

Dr Martin Dearne comments

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On behalf of the Enfield Archaeological Society I wish to comment that granting Permission in Principle on small housing sites (Policy H2) could have the presumably unintentional consequence of damaging the city's archaeological resource. It is imperative that appropriate archaeological assessments are required before, and where necessary safeguards are put in place after, the granting of Permission in Principle. Many undesignated archaeological assets, especially outside the core of historic London, comprise areas that include small unused plots of land as well as already developed land and the former represent no less important elements in the historic environment than larger sites.

Whilst being supportive of the general intention of this policy therefore, we would be extremely concerned that not to include a specific reference to the necessity for prior archaeological assessment would be to invite the disregard of planning guidance as applicable to archaeology in other circumstances, lead to the destruction without record of significant archaeological sites and a consequent diminution of the established principle of having regard to the archaeological heritage in the determining of planning permission applications.