

Application Name: **Brislington Meadows are a series of grassland fields that stretch from School Road access point across to Bonville Road in Brislington**

Number: 1484609
Type: New
Heritage Category: Scheduling

Address:

Brislington Meadows, Brislington, Bristol

County	District	District Type	Parish
	City of Bristol	Unitary Authority	Non Civil Parish

Recommendation: **Reject**

Assessment

Context and Background: Historic England has received an application requesting that we assess Brislington Meadows for designation as a scheduled monument. The application has been prompted by an outline planning application (22/01878/P) for a housing development of up to 260 residential units with associated infrastructure on a 9.6 hectare site to the north-east of Brislington. The application was received by Bristol City Council on the 12 April 2022. It is yet to be determined and is currently the subject of an appeal. The planning inquiry is due to begin on 31 January 2023.

The site is not within a conservation area but is bounded to the south by Brislington Conservation Area and to the north by Avon Valley Conservation Area. There are no listed buildings within the development site.

History and Details: a desk-based historic environment assessment (2020) followed by a geophysical survey by Wessex Archaeology (2021) and a trial trench evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology (2021) revealed evidence for a system of linear and rectilinear enclosures of indeterminate function concentrated in the south-west of the site. Associated finds that included 45 pottery sherds, four iron nails from a posthole, a fragment of worked sandstone, as well as a crucible fragment, an assemblage of 72 glass beads that may have formed a necklace, glass fragments, and other industrial waste are indicative of a site of domestic and industrial activity dating to the Roman period between the C2 to C4. The evidence for glass working on the site, whether that be manufacture or recycling of glass, is particularly noteworthy. However, there is so far a lack of evidence for associated industrial or domestic structures and many of the trenches did not contain any finds or evidence for Roman activity.

Criteria/Assessment: the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979) states that monuments are scheduled by reason of their archaeological, historic, architectural, artistic or traditional national importance. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport's 'Scheduled Monuments: Identifying, protecting, conserving and investigating nationally important archaeological sites under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, Annex 1' (2010), sets out the non-statutory criteria which provides further guidance on assessing national importance. Key considerations are period, rarity,

documentation, group value, survival/condition, fragility/vulnerability, diversity and potential. Monuments are assessed under those criteria relevant to their type. The criteria should not be regarded as being definite, but as indicators which contribute to a wider judgement based on the individual circumstances of the case.

With reference to the criteria Brislington Meadows is not recommended for scheduling for the following principal reasons:

* Survival: the archaeological remains may be part of a larger settlement site, with domestic and industrial activity, but the location, extent, and degree of survival remains unknown;

* Diversity: the site lacks evidence of a diverse range of features which would strengthen our understanding of how the site was used;

* Potential: the likelihood of further, probably Roman, remains in the vicinity is high, and although there is the potential for further evidence relating to glass working in particular, the character and nature of the archaeology and understanding of the site is not yet clearly determined;

* Rarity: although evidence for glass working or making in the Romano-British context is so rare that regional representation is not a consideration, there is not the necessary degree of evidence and preservation that would be needed to recommend the site for scheduling.

Conclusion: the archaeological investigations have provided some evidence of features and finds associated with a Romano-British settlement, but its extent and character cannot be determined, and on the basis of current information, these remains cannot be said to have clear national importance. The Romano-British site at Brislington Meadows is not, therefore, recommended for scheduling.