



Homes
England

Date: 22 July 2024

Our Ref: RFI4397

Tel: 0300 1234 500

Email: infogov@homesengland.gov.uk

[REDACTED]
By Email Only

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: Request for Information – RFI4397

Thank you for your request for information which was processed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

We recognise that since you submitted your request, a considerable amount of time has passed. We would like to apologise for the length of time it has taken for this response to be issued to you. Our handling of your request falls far below our standard and the timescale set out in the legislation.

On the 23 June 2023 you requested the following information:

[REDACTED]. You appear to have completed the excavation, but you haven't sent anyone from Oxford Archaeology to excavate the second half of the airfield? All the mounds and ditches are now being covered in grass.

Has the excavation come to an end?

When will the findings be shared with the local community?

I recently saw a employee/contractor driving around the site with a scanning, type device on the back of his vehicle. What is looking/scanning for? Will the findings be shared with local residents?

There have been lots of rumours that you are considering gravel extraction on the site before any building takes place. Is there any truth in the rumours?





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What is the next phase now that you've flattened the majority of outlying buildings on the site. You surrounded the site in Harris fencing, with the proviso it was temporary, and it would be removed once the demolition was completed. Fencing has been left in situ behind the garden boundaries making it difficult to cut [REDACTED] and maintain the weeds coming from the airfield into [REDACTED] When will it be removed? We have noted the fences have been removed from the majority of the airfield.

You subsequently requested the following on the 17 July 2023:

You surrounded the site in Harris fencing, with the proviso it was temporary, and it would be removed once the demolition was completed. Fencing has been left in situ behind the garden boundaries making it difficult to cut [REDACTED] and maintain the weeds coming from the airfield into [REDACTED] When will it be removed? We have noted the fences have been removed from the majority of the airfield. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Someone from the site would also come along and trim the grass to keep that under control too, but that hasn't happened in a while.

Response

We can confirm that we do hold the requested information. We will answer each of your questions in turn below.

[REDACTED]. You appear to have completed the excavation, but you haven't sent anyone from Oxford Archaeology to excavate the second half of the airfield? All the mounds and ditches are now being covered in grass.

We are seeking confirmation from the Local Authority that they are satisfied with the work which has been carried out to date and that no further work is required. Whilst there have been considerable delays in this respect, we are hopeful that these discussions will draw to a conclusion in the near future, enabling the archaeologists to finalise their report without the need to carry out further investigations. However, until the Local Authority's decision has been made, we are unable to cover the excavation areas with soil from the mounds.





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Has the excavation come to an end?

This will depend upon the decision of the Local Authority.

When will the findings be shared with the local community?

We propose to hold a display day for the local community once the archaeologists have finalised their report, with the opportunity to see the findings and talk to the archaeologists. We will be in touch with residents about this later.

I recently saw a employee/contractor driving around the site with a scanning, type device on the back of his vehicle. What is looking/scanning for? Will the findings be shared with local residents?

This work was carried out to provide greater clarity on ground conditions to enable the developer to formulate a suitable construction design. We do not, therefore, propose to share this information with residents.

There have been lots of rumours that you are considering gravel extraction on the site before any building takes place. Is there any truth in the rumours?

Homes England has no intention to undertake gravel extraction on the site.

What is the next phase now that you've flattened the majority of outlying buildings on the site. You surrounded the site in Harris fencing, with the proviso it was temporary, and it would be removed once the demolition was completed. Fencing has been left in situ behind the garden boundaries making it difficult to cut [REDACTED] and maintain the weeds coming from the airfield into [REDACTED]. When will it be removed? We have noted the fences have been removed from the majority of the airfield.

Homes England has now entered into an agreement with national housebuilder, Bellway Homes Limited, for the development of the site in accordance with the outline planning approvals already in place. Bellway are now preparing detailed plans and will consult with residents on these in due course.

The Heras fencing was installed to provide additional security which was required due to the demolition works and the archaeological excavations. It is a Health and Safety measure which was put in place to





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prevent anyone accessing the site and harming themselves. It will be removed once the health and safety measures are no longer required. However, some Heras fencing has been removed where residents have installed garden fences of sufficient height.

You surrounded the site in Harris fencing, with the proviso it was temporary, and it would be removed once the demolition was completed. Fencing has been left in situ behind the garden boundaries making it difficult to cut [REDACTED] and maintain the weeds coming from the airfield into [REDACTED]. When will it be removed? We have noted the fences have been removed from the majority of the airfield. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Someone from the site would also come along and trim the grass to keep that under control too, but that hasn't happened in a while.

As stated above, the Heras fencing will be removed once the health and safety measures are no longer required. The grass closest to the fencing is due to be cut the week commencing Monday 22 July 2024, with the grass between the Heras fencing and garden fences to be cut by the week commencing Monday 19 August 2024, although our contractor has advised that they may be able to do this sooner. We would be pleased to arrange for the cutting of your hedge from Homes England's land if you could confirm your address and would be happy to discuss this with you. Please contact [REDACTED] if you would like to discuss this further.

Right to Appeal

If you are not happy with the information that has been provided or the way in which your request has been handled, you may request an internal review. You can request an internal review by writing to Homes England via the details below, quoting the reference number at the top of this letter.

Email: infogov@homesengland.gov.uk

Information Governance Team
Homes England
Windsor House
6th Floor
42-50 Victoria Street
London

6th Floor
Windsor House
42 - 50 Victoria Street, Westminster
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0300 1234 500
@HomesEngland
www.gov.uk/homes-england





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SW1H 0TL

United Kingdom

Your request for review must be made in writing, explain why you wish to appeal, and be received within 40 working days of the date of this response. Failure to meet this criteria may lead to your request being refused.

Upon receipt, your request for review will be passed to an independent party not involved in your original request. We aim to issue a response within 20 working days.

You may also complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) however, the Information Commissioner does usually expect the internal review procedure to be exhausted in the first instance.

The Information Commissioner's details can be found via the following link:

<https://ico.org.uk/>

Please note that the contents of your request and this response are also subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Homes England may be required to disclose your request and our response accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

The Information Governance Team
For Homes England

