20th March 2012

West Sussex County Council Archaeological Response to: -

APPLICATION No.: AWDM/0207/12

LOCATION: Shoreham College, St Julian's Lane, Shoreham-By-Sea, West Sussex

PROPOSAL: Small timber sports pavilion, safe access road, polycarbonate cover/ enclosure for existing external swimming pool, and covered play space with artificial grass

MAP REF: 523565 105174

RECOMMENDATION: No objection on archaeological grounds, subject to suitable safeguards to ensure necessary archaeological recording (planning condition).

PLANNING CONDITION: The Developer shall arrange for an archaeological organisation or appropriately qualified archaeologists to observe the excavations and record archaeological evidence that may be uncovered as a result of the development in accordance with a written scheme of investigation and timetable which shall be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority prior to the commencement of development.

Reason: In order to ensure that archaeological features and artefacts revealed during development works will be adequately recorded.

COMMENTS: The present Shoreham College building occupies the site of the former medieval manor house of the village of Kingston Buci. Around the manor house, in the Middle Ages, there are likely to have been outbuildings, enclosure boundaries, and refuse pits. Buildings of the manor, thought possibly to have lain not far south of the manor house, were said in 1684 to have fallen down and been washed away by the sea.

Former medieval buildings, ditch boundaries and pits may survive below ground as archaeological features.

New ground excavations for construction of the safe tarmac access road will involve removal of topsoil: the operations may expose, reduce or remove buried archaeological features. Construction of the timber sports pavilion appears unlikely to involve substantial ground excavation, as is the case with the swimming pool enclosure, new covered area and reinforced grass parking areas.

Ground excavations for construction of the safe access road should be observed by an archaeologist, so that any buried archaeological features may be identified, observed and recorded.

It will be important for the ground excavations to be carried out in such a way as to allow a level surface at the base of the cut, not tracked over by plant until any necessary archaeological recording has been completed. Bulldozers should not be used, as they unavoidably track over areas they have just cleared.

Provision for the observation by an archaeologist(s) (an archaeological "watching brief" on excavations) should be provided for through the use of a suitable planning condition.

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