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From: Andy Instone [<mailto:Andy.Instone@hertfordshire.gov.uk>]

Sent: 31 July 2015 12:04

To: Mark Peacock

Subject: S6/2015/1342/PP : Land to the north east of King George V Playing Fields, Northaw Road East -

Dear Mark,

Thank you for consulting me.

The applicant has undertaken a geophysical survey of the site and some archaeological trial trenching.

Although the results were largely negative the likely remains of the 17th century boundary of Theobalds Park were found. Also only 2.2% of the site was trenched which is normally suitable for considering the principle of development rather than full mitigation.

Therefore in this case an appropriately worded condition on any planning consent would be sufficient to provide for the level of investigation that this proposal warrants. This could apply to the reserved matters stage should you consider this sufficient to protect the archaeological interests of the site.

Historic England's Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning suggests the following wording:

No demolition/development shall take place/commence until a written scheme of investigation (WSI) has been [submitted to and] approved by the local planning authority in writing. For land that is included within the WSI, no demolition/development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed WSI, which shall include the statement of significance and research objectives; and:

* The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works * The programme for post-investigation assessment and subsequent analysis, publication & dissemination and deposition of resulting material. This part of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the WSI.

I understand that this was negotiated and agreed with DCLG.

I'm not sure yet how it will work in practice, or whether LPAs will want to still have 2 conditions, the pre-commencement part covering the WSI.

If planning consent is granted, I will be able to provide a design brief detailing the requirements for the investigations and provide information on professionally accredited archaeological contractors who may be able to carry out the investigations.

Yours sincerely,

Andy Instone