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**Heritage Conservation
Environment, Planning and
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GT EPE**
Invicta House
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Ask for: Casper Johnson
Email: casper.johnson@kent.gov.uk

10 November 2022

Re: 20221142 - WER Packing Supplies, Unit J1, Lower Road, Northfleet Gravesend

Erection of two storey side extension to existing factory/warehouse unit with mezzanine.

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

The application site lies within an area of multi-period archaeological potential at a point where geologically the Ebbsfleet valley meets the broader Thames valley and where the underlying deposits are Holocene alluvium above chalk bedrock and Head deposits. This location would have been a potentially habitable location in early prehistory before and as rising sea levels led to the deposition of alluvial deposits (with palaeoenvironmental potential) above former land surfaces. To understand the geomorphology, archaeological potential and what impact the proposals would have (and which I assume will comprise piled foundations) I recommend that the following condition be 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 and recording 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 or by record

If a geotechnical/ground investigation survey is to be undertaken by the applicant I recommend that this is subject to a geoarchaeological watching brief. I would be happy to discuss this with the applicant and provide a brief for the watching brief and/or for the recommended field evaluation.

Yours sincerely

Casper Johnson
Senior Archaeological Officer
Heritage Conservation

Gravesham Borough Council