



Chris Heaton-Harris
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Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about planning reform and protections for archaeological sites.

I am not aware of any plans that would jeopardise archaeological research in the United Kingdom or undermine the strong existing protections that help uncover, identify and safeguard our nation's forgotten and buried history. Our heritage sites will continue to be protected and preserved for the enjoyment of local communities and future generations.

Heritage considerations, including the need for archaeological surveys, will continue to be taken into account in bringing forward any planning reforms. Proposed planning reforms set out in the new Planning Bill are about helping local areas deliver more homes where they are needed, making places more beautiful and cutting unnecessary red tape where this is not benefitting the planning system.

I believe strong protections are already in place for sites of archaeological interest, which the National Planning Policy Framework defines broadly as potentially holding "*evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point.*"

The Framework also makes clear that "*non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest, which are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments, should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets.*"

Under the Framework, local planning authorities evaluating an application should consult the historic environment record using appropriate expertise. If a site potentially includes heritage assets, developers are required to submit an assessment and even a field evaluation. Archaeological protection also extends to permitted development in demolition and reconstruction.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY