

Dear Mrs Lealan,

APP/16/00492: Land adjacent to Riders Junior and Infant School, Kingsclere Avenue, Havant: Residential development of 25No. 2 to 2.5 storey 3 bed houses, 5No. 3 storey 4 bed houses and 8No. 2 bed apartments

Thank you for your consultation. I would draw your attention to the *HERITAGE STATEMENT* that is included among the documentation attached to the above application on your website. This statement concludes that:

'7.1.2 The sparse nature of the archaeological record within the Study Area may reflect the relative paucity of work that has been carried out. As a result, there are no specific indications that archaeological remains of any specific period are likely to be present within the Site. Equally, the absence of buried archaeological remains cannot be assumed on the basis of the available information.'

'7.1.3 Despite the limited nature of the recorded historic environment resource within the Study Area, this assessment has established that there is an archaeological interest within the Site. This is defined as the potential for the presence of buried archaeological remains. However, due to a lack of previous archaeological investigation within the Site, the potential for and significance of any such remains could not be accurately assessed on the basis of the available evidence.'

'7.1.4 Any adverse impact to buried archaeological features as a result of the implementation of the development proposals would be permanent and irreversible in nature. This potential adverse effect could be reduced through the implementation of an appropriate scheme of archaeological mitigation, in accordance with national and local planning policy.'

The statement then recommends, among other things, that:

'7.2.1 The presence, location and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the Site cannot currently be confirmed on the basis of the available information. As such, additional investigations may be required by the planning archaeologist for Hampshire County Council, acting as advisor to Havant Borough Council.'

'7.2.2 It is suggested that these investigations may include geophysical survey and/or trial trenching in the first instance. The results of these initial investigations would inform the need for and scope of any subsequent mitigation within the Site.'

I would concur with these conclusions and recommendations and 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 the construction of the new houses, apartments and any access roads 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 initially take the form of a geophysical survey of the site, followed by trial trenches targeted on features identified by the geophysics, with further trenching located within any 'blank' areas. All trenching within the 'blank' areas should be targeted upon the footprints of the proposed new houses and flats as well as along the route of any new access roads, in order to ensure that any 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

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