

**From:** Nigel Stapple [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025 10:54 AM  
**To:** Planning Support (TWBC) <[Planning@TunbridgeWells.gov.uk](mailto:Planning@TunbridgeWells.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Spratsbrook Farm Development (Ramselye)

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Representation from: Nigel Stapple, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

To: TWBC Planning

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed housing development at Spratsbrook Farm (Ramselye). As you are aware it is an area of significant archaeological interest and abuts the scheduled area at High Rocks (list entry Number: 1003816). My late father, Mr Brian Stapple, was part of the original research team undertaking excavations from 1959-1961, working along side archaeologist, James Money. Following on from excavations at High Rocks my father had express written permission from the Abergavenny estate to continue field research across estate lands. He was able to confirm a much wider spread of datable lithic material beyond that of the area defined within the 1951 scheduling of the site. Whilst a degree may have been due to plough spread my father was convinced that the large amount of material recovered was more likely associated with a much wider settlement pattern. Because of this I felt obligated to contact Historic England to consider extending the current limits of the original 1951 scheduling now that a wider area is under threat of development. I would also like to note that I understand that the land use characteristics is being changed from agricultural to urban. This seems somewhat arbitrary as the field themselves clearly have a long history of agricultural use going back many thousands of years.

Whilst I do expect a professional watching brief I am concerned about the potential ephemeral nature of ancient features, such as post holes, being missed when heavy machinery begins preparing the area for development. Even the best archaeologist will struggle to see the footprint of a potential round house when a 10 ton digger is taking huge scoops of soil out of the ground!

My personal view is that the archaeological sensitivities, covering a much wider area, are not being considered. Therefore I feel the planning decisions are not being fully informed.

Yours Sincerely

Nigel Stapple BSc (Hons) – Independent Archaeological Researcher, WKDArchaeology & WKCD

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