

Dear Mrs. Pickup,

Planning Application APP/23/00851 The Golden Slots, 1 East Street, Havant, PO9 1AA

Thank you for your consultation. The site lies within the historic core of Havant and within an area of high archaeological importance. This area of Havant has been settled since at least the Roman period, with projected course of a Roman road either passing through, or close to, the site. Recent archaeological investigations at the neighbouring site revealed *in situ* archaeological remains dating to the Roman period. It is likely that important archaeological remains relating to the development of Havant are located beneath the property. These origins are likely to include Roman settlement (likely focused on the nearby crossroad of two Roman roads), and Saxon and medieval development of the town.

I would draw your attention to the Heritage Statement (AB Heritage 2023), that has been submitted in support of this application, which addresses archaeological matters. The document acknowledges the site's archaeological potential and assesses the following possible archaeological impacts of the proposal (para 6.2.6 and 6.3.4):

'The demolition and landscaping in general may expose or disturb buried archaeological features, and this would be most likely in the area to the rear where the smaller outbuilding is earmarked for demolition and for the proposed parking spaces. Other groundworks for the new North Street extension for instance, are likely to be in areas previously disturbed and affected by the late 19th century road works and rebuilding.'

'The demolition and landscaping could adversely affect the condition of buried Roman remains, similar to those uncovered in 2021'

The document concludes (para 7.1.2):

'The proposals for the 1 East Street includes a small degree of groundworks, but there is a medium potential to disturb significant remains. It is therefore recommended that all groundworks associated with this application are monitored and recorded by a qualified and experienced archaeologist.'

I support the assessment of archaeological matters in the heritage statement and endorse the document to the planning authority. Whilst there is the potential for some limited archaeological impact, I do not believe that this represents an overriding concern. I agree with the heritage statement that archaeological monitoring of groundworks would be an appropriate response. I would therefore recommend that a suitably worded condition be added to any planning permission granted. This condition should secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological monitoring (watching brief), in accordance with a submitted and approved written scheme of investigation.

Yours sincerely,

Thom Hayes BA(Hons) MRes, ACIfA
Senior Archaeologist

Waste and Environmental Services