

Houghton, Michelle

From: Historic Environment <historic.environment@hants.gov.uk>
Sent: 24 September 2020 09:34
To: Havant Planning and Development Mailbox New
Subject: RE: Planning Application APP/20/00761 Land on the east side of Helmsley House, Bartons Road, and west of Normandy Road, Havant.

Dear Mr Oliver,

Planning Application APP/20/00761 Land on the east side of Helmsley House, Bartons Road, and west of Normandy Road, Havant.

Thank you for your consultation. I would draw your attention to the Heritage Statement submitted with the planning application. It offers a review of the archaeological potential of the site, although there are aspects of the report which are in my opinion flawed. The Heritage Statement recognises that immediately to the south of the application site an archaeological excavation was carried out on an Iron Age/Romano British site (para 5.9) which it describes as being of low significance. Paragraph 7.3 acknowledges that some elements of this prehistoric/Roman landscape came right up to the borders of the current application site, but concludes "There is a moderate potential for the presence of further features of this date within the application area although they are likely to be of agricultural nature rather than settlement activity". I think that paras 5.9 and 7.3 are in error in their conclusions.

The archaeological excavation that took place to the south of the present application boundary found evidence of a landscape used for processing, such as crops and industry, and this presumably informs the conclusion of 7.3 that the activity of the area is agricultural. However the excavation found large quantities of Roman building material, including roof tiles, hypocaust and flue tiles, and tesserae, all suggestive that what was investigated was ancillary to a substantial Roman building which is presumably in the vicinity. In addition the archaeological excavation recovered a large assemblage of Roman pottery also suggestive that the activity was ancillary to a substantial Roman settlement site presumably close by. I would therefore not endorse the conclusion that further archaeological activity in the vicinity (including the current application site) could be asserted to be likely of an agricultural nature.

Paragraph 7.4 of the Heritage Statement states "Overall it is considered that there is a low to moderate potential for the presence of previously unrecorded heritage assets within the application site". I would concur that there is some archaeological potential to encounter as yet unrecorded archaeological remains, however given the very close proximity of an extensive archaeological site which in its self implies an attendant settlement with building close by, I would not describe that potential as low.

Paragraph 3.4 of the Heritage statement does indicate that offering a suggested mitigation strategy for the impact of the development on this 'moderate' archaeological potential (and bearing in mind that in my opinion that potential includes the potential to encounter evidence of a Roman building) lies outside the remit of the Heritage Statement.

However paragraph 7.24 of the Planning statement; "The supporting text to draft Policy H25 recognises that the site has the potential for previously unidentified archaeological deposits. To this end, an archaeological desk based assessment was undertaken by an appropriately qualified archaeologist which concluded that there was low-moderate potential for late iron-age to early Romano British deposits associated with the small-scale rural settlement found approximately 200m to the south though such deposits are unlikely to be of great significance. The proposals would therefore be unlikely to have any significant effect on buried heritage assets subject to imposition of appropriate conditions requiring approval of a watching brief together with appropriate mitigation measures."

I would agree that archaeological matters can be addressed through the imposition of appropriately worded archaeological condition and I recommend that an archaeological condition be attached to any planning permission which might be issued. However I would not endorse the suggestion that such a condition should merely secure an archaeological watching brief, in so far as I do not agree that the potential archaeology which might be encountered

would by inference of low significance and agricultural character only. The potential for more complex archaeological remains exist with the archaeological potential of the development site and as such I would anticipate any archaeological mitigation scheme to be more robust than an archaeological watching brief. In addressing how best to set out an archaeological mitigation scheme for an archaeological condition I would urge the applicant to take further archaeological advice that considers how that mitigation might need to accommodate a Roman occupation site, and potential a building. Such a site exist within the wider vicinity and whilst not certain to be within the development site, does form part of our understanding of the archaeological potential of the development site and so must be regarded as one possible outcome of archaeological monitoring.

Yours sincerely

David Hopkins
(County Archaeologist)

Hampshire County Council
Economy, Transport and Environment Department

Telephone 0370 779 8025

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

From: planning.development@havant.gov.uk <planning.development@havant.gov.uk>

Sent: 23 September 2020 08:40

To: Historic Environment <historic.environment@hants.gov.uk>

Subject: Planning Application APP/20/00761 Land on the east side of Helmsley House, Bartons Road, and west of Normandy Road, Havant.

This email is a consultation request regarding a planning application, reference APP/20/00761. The attached letter contains contact details should you wish to discuss the application with the Case Officer.

To see the details of the application and associated documents on Havant Borough Council's Public Access pages, follow [this link](#).

If you require any further information please email planning.development@havant.gov.uk or telephone (023) 92 446263.

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