

From: [Ross Anthony](#)
To: [Planning Admin](#)
Subject: Application Ref: 20240946 - 26 King Street Gravesend Kent DA12 2DU
Date: 06 December 2024 10:21:22

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FAO: Lisa Fisher

Address: 26 King Street Gravesend Kent DA12 2DU
Application Ref: 20240946

Proposal: Removal of raised platform, Judge's bench and remaining court furniture and alterations to Judge's canopy. Construction of panelling between existing (retained panelling) and lower floor level following removal of platform. Construction of steps between court room and adjoining studio to address change in level following removal of platform.

Statutory Remit: Historic Buildings & Places (formerly the AMS) is a consultee for Listed Building Consent applications, as per the *Arrangements for handling heritage applications – notification to Historic England and National Amenity Societies and the Secretary of State (England) Direction 2021*. We are concerned with historic assets of all types and all ages, including conservation areas and undesignated heritage.

Comments: Thank you for notifying HB&P of the above application for listed building consent.

The former court was designed by was designed by Thomas Sorby in 1869, when in his then role as surveyor to the Crown for County Courts. Sorby was responsible for a number of police and court buildings across the country, as well as other ecclesiastical and civic buildings. The courthouse at Gravesend Court reflects elements of the gothic revival style that he typically applied for this building type.

While HB&P welcome introduction of a new use to this vacant building, we are concerned about the loss of the remaining courtroom fittings, which are integral to the original design and original use of this grade II listed heritage asset. The loss of the other furniture and fittings has already harmed the integrity of the original courtroom, however, the main dais and canopy allows the original form and function to be understood.

HB&P would encourage consideration of further options for a lesser scheme of removals. Subject to further design work, we would consider reducing the footprint of the lower dais (court reporters desk level) and reorganising the stairs, which would enable the retention of the judge's see and canopy, the main focus of the court room.

If council is minded to approve the application, a thorough digital recording should be required for submission to the Kent Historic Environment Record.

Policy: Chapter 16 of the NPPF (2023), particularly paragraph 205, that states: 'When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance'.

Section 16 (2) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 requires that, in considering whether to grant listed building consent for any works the local planning authority shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.

Regards

Ross Anthony

Case Work



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Historic Buildings & Places is the working name of the Ancient Monuments Society, a registered charity in England and Wales (no. 209605). It is one of the National Amenity Societies and a consultee on Listed Building Consent applications as per the *Arrangements for handling heritage applications – notification to Historic England and National Amenity Societies and the Secretary of State (England) Direction 2021*. We are concerned with historic assets of all types and all ages, including planning applications affecting historic buildings in conservation areas and undesignated heritage.