

Ms Ashley Ransome
Planning
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council

**Postal Point CHN 108
Hertfordshire County Council
County Hall, Pegs Lane
HERTFORD SG13 8DN**

Contact Alison Tinniswood
Tel 01992 555276
My ref P06/21/3422-1
Your ref 6/2021/3422/MAJ
E-mail:
historic.environment@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Date: 4th June 2021

Dear Ashley,

Re: Submission of details pursuant to condition number 1 (Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation) on planning permission (6/2020/3187/FULL) - 7 Wendover Drive Welwyn AL6 9LT

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 site is in Area of Archaeological Significance No.17, as identified in the Local Plan. This includes the medieval settlement of Hatfield [Historic Environment Record no 6822] which is called *Hetfelle* in the Domesday Book. It is also recorded in a 10th century charter of Ely Abbey. Several excavations in Hatfield have found evidence of medieval and post medieval occupation, some of which is from nearby Park Street [6566, 6825, 6861]. The parish church of St Etheldreda dates from the 13th century, and the nearby Hatfield House and gardens were built in the early 17th century on the site of a 15th century palace [HER 2932].

More particularly, evidence of Roman occupation including the remnants of a wall foundation of possible Roman date [HER 1848], and of medieval and post-medieval occupation [HER1852] has been found on the site of the car park that forms part of the proposed development site. Remains of the mid 19th century Hatfield Brewery, which operated from 1878 to 1920, may also be present [HER 6878].

The site therefore has the potential to contain archaeological remains..

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 area, including all areas of impact, further to the demolition of the existing building on the site and 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, relevant guidance contained in the National Planning Practice Guidance, and 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 suggested by the archaeological 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.

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.