

**Taylor
Wimpey**

Former Wisley Airfield Community Newsletter

February 2021



Illustrative image from the November Consultation of what the Sustainable Transport Corridor could look like in a medium-density area of the proposed development

Team Feature

Each month, we will feature an article from a different member of the Taylor Wimpey team and its Design Team, focused on their area of specialisation. This month, Duncan Coe, Principal Heritage Consultant for Cotswold Archeology, explains the archaeological surveys required at the Former Wisley Airfield.



Duncan Coe
Principal Heritage Consultant
Cotswold Archaeology

Anyone who has enjoyed the recent Netflix film 'The Dig' will appreciate the excitement and thrill that archaeological discoveries bring. They will also have some knowledge of the skills and careful and patient work that goes into the process of archaeological excavation. Of course, not every site has the spectacular discoveries as those found at Sutton Hoo, but it is often the linking together of numerous small discoveries that allows us to unlock the mysteries of our past.

My name is Duncan Coe and I am working on the Former Wisley Airfield project as the Archaeological and Heritage Consultant. As an archaeologist, it has been my privilege to work on numerous archaeological digs and to have helped in some small way to add details to our understanding of often distant pasts.

Unlike our predecessors in the 1930's (as shown in 'The Dig'), at the Former Wisley Airfield we have been able to benefit from improvements in scientific techniques. These techniques include laser imaging, detection, and ranging (LiDAR) which allows the identification of subtle surface features, even under tree cover. We also carry out geophysical surveys which provide mapping of any archaeological features below the surface. At this site, through these techniques and the careful consideration of previous investigations and surveys we now have a much better understanding of how ancient communities used the landscape. This has allowed us to undertake targeted investigation work that has identified a number of areas for more careful examination.

The earliest occupation identified dates back to the Middle Bronze Age (around 3,500 years ago), with possible settlement activity and the locations of large quantities of burnt stones, possibly indicating the sites of ancient saunas. Late Iron Age features have also been found, and appear to date to the period either side of the Roman conquest of AD 43. Particularly interestingly, there appears to be the site of an early Saxon (around 1,500 years ago) settlement, including a distinctive sunken floored building - the same time as the Sutton Hoo ship burial showcased in 'The Dig'. Our site has another movie connection as well, as the trial investigations also found evidence for the shooting of the 2012 Spielberg film 'War Horse'. [CONT]

Timeline

July 2020

Chapter One - First
Community Consultation
Events held

September 2020

Launch of
Community Liaison
Group

October 2020

Submission of the Stub Road
and Roundabout application
and Enabling Works application

November 2020

Chapter Two - Second
Round of Public
Consultation Events

Our team is now continuing with these final areas of examination, so you may see some activity on the Airfield over the next few weeks. All public rights of ways will remain open throughout the works, and the necessary steps will be taken to ensure the safety of the public. Please do stay vigilant when visiting the former Wisley Airfield. If you would like any further information on the archaeology works, then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Many thanks,

Duncan

Off Site Cycle Strategy

We know that one of the key topics for the community when discussing our proposals for the Former Wisley Airfield is the cycle routes on and off-site. In our consultation events in November, we discussed some of the options for these routes. If you are yet to watch the webinars from those consultations, the videos are available on our website in the Document Library.

The team is continuing to prepare the proposed cycle routes, and we will be consulting on these before submitting the Outline Planning Application in summer this year. Through the Community Liaison Group and through our third round of pre-application public consultation (currently planned for April), we will be gathering feedback from you about the proposals to further inform and develop our plans. We will also publish information about the proposed routes on our website for you to review. We would also encourage you to share your thoughts with your parish councillors in the first instance so that they can be discussed during our Community Liaison Group meeting on transport (which is likely to be held in March). As a reminder, your Community Liaison Group representatives are:

- Ockham Parish Council
- Send Parish Council
- Ripley Parish Council
- East Horsley Parish Council
- West Horsley Parish Council
- East Clandon Parish Council
- West Clandon Parish Council
- Ockham Parish Church
- Wisley Action Group
- Enterprise M3
- Guildford Bike Users Group
- Surrey Chamber of Commerce
- RHS Wisley
- The Guildford Society
- Guildford Ramblers
- Effingham Parish Council
- Effingham Residents' Association
- Cobham and Downside Residents' Association
- Elm Corner Residents

December 2020

Second Design Review Panel

January and February 2021

Continued Community Liaison Groups and continued stakeholder engagement

WE ARE HERE

Quarter 1/2

Third Round of Public Consultation Events and third Design Review Panel

Quarter 2

Outline application submission



Illustrative image from the November Consultation of what the Sustainable Transport Corridor could look like

Site Activities - Archaeological Investigations

We have now commenced our second round of archaeological investigation works on the former Wisley Airfield. All public rights of ways will remain open throughout the works, and the necessary steps will be taken to ensure the safety of the public. Please do stay vigilant when visiting the former Wisley Airfield. If you would like any further information on the archaeology works, then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Keeping Wisley Airfield Secure

Our specialist on-site security team, Kestrel Guards, have been working on the former Wisley Airfield site to prevent any anti-social behaviour. If you wish to contact the security team to notify them of an incident, then please use the contact details below:

Kestrel Guards - 24hour Control Room

Call **02380 666 760** or email wisley@kestrelguards.co.uk

Please do not approach anyone on the site, instead contact our security team to log an incident and they will do their best to make sure any issues are dealt with appropriately.

Contact

If you have any questions about the information provided in this newsletter, please contact us on:

 07713 940 724

 community@wisleyairfield.com