



Historic England

Mr Liam McFadden  
London Borough of Brent  
Brent House  
349 High Road  
Wembley  
HA9 6BZ

Your Ref: 22/03045/VAR  
Our Ref: 212919

Contact:  
Adam Single  
02079733748  
adam.single@historicengland.org.uk

2023-03-07

Dear Mr McFadden,

TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 (AS AMENDED)  
NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK 2021

London City Airport, Hartmann Road, Silvertown, London, E16 2PX

Section 73 application to vary Conditions 2 (Approved documents) 8 (Aircraft Maintenance) 12 (Aircraft Stand Location) 17 (Aircraft Take-off and Land Times) 23, 25, 26 (Daily limits) 35 (Temporary Facilities) 42 (Terminal Opening Hours) 43 (Passengers) and 50 (Ground Running) to allow up to 9 million passengers per annum (currently limited to 6.5 million) arrivals and departures on Saturdays until 18.30 with up to 12 arrivals for a further hour during British Summer Time (currently allowed until 12.30), modifications to daily, weekend and other limits on flights and minor design changes, including to the forecourt and airfield layout attached to planning permission 13/01228/FUL allowed on appeal APP/G5750/W/15/3035673 dated 26th July 2016 which granted planning permission for; "Works to demolish existing buildings and structures and provide additional infrastructure and passenger facilities at London City Airport"

This application is accompanied by an Environmental Statement for the purposes of Environmental Impact Assessment under The Town and Country Planning

Recommend LPA consider assessment of heritage settings impact of additional aircraft movements Recommend repeat of archaeological condition, if granted



Historic England, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Cannon Bridge House, 25 Dowgate Hill, London EC4R 2YA

Telephone 020 7973 3700 Facsimile 020 7973 3001

HistoricEngland.org.uk



Please note that Historic England operates an access to information policy.

Correspondence or information which you send us may therefore become publicly available.

Thank you for your consultation received on 2023-02-13.

The Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) gives advice on archaeology and planning. Our advice follows the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the GLAAS Charter.

### Assessment of Significance and Impact

This office provided advice on the settings impact of the scheme to the unlisted George V Dock as part of our original advice on 2013. The LPA should further consider the impact on the setting of the nearby undesignated heritage assets, including the Royal Docks as a whole, by the proposed increase in aircraft movements in this application.

Historic England's Good Practice Advice in Planning note, GP3 ("The Settings of Heritage Assets") states:

*"The extent and importance of setting is often expressed by reference to visual considerations. Although views of or from an asset will play an important part, the way in which we experience an asset in its setting is also influenced by other environmental factors such as noise, dust and vibration from other land uses in the vicinity"* (GPA 3, 2017, p2).

As in 2013, I recommend that the applicants and the LPA consider the proposed scheme's noise and pollution impact on the significance and public appreciation of the nearby undesignated heritage assets in making its decision.

I was not able to find consideration of this issue in the submitted material. I would be pleased to comment on any studies on settings impact to the Docks and their industrial archaeology, if the LPA considers that one is appropriate to inform a determination.

The remaining advice on this variation application refers to the buried archaeological potential at the site only and its industrial archaeology potential, outlining a partial remediation of the heritage impact should LB Newham choose to grant this application.

As identified in the applicant's 2013 Cultural Heritage study, there is potential at the site for early prehistoric remains and environmental evidence to survive beneath the site. The proposals to remodel the dock and its remaining early twentieth century features will also affect built heritage with industrial archaeology significance.

If granted, I recommend that any consent reflect the archaeology condition secured in 2013. Archaeological fieldwork to manage the below ground impacts of the 2013 scheme is not yet completed and so I recommend that the existing condition be repeated in any new consent,



Historic England, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Cannon Bridge House, 25 Dowgate Hill, London EC4R 2YA

Telephone 020 7973 3700 Facsimile 020 7973 3001

HistoricEngland.org.uk

Please note that Historic England operates an access to information policy.

Correspondence or information which you send us may therefore become publicly available.



see below.

### Planning Policies

NPPF Section 16 and the London Plan (2021 Policy HC1) recognise the positive contribution of heritage assets of all kinds and make the conservation of archaeological interest a material planning consideration. NPPF paragraph 194 says applicants should provide an archaeological assessment if their development could affect a heritage asset of archaeological interest.

NPPF paragraphs 190 and 197 and London Plan Policy HC1 emphasise the positive contributions heritage assets can make to sustainable communities and places. Where appropriate, applicants should therefore also expect to identify enhancement opportunities.

If you grant planning consent, paragraph 205 of the NPPF says that applicants should record the significance of any heritage assets that the development harms. Applicants should also improve knowledge of assets and make this public.

### Recommendations

I advise that the development could cause harm to archaeological remains and field evaluation is needed to determine appropriate mitigation. However, although the NPPF envisages evaluation being undertaken prior to determination, in this case consideration of the nature of the development, the archaeological interest and/or practical constraints are such that I consider a two-stage archaeological condition could provide an acceptable safeguard. This would comprise firstly, evaluation to clarify the nature and extent of surviving remains, followed, if necessary, by a full investigation.

I therefore recommend attaching a condition as follows, should the LPA grant the application on balance:

Condition      No demolition or development shall take place until a stage 1 written scheme of investigation (WSI) has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. For land that is included within the WSI, no demolition or development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed WSI, and the programme and methodology of site evaluation and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works.

If heritage assets of archaeological interest are identified by stage 1 then for those parts of the site which have archaeological interest a stage 2 WSI shall be submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. For land that is included within the stage 2 WSI, no demolition/development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed stage 2 WSI which shall include:



Historic England, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Cannon Bridge House, 25 Dowgate Hill, London EC4R 2YA

Telephone 020 7973 3700 Facsimile 020 7973 3001

[HistoricEngland.org.uk](http://HistoricEngland.org.uk)

Please note that Historic England operates an access to information policy.

Correspondence or information which you send us may therefore become publicly available.



- A. The statement of significance and research objectives, the programme and methodology of site investigation and recording and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works
- B. Where appropriate, details of a programme for delivering related positive public benefits
- C. The programme for post-investigation assessment and subsequent analysis, publication & dissemination and deposition of resulting material. This part of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the stage 2 WSI.

**Informative** Written schemes of investigation will need to be prepared and implemented by a suitably professionally accredited archaeological practice in accordance with Historic England's Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Greater London. This condition is exempt from deemed discharge under schedule 6 of The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015.

This pre-commencement condition is necessary to safeguard the archaeological interest on this site. Approval of the WSI before works begin on site provides clarity on what investigations are required, and their timing in relation to the development programme. If the applicant does not agree to this pre-commencement condition, please let us know their reasons and any alternatives suggested. Without this pre-commencement condition being imposed the application should be refused as it would not comply with NPPF paragraph 205.

I envisage that the archaeological fieldwork would comprise the following:

### **Evaluation**

An archaeological field evaluation involves exploratory fieldwork to determine if significant remains are present on a site and if so to define their character, extent, quality and preservation. Field evaluation may involve one or more techniques depending on the nature of the site and its archaeological potential. It will normally include excavation of trial trenches. A field evaluation report will usually be used to inform a planning decision (pre-determination evaluation) but can also be required by condition to refine a mitigation strategy after permission has been granted.

You can find more information on archaeology and planning in Greater London on our website.

This response relates solely to archaeological considerations. If necessary, Historic England's Development Advice Team should be consulted separately regarding statutory matters.



Historic England, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Cannon Bridge House, 25 Dowgate Hill, London EC4R 2YA

Telephone 020 7973 3700 Facsimile 020 7973 3001

HistoricEngland.org.uk

Please note that Historic England operates an access to information policy.

Correspondence or information which you send us may therefore become publicly available.



Yours sincerely

**Adam Single**

Archaeology Adviser  
Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service  
London and South East Region



Historic England, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Cannon Bridge House, 25 Dowgate Hill, London EC4R 2YA

Telephone 020 7973 3700 Facsimile 020 7973 3001

[HistoricEngland.org.uk](http://HistoricEngland.org.uk)

Please note that Historic England operates an access to information policy.

Correspondence or information which you send us may therefore become publicly available.

