

Heritage Team response

Land north of Solent Road (adjacent to Bosmere Medical Centre) Havant

APP/21/00601

UPDATED RESPONSE FOLLOWING THE SUBMISSION OF AMENDED PLANS IN AUGUST 2023 (original response was dated 8/9/2021)

Proposal (amended description)

Proposed Portsmouth Water Headquarters building (Use Class E(g)(i) use); widened access onto Solent Road; and associated access, car parking, landscaping and works; including the felling of 7No. trees the subject of TPO No.1801 in order to improve the access and allow for the development.

The Site

The site is an open section of land located in Havant, north of Solent Road. It lies to the south of the existing Portsmouth Water premises. To the east is the Bosmere Medical practice building and to the west lies Brockhampton Road. The site is located adjacent to the Brockhampton Conservation Area on two sides, with the far most eastern corner falling within the conservation area boundary. To the west on Brockhampton Road, lies The Old Manor House, a Grade II listed property. There are no existing buildings on the site and it is enclosed by a line of trees on the west.

Legislative and Policy Context

Section 16 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 ("1990 Act") requires local planning authorities to have special regard to the desirability of preserving a listed building, its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest when considering whether to grant listed building consent.

Section 66 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 requires planning authorities, when considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, to have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.

Section 72 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 requires planning authorities, when considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a Conservation Area, to have special regard to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character and appearance of that area.

National Planning Policy Framework

Chapter 16 of the NPPF (December 2024) relates to **the Historic Environment** including paragraphs 202-221. The following paragraphs are most relevant to the determination of this application:

Para 212 states that:

'When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance.'

Para 214 states that:

*'Where a development will result in **substantial harm to, or total loss of**, the significance of a designated heritage asset, permission should be refused, unless this harm is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits, or a number of criteria are met. Where less than substantial harm is identified paragraph 208 requires this harm to be weighed against the public benefits of the proposed development*

Para 215 states that:

*'Where a development proposal will lead to **less than substantial harm** to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use'.*

Historic England Advice

In addition to the advice laid out in the NPPF, Historic England has published planning advice in the form of Good Practice Advice Notes (GPA's) and Historic England Advice Notes (HEANs). Most relevant to this application will be GPA2 – Managing Significance in Decision Taking in the Historic Environment and GPA3 – Setting and Views.

GPA2 states at paragraph 4 - 'The significance of a heritage asset is the sum of its archaeological, architectural, historic, and artistic interest'. It also advises that an assessment of significance is required as part of the application process including the understanding of the nature of the significance, the extent of that significance and level of significance. Paragraph 11 states 'to accord with the NPPF, the application will need to undertake an assessment of significance to inform the application process an extent necessary to understand the potential impact (positive or negative) of the proposal and the level of thoroughness proportionate to the relative importance of the asset whose fabric or setting affected'.

GPA3; the Setting of Heritage Assets defines setting as "the surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of the asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral".

GPA3 advises a broad approach to assessment, undertaken a series of steps that apply proportionately to the complexity of the case, from straightforward to complex;

Step 1 – identify which heritage assets and their settings are affected

Step 2 – Assess the degree to which these settings make a contribution to the significance of the heritage asset or allow significance to be appreciated.

Step 3 – Assess the effects of the proposed development, whether the beneficial or harmful, on that significance or on the ability to appreciate it.

Step 4 – Explore ways to maximise enhancement and avoid or minimise harm.

Step 5 – Make and document the decision and monitor outcomes.

Havant Borough Local Plan (Core Strategy 2011 and Allocations Plan 2014)

Policy CS11 – Protecting and Enhancing the Special Environment and Heritage of the Havant Borough

Policy CS11 (4) states that planning permission will be granted for development which:

'Protects and where appropriate enhances the borough's statutory and non-statutory heritage designations by appropriately managing development in or adjacent to conservation areas, listed buildings, scheduled ancient monuments, historic parks and gardens, archaeological sites, buildings of local historic or architectural interest'.

Policy CS16 – High Quality Design

Policy CP16 (1a) of the Core Strategy states that:

'Planning permission will be granted for development that is designed to a high standard, which helps to create places where people want to live, work and relax. All development should demonstrate that its design:

- a) Identifies and responds positively to existing features of natural, historic or local character within or close to the proposed development site'.*
- b) Integrates with existing local landscape features, promotes wildlife and biodiversity and/or applies characteristics of the local area into the design of a scheme wherever possible to create variety and interest;*
- c) Uses the characteristics of the locality to help inform the design of the new development including heights, massing, existing buildings lines, plot widths and depths, materials and proportions of windows and doors;*
- d) Is well connected to and integrates with the immediate local area and the wider area by linking to existing pedestrian and cycle routes and encouraging people to use public transport where possible; and*
- e) The development does not cause unacceptable harm to the amenity of neighbours through smell, the loss of privacy, outlook, noise and overlooking.*

Policy DM20 (Allocations Plan) - Historic Assets

Policy DM20 states that;

'Planning permission will be granted for development proposals that conserves and enhances the historic assets of Havant. It also states that application which affect, or have the potential to affect, heritage assets are expected to provide a Heritage Statement that:

- 1. Describe the significance of the asset and its setting, using appropriate expertise and where necessary original survey, at a level of detail proportionate to its significance and sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal.*
- 2. Sets out the impact of the development on the heritage assets and mitigation that is proportionate to the impact and the significance of the heritage asset, including where possible positive opportunities to conserve and enjoy heritage assets.*

Proposal

The amended scheme still includes a proposed building for the new Portsmouth Water HQ, comprising 2no. buildings along with parking and landscaping and a widened access. This is in the same position as previously proposed. The main change is that the employment buildings have been removed from the scheme., leaving an area of open space to the south west of the proposed office building.

Assessment

There is no change in the assessment of the scheme which was provided in the original response – 8/9/2021. This concluded that the proposed development would not result in harm to the Old Manor House, nor the Brockhampton CA.

Conclusion**NO OBJECTION**

R.McMurray

Principle Heritage Officer – 7/5/2025