

Application APP/14/00547 Land west of Horndean Road and south of Southleigh Road

Thank you for your recent consultation. I would draw your attention to the scoping opinion response sent by Hannah Fluck 3rd December 2013 in which she advised that an archaeological assessment should accompany the application. I would also draw your attention to the archaeological assessment prepared by Wessex Archaeology and submitted with the planning application. The conclusions of the assessment are relatively weak and do not offer an explicit mitigation strategy designed to 'satisfy' the planning authority that any archaeological issues have been addressed. On that basis my recommendation will extend beyond the scope of the submitted archaeological assessment.

The archaeological assessment has considered the archaeological evidence of the immediate area and in the absence of known archaeological remains within the immediate vicinity the report concludes that the site has a low archaeological potential and is of 'limited interest'. I would always recommend that an assessment of this nature rehearses the archaeological potential of the landscape. The HER records what is known and this reflects the degree of archaeological survey in any particular area. Reference to analogous landscapes helps to explore archaeological potential beyond a discussion of 'what has already been found close by'. It is my opinion that given the location in relation to the coastal plain and the proximity to the stream edge taken together with the size of the area to be developed it seems to me it is more likely that as yet unrecorded archaeological remains will be encountered during development than is expressed in the archaeological assessment presented. That is it has a higher archaeological potential than is offered in the report.

Paragraph 7.2.1 states "The presence, location and significance of any buried heritage assets within the site cannot currently be confirmed on the basis of the available information. As such it is likely that additional archaeological investigations may be required by the archaeological advisor to Hampshire County Council". Paragraph 7.2.2 states "The need for, scale, scope and nature of any further archaeological works should be agreed through consultation with the statutory authorities".

I would recommend that an archaeological condition is attached to any planning permission which might be issued. This should secure an appropriate level of preliminary archaeological survey and a mitigation strategy informed by the survey results to mitigate the impact of the development on those remains.

Yours sincerely

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