

Re: APP/16/00281 - 5 East Street, Havant, PO9 1AA

Thank you for consulting me regarding the proposed redevelopment at 5 East Street. The site of proposed development lies within the historic core of the medieval town of Havant. It is in an area of high archaeological potential as set out in the Historic Towns Survey for Havant. This area is likely to be the historic core of the town from the medieval or Saxon period. In addition it is immediately adjacent to the cross roads of the projected lines of the Roman Roads, one that runs north through Havant from Hayling Island and another east west road that runs through Havant from Chichester westwards. Recent investigations in this area of Havant have identified some important archaeological remains relating to the Roman settlement in Havant and it is likely that further such remains are present within the development site. It is increasingly apparent that there was some form of Roman settlement or small town existed around this Roman road crossroads and that settlement at Havant has Roman origins. It is likely that there has been some disturbance of any archaeological deposits by previous development on the site, and as such it is unlikely that archaeology would present an overriding concern. However this is likely degree of damage is likely to be limited and on other sites in Havant Roman material has been found to survive below more recent development at some depth. Therefore the archaeological recording might well be burdensome.

I would therefore advise that the recording of any archaeological deposits that might be present on the site could be secured through the attachment of suitably worded 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 work 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.

2) 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.

Given the existing structure on the site it is unlikely that any archaeological investigation is going to be possible before the current structure is demolished. The most suitable programme of archaeological work is likely to be a strip map and record of the footprint of the new building following demolition and prior to construction. Because of the potential sensitivity of the site it is important that a specification of archaeological work is submitted and approved before demolition so that if necessary there can be monitoring of aspects of the demolition process, in particular grubbing out of foundations or removal of areas of slab.

Should you or the applicant have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to seeing the applicant's archaeological programme in due course.

Yours sincerely

David Hopkins
(County Archaeologist)