

WSCC Archaeology Response

APPLICATION NO: LU/51/14/
Registered: 28th February 2014
Site Address: Land South of Littlehampton Academy Littlehampton BN17 6FE
Grid Reference: 503382 102856
Description of Works: Outline application for approval of access arrangements to serve 68 No residential units.

Summary:

No objection to the proposals on archaeological grounds.

The Littlehampton Academy site has been subject to archaeological investigation by trial trenching in connection with LU/255/10 – an application for a 1900 pupil academy school, access road, car parks, outdoor spaces and sports pitches. The location of the main teaching blocks for this 2010 proposal (which were trial trenched in October- November 2010) lie to the north of the present application site for residential development and the route of the access road (which was sampled at the same time) lies to the south west.

The results of the October/ November 2010 archaeological investigation revealed very few features: these were essentially post-medieval and indicated former field boundaries. The access road revealed some later medieval pottery which could have derived from domestic occupation on East Street (or rather its medieval forerunner) but there was no evidence of settlement features or structures. There were signs that ground levels had been partially truncated in the course of constructing the school. Given that the present application site has been already partly disturbed by the construction of school buildings and the largely negative results of the 2010 archaeological investigation I do not consider that a further archaeological response is required for the present proposal.

Comment:

Application LU/255/10 was archaeologically investigated by trial trenching between 11th October and 6th November 2010 by Archaeology South East. A report on the results was produced in June 2011. The results of the field work indicated that, unusually for the coastal plain, no significant archaeological features were encountered, that there had been localised truncation and that although there were some late medieval sherds at the southern end of the access road (north of East Street/ Fitzalan Road) there was no evidence to pinpoint any domestic occupation within the areas sampled. Nearly all of the few features identified in the trial trenching could be related to post-medieval field divisions and within access road

corridor there was evidence also of modern disturbance where a sewer had been constructed. One of the trenches designed to sample the route of the access road to the south identified the edge of the construction trench of the main sewer running on a N-S alignment. However, at the southern end of the access road corridor, and to the east of the alignment of the main sewer, there was evidence for later medieval pottery hinting at domestic activity and possible occupation on the line of the medieval predecessor to East Street.

In consideration of the previous archaeological fieldwork undertaken in 2010 and the limited or negative evidence for settlement, together with positive evidence of truncation or disturbance of modern date, I do not consider that further archaeological intervention is necessary in respect of this application.

Mark Taylor 31/03/14