

What is being proposed?

Initial investigations identified some areas of archaeological remains near Worting Wood, Worting Road and adjacent to the Catern Crossroads, next to the A339 / Roman Road junction. But further investigations established that there are no significant archaeological remains near Worting Wood and Worting Road, although the proposals are to retain most of those areas as green space.

The archaeological remains at the Catern Crossroads were originally designated as a 'Scheduled Monument' by Historic England, the public body that looks after England's historic environment. However, trial trenches dug in these areas as part of archaeological investigations has established that they can be considered to be of local to regional significance rather than national. An extended period of liaison and discussion with Historic England has led to agreement that Catern Crossroads can be removed from the list of Scheduled Monuments. It is proposed that some of that area will be retained as green space or excavated with any relevant findings recorded and stored appropriately.

The Manydown site is near to the Worting Conservation Area. The Manydown application is supported by a heritage statement which demonstrates how the development aims to be sympathetic to the conservation area and ensure that substantial harm will be avoided. On the basis of feedback received, building heights in the area neighbouring the conservation area have been lowered and a buffer has been included. The application also demonstrates that the visibility of the site from the conservation area is extremely limited and therefore it is possible for the conservation area to retain its special character and significance. It is also important to recognise that the setting of the conservation area will itself change as the other parcels of land allocated in the Local Plan are developed. This application should therefore be seen within that context.

Why have we adopted this approach?

The approach to archaeology has been developed in liaison with Historic England. It has approved the de-scheduling application for the Catern Crossroads site on the basis that the areas of archaeological interest on the site do not have a national significance. This is supported by technical reports submitted with the outline planning application.

As the site is situated in close proximity to the Worting Conservation Area, a heritage assessment has been carried out to ensure that the development responds sensitively to the conservation area in line with planning policy. Following concerns raised during the pre-application consultation in regard to the proposed height of some buildings in close proximity to the Worting Conservation Area, some of the maximum heights have been reduced and the buffer along the northern boundary has been widened and enhanced.

To read the full information

See the following outline planning documents below on Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's website at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/manydownplanning

- Heritage Statement
- Archaeological Desk Based Statement

Get in touch

Call: **Freephone 08081 683 600**
Email: feedback@manydownbasingstoke.co.uk
Visit: www.manydownbasingstoke.co.uk