

Environment and Infrastructure
Director: Mark Kemp



David Elmore
Planning
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
The Campus
Welwyn Garden City AL8 6AE

Natural, Historic & Built Environment
Advisory Team

Hertfordshire County Council
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Tel: 01992 555241
Email: historic.environment@hertfordshire.gov.uk
My ref: 6-19-1411-5
Your ref: 6/2019/1411/MAJ
Date: 15 August 2019

Dear David

Re: Erection of a multi-franchise car dealership (sui generis use) with offices (B1 use class), workshops (B2 use class) and car storage (B8 use class), together with car parking, cycle parking, boundary treatment, landscaping, lighting and access | Plot 5100, Mosquito Way, Hatfield Business Park, Hatfield, AL10 9WN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

An archaeological written scheme of investigation (WSI) has been submitted with this planning application.

Notwithstanding our previous advice to you dated 1 August 2019 where we recommended that a pre-commencement staged archaeological condition was added to any consent which Welwyn Hatfield BC may be minded to grant, you have informed us that you do not wish to add this condition. You have also requested that we review the WSI that has been submitted before the planning application is determined.

Therefore in this instance we will review the document but this is without prejudice to both our initial advice which still stands and to any future advice regarding planning proposals. Regarding the document itself, it is not clear that the WSI was produced when the final details of this development proposal was known. Please also note that should any amendments be made to this planning proposal or new information submitted then the WSI should be re-examined in light of the new information since it may no longer be sufficient to appropriately mitigate the impact of this proposal on the historic environment.

We have the following comments on the WSI:

- the area of archaeological investigation should be clearly stated and marked on a plan of the site (4.1). The plan on page 24 is an indicative plan. There should also be a plan which shows the proposed development. We assume that the whole site will be archaeologically stripped.
- the levels of investigation noted by paragraph 4.5 should be minimums. These may be expanded, in agreement with the LPA, should this be required to fully characterise the archaeological remains or answer specific questions.
- the recording of archaeological features should be clarified. This office normally requires drawn records as a minimum which may be supplemented with electronic recording.
- the museum which will receive the archive should be named and have been contacted to confirm they are happy to do so.
- the suitability of the onsite staff should be stated (part 5).
- Paragraph 6.2 refers to archaeological trial trenches. This is a WSI for a strip and record not trial trenching.
- Hertfordshire Archaeological Archive Standards should be referenced.
- notice of at least three working days should be provided to this office and the LPA before the archaeological investigations commence.

Therefore we do not recommend that this WSI is approved.

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

Yours sincerely,

Andy Instone
Senior Historic Environment Advisor
Environmental Resource Planning