

Bishop's Waltham Society



7 Charles Hemming Drive
Bishop's Waltham
Hampshire
SO32 1QS

Liz Marsden
Planning Department
Winchester City Council
City Offices
Colebrook Street
Winchester
Hampshire
SO23 9LJ

19th March 2021

Dear Ms Marsden

**Proposed development at Malt Lane, Bishop's Waltham
Planning application ref. 21/00359/FUL - ARCHAEOLOGY**

In March 2018 we wrote to Simon Avery about the potential importance of this site to the early history of Bishop's Waltham (copy, without appendices attached).

We were therefore obviously pleased that Tracy Matthews (WCC's Historic Environment Archaeology Officer) insisted, in her 4th July 2018 consultee's report, that the lack of field evaluation was one of a number of reasons to refuse Planning Application 18/00170/FUL.

Now that such an evaluation has been carried out by Southampton University, it is clear that the area of the Palace's Outer Court covered by application number 21/00359/FUL does indeed contain important information about the late Saxon/early Norman history of the town.

The potential for undesignated buried archaeological remains has been confirmed by the evaluation trenches that were dug. These trenches clearly showed a range of postholes on the site, and only open area excavation will resolve these into structures and give the space to excavate the large pits down to the earliest levels. The Archaeology Report suggests that the postholes are Anglo-Norman, which fits with the 1960s excavations further west.

The planned development would comprehensively destroy all archaeology under the northern residential block because undercroft parking is proposed with a large sunken area next to it. Much of the earliest archaeology was found at around 1m below ground, and no trace of this would be preserved under the current plans. We therefore consider it vitally important for the whole area to be excavated, by archaeologists, once the buildings on the site have been cleared so that these clues to the town's important early history can be fully recorded and properly understood. To lose the evidence without trying to record it and then seeking to interpret it would, frankly, be unforgiveable.

We sincerely hope therefore that a full archaeological excavation will be a precondition for any approval of this application.

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Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tony Kippenberger', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tony Kippenberger
Chairman
Bishop's Waltham Society

cc by email: Tracy Matthews, Penny Copeland (Registrar Bishop's Waltham Museum Trust)