



Mrs Sarah Madyausiku
Planning
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council

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Contact Simon Wood
Tel 01992 588039
My ref P06/17/2622
Your ref 6/2017/2622/LB
historic.environment@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Date: 11 December 2017

Dear Sarah,

Re: External alterations including refurbishment of roof and repairs to walls, windows and doors. Hard and soft landscaping. Internal alterations to involve removal of partition walls and ceilings, addition of a kitchen and bar area with cloakroom facilities and alterations to access route for people with reduced mobility - St. Ethelreda's Church Hall Church Street Hatfield AL9 5AR

ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

Thank you for consulting me on the above application.

Please note that the following advice is based on the policies contained in the National Planning Policy Framework.

The proposed development lies within Area of Archaeological Significance no. 17, as identified in the Local Plan. This covers the known extent of the medieval town of Hatfield, as well as Hatfield House and its gardens.

The building subject to alteration under this proposal is the current church hall for St. Ethelreda's Church, which was built circa 1840 and is Grade II listed (Historic Environment Record no. 18521). This structure began life as a school, becoming a church hall in 1962. The style is Tudor, in red brick with stepped buttresses between the windows, a Dutch-gabled porch and original door, beneath a roof of plain and fishscale tiles, with parapeted and coped gable ends.

Much of this work would appear to involve removal of 1970s building fabric, which the submitted Heritage Statement argues is 'insensitive' and 'has a detrimental effect upon the way in which the building is currently use'. Even still, the building will be subject to

substantial renovation and internal alteration under the proposal, such as replacement of doors and windows, and construction of new floor slab.

With the above in mind, I believe that the position of the proposed development is such that it should be regarded as likely to have an impact on heritage assets with archaeological interest, I recommend that the following provisions be made, should you be minded to grant consent:

1. The archaeological building recording of the standing structure in its present form, before any development commences.
2. the archaeological recording of all interventions to the fabric of the building in areas where such works might reveal additional information relating to the development of the building, and for the purpose of recording any original historic features (etc.) that may be exposed;
3. The analysis of the results of the archaeological work, with provisions for the subsequent production of a report and an archive, and the publication of the results, as appropriate.
4. Such other provisions as may be necessary to protect the archaeological interests of the site.

I believe that these recommendations are both reasonable and necessary to provide properly for the likely archaeological implications of this development proposal. I further believe that these recommendations closely follow the policies included within Policy 12 (para. 141, etc.) of the National Planning Policy Framework. and the guidance contained in Historic England's Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2 (2015).

In this case three appropriately worded conditions on any planning consent would be sufficient to provide for the level of investigation that this proposal warrants. I suggest the following wording:

A No development shall take place/commence until an Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. The scheme shall include an assessment of archaeological significance and research questions; and:

1. *The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording;*
2. *The programme for post investigation assessment;*
3. *Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording;*
4. *Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation;*
5. *Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation;*
6. *Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation.*

B The development shall take place/commence in accordance with the programme of archaeological works set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition **(A)**

C The development shall not be occupied/used until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition **(A)** and the provision made for analysis and publication where appropriate.

If planning consent is granted, I will be able to provide detailed advice concerning the requirements for the investigations, and to provide information on professionally accredited archaeological contractors who may be able to carry out the necessary work.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information or clarification.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Simon Wood FSA Scot
Historic Environment Advisor
Environmental Resource Planning