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Your ref: 21/01475/FULMAJ

Our ref: 21_01475_FULMAJ-LCC.DM

Date: 31st January 2022

F.A.O. Iain Crossland

Dear Ms Hayes,

Planning Application: 21/01475/FULMAJ

**Erection of 118no. dwellings (Use Class C3) with associated access, landscaping, parking and other works following demolition of existing building.
DXC Technology, Euxton House, Euxton Lane, Euxton**

The former Chorley ROF is recorded on the Lancashire Historic Environment Record as a non-designated heritage asset, PRN12869 as former elements of the ROF still remain. Amongst those are a number of the former administration buildings, perimeter walls and pill boxes (recorded separately as PRN36956) and rare items of street furniture.

The preface to Nevell, Roberts & Smith's *A History of Royal Ordnance Factory, Chorley* states that the book is not intended to be 'a detailed social history of ROF Chorley, nor as an extensive archaeological record of that site', and none of the former administration buildings have been the subject of any detailed recording (this sadly applies to the recently demolished Brisance House) nor the perimeter walls and the remaining defensive posts that can be found still surviving across the former site.

Heritage Archaeology's 'Historic Environment Assessment, 2021' suggests that the current DXC building could be one of the former ROF's administration/laboratory buildings, but with no internal inspection having been undertaken the nature of the survival of any original 1930s/40s elements remains unknown, as well as a section of the original Ordnance Factory perimeter wall is to be lost. Aerial photographs (google earth) suggest that this section of wall includes some sort of built structure on the interior (north side) of this wall; its presence on a 1960s aerial photograph suggests it probably is an original ROF structure.

The vast majority of the site was not recorded in detail prior to its demolition, with only the Group 1 buildings subject to any archaeological recording in 2007. Surviving elements of the ROF are now few in number but still considered to be of at least local significance. The DXC building (bearing in mind the limitations of the Historic Environment Assessment

mentioned above) and the section of perimeter wall/pill box are therefore considered to merit recording prior to their demolition.

If the council are minded to approve the application, I would advise that a condition, requiring a formal record to be created prior to any works commencing, is applied to any consent. The following wording is suggested:

Condition: No development including any demolition works shall take place until the applicant or their agent or successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of building recording, analysis and reporting work. This must be carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which shall first have been submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The programme of works should comprise the creation of a record of the building/walls to level 2-3 as set out in "Understanding Historic Buildings" (Historic England 2016). It should include, where relevant, a full description of the building/walls, inside and out, drawn plans, elevations and at least one section (which drawings may be derived from checked and corrected architect's drawings), and a full photographic coverage, inside and out. The work must be undertaken by an appropriately qualified and experienced professional contractor to the standards and guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. A copy of this record shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the Lancashire Historic Environment Record.

Reason: To ensure and safeguard the recording and inspection of matters of archaeological/historical importance associated with the buildings/site.

Note: Relevant archaeological standards and lists of potential contractors can be found on the ClfA web pages: <http://www.archaeologists.net> and the BAJR Directory: <http://www.bajr.org/whoseWho/>. 'Understanding Historic Buildings' can be accessed online at <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/understanding-historic-buildings/>.

This is in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (MoHCLG 2021) paragraph 205: "*Local planning authorities should require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible [Copies of evidence should be deposited with the relevant historic environment record, and any archives with a local museum or other public depository]*".

Yours sincerely

Doug Moir

Planning Officer (Archaeology)
Historic Environment Team