
MEMORANDUM

To: Clive Inwards
Planning Officer
Market Street

Our Ref: CWB3214

From: Duncan Coe
Archaeological Officer
Avonbank House

Your Ref: 08/00954/COMIND

Extn: 2534

Date: 12th June 2008

08/00954/COMIND: New conventional manufacturing rationalisation facility, plus associated landscaping including sustainable drainage features. Disabled car parking, plus 20 cycle parking spaces, plus associated construction related infrastructure – Atomic Weapons Establishment, Burghfield

The proposed development at the atomic Weapons Establishment, Burghfield, does lie in an area of archaeological interest.

The area to the north of the Burghfield site has produced extensive evidence for prehistoric and Romano-British activity, which has been revealed through aerial photography and archaeological investigation related to development activity, especially in relation to gravel extraction. The location of the site on a slight terrace overlooking lower lying land would have made this an attractive environment for early settlement.

Additionally the Burghfield site has a unique history as one of a handful of WWII Royal Ordnance factories constructed specifically to deal with the political and military events of the late 1930's. Physical evidence of this activity can produce important information about how the site functioned in this period.

In view of this background, I would suggest that the proposal could have a significant impact on any archaeological features which might be present. I would advise that no decision should be made to approve this development until the applicants have provided more detailed information on the archaeological impact of the proposals. This information should be gathered by means of an archaeological field evaluation carried out by qualified professional archaeologists working to a project design agreed by this office.

This approach is in line with PPG16. I would be happy to advise on the scope of works required at the site.

If you would like to discuss this site further please do not hesitate to contact me.

Duncan Coe
Archaeological Officer