

The text quoted below is from a screening report issued by HCC January 2023.

“Planning Application GEN/22/01138 Screening Opinion Northney Farm, St Peters Road, Hayling Island, PO11 0RX

There are no archaeological sites currently recorded at that location, although archaeological remains have been found on the adjacent foreshore. Studies of the Hayling Island foreshore (largely on the Langston Harbour side) have indicated that archaeological remains from the Mesolithic onwards are eroding from the landmass, and it seems likely that archaeological remains of harbour side activity do exist in the inland at Northney. It is likely that any development will encounter archaeological remains. This is acknowledged in the Screening Report, although I note that the impact is regarded as minimal as the excavations will not be of great depth. However the excavations will involve the removal of the topsoil and archaeological levels will exist immediately below this and so 'great depth' is not a determining factor. Topsoil removal is sufficient to encounter archaeological remains.”

Based on this response from HCC I would recommend that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken on any below-ground works associated with the project. This could be secured post-determination as a condition of planning permission.

The watching brief methodology will be set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation which will need to be approved by HCC in advance of any works commencing on site.

The watching brief would be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist, and would record the nature, extent and depth of any archaeological deposits present. In the event that extensive archaeologically significant remains are present, mitigation works may be required in the form of further excavations. In this case a meeting would be held between the on-site archaeologist, the client, and the county archaeologist on behalf of HCC.

It is my considered opinion that extensive remains high significance are unlikely to be present, however this will be determined by the results of the watching brief.