

TOPIC PAPER - HERITAGE

LAND SOUTH OF NORTHAMPTON ROAD, BROMHAM

Introduction

Work has been carried out to assess the historic environment of the site and its wider environs, in order to identify any potential effects that development may have upon heritage assets. Consideration has been given to both potential 'physical' effects upon archaeological remains, and also 'non-physical' effects upon the setting of heritage assets outside of the site. Assessment work has included desk-based research, site and settings inspection, use of LiDAR data and geophysical magnetometer survey.

Baseline Conditions

Both LiDAR and the geophysical survey indicate that the site formed a part of the medieval arable open-field agricultural land of Bromham. A very small part of remnant ridge and furrow earthworks remains in the north-east corner of the site. The geophysics recorded the alignment of a number of furrows, and it is likely that the subsequent field enclosure boundaries (as recorded from 1798 and through the 19th century) were based on the former strip and furlong arrangement. The geophysical survey also identified several fragmentary linear responses, which may represent former field boundaries, a possible trackway and pits. The alignment of these features largely suggests a later medieval or post-medieval date. No evidence for former settlement (of any period) was identified.

Earthwork evidence suggests that a medieval watermill was once situated to the east of the site, in the location of the former buildings of The Grange. This area has subsequently been developed for post-war housing. The evidence indicates that no earthworks or remains associated with these buildings extended to within the site (they were, rather, situated around the small stream outside of the site).

The Site does not form a part of the setting that contributes to their significance of any designated heritage assets. Similarly, it does not contribute to the limited significance of the former Bromham House parkland which lies to its north (this is not included on the Historic England Register, and has been greatly altered and developed in the 20th century).

Key Opportunities and Constraints

No key heritage opportunities or constraints have been identified (subject to the necessary mitigation and enhancement outlined below). The assessment and survey works have not identified a likelihood of archaeological remains in the site which would require preservation in situ, or otherwise constrain or influence design.

Necessary Mitigation and Enhancements

The NPPF requires that a 'proportionate' level of information is provided to allow the local authority to determine an application, which will be provided by the results of the completed works. As a condition of any approval of outline planning permission, further archaeological techniques may be utilised, including archaeological evaluation trenches (to examine further the boundary ditches identified in geophysical survey), and an archaeological watching brief. The scope and methodology of such works would be set out within a Written Scheme of Investigation and agreed with the archaeological advisor to the local planning authority.

Summary

Heritage assessment and survey work has concluded that development within the site would not result in any significant heritage effects, subject to appropriate mitigation and enhancement. The site's location, on the edge of the post-war development of Bromham, is in fact well-placed in order to avoid harm to the setting of designated heritage assets in the wider environs.