

Dear Mrs Haywood,

**APP/16/00774: Land north of Havant Road and west of Selangor Ave, Emsworth:
Erection of 192 dwellings with associated parking, access, landscaping, and surface
water drainage, pumping station and sub station**

Thank you for your consultation. I would draw your attention to the *ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESKTOP ASSESSMENT* (DBA) that is included among the documentation attached to the above application on your website. This DBA concludes that:

9.2. There is evidence for in situ prehistoric settlement activity to the north of the site, however there is otherwise a general lack of prehistoric material recorded within the study area. The prehistoric potential of the site is therefore unclear. Prehistoric evidence if present found would be of local significance.

9.3. A Roman road was situated to the south of the study site and a villa lay between this road and the coast. It is probable that the study site was associated with the villa and agricultural activity. The potential for archaeology dating to the period upon the study site is considered to be moderate with a higher potential adjacent to the Roman road at the south of the site.

9.4. The evidence indicates that the site was likely in agricultural use from the end of the Roman period until the present day. The potential for surviving remains from the Roman period onwards is low and any remains would be of local significance.

9.5. There is no evidence of any significant previous development on the site, with the exception of small farm buildings.

9.6. The results of a geophysical survey detected few features that may be considered as archaeological.

9.7. The exact details of the development were not finalised at the time of the preparation of this report. However, any disturbance associated with the development is likely to involve the excavation of building footings, service trenches and landscaping.

9.8. It is likely that Hampshire County Council will recommend that the Local Planning Authority request some form of archaeological evaluation on the site. Given the lack of evidence for significant heritage assets on the site, any such work could be undertaken under the provisions of a planning condition

While I would broadly concur with these conclusions, I would have thought it useful for the authors of the DBA to have added a plot of the results from the geophysical survey to the report figures, so that it would be possible to see the ‘few features that may be considered as archaeological’. What is clear from the data gathered from the Hampshire Archaeological and Historic Building Record (AHBR) is that the site contains the potential for well-preserved archaeological features dating from the later prehistoric and Roman periods. 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 suitable conditions to any planning consent that might be granted. For instance:

1) 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 that has been submitted to and approved by the Planning Authority. The assessment should take the form of trial trenches, some of which should be targeted upon the possible archaeological features identified by the geophysical survey. The remaining trenches should be spread across the site and located within the footprints of the proposed houses, garages and access roads so that any as yet unrecorded archaeological remains encountered are recognised, characterised and recorded.

Reason: To assess the extent, nature and date of any archaeological deposits that might be present and the impact of the development upon these heritage assets.

2) That no development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological mitigation of impact, based on the results of the trial trenching, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation that has been submitted to and approved by the Planning Authority.

Reason: To mitigate the effect of the works associated with the development upon any heritage assets and to ensure that information regarding these heritage assets is preserved by record for future generations.

3) Following completion of archaeological fieldwork a report will be produced in accordance with an approved programme including where appropriate post-excavation assessment, specialist analysis and reports, publication and public engagement.

Reason: To contribute to our knowledge and understanding of our past by ensuring that opportunities are taken to capture evidence from the historic environment and to make this publicly available.

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