

Michelle Houghton

From: Historic Environment <historic.environment@hants.gov.uk>
Sent: 13 October 2015 08:41
To: Planning and Development Shared Mailbox
Cc: Havant Auto-Reply
Subject: APP/14/01225: Market Parade Development Site, Market Parade, Havant FAO Mr S Weaver

Dear Mr Weaver,

APP/14/01225: Market Parade Development Site, Market Parade, Havant: Outline application with all matters reserved for demolition of existing buildings and redevelopment of site to erect 130No. apartments and 1126sqm of ground floor commercial/retail space (Use Classes A1-A5 and B1(a)) and associated service, access and 58 private residential basement parking spaces (indicative height of building between five and thirteen stories)

Thank you for your consultation. I would draw your attention to the Heritage Statement that is included among the documentation attached to the above planning application on your website. In paragraph 7.1.3 this statement concludes that:

'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, in particular relating to features associated with the Romano-British settlement of Havant and the north-south aligned road of this period which runs 75m east of the Site, and the Post-medieval development of the eastern part of the application area. However, due to a lack of previous archaeological investigations within the Site, the potential for and significance of any such archaeological remains could not be accurately assessed on the basis of the available evidence, although it is anticipated that any such remains would likely be of local significance.'

The statement goes on to state in its 'Mitigation' section (paragraph 7.2.1) that:

'The presence, location and significance of any buried heritage assets within the Site cannot currently be confirmed on the basis of the available information. Due to the known archaeological potential of the Site, it is likely that additional archaeological fieldwork may be required by the Local Planning Authority. These may include a phase of watching brief during ground clearance in the first instance. The results of this phase of archaeological observation would provide information on the extent of below ground truncation associated with previous development of the Site, and inform the need for and scope of any subsequent works.'

While I would broadly concur with the results of the statement, it is my opinion that it would be preferable to fully assess the archaeological potential of the site prior to the commencement of any development. This would mean that if significant archaeological deposits are recorded at an early stage a mitigation strategy could then be built into the construction programme, as opposed to finds appearing in the middle of the ground working phase of development. Therefore while there is no indication that there are any archaeological deposits on the site that would present an overriding concern I would advise that the assessment, recording and reporting of any archaeological deposits be secured through the attachment of suitable conditions to any planning permission 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. This assessment should take the form of trial trenching across the site. 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 proposal then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

Neil J. Adam BA ACIfA

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