

Application 137841/FO/2023 - Land At Downley Drive, Manchester - Consultation Response (Archaeology)

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To: Michael Pearson <Michael.Pearson@manchester.gov.uk>

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Good morning Michael

RE: Application 137841/FO/2023 – Erection of 5 storey building to form 52 residential apartments (Use Class C3a), with associated car and cycle parking provision, hard and soft landscaping, boundary treatment, access, servicing, and other associated works - Land at Downley Drive, Manchester M4 6BW

Thank you for consulting GMAAS on the above amended scheme.

The original planning application (Reference 130390/FO/2021) gained consent in July 2021, subject to a series of conditions. One such condition (Condition 6) was intended to secure archaeological interests and required an initial programme of archaeological evaluation via a 'strip, map and record' excavation, coupled with the production of a report that presents the results from the evaluation and an appropriate level of dissemination, all to be carried out in accordance with an agreed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI). A WSI that set out an appropriate scheme of archaeological evaluation was prepared subsequently by Salford Archaeology and, after its approval, was implemented during June and July 2022.

The fieldwork was targeted on the footprint of the former Titanic Steel Works, which documentary research indicated to be of particular historical interest as the site where a pioneering new approach to making steel castings may have been introduced in the mid-1880s. The archaeological 'strip, map and record' evaluation demonstrated that the foundations of the former steel works had been largely removed during demolition and redevelopment of the site in the 20th century, although some important evidence for the steel-making process was obtained from artefacts and metallic samples recovered from the excavation.

The archaeological fieldwork was completed in July 2022 and essentially 'sterilised' the application site of archaeological remains, although a finalised report setting out the results obtained from the archaeological work has yet to be submitted to the Greater Manchester Historic Environment, and an appropriate level of dissemination agreed, before Condition 6 attached to Application 130390/FO/2021 can be discharged in full. The production of the final report is well advanced, and Salford Archaeology very recently shared a first draft with GMAAS for comment.

In view of the above, the amended scheme set out in the current application will have no impact on archaeological remains and no further action is required.

With kindest regards

Ian



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