

Application No: CM/48/21/RES

Archaeological evaluation has demonstrated that the site contains a considerable quantity of features and deposits of archaeological interest. The most important are a series of late Iron Age and early Roman trackways and enclosures apparently representing the remains of a very rare example of proto-urban settlement.

It will be impossible to develop the site without impacting upon some of these features and deposits, and conservation of significance must inevitably be a compromise between preservation in-situ by way of sympathetic design of the layout and through further investigation and recording in advance of development. Attempts have therefore been made to position green infrastructure areas over those containing the most complete complex of trackways and enclosures forming the north-south corridor towards the east end of the site and at the west end, thus in effect forming a series of archaeological preservation areas. I agree that the proposed layout, when combined with further investigation of the rest of the site (to be secured via the condition (13) imposed on permission CM/1/17/OUT), would provide a suitable conservation strategy.

Sustainable protection of the archaeological preservation areas would be best secured by establishing an acceptable management plan for them. This should include measures to protect them from significant disturbance, both during construction and in the longer term, and measures to enhance public understanding of their significance, such as by the positioning of one or more interpretation points.

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