

HE9 - Archaeological Evaluation

Where development proposals affect sites of known or suspected archaeological importance, an archaeological assessment to be submitted prior to the determination of a planning application will be required. Planning permission will not be granted without adequate assessment of the nature, extent and significance of the remains present and the degree to which the proposed development is likely to affect them.

Sites of known archaeological importance will be protected. When development affecting such sites is acceptable in principle, mitigation of damage must be ensured and the preservation of the remains in situ is a preferred solution. When in situ preservation is not justified, the developer will be required to make adequate provision for excavation and recording before and during development.

14.39 *In accordance with PPG16, the planning authority will require sufficient information from applicants to assess the potential impact of their proposals on any archaeological remains and their settings. This will enable informed planning decisions to be taken. In some cases, an archaeological assessment will be required which may comprise a desk-based study, or fieldwork, including geophysical survey and limited trial trenching. To avoid potential delays in determining planning applications, developers are strongly recommended to include, as part of site feasibility research, an initial investigation to establish whether the site in question is known to contain or likely to contain any archaeological remains. SMR staff check all planning applications against the record in order to determine their potential effect on Scheduled Monuments or sites of archaeological importance and will*

advise the planning authority of the appropriate course of action.

14.40 *Developers are therefore advised to consult the SMR at an early stage when considering development proposals to discuss the potential archaeological implications. Developers may wish to commission a professional archaeological consultant to undertake this consultation on their behalf. This early liaison allows developers to make financial and timescale provision for any archaeological requirements.*

14.41 *Where development sites are shown to contain significant archaeological remains which would be adversely affected, the planning authority will need to be satisfied that adequate mitigation measures will be implemented. The preferred option for important archaeological remains is preservation in situ; this may be achieved by modification of proposals, where appropriate, for example changes in site layout or redesign of foundation construction.*

14.42 *Where the preservation of the site in situ is not feasible, evidence will be required to demonstrate that the developer has made appropriate and satisfactory provision for the recording of the remains, in consultation with officers of the SMR who will advise the planning authority. Preservation by record can take place either in advance of or during development and may involve full excavation followed by post-excavation analysis and publication of results. Planning conditions or legal agreements will be used to secure this work.*