

Online Comment

Application H04-0538-22
Location THOMAS COWLEY HIGH SCHOOL SCHOOL LANE DONINGTON PE11 4TF
Proposal Creation of tarmac area

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For/Against Comments

The location of the proposed development is within an area of archaeological interest. Donington is a Saxon placename, and is at the terminus of the Roman road called Salter's Way, which may itself follow the course of a prehistoric trackway. It is mentioned in Domesday Book, where it is recorded as having salt houses. By the thirteenth century Donington had a church, two markets and a fair.

Archaeological watching briefs undertaken on groundworks for new extensions at the school in 2000 and 2001 recorded primarily post medieval and modern deposits. However, the work in 2000 also revealed a feature which was recorded as a grave cut, or more likely a well, possibly of medieval or earlier date.

The area of proposed development is less than 100m away from the recorded location of a cist burial with a possible cremation. A vault, two feet square, of hewn stone, containing an urn full of red earth, was found when foundations were being dug behind the historic schoolhouse.

However, in this instance the proposed development is stated to only involve disturbance to the top 230 mm of grass and topsoil. It is therefore unlikely that any below ground remains would be impacted, provided that these depths are adhered to during construction. On this basis we would recommend that no archaeological input be required.

However, if during the course of development any graves or suspected human remains or other archaeological finds or features are revealed the developer should contact this office as soon as possible to ensure that a record can be made. The developer and their contractors should be aware that it is an offence under the Burial Act 1853 to disturb human remains without a license from the Ministry of Justice, so all work should cease immediately in the event that any human remains are encountered.