Other Archaeological Remains

- 4.169 The Country Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) contains information on both scheduled and unscheduled archaeological sites of national, regional and local importance as well as areas of archaeological potential. The SMR is continually being updated as sites are reassessed and new finds are made. Developers need to be aware that archaeological remains, including fossil spoil deposits, such as peat, river wash gravels and other alluvial soils, can occur almost anywhere and that the true nature and importance of remains cannot be established without appropriate archaeological evaluation.
- 4.170 Applications for development affecting sites of known or potential archaeological interest should be accompanied by an archaeological evaluation in order for the District Council to make a reasonable and informed decision. Such an investigation could take the form of a desk top study or a field evaluation and be carried out in accordance with detailed advice contained in Paragraphs 21 and 22 of PPG16 (Archaeology and Planning). 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.
- 4.171 Where the Council decides that development affecting archaeological remains should proceed, and in situ preservation is not justified, the Council will wish to satisfy itself that the developer has made appropriate and satisfactory provision for the excavation and recording of the archaeology either through a planning condition or voluntary legal agreement. However, there may be very rare occasions when the presence of archaeological remains only becomes apparent once development has commenced. Developers may wish to insure themselves against the risk of a substantial loss while safeguarding archaeological remains unexpectedly discovered on site.

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- (A) Where development proposals affect sites of known or possible archaeological interest, the District Council will require an archaeological assessment/evaluation to be submitted as part of the planning application.
- (B) Where development affecting archaeological remains is acceptable in principle, the Council will require that archaeological remains are preserved in situ through careful design and layout of new development.
- (C) Where preservation in situ is not justified, the Council will require that arrangements are made by the developer to ensure that adequate time and resources are available to allow archaeological investigation and recording by a competent archaeological organisation prior to or during development.

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