be included in the construction and future management of the course. I will need to agree the work beforehand and it should be carried out by an archaeological practice. The report must set out the significance of the site and the impact of the proposed development. I will read the report and then advise you on the planning application.	Significant archaeology has been identified. Whilst SCS can provide a baseline and caveat future management strategies, this is envisioned to be an ongoing process. The baseline plan will comprise a review of the existing data, proposals for evaluation/mitigation which will require updating when these later SCS archaeological investigations have been completed. A strategy can be finalised with the application of this data. We are currently discussing planting strategies and design which will enhance the remaining medieval field system.
Applicants should therefore expect to identify appropriate enhancement opportunities. If preservation is not achievable then if you grant planning consent, paragraph 199 of the NPPF says that applicants should record the significance of any heritage assets that the development harms.	This will be considered as part of the detailed design, the evaluation/mitigation design and the subsequent management plan all of which will be conditioned to provide certainty.