

From: William Kelly <William.Kelly@leics.gov.uk>
Sent: 25 September 2023 15:40
To: Matt Jedruch
Cc: Planning Folder New
Subject: 23/00789/FUL | Construction of a multi-use hardstanding pad and associated parking. | Horiba Mira Ltd Mira Drive Lindley

Dear Matt,

23/00789/FUL | Construction of a multi-use hardstanding pad and associated parking. | Horiba Mira Ltd Mira Drive Lindley

Archaeological considerations

Thank you for your consultation on this application, please accept my sincere apologies for not being able to respond sooner. We recommend that you advise the applicant of the following archaeological requirements, for area excavation targeting the brick-built structures identified in the trial trench evaluations.

Assessment of the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER), supported by the results of the archaeological evaluations of the development area, undertaken by ULAS on behalf of the applicant (2011 report Ref.: 2011-148; 2017 report Ref.: 2017-068), shows that the site lies in an area of significant archaeological potential.

Trial trenching in 2011 partly uncovered the remains of two small brick-built structures within the current application area. Further trenching in 2017 exposed the full extent of these features, which appear to be weapons pits constructed to defend the former airfield (HER Ref.: MLE19862). Both structures were filled with an ashy/tarmac material, and are likely to survive intact below the ground surface. Further archaeological excavation should target the brick-built structures, including the removal of the deposits filling the features. The excavation area should also be extended to the east, to target the third anomaly identified in the 2011 geophysical survey, which was not evaluated in the trial trenching.

In line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Section 16, paragraph 190 and Annex 2), the planning authority is required to consider the impact of the development upon any heritage assets, taking into account their particular archaeological and historic significance. This understanding should be used to avoid or minimise conflict between conservation of the historic environment and the archaeological impact of the proposals.

Paragraph 199 states that where loss of the whole or a material part of the heritage asset's significance is justified, local planning authorities should require the developer to record and advance understanding of the significance of the affected resource prior to its loss. The archaeological obligations of the developer, including publication of the results and deposition of the archive, must be proportionate to the impact of the proposals upon the significance of the historic environment.

As a consequence, it is recommended that prior to the impact of development upon the identified heritage asset(s) the applicant must make arrangements for and implement an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation. This will involve an area excavation to allow for the brick-built structures and any similar features present to be recorded and investigated.

The Historic & Natural Environment Team (HNET) will provide a formal Brief for the work at the applicant's request.

If planning permission is granted, the applicant should obtain a suitable written scheme of investigation (WSI) for the necessary archaeological programme. The WSI must be obtained from an archaeological organisation acceptable to the planning authority, and be submitted for approval to both the LPA and HNET as archaeological advisers to your authority, before the implementation of the archaeological programme and in advance of the start of development.

The WSI should comply with the above mentioned Brief and with relevant Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) "Standards" and "Code of Practice". It should include a suitable indication of arrangements for the implementation of the archaeological work, and the proposed timetable for the development.

We therefore recommend that any planning permission be granted subject to the following planning conditions (informed by paragraph 37 of Historic England's Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment GPA 2), to safeguard any important archaeological remains potentially present:

No demolition/development shall take place/commence until a written scheme of investigation (WSI) has been [submitted to and] approved by the local planning authority in writing. For land that is included within the WSI, no demolition/development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed WSI, which shall include the statement of significance and research objectives, and

- The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works
- The programme for post-investigation assessment and subsequent analysis, publication & dissemination and deposition of resulting material. This part of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the WSI

Reason: To ensure satisfactory archaeological investigation and recording

The Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) must be prepared by an archaeological contractor acceptable to the Planning Authority. To demonstrate that the implementation of this written scheme of investigation has been secured the applicant must provide a signed contract or similar legal agreement between themselves and their approved archaeological contractor.

The Historic and Natural Environment Team, as advisors to the planning authority, will monitor the archaeological work, to ensure that the necessary programme of archaeological work is undertaken to the satisfaction of the planning authority.

Please will you ensure a copy of the Decision Notice is sent to us in due course, to enable us to continue to monitor and safeguard the archaeology of this site. Should you or the applicant have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

William

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