



Alison Webster
Development Management
Gravesham Borough Council
Civic Centre
Windmill Street
Gravesend
Kent
DA12 1AU

**Heritage Conservation
Environment, Planning and
Enforcement
GT EPE**
Invicta House
County Hall
MAIDSTONE
ME14 1XX

Ask for: Casper Johnson
Email: casper.johnson@kent.gov.uk

16 January 2023

Re: 2022 1293

Demolition of the existing Cascades Leisure Centre and public house and redevelopment of the site to provide a new leisure centre with community pool, leisure water, cafe, soft play, 'clip n climb' facility, a six court sports hall, fitness suite, spin studio, 2 no. fitness studios, 2 no. squash courts, a new tennis/netball court, improvements to the existing play area, landscaping across the site and associated car parking.

Cascades Leisure Centre, Thong Lane, Gravesend, Kent DA12 4LG

Thank you for your letter consulting us on the above application.

The site lies within an area of multi-period archaeological potential and the application has been made with a useful Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (Wessex Archaeology) which sets out the known data about the archaeological interest of the site and surrounding area. The site has potential for below-ground archaeological remains associated with prehistoric and Romano-British rural settlement and the use of the site during WW2 as part of RAF Gravesend.

The site has been subject to past development, including its use during WW2, and these activities are likely to have impacted below-ground archaeological remains of earlier periods to some extent, reducing potential significance. Therefore, in this case I recommend that if planning permission is granted the following condition is applied to any forthcoming consent:

No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of

- i. archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority; and***
- ii. following on from the evaluation, any safeguarding measures to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation, recording and dissemination of information about the site, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.***

Reason: To ensure appropriate assessment of the archaeological implications of any development proposals and the subsequent mitigation of adverse impacts through preservation in situ and/or by record and the delivery of public information about the history of the site.

I hope that this is helpful and would be pleased to discuss any of the above further.

Yours sincerely

Casper Johnson BA (Hons) FRSA MCIfA FSA
Senior Archaeological Officer
Heritage Conservation