



25th June 2013

Louise Corbett
By email: Louise.Corbett@aurecongroup.com

Dear Louise

NEUS HYDRO: NEW SPOIL AREA

Our telephone and email communications have reference.

I have looked over the photographs of the area to be used for a new spoil heap as well as the aerial view presented by Google Earth (see illustrations below). The area appears to be characterized by similar gravels to those in the area that was mitigated for the construction of the canals. As such, it is likely that similar Middle Stone Age artefacts will occur there, but perhaps in lower densities due to being further away from the river. Later Stone Age sites are usually more intact and have greater research value. However, such sites are usually on sandier locations close to the river. It is my opinion that such sites are very unlikely to be located in the area of concern. Furthermore, the original survey for the project conducted by David Morris did not yield such sites in the general vicinity.

It is thus my opinion that a new assessment of the spoil area is not warranted and work there may proceed. However, the ECO should be aware of the possibility of finding stone artefacts and if any dense concentrations are found then these should be reported such that an archaeological inspection can take place. For reference purposes, the appended photographs show the typical artefacts likely to be encountered in the area (these come from the mitigated site closer to the river). Note their colour (due to the type of rock used) and the rounded facets caused by the flaking process. These features help distinguish stone artefacts from the naturally occurring gravels.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jayson Orton'. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jayson Orton

ACO Associates cc



General view of the spoil area (photograph provided by Aurecon).



Aerial view of the spoil area (yellow polygon) taken from Google Earth.



Artefacts from ZBBA (from Morris 2010 HIA report). Scales in cm.