

## WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL – PLANNING SERVICES

### Environment & Heritage Team – Response to consultation by County Planning

#### ARCHAEOLOGY comments

To: - [planning.applications@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:planning.applications@westsussex.gov.uk)

FAO: - Sam Dumbrell, County Planning

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**DATE:** 12th April 2018

**Consultation date:** 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018

**REF.:** WSCC/015/18/NH

**LOCATION:** Former Wealden Brickworks (Site HB), Langhurstwood Road, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 4QD

**PROPOSAL:** Recycling, Recovery and Renewable Energy Facility and Ancillary Infrastructure

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:** No objection on archaeological grounds is made to the proposals, subject to suitable archaeological safeguards, as follows (two planning conditions): -

#### Planning condition (archaeology)

**No development shall commence within the site until:**

- a) **A written scheme of investigation for a programme of archaeological work which should include field survey and recording and the analysis reporting publishing and archiving of the results has been submitted to and approved by the County Planning Authority.**
- b) **The programme of archaeological work has been carried out in accordance with the approved details.**

**REASON:** To enable the recording of heritage assets of archaeological interest.

**POLICY:** West Sussex Waste Local Plan (April 2014), Policy W15(c) (Historic Environment); Strategic Objective 10: *To protect, and where possible, enhance the natural and historic environment and resources of the County*); Horsham District Planning Framework, Policy 34 (8) (Cultural Heritage Assets – archaeological research, investigation, recording and reporting); NPPF paragraph 141.

#### Planning condition (industrial archaeological heritage)

**An information board providing information about the industrial history of the site shall be erected on the site within six months of the date of this planning permission in accordance with a specification to be submitted to and approved by the County Planning Authority.**

REASON: To record and advance understanding of the significance of the former brickworks and to make this evidence publicly accessible.

POLICY: West Sussex Waste Local Plan (April 2014), Policy W15(a) (Historic Environment); Strategic Objective 10: *To protect, and where possible, enhance the natural and historic environment and resources of the County*); Horsham District Planning Framework, Policy 34 (8) (Cultural Heritage Assets – archaeological research, investigation, recording and reporting); NPPF paragraph 141.

**COMMENTS:**

- The submitted photomontages show that the design changes to the roofscape of the facility, lower and more rounded than that of the previous proposals (WSCC/062/16/NH), have reduced almost entirely its visual prominence in relation to the setting of the nearby Scheduled Ancient Monument (medieval moat west of Graylands Copse), a designated heritage asset.
- The proposed 95-metre high stack flue would still have a visual impact upon the existing rural setting of the Monument. But owing to existing tree screening around and within the moated island, and between the moat and the application area, that impact would be confined principally to one viewpoint of the moat, alongside its north-east corner.
- It is concluded that the visual impact of the proposals upon the moat constitutes less than substantial harm. On this basis no objection on archaeological grounds is made to the proposals in respect of visual impact upon a designated heritage asset (refer NPPF paragraph 133).
- The proposals will also involve direct archaeological impacts upon buried archaeological features (e.g. former brick kilns of the early 1900s and 1960s).
- Reasonable archaeological mitigation measures have been proposed, involving the investigation and recording of buried remains of one of the earlier kilns in the north-western part of the site (Planning Statement, 6.52, Environmental Statement, Table 14.1, Summary of Mitigation and Monitoring Measures (Construction Measures, Archaeology and Cultural Heritage, page 14-6).
- The mitigation measures (archaeological investigation and recording) should include buried remains of minepits (medieval/ early post-medieval iron ore extraction pits), if these extend northwards into the site from their known location adjoining the existing brickworks.
- Mitigation measures (enhancement of heritage assets) should include provision of an on-site information board carrying a short illustrated historical summary account of the early Warnham Brickworks and later Wealden Brickworks.
- Provision for the above mitigation measures should be made through the use of suitable planning conditions.

John Mills  
Senior Archaeologist  
Planning Services - Environment & Heritage Team  
West Sussex County Council.

[John Mills](#) | Senior Archaeologist, Planning Services, [West Sussex County Council](#) |  
Location: Northleigh House, Tower Street, Chichester, PO19 1RH  
Internal: 26445 | External: (+44) 033022 26445 | E-mail:  
[john.mills@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:john.mills@westsussex.gov.uk)

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