

parish clerk

From: Lu Speariett [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 May 2024 16:13
To: parishclerk@melbournparishcouncil.gov.uk
Subject: RE: DLL Pond at TL 37833 44471
Attachments: Advice ponds- Stockbridge Meadows ghost.pdf

Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Abi,

Please find attached the advice note. We believe it is likely that that the ghost pond may have been a fishpond related to the moated site, regardless it is very likely of a similar date. Whilst we would not completely object to the restoration, we would recommend a number of archaeological measures as mitigation and that may mean the cost is prohibitive. Please let me know if you have further questions.

Kind regards
Lu

Lu Speariett
Archaeological Officer



Historic Environment Team
Place and Sustainability
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HET has high caseloads at present. We apologise for delays in response times.
For urgent planning related enquiries, please also contact archaeologydc@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

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[REDACTED]

My ref: Ponds Advice
Your ref:

Date: 3rd May 2024

Contact: Lu Speariett

E Mail: [REDACTED]



**Historic Environment Team, SAC1301
Natural and Historic Environment**

**Sackville House, Sackville Way
Cambourne
Cambridge
CB23 6HL**

Dear Abi Williams

Ref: Ghost Pond restoration- Stockton Meadows

Thank you for your enquiry regarding the potential archaeological implications of the ponds creation scheme.

Background to the proposal

Enquiry to inform the archaeological implications of the restoration of a ghost pond at Stockton meadows, Melbourn.

Archaeological and Historical Background

The proposed restoration of a ghost pond is located within Stockton Meadows, to the west of the main settlement of Melbourn and close to the River Mel. Melbourn is known to have a strong medieval history, and there a number of moated sites recorded along side the River Mel, including two at Sheene Manor to the north (Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record 01250, 01246) and one within Stockton Meadows just to the south of the proposed pond (CHER 01247).

The moat within Stockton Meadows does not sit in isolation, the moat itself recorded as a Homestead type site, with earthworks including ditches and banks recorded to the north and north east of the moat indicating associated settlement and land management for agricultural purposes. These earthworks are visible on Lidar images, and the Ghost Pond itself is clearly related to these suggesting its a fish pond or other related pond, dating to the same period as the moated site.

Recommendations

The ghost pond is very likely related to the Moated site to the south and dating from the same period. While we do not outright object to a sensitive restoration of the pond within its original form we could only approve of the scheme if there were some significant protections and mitigations in place. The sediments filling the pond particularly from the lower levels will likely contain archaeological artefacts from during the life of the moated site as well as environmental data. We would therefore recommend that excavation of the ghost pond should only take place with archaeological monitoring and recording, including the capacity to take environmental samples from the lower fills. Stockbridge Meadows themselves contain a number of archaeological earthworks and we would also therefore recommend a protection plan for the surrounding area including surveying the earthworks and creating 'safe routes' for vehicles and plant with track matting.

We understand that this may make the scheme prohibitively costly but would stress the importance of the archaeological features within the meadows. We could provide a brief for the suggested works on request so that quote may be obtained from archaeological contractors.

Please let me know if you require anything further.

Yours sincerely

Lu Speariett
Archaeological Officer