

Planning Application APP/20/01221 Retail Development Land to the west of B&Q, Purbrook Way, Havant

Thank you for your consultation. I would draw your attention to the archaeological desk based assessment submitted with the application, which I would endorse to you.

The review of existing archaeological evidence in the vicinity suggests that the site has a high archaeological potential. However section 7 reviews the results of the geo technical survey which revealed that the site has about 5 metres of made ground and that, para 8.5, "No deposits are recorded between the modern fill material and the natural clay and it is likely that the site would have been stripped of topsoil prior to this material being dumped across the site." This is repeated in para 9.1 'past impacts' and concludes "This indicates that the site is likely to have been heavily truncated." I would concur. It is very likely that any importation of material to the site will have been preceded by an episode of topsoil stripping which will have severely compromised if not entirely removed that archaeological potential

With regard to the impact of development Para 11.1 states "Remada have recommended a general ground reduction across the site of 2m The two potential foundation designs are either piles or a raft foundation, neither of which would require further ground reduction." It is therefore concluded that groundworks are unlikely to reach levels where archaeological remains might have been encountered except in a limited fashion.

The desk based assessment concludes, Para 12.2, "Based on the construction plan and the likely severe truncation across the site further archaeological investigation is not recommended." I would concur. Although the area has a high archaeological potential it is very likely that the past land use at the site has severely compromised if not entirely removed that archaeological potential. Furthermore the works implied will only penetrate as deep as the natural geology on a limited basis.

Accordingly I can confirm that I would not raise any archaeological issues,

Yours sincerely

David Hopkins
County Archaeologist

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Due to COVID I am presently working from home but can be contacted by email and on the phone number above.