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MOOR PARK
GOLF CLUB

09/0216
THREE RIVERS
PLANNING DEPT

19 FEB 2009
PLANNING DEPT

Proposed New Practice Ground

Archaeological Implications (09 February 2009)

Taking into account the government guidelines on archaeology and planning (PPG16) this summary report includes available archaeological, topographical and land use information in order to expose the archaeological implications for the proposed development.

The site of the proposed new practice ground is outlined on the map (annex No. 13 to the design and access statement). The site lies within Moor Park, a Grade II* (No.G1122) designated Park and Garden of Special Historic Interest. It is located within a medieval deer park (Historic Environment Record No.4134). It is close to the Moor Park eighteenth century Mansion. The anticipated works will respect the guidance outlined by Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 (PPG15) 1994.

The geology of the site is described in the British Geological Survey Sheet 255 as being Glacial Sand and Gravel over London Clay. There are no topographical or geological anomalies such as watercourse or naturally occurring bodies of water known within the vicinity of the study site.

A great deal has been written regarding the Archaeological and Historical Background of Moor Park. Several finds have derived from a circular earthwork known as Bathend Clump which lies c 1000m south of the proposed site. Some 150m West of the proposed site are also areas of Archaeological interest while 400m east lies the site of a Roman Villa (scheduled monument No 69). Finds such as Prehistoric stone implements, Neolithic earthworks, and Roman artefacts are associated with these areas. However, Lancelot "Capability" Brown is reported to have moved a large amount of soil when landscaping the gardens (c 1750) hence the precise origin of these finds is questionable. A Roman road has been located to the west (Viatores 165). It is thought that potential for the Roman period is moderate since agricultural activity and land division was more likely than settlement at that time.

The manorial origins date back to 1182 when it was given to Adam Agnu by the abbot of St Albans. King Edward IV seized the Moor estate from George Nevill, Archbishop of York (c1480) who enclosed the estate (approx. 270 ha) as a deer park. Although thirteenth and fourteenth century pottery has been discovered at Bathend Clump the proposed practice ground site would mostly have been used for agriculture and parkland and the likelihood of significant remains of the Anglo Saxon and Medieval period is low.

The SW edge of the proposed site where the teeing area is foreseen is located on the edge of what is believed to be the garden area. Approx 25m in front and to the left is located the remains of an "Aquarius Statue" which would have been situated there during the development of the gardens in the 18th Century. This area will be cleared and the statue reinstated and made more prominent. The proposed practice ground and related activities will not interfere with the statue.

The only building planned is for an open sided wooden structure (c 130sqm) to cover the teeing area at the SW extremity of the site. The remainder will be mown grass with a well managed woodland surround which will generally obscure the area as viewed from the Mansion. No "fill" will be brought in from outside and the character and appearance of the historic park and garden will not only be preserved but will be enhanced.

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Moor Park Golf Club is proud of its commitment to preserve the history and landscape of the area and would undertake to fully co-operate in any obligatory excavation that might ensue. A watching brief would be carefully carried out during any works associated with this site.

References Consulted:-

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