

Ms Louise Sahlke  
Planning  
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council

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Date: 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Dear Louise,

**Re: Partial redevelopment of the Hertfordshire Constabulary Headquarters site. - Hertfordshire Constabulary Stanborough Road Welwyn Garden City AL8 6XF**

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS**

Thank you for consulting me on the above application.

The development site is adjacent to an Area of Archaeological Significance (no 11) identified in the Local Plan. This denotes a mid-1st century AD palisaded enclosure that was first identified in 1938, and further investigated in 1953, and the late 1990s. Some continued use of the site in the early Roman period, probably into the 2nd century, is shown by the presence of two urned cremation groups in the enclosure ditch. There are also scattered finds of earlier prehistoric, Roman and medieval date from the general vicinity, and cropmarks of two probable plough-raised barrows near Stanborough Bury, of probable Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date.

The area is therefore one that has considerable potential for the presence of prehistoric and Iron Age and Roman archaeological remains, and the site itself is in a topographically suitable location for early settlement, overlooking the valley of the River Lea.

Although parts of the development site will have suffered disturbance from the construction of the existing buildings, the extent of this is uncertain. There are also areas of lesser impact included in the overall development. In addition, significant archaeological remains are known to survive under large buildings in Hertfordshire, such as at GlaxoSmithKline in Ware, or Bircherley Green shopping centre in Hertford. The site may therefore retain some archaeological potential.

I consider that the proposed development should be regarded as likely to have an impact on heritage assets of archaeological interest and I recommend that the following

provisions be made, should you be minded to grant consent:

1. The archaeological field evaluation, via trial trenching of the proposed development, prior to any development commencing.
2. Such appropriate mitigation measures indicated as necessary by this evaluation.

These may include:

- a. the preservation of any remains *in situ*, if warranted,
  - b. appropriate archaeological excavation and recording of any remains before any development commences on the site, with provisions for subsequent analysis and publication of results,
  - c. archaeological monitoring of the groundworks of the development (also including a contingency for the preservation or further investigation of any remains then encountered),
  - d. such other provisions as may be necessary to protect the archaeological interests of the site;
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 para. 205, etc. of the National Planning Policy Framework, and relevant guidance contained in the National Planning Practice Guidance, and in the Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2: Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment (Historic England, 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 and methodology of site investigation and recording as required by the evaluation;*
3. *The programme for post investigation assessment;*
4. *Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording;*
5. *Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation;*

6. *Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation;*
7. *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.

I hope that you will be able to accommodate the above recommendations.

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

Yours sincerely,

Alison Tinniswood  
Senior Historic Environment Advisor, Hertfordshire LEADS  
Growth and Infrastructure Unit

*Hertfordshire LEADS provides Landscape, Ecology, Archaeology, Design and Sustainability support to planning departments in Hertfordshire.*