

**Planning Application APP/22/00439 The South Downs College, College Road,
Purbrook, Waterlooville, PO7 8AA**

Dear Mr Christie,

Planning Application APP/22/00439 The South Downs College, College Road, Purbrook,
Waterlooville, PO7 8AA

Thank you for your consultation, I do apologise for the delay in responding. I would refer you to the archaeological assessment that has been submitted, which I would largely endorse to you, and I note the consultation response from Historic England. With regard to the setting of the adjacent Scheduled Monument I would defer to the advice and opinion of Historic England as set out in that consultation response.

With regard to the impact of development on buried archaeological remains I would refer you to the archaeological assessment submitted. The area of the development has been impacted by the construction of the car park in the past and any archaeological remains are likely to have been compromised to some extent. Furthermore some archaeological observations were carried out during the car park development and the results were limited. None the less I would draw your attention to para 6.6 and 6.7. Para 6.6 acknowledges that further archaeological remains might be encountered and para 6.7 suggests a programme of archaeological investigation to mitigate the impact be secured by an archaeological condition. I would concur and recommend that an archaeological condition is attached to any planning permission which might be issued to secure an appropriate programme of archaeological recording.

I am less able to endorse the view of the archaeological assessment that dismisses the potential reflection of the Roman road within the layout and design. I note that in para 2.9 the report notes that in a preliminary conversation with me I indicated that I "recommended that the line of the Roman road was reflected in the proposed layout". I also note that within the design and access statement that it states "Less apparent is the vestigial path of a Roman road which crosses the site West to East. While no artefacts remain, the notional path of the road will be referenced in the planning of the scheme." Whilst pleased to note the intention to reference the line of the Roman road within the scheme layout I was disappointed that the design and layout does not, to my eye achieve this. The degree to which the Romana road is reflected in the layout is 'twisted' from its alignment, and inconsistent in its alignment and in doing so offers no real visual reference to the line of the Roman road that could be readily perceived by the community, or drawn to their attention within their understanding of the new community layout. It is a missed opportunity.

Further more I could not see any explanation as to why the line of the Roman road could not be properly or better reflected in the design and layout as offered by the design and access statement. I do note the assertion in the archaeological assessment that the line of the Roman road is of limited value due to its 'lack of presence in the landscape', but the

argument can be (should be) how that 'presence in the landscape' can be reinstated as part of the public benefit to the scheme and part of the general improvement to the understanding and setting of the adjacent Scheduled Monument.

I recommend that the applicant be asked to clarify why the line of the Roman road cannot be better reflected in the design/layout of the scheme. The planning authority should consider whether impact on the adjacent Scheduled Monument can be in part offset by a more positive proposal to enable a clear reference to the Roman landscape within the design and layout, and might consider (in the light of whatever response is received and in the light of my comments of Historic England), whether this aspect should be considered a critical element of the scheme's character and delivery,

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.