

Vincent, Peter

From: Hayes, Thom
Sent: 27 October 2023 10:50
To: Reynolds, Catherine
Cc: Vincent, Peter
Subject: Crookhorn College, Stakes Hill Road, Purbrook - Historic Environment Feasibility

Hi Catherine,

Thank you for contacting us regarding the historic environment considerations of the proposed recladding works at Crookhorn College Stakes Hill Road Purbrook.

The site lies within an area of high archaeological potential, with a particular focus of significant Romano-British settlement activity to the south of the site. Approximately 500m to the southeast of the site, is the location of a significant Roman villa/settlement site, straddling both sides of a Roman Road. Further Roman activity was identified during works at Riverside Community School, approx. 200m to the south of the site, where a large Roman Kiln site was uncovered. This was likely used in the construction of nearby Roman settlements, likely indicating further significant activity in the area. It is possible that the majority of the Roman settlement was focused to the south of the proposed development site, located alongside the Roman Road, with activity occurring in the area surrounding Crookhorn College. This is possibly reflected in the an archaeological evaluation undertaken on the western side of Sydney Way, which did not identify any archaeological remains. However, whilst no specific archaeological activity has been recorded within the Crookhorn College site, it can be considered to have an archaeological potential, albeit to a lesser extent than areas to the south of the site.

The original construction of the school is likely to have removed any archaeological remains, which might have been present, from the immediate vicinity of the core of the school complex. This is shown clearly in LiDAR amongst the current school buildings. However, the playing fields immediately to the east of the school appear to largely retain more of their natural topography and show no signs of widespread previous impact. As such, the immediate area of the core of the school buildings is unlikely retain any archaeological potential but the undisturbed fields to the east can be considered to retain their archaeological potential.

It is unclear from the description given the exact content of the proposals, however if the proposals are limited to recladding and refurbishing existing buildings, then I can see no archaeological issues. If the works are wider in scope, but limited to the core of the current school buildings, I also cannot see any archaeological issues. However, if there are any works proposed, that might involve groundworks, within the playing fields to the east, archaeological issues might arise. Given these summaries, if you have any further concerns or would like me to review any detailed plans, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Many thanks,

Thom

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