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Our ref:
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Mr A P Scurfield
Estates Surveyor
Tarmac Quarry Products (Southern) Ltd
2 Old Bath Road
NEWBURY
Berkshire
RG14 1JJ

9 December 1996

Dear Mr Scurfield

Mineral planning application site, Highworth : Archaeology

Thank you for your letters of 12th and 28th November 1996.

I enclose a copy of the relevant section of the Sites and Monuments Record map and a printout of the SMR records. The latter item is split into two sections, firstly sites which lie within the application area and secondly sites in the immediate vicinity. The second set of records are important for understanding the archaeological background and assessing the possibility of unrecorded discoveries.

I have also enclosed a brief for archaeological evaluation of the site. This has proved difficult because on sites of this type we nearly always use a multi-stage approach and we would not prescribe the details of each stage until the results of the previous stage have been made known to us. However, what I have prepared follows a standard approach throughout.

You will note that I have not suggested any field evaluation in the area of the Scheduled Ancient Monument. As this is a nationally important monument and protected under legislation, government planning guidance and local planning policy, ourselves and English Heritage would strongly object to its inclusion within the development area. It would be inappropriate to carry out field investigation on a site for which planning permission is unlikely to be granted.

I am happy to give further advice if you feel it would be useful. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely

Duncan Coe
Assistant Archaeologist
Libraries, Museums and Archives.