



Mr Mark Peacock
Planning
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council

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Contact Simon Wood
Tel 01992 588039
My ref P06/18/1635
Your ref 6/2018/1635/OUTLINE
historic.environment@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Date: 11 July 2018

Dear Mark,

Re: Outline permission for the change of use of land to airfield with runway and support facilities - Historic De Havilland Grass Runway Ellenbrook fields Hatfield Buisness park Hatfield Herts

ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

Thank you for consulting me on the above application.

This outline application is similar in design and scope to two previous applications at the former Panshanger aerodrome (6/2018/0158/OUTLINE) and to the south of Cromer Hyde (6/2018/1354/OUTLINE). In both of those cases we recommended that the applicant submit further information regarding the below ground impact of the proposed development prior to determining the applications. This was to enable us to make appropriately informed comments on the potential impact of the developments on undesignated heritage assets of archaeological interest.

Regarding the present scheme, in their Planning Design, Access and Aviation Statement the applicant does include more details than before about the landscaping/excavation etc. that would occur as part of the proposed development. It is stated that no levelling works would take place, and that the creation of the runway itself would involve no more than de-stoning, seeding and marking. There would, however, be runway lighting (which presumably would include some kind of excavation for services). The provision of two hangars and associated other buildings would clearly involve excavation and earth moving.

This location, while not within an Area of Archaeological Significance, has some archaeological potential. Significant prehistoric and Roman archaeology (e.g. Historic Environment Record nos. 125, 11544, 11546, 11547& 11549) indicative of settlement

and funerary activity was found during redevelopment of part of the former Hatfield Aerodrome for housing adjacent to the proposed development site to the east (around Cunningham Drive, The Runway, Nimrod Drive and Dragon Road). It is likely that activity of similar nature and date continued to the west into the proposed development site.

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 evaluation, via trial trenching, of those parts of the development area where significant excavation will occur, prior to the commencement of any development. This should include, as a minimum, the footprints of the new hangars, clubhouse, workshop and fire station. It should also include the new parking, picnic area and access track, should there be any significant ground impact associated with these works;
2. Such appropriate mitigation measures indicated as necessary by that evaluation. These may include:
 - a) the preservation of any archaeological remains *in situ*, if warranted;
 - b) the appropriate archaeological excavation of any remains before any development commences on the site, with provisions for subsequent analysis and publication of results;
 - c) the archaeological monitoring and recording of the ground works of the development, including a contingency for the preservation or further investigation of any remains then encountered;
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 and methodology of site investigation and recording as suggested 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.

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