



5 February 2025

Planning Department
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex
RH16 1SS

Planning Ref: DM/24/2504

SPECIALIST ARCHAEOLOGICAL ADVICE

Dear Hamish,

**RE: DM/24/2504 - Two three-storey rear extensions, a single storey rear extension, two hip to gable enlargements, a rear dormer, a single storey side extension, solar panels within south, east and west facing roof slopes, new timber front gates, render to walls and replacement window and doors frames.
50 Hurst Road, Hassocks**

Thank you for consulting the Historic Environment Consultant to Mid Sussex District Council on the above planning application.

No historic environment objections	
No historic environment objections subject to attached conditions	X
Further information required	
Recommend discharge condition	

The West Sussex Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the proposed development lies in an area with the potential for significant archaeological remains to survive, primarily those of a Roman date.

The proposed development lies to the west of a confluence of multiple Roman Roads running through Mid Sussex, as evidenced by previous excavations along their route, and denoted by several Archaeological Notification Areas (HERs DWS8607, DWS8680 & DWS8725). Surrounding this convergence of roads is an area of multi-period archaeological activity (HER DWS8193), including extensive Roman building remains on the southern side of Hurst Road, opposite the proposed development site (HER MWS7316 & MWS883) forming part of a Roman settlement site (HER MWS4415). A cemetery associated with this settlement has also been uncovered (HER MWS3204), which included the discovery of earlier Bronze Age (HER MWS891) and later Anglo-Saxon burials (HER MWS892), suggesting occupation in this area for a substantial period of time.



Additionally, the line of a possible Roman Road (HER MWS7478) runs through 50 Hurst Road on a north-south alignment. Recent excavations at 36 Hurst Road, to the east, have uncovered Roman quarrying activity and evidence for industrial activity (HER MWS15825).

Given the proposed development's proximity to the archaeological sites detailed above, there is the possibility that significant archaeological remains will survive on the site and be negatively impacted by the groundworks associated with the proposals, particularly the excavation of the new basement level.

Accordingly, I recommend that a programme of archaeological trial-trenching is undertaken on the site prior to any development or groundworks commencing. This would assess the presence and extent of any archaeological remains and inform on a programme of mitigation (if required). I therefore recommend that the following conditions are placed on any consent, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework, paragraph 218 and Mid Sussex District Plan policy D34:

RECOMMENDATION: Archaeological trial-trenching and excavation

- (i) No development or preliminary groundworks of any kind shall take place until a programme of archaeological investigation has been secured in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which has been submitted by the applicant, for approval by the Local Planning Authority.**
- (ii) No development or preliminary groundworks of any kind shall take place until the completion of the programme of archaeological investigation identified in the WSI defined in 1 above, and any subsequent mitigation has been agreed.**
- (iii) The applicant will submit a final archaeological report or (if appropriate) a Post Excavation Assessment report and/or an Updated Project Design for approval by the Local Planning Authority. This shall be submitted within 6 months of the date of completion of the archaeological fieldwork unless otherwise agreed in advance by the Local Planning Authority.**

The work should be undertaken by an accredited and professional archaeological contractor and will initially comprise archaeological trial-trenching of the proposed extension footprints. Based on the results of the trenching a subsequent phase of archaeological mitigation may then be required, comprising archaeological open-area excavation, preservation *in situ* of identified remains, and/or archaeological monitoring and recording of groundworks, as appropriate.



An archaeological brief will be produced from this office detailing the work required on request and should be acquired prior to the production of a Written Scheme of Investigation.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

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Place Services provide archaeological advice on behalf of Mid Sussex District Council

Please note: This letter is advisory and should only be considered as the opinion formed by specialist staff in relation to this particular matter.

