

## **Village Centre South (Phase 2), Heyford Park, Camp Road, Upper Heyford**

**20/03107/DISC**

**Discharge of condition 6 (public information board) of 19/02337/F**

### **Background**

Building 457 dated to the earliest phase of development of the airfield at Upper Heyford and was constructed in 1925. It is described in the Heyford Park Building Appraisal as disused former offices '*Principle block constructed from red, brindled brick with timber, pitched, tiled roof. Timber sub-frame to metal windows*'.

The building made a positive contribution to the RAF Heyford Conservation Area and was one of the few remaining buildings of the Trenchard era of the airbase. It lay within the Residential area of the RAF Upper Heyford Conservation Area.

Consent was granted for the partial demolition of the building in 2016 (16/01000/F) with the retention of the façade and for the demolition of the façade of the building in 2019 (19/02337/F) (against the advice of Historic England and Cherwell District Council's Senior Conservation Officer and Senior Economic Growth Officer).

The following condition was added to the decision notice

### **Condition 6**

*Within one calendar month of development commencing, details of a public information board to be provided on the site displaying information about the history of Building 457 and the area surrounding the former Parade Ground to the south, shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved information board shall be installed by the end of the first planting season following commencement of the development and retained and maintained as such thereafter.*

*Reason : To promote understanding of the heritage of the site and surrounding area, to comply with Policy ESD15 and Villages 5 of the Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 Part 1 and Government Guidance contained in the National Planning Policy Framework.*

The condition was presumably added to help mitigate the loss of the historic building (along with the recording of the building).

The content of the proposed exhibition board is very light on the building history and significance and much stronger on the social history side. Given that the public information board is to mitigate / compensate for the loss of the building it is recommended that further information (in the form of photographs and plans) are used of the building itself. The detailed information on the board should be derived from the recording required by condition 4. It is possible that two boards may be required – one on the building history and the other on the social history.

It is recommended that the board is placed in a more visible location – perhaps to the side of the main entrance to the open space from Camp Road.