

From: Historic Environment <historic.environment@hants.gov.uk>
Sent: 25 April 2023 13:02
To: Planning @ Eastleigh Borough Council; Morris, Rachael
Subject: RE: Planning Application Consultation Request F/23/95045

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Ms. Morris,

Planning Application Consultation Request F/23/95045

Thank you for your consultation.

I would draw your attention to the archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA), submitted in support of this application (Hawk Heritage 2023). This document assesses that the site has a moderate potential for archaeological remains dating to the Bronze Age and for remains related to medieval/post-medieval agricultural practices, and low potential for all other periods (chapter 5). The document states that of nearby borehole data, 'One boreholes shows 1.50m of modern made ground comprising bricks and stones over gravel. All of the others consistently show topsoil over gravel. In the main these indicate gravel at a depth of 0.60m rising to 0.75m to the south-east of the site.' (para 3.2.4) and then later asserts that the top 600mm 'has been identified as being the minimum depth of topsoil' (para 6.2.1). Previous impacts are identified as follows: 'The proposed area of the new pitches was previously laid out for pitches and drainage was inserted. The lateral drainage which criss-crosses the area was laid at a depth of 750mm whilst the mains drainage was laid at a depth of 1000mm' (para 4.2.4) and that 'this will have caused considerable damage to any below-ground remains' (para 7.1.7). The document concludes that owing to the anticipated depth of topsoil being deeper than the anticipated depth of new impact and that the previous impacts will have created existing impacts to below ground remains, 'it is recommended that no further archaeological works are necessary' (para 7.1.17).

This sentiment is repeated within the planning statement, which states: 'Minor disturbance will be caused by the excavation for fencing, cabling and pitches/below ground drainage. Given that the depth of topsoil is 600-900mm, and extensive drainage up to 1000mm in depth was inserted under the pitches previously, excavation of the AGPs and utilities is not likely to impact on archaeological remains. No further work is recommended' (Bidwells 2023, para 3.4).

Unfortunately, I cannot endorse the submitted DBA, or its conclusions, at this time.

The document relies heavily on the interpretation of historic boreholes, suggesting that the site has a minimum depth of topsoil of 0.60m and that the proposed works will be shallower, therefore not impacting archaeological levels. The document does not reference the specific boreholes or provide details of the bore logs which it draws this conclusion from. Having reviewed borehole data from the immediate vicinity of the site (held by the British Geological Survey – GeoIndex Onshore), it is unclear how this conclusion has been reached. The three recorded boreholes closest to the development area (SU41NW363, SU41NW364, SU41NW365), the only boreholes recorded from within the wider site boundary, indicate that there is only between 0.25m-0.35m of 'productive soil' overlying gravels with clay (possibly representing the top of superficial natural geology). This would appear to suggest that the site has a much shallower average depth of topsoil than suggested and that the proposed groundworks would extend past this depth. Further clarity on this issue will be required before determination.

Furthermore, the DBA suggests that the previous drainage works will have caused considerable damage to any below ground archaeological remains which might have been present. Whilst this is of course accurate for the areas where drainage has previously been installed, it is currently unclear the extent of the area which has been previously impacted. The submitted Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy (ARUP 2023) includes greater details regarding the previous drainage, including a plan showing the extent. This document indicates that drainage had been laid for just two pitches within the development area, comprising a network of 150mm diameter piping at depth of between 400mm and 1000mm (ARUP 2023, para 3.5). The document also states that 'The two proposed

artificial grass pitches will be partly located over the top of "Football 4 and Rugby 4", indicating that some parts of the proposed development area have not been subject to this impact and could potentially retain their archaeological potential (which could be negatively impacted by the proposed development). The plan of existing drainage (ARUP 2023, Figure 3) demonstrates that the existing impacts would be located only in the southern parts of the development area but it is difficult to see the exact relationship to proposal in its current form.

At this time, the two principle arguments presented for why further archaeological work should not be required, may benefit from additional evidence and clarification. I would recommend that the application is not determined until further details and clarity is provided by the applicant, so that an informed decision can be made. Specifically, further details on the following two points:

- Further details, with reference to specific boreholes and borehole logs, as to how the suggested minimum depths of topsoil (stated in the DBA as between 600-900mm) were established.
- Further details as to the extent of previous impacts (specifically sports pitch drainage), in relation to the extent of the proposed development (including a graphic overlay, if possible).

If you have any questions regarding this consultation, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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Senior Archaeologist

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From: Planning (Eastleigh Borough Council) <planning@eastleigh.gov.uk>

Sent: 25 April 2023 09:09

To: clerk@eastleigh-tc.gov.uk; planning.south@sportengland.org; HMWP Consultation <HMWP.consult@hants.gov.uk>; planningssd@environment-agency.gov.uk; Historic Environment <historic.environment@hants.gov.uk>; Eastleigh DC <EastleighDC@hants.gov.uk>; sousafeguard@southamptonairport.com; FWM Statutory SWM Consultee mailbox <SWM.Consultee@hants.gov.uk>; consultations@naturalengland.org.uk

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Application No: F/23/95045

Address: THE WIDE LANE PAVILION, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON SPORTS GROUND, WIDE LANE, EASTLEIGH, SO50 5PE

Description: Installation of 2no. synthetic sports pitches, erection of fencing including new pedestrian access route, associated engineering operations and landscaping

Would you please let me have your observations on the above application.

You can access the plans and documents via our portal [F/23/95045](#)

In order to meet the Government's challenging targets for our speed of determining applications, we require any comments you wish to make within 21 days from the date of this memo. Failure to meet this time period will usually result in an application being determined without your comments being considered.

Please reply to the planning officer on the below email address.

Planning Specialist Contact Details

Email: rachael.morris@eastleigh.gov.uk

Kind regards
Planning