West Sussex County Council Planning Services

Response to consultation (planning application): ARCHAEOLOGY

TO: Adur and Worthing Councils (FAO Eve Hearsey, Development Management)

Cc.: Development Management, Adur and Worthing Councils

DATE OF RESPONSE: 9th December 2019

REFERENCE: AWDM/1777/19

LOCATION: 39 Victoria Road Shoreham-by-Sea West Sussex BN43 5LA

PROPOSAL: Two-storey side extension to North elevation

RECOMMENDATION: No objection on archaeological grounds is raised to the proposals. Archaeological assessment and mitigation are not required.

SUMMARY:

- The application site lies within an Archaeological Notification Area (Historic Core of Shoreham).
- From current historical modelling, 39 Victoria Road is thought to have lain just outside the area occupied by medieval house plots of the new planned town of New Shoreham, between 1066 and 1349.
- It is still possible that archaeological features associated with the medieval town might have existed within the application site.
- However, the area of potential archaeological impact from excavation of foundations for the new extension would be small; therefore significant harm to any buried archaeological heritage assets, prompting a need for avoidance of excavations and/or other means of archaeological mitigation, is not expected.

COMMENTS:

These comments concern archaeological considerations only.

Sources of information consulted: desktop only: West Sussex Historic Environment Record (internal search 9/12/2019); Shoreham Historic Character Assessment Report (Extensive Urban Survey), January 2009: https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/land-waste-and-housing/landscape-and-environment/historic-town-characterisation/

The planning application

The application site lies within and at the northern edge of an Archaeological Notification Area (ANA), a non-statutory heritage designation: West Sussex Historic Environment Record ANA ref. DWS8591, Historic Core of Shoreham.

The northernmost part of the historic core of Shoreham boundary follows the grid of streets laid out in the late 11th century to the north of High Street for the planned "new town" of New Shoreham: the north-south aligned streets of Victoria Road and West Street, Ropewalk, and Southdown Road, and the east-west aligned cross street of Hebe Road were part of this medieval town street grid.

It is not certain that the whole of the medieval street grid was ever occupied by medieval houses or house plots, particularly the area furthest from the High Street, north of Hebe Road (Maps 7-8, Shoreham Historic Character Assessment Report). It has been suggested that the land between the present railway, Swiss Gardens and Victoria Road (which includes 39 Victoria Road) lay outside the area of medieval house plots (same source); but that land east of Victoria Road (opposite no. 39) may have been occupied by medieval house plots in the period 1066-1349.

After the late 1300s – early 1400s, when there was severe and destructive flooding south of the High Street, the historic core of the town is thought to have contracted, occupying only land south of the present railway.

Excavations for new foundation trenches for the proposed extension are expected to be trench-fill, and about 1 metre deep. If there are any shallowly buried archaeological features here associated with the early medieval town, their upper parts would probably be affected by the excavations, reduced or removed.

The total plan area of excavation – i.e. the area of possible archaeological impact – would involve about 14.5 metres' length of trench, with trenches not expected to be more than 1 metre wide.

In view of the present historical model that land north of the railway and west of Victoria Road was not occupied by house plots and houses of the medieval new town, and of the small area of potential archaeological impact arising from these proposals, there is insufficient reason to consider that this scheme would cause significant harm to buried archaeological heritage assets.

Therefore there is insufficient reason to consider that measures to avoid or minimise ground excavations, or measures to mitigate potential archaeological harm by other means such as prior investigation and recording should be required.

Accordingly no objection is raised to the proposals. Further archaeological assessment and mitigation are not required.

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