

Harrison, Liz

From: Hopkins, David (Universal Services) <david.hopkins@hants.gov.uk>
Sent: 18 July 2025 14:20
To: Harrison, Liz
Subject: Planning Application Consultation Request O/25/99506 Navigator Quarter Southampton Airfield

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Dear Mrs Harrison,

Planning Application Consultation Request O/25/99506 Navigator Quarter Southampton Airfield

Thank you for your consultation. I would refer you to the archaeological documents that have been submitted, which I would endorse to you.

In the non technical summary the archaeological position is summarised; that (para 3.1) a geophysical survey and a desk based assessment have been undertaken; and that (para 3.5) archaeological matters might be addressed through a phased programme of archaeological mitigation in two parts, an initial evaluation and further work as merited by the results of that evaluation. I would concur.

The site is assessed within the desk based assessment to have a general archaeological potential, that is the potential to encounter archaeological remains which are as yet unrecorded.

There is some archaeological potential relating to the palaeolithic period (para 4.5.60) described as 'broad'. There is a 'general' potential for Mesolithic material; A prehistoric field system 'is likely to extend across large parts' (para 4.5.12) and associated settlement might also exist (para 4.5.3) (para 4.8.2) but this is not certain; and it is likely that Roman remains might exist (para 4.5.18 and 4.8.4).

There is also evidence of Second World War archaeology and this too is uncertain. There is a report of a barrage balloon tether (para 4.5.39) and two airfield defence pillboxes (4.5.40). The pillboxes may have been removed or may be just outside the site. The report assumes that they survive but could not confidently confirm this. If outside the development area they will presumably survive. If inside the site they might be preserved by the current layout. Para 7.2.1 suggest that the definitive location and state of preservation be established. I would agree, but would add that in my opinion although they are 'of a common type' (para 5.6.3) I feel that they are evidence of the war time episode of the site and should not be needlessly removed. If at all possible they should be preserved within the design and layout. As they are peripheral this may well be possible.

Para 7.1.1 concludes that archaeological matters are not overriding, I would agree; that the site does have an archaeological potential for further archaeological remains (para 7.1.2) and this might be addressed by mitigation by recording, para 7.1.8). I would agree. Para 7.2.3 recommends an initial stage of evaluation which will inform the need for further archaeological work (para 7.2.5).

I recommend that an archaeological condition is attached to any planning permission which might be issued to secure an archaeological evaluation of the site.

I also recommend that an archaeological condition is attached to any planning permission which might be issued to secure the archaeological mitigation by recording of the archaeological remains found to be at the site.

My final comment is that I noted that the assessment did not consider the impact of development on the setting of the Itchen Navigation which defines the east side of the site. This is an early navigation and runs

largely through a rural context. I am pleased to note on the layout that a 'green band' fringes the navigation as part of the layout. I think that care should be taken to ensure that the navigation-side treatment acts as a suitable setting and screen between the navigation and the development.

Yours sincerely

David Hopkins
(County Archaeologist)

Notice: I will be on leave between 25th July and 3rd August

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The graphic features a purple rectangular area on the left containing the text 'Our values' in a large, bold, dark blue font. Below this text is the Hampshire County Council logo, which includes a red shield with a white crown and the words 'Hampshire County Council' in a smaller font. To the right of the purple area, five horizontal bars of different colors (red, orange, yellow, green, and blue) are stacked vertically, each containing a value in bold black text: 'Working as one organisation', 'Integrity and respect', 'Professionalism', 'Making a difference', and 'Continuous improvement'.