

Dear Sir / Madam,

APP/16/01237: Mill Rythe Holiday Village, 16 Havant Road, Hayling Island: Demolition of 6,111 square metres of redundant chalets and facilities buildings, use of land for the siting of 204 holiday caravans including 5 caravans for use as staff accommodation, refurbishment of retained single and two storey holiday chalets to form 87 units of holiday accommodation, retain managers bungalow, sales area for 5 caravans, refurbishment of remainder of central facilities building, CCTV cameras, provision of new pedestrian concourse with terraces, splash and dry play areas, multi-games court, adventure golf course and outdoor theatre and new landscaping. Retaining existing pitch and putt golf course to the east of the site

Thank you for your consultation. Hayling Island is particularly rich in previously recorded archaeological activity and it is entirely possible that as yet unrecorded archaeological features and/or deposits exist within the site which is located just off the high ground on the eastern coast, with evidence for Bronze Age and later medieval activity immediately to the south. The site itself has been previously used as an Army camp before being developed into the currently holiday centre. From the aerial photographic evidence we hold it seems clear that large areas of the site have been impacted by this 20th century development which is likely to have included some landscaping work. Although this later development is likely to have removed or heavily truncated archaeological features, it is possible however that as yet unrecorded archaeology may survive within areas of open ground, particularly in the western quarter of the site. What is required at this stage is to establish the extent to which these areas of open ground have been disturbed during 20th century development and what, if any, archaeological potential survives. 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 here. The assessment should take the form of trial trenching within the open areas in the western quarter of the site. If the results of the evaluation are deemed significant enough by Havant Borough Council, 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 Planning Authority. Following the completion of all archaeological fieldwork, a report will be produced in accordance with an approved programme including, where appropriate, a post-excavation assessment consisting of specialist analysis and reports together with a programme of 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