

Ms Louise Sahlke
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 P06/19/1533-1
Your ref 6/2019/1533/FULL
E-mail:
historic.environment@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Date: 22nd July 2019

Dear Louise,

Re: Temporary provision of 3 classroom block; additional car and cycle parking spaces; regularisation of existing parking arrangements - Stanborough School Lemsford Lane Welwyn Garden City AL8 6YR

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 site is in Area of Archaeological Significance No 11, as identified in the Local Plan. This denotes an area which contains evidence for Late Iron Age and early Roman settlement. The Historic Environment Record [HER 0161] notes that a late Iron Age boundary ditch, pottery, a coin of Claudius and part of a La Tene III brooch were found here in 1938 (at the 'Welwyn Grammar School' site), and that excavations in 1953 revealed that the ditch was part of a large palisaded enclosure. Finds from the ditch included large quantities of pottery, and two urned cremation groups, with early Roman pottery and Samian. Further investigations in 1997 and 1998 demonstrated that the site continued in use until the early Roman period, probably into the 2nd century. This is suggested by some human cremation burials which were found outside the enclosure.

No details concerning construction methods are provided within the application. However, it is possible that the groundworks required for the scheme may have an impact on below ground archaeological remains.

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 investigation, via strip, map and sample, of the footprint of the proposed new classrooms. This should occur prior to any development taking place and include a contingency for the preservation of any remains encountered;
2. the archaeological monitoring of all other groundworks related to the development, including access roads, driveways, service trenches, hard landscaping, and all other ground impact, including a contingency for preservation or further excavation of any remains encountered;
3. the analysis of the results of the archaeological work with provision for the subsequent production of a report and an archive, and the publication of the results;
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 16 (para.199, 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.*
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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison Tinniswood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Alison Tinniswood BA MA ACIfA
Historic Environment Advisor
Environmental Resource Planning