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Our ref: JGS/JCH00251/R/ii
Your ref: P/18/031/FUL

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20th June 2018

Dear Lisa,

**Re: Tregarthen's Hotel, Garrison Hill, Hugh Town, St Mary's -
application no. P/18/031/FUL – rebuttal to Historic England
representation 4th June 2018 – Regarding Archaeological Impacts**

Please accept this letter as further heritage information in support of the submitted application P/18/031/FUL. In particular I will look to address Historic England's comments regarding potential archaeological impacts of the proposed scheme set out in their representation of 4th June, 2018. To inform these comments, I have reviewed the applicant's Archaeological Desk-based Assessment (DBA), submitted in support of the application, and relevant historic and archaeological documentation on Hugh Town and the Garrison, and considered records of intrusive archaeological investigations in the vicinity of the isthmus section of the Garrison Wall.

It is recognised that in regard to potential archaeological implications of the proposed scheme, Historic England initially advised *'that a proportionate and appropriate scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording is required'* for the ground works associated with the scheme. This concurs with the findings of the applicant's Archaeological Desk-based Assessment (DBA) submitted with the application and represents the view of the applicant.

Historic England's advice to you is then confused later in the same paragraph with the statement that *'we would be unlikely to consider, in the absence of intrusive evaluation, that a 'watching brief' is appropriate to deal with the eventuality of nationally important archaeological remains being identified*

which may necessitate either further investigation and recording, or amendment of ground work proposals to facilitate preservation of such remains in situ'.

Firstly, although an archaeological evaluation of the footprint of the proposed Garden Cottages was not carried out (and pre-determination archaeological investigations have not been called for at any time by any interested party), archaeological monitoring and recording (a 'watching brief') was carried in 2015 by a ClfA qualified field archaeologist. This investigation covered six geo-technical pits set across the current garden (the footprint of the proposed Garden Cottage). This archaeological investigation, as reported in the applicant's DBA, identified no archaeological features, only a weathered granite surface below an homogenous layer of dark, humic garden soil of up to 2.5 m in depth.

It should be clearly noted that according to the Cornwall and Scilly HER and the schedule of archaeological investigations set out in Appendix 4 of Johns and Fletchers' 2010 *The Garrison, St Mary's Isles of Scilly: Conservation Plan*, the archaeological watching brief carried out in 2015 in the garden of Tregarthen's Hotel, on behalf of the applicant, represents the only intrusive archaeological investigation in the area of the potential glacis suggested to front the isthmus section of the Garrison Wall.

While the applicant's DBA acknowledges some potential for features associated with the Garrison Wall to be or have been present in the proposed development site, the document also notes that it is not clear that an engineered glacis was ever present [para. 4.9.4], that the best currently available archaeological evidence indicates that if an engineered feature, a glacis, were ever present in the site, it no longer survives [5.1.2].

The applicant's DBA not only concludes that there is no archaeological evidence for the survival of a glacis in the footprint of the proposed development, but also concludes that there is no substantive historical evidence that suggest that an engineered feature such as a glacis was ever present in the proposed development site [5.3.1]. The historical mapping set out in Bowden and Broadie's 2011 *Defending Scilly* often indicates that a ditch was present immediately fronting the isthmus stretch of the Garrison Wall. Beyond this no engineered feature is ever indicated. Some maps show the natural slope.

There is only one historical reference to the glacis. This is set out in Troutbeck's 1797 *Survey of the Ancient and Present State of the Scilly Isles*. He is quoted on the HER as noting that the glacis extends '*about fifty feet*' beyond the ditch. This, if accurate, would therefore include the footprint of the proposed Garden Cottages and, in fact, the whole site. It is presumably on the basis of this one antiquarian reference, and no other historical or archaeological evidence, that Johns and Fletcher state that '*a broad raised earthwork slope or glacis extended approximately 15 m beyond the ditch to facilitate a clear field of fire from both the top of the wall and the bastions*'

[para. 2.7.4, p.20]. They go on to note that no remains of the glacis have yet been detected.

It is noted by Johns (and others elsewhere) in his 2012 *Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Research Framework* that Hugh Town 'owes its origins to the construction of Star Castle and associated structures' [para 9.3.1, p.170]. The Council's consultation draft of their 2015 *Isles of Scilly Conservation Area Character Statement* notes that '*The historic (mainly C18th and C19th) core [of Hugh Town] extends from the ramparts and batteries of the Garrison to the west*' [para. 2.1, p.42].

Mapping and other historical references from the later eighteenth century indicate residential and other development within the area of the suggested glacis (15 m beyond the ditch) and that this intensified through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Through this time, with the military role of the Garrison extended into the mid twentieth century, there was at no time any attempt by the military to clear the buildings from the suggested glacis and maintain the alleged need for a clear field of fire **through** this area, including the proposed development site, rather than **over** it. It therefore remains unproven whether there was ever a glacis, '*a broad raised earthwork slope [...] extended approximately 15 m beyond the ditch*', associated with the isthmus section of the Garrison Wall.


In summary:

- If any surviving features associated with the Garrison Wall were to be present in the proposed development site, they would be likely to be of high significance;
- There is no archaeological evidence for the presence of any archaeological features in the footprint of the proposed Garden Cottages;
- There is no archaeological evidence for a glacis associated with the isthmus section of the Garrison Wall;
- The only intrusive archaeological investigation within the area of the suggested glacis was carried out in the footprint of the proposed Garden Cottages on behalf of the applicant;
- There is one antiquarian reference to a glacis associated with the isthmus section of the Garrison Wall;
- No historic maps mark a glacis; and
- If there was ever intended to be a clear field of fire through the proposed development site, rather than solely over it, this was not maintained from the later eighteenth century due to the encroachment of residential development adjacent to the isthmus section of the Garrison Wall.

In conclusion, I concur with the suggestion set out in the archaeological DBA submitted with the application and with Historic England's initial advice in their representation. Namely that the provision of archaeological monitoring and recording (a 'watching brief') of all ground works associated with the proposed

scheme represents a sufficient and proportionate response to the archaeological potential within the footprint of the proposed scheme.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Jonathan Smith'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and 'S'.

Jonathan Smith BA (Hons) MA PGCE PGDip MCIfA IHBC
Deputy Operational Director, Historic Environment