

Heritage Statement

63 Balcombe Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 1PE

Introduction

This Heritage Statement has been prepared in support of the planning application for a single-storey ground floor side extension at 63 Balcombe Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 1PE. The site is located within a defined Archaeological Notification Area, and this statement addresses the potential heritage impacts of the proposed development.

Heritage Assets and Context

The property at 63 Balcombe Road is a residential dwelling situated within the urban context of Haywards Heath. The area has historical significance due to its proximity to archaeological sites of interest, which may include remnants of prehistoric, Roman, or medieval activity. The specific designation of the Archaeological Notification Area suggests that the site has the potential for buried archaeological remains.

A review of available historical records and mapping does not indicate that the property itself is a listed building or located within a designated conservation area. However, given the wider archaeological sensitivity of the locality, any groundworks have the potential to impact previously unrecorded archaeological deposits.

Extensive work was carried out when the property was built, including foundations and drainage works, and no artefacts were removed from all the extensive previous works. Given this history, it is concluded that the minor works proposed will not have any impact on any sensitive or archaeological material.

Assessment of Impact

The proposed single-storey side extension will involve limited excavation for foundations and associated infrastructure. Given that the development is relatively small in scale and confined to the immediate curtilage of an existing dwelling, the potential for significant disturbance to archaeological remains is considered low.

However, should any archaeological remains be encountered during the construction process, appropriate mitigation measures will be followed, such as ceasing work and notifying the relevant authorities, including the West Sussex County Council Archaeology Team.

Conclusion

In summary, the proposed extension at 63 Balcombe Road is not expected to significantly impact any known heritage assets. The development is sympathetic to the existing residential setting, and the potential for harm to archaeological remains is considered minimal. Nonetheless, the applicant acknowledges the archaeological designation of the area and is prepared to comply with any reasonable conditions set by the local planning authority to ensure the protection of potential heritage assets.