

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 a small Roman town developing around a crossroads, the heart of which is located approximately 20m to the north of the site. The projected course of a north/south Roman road, which formed part of the crossroads, passes through the site with the east/west route believed to lie under East Street itself. Although some recent works have uncovered evidence of the Roman town (in the form of artefacts and buildings elements), a paucity of archaeological investigations within in the centre of Havant has resulted in little being known about the Roman development of this archaeological significant settlement. Later occupation of the town throughout the early-medieval and medieval periods is also poorly understood but is important in understanding the development of modern Havant.

Whilst some of the site has been previously developed during the post-medieval period, it appears that the central area has not been the subject to previous extensive development and likely retains its archaeological potential. Areas which have been the subject of previous impacts are still likely to retain some archaeological potential. Whilst the previous development of parts of the site may have truncated archaeological remains at a relatively shallow depth, there is still a potential for remains to be present at deeper levels (such as the deeper strata of archaeology or lower portions of truncated pits, wells etc). Although the application is not clear with regards to the extent of below ground impacts, it can be anticipated that a development of this size and scale will have sufficient below ground impacts to negatively impact any archaeological remains which might be present. It is likely that important archaeological remains relating to the development of Havant will be impacted by the proposed development, including the Roman settlement focused on the crossroad in the immediate vicinity of this site, as well as early-medieval and medieval development of the town. The archaeological potential is for evidence of occupation, as well as evidence that might shed light on to the date at which the grid of streets were laid out and for evidence regarding the trades and industries practised in historic Havant. Given the nature of historic urban development, it is likely that there will be relatively deep strata of archaeological deposits. Whilst there is no indication that archaeology presents an overriding concern, I would advise that the assessment, recording and reporting of any archaeological deposits affected by this proposed development be secured through suitably worded conditions being attached to any planning consent that might be granted. For example:

1)) That no development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological assessment in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) that has been submitted to and approved by the Planning Authority in order to recognise, characterise and record any archaeological features and deposits that may exist here.

Reason: To assess the extent, nature and date of any archaeological deposits that might be present and the impact of the development upon these heritage assets.

2) That no development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological mitigation of impact, based on the results of the trial trenching, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation that has been submitted to and approved by the Planning Authority.

Reason: To mitigate the effect of the works associated with the development upon any heritage assets and to ensure that information regarding these heritage assets is preserved by record for future generations.

3) Following completion of archaeological fieldwork a report will be produced in accordance with an approved programme submitted by the developer and approved in writing by the local planning

authority setting out and securing appropriate post-excavation assessment, specialist analysis and reports, publication and public engagement.

Reason: To contribute to our knowledge and understanding of our past by ensuring that opportunities are taken to capture evidence from the historic environment and to make this publicly available.

Given the nature of the potential archaeology and the potentially burdensome nature of mitigation, I would recommend that the applicant seeks independent archaeological advice at an early stage.

If you have any questions regarding this consultation, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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