

Consultee Comments for Planning Application APP/18/00672

Application Summary

Application Number: APP/18/00672

Address: Land off Westwood Close, Emsworth

Proposal: Erection of 46no. dwellings with associated parking, access from Westwood Close, diversion of Havant Footpath 73, landscaping and surface water drainage. Felling and works to trees within Area A1, subject to TPO 2071.

Case Officer: Daphney Haywood

Consultee Details

Name: Mr Neil Adam

Address: Hampshire County Council, Strategic Environment Group, Winchester SO23 8UD

Email: historic.environment@hants.gov.uk

On Behalf Of: County Archaeologist

Comments

Dear Mrs Haywood,

Thank you for your consultation. I would draw your attention to the file entitled ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT (DBA) that is included among the documentation attached to the above application on your website. This DBA concludes among other things that:

6.4 The study site is considered to have a low to moderate theoretical potential for archaeological evidence of the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods, and a low potential for all other periods of past human occupation.

6.5 Any archaeological features that may be present on the study site would most likely be of low/local significance.

and that:

Given the low archaeological potential of the study site, the proposed development is considered unlikely to have a widespread or significant archaeological impact. Accordingly, any further archaeological mitigation measures are likely to be laid out in an appropriately worded condition attached to planning permission

While I understand why the DBA has reached these conclusions, I feel I should point out that when the site is considered in a wider context, it is possible to see that the overall archaeological potential of the area is higher than the DBA suggests. The site is located just above the floodplain

of the River Elms on the edge of the first river terrace, a prime location for later prehistoric settlement activity. Little in the way of heritage assets have been recorded in the immediate area of the site to date, although this is likely to be the result of a lack of past archaeological investigation, rather than a genuine absence of activity. Some traces of medieval activity have been recorded around 600 metres to the north of the site, while the projected route of the Roman road between Chichester and Bitterne is located around 950 metres to the south. A Late Bronze Age / Early Iron age settlement site was also recorded during excavations at Manor Farm, Denvilles c. 2km to the west of the Site.

It is therefore very possible that hitherto unrecorded archaeological features and/or deposits, particularly those dating from the later prehistoric and Roman periods, may be located within the site itself. Historic mapping evidence indicates that the site has not been impacted by any modern development and so any archaeological features that do exist here would be relatively well preserved. Therefore, while 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 construction be secured through the attachment of a suitable condition to any planning consent that might be granted. For instance:

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 within the site. The assessment should take the form of trial trenching across the entirety of the site. If the results of the assessment are deemed significant enough by the Local planning Authority, then a programme of archaeological mitigation of impact, based on the results of the trial trenching, should be carried out in accordance with a further Written Scheme of Investigation that has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority. 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.

If you have any further queries regarding this application, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Neil J. Adam BA ACIfA
Senior Archaeologist
Hampshire County Council