

Dear Mr Lakhan,

Planning Application APP/20/00990 Havant Thicket, Reservoir and Pipe Line Northern Access WSI

Thank you for forwarding the written scheme of investigation for archaeological monitoring of the northern access.

I note that the archaeological monitoring may be intermittent (2.2.1). I am happy that this is a reasonable approach however I am concerned that the degree of intermittency needs definition. Whether it would be triggered by progress in length, or by a time period? Will it imply all stripped areas will be at least viewed, even if not directly monitored or does it imply some area will be neither viewed nor monitored? If so what sort of proportion 'sample' is implied? Whilst I note that the WSI is unclear on this point I also note that (2.2.3) that the progress and its intermittency will be reviewed with me on a weekly. On that basis I would endorse the WSI with emphasis that whilst an intermittent watching brief is a reasonable approach the frequency should be related to the progress of the works and the stages of the works and so will require review and agreement as the scheme progresses.

I would also note that the WSI refers to the role of the County Archaeologist (myself) in para 1.1.2, 1.1.3, 2.2.3, 2.2.4, 2.2.7 and 2.2.9. It should be acknowledged that the role of the County Archaeologist in this document is as the archaeological advisor to the local planning authorities and not independent.

Yours sincerely

David Hopkins
County Archaeologist

Hampshire County Council
Economy, Transport and Environment Department

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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.