

Lynne Baldwin

From: Green, Victoria - Oxfordshire County Council <Victoria.Green@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>
Sent: 21 June 2024 15:46
To: Planning
Subject: Ref:24/01372/F

Dear Sir/Madam,

Ref: 24/01372/F Bicester Gateway Business Park

The site lies in an area of considerable archaeological interest and potential, immediately west of an area of intense Roman occupation, and north of the Scheduled Roman Town at Alchester. An archaeological evaluation on the site has shown that Roman activity extends into the southeastern part of the development site, however the report on this evaluation has not been submitted. To ensure that the archaeological potential of the site can be fully considered in the determination of this application, the approved archaeological evaluation report should be submitted.

The applicant has submitted a WSI for the proposed archaeological works required, should this scheme be granted permission. This WSI has not been approved by the County Archaeological Service and so there are a number of comments to address before we can accept it.

1.3 This point should be updated since the WSI was not submitted to the curator for approval

4.18 OCAS will need to be informed of the discovery of any human remains

5.4 The approved report should also be submitted to the Oxfordshire HER along with any GIS (shape) files

We would, therefore, recommend that, should planning permission be granted, the applicant should be responsible for ensuring the implementation of an archaeological monitoring and recording action (watching brief) to be maintained during the period of construction. This can be ensured through the attachment of a suitable negative condition along the lines of:

1. The applicant, or their agents or successors in title, shall be responsible for organising and implementing an archaeological watching brief, to be maintained during the period of construction/during any groundworks taking place on the site. The watching brief shall be carried out by a professional archaeological organisation in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation that has first been approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason - To safeguard the recording and inspection of matters of archaeological importance on the site in accordance with the NPPF (2023).

2. Following the approval of the Written Scheme of Investigation referred to in condition 1, no development shall commence on site without the appointed archaeologist being present. Once the watching brief has been completed its findings shall be reported to the Local Planning Authority, as agreed in the Written Scheme of Investigation, including all processing, research and analysis necessary to produce an accessible and useable archive and a full report for publication which shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority within two years of the completion of the archaeological fieldwork.

Reason - To safeguard the recording and inspection of matters of archaeological importance on the site in accordance with the NPPF (2023).

When these points are addressed, and the evaluation report submitted, we can approve the WSI and update our conditions.

Kind regards,

Victoria

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