



Planning Validation Team
Development Management
Gravesham Brough Council

**Heritage Conservation
Planning & Environment**
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent,
ME14 1XQ

Email: Jacob.warrender@kent.gov.uk
Ask for: Jacob Warrender

Date: 19/03/26

Re: 20260163

Proposal: Groundworks to provide tiered seating, an extended level hardstanding area adjacent to the river and improved access; hard landscaping including areas of hard surfacing and seating, relocated and new steps and ramp; soft landscaping including terrace, ornamental, shrub, tree and hedge planting; and installation of lighting,

Location: St Andrews Gardens, Royal Pier Road, Gravesend, Kent

Thank you for consulting us on the above planning application.

The site lies within an area of multi-period archaeological potential, and the application has been made with useful Heritage Statement (Portico Heritage 2026) that sets out the historic nature of the Gravesend in the medieval and post-medieval period. The document helpfully sets out the presently known and recorded heritage information for the site and surrounding area. It is recognised that the setting of St Andrews Gardens is entirely modern and has very little historical or associational relevance – being entirely happenstance following the wholesale demolition of the buildings that once formed this part of Gravesend's riverfront, however there is potential for below-ground archaeological remains which have survived the 20th century development of the site.

I would therefore recommend that if planning permission were granted the following condition is applied to any forthcoming consent:

To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded during development works:

A) *Prior to any development works the applicant (or their agents or successors in title) shall secure a programme of archaeological work comprising of an archaeological watching brief (including historic building recording) so that structural building works*

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and groundworks are observed and archaeological information is recorded. The archaeological work shall be undertaken by an archaeologist approved by the Local Planning Authority and in accordance with a Written Specification, which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

B) The archaeological watching brief and historic building recording, post excavation assessment, analysis and reporting shall be carried out in accordance with the agreed Specification.

C) Within 6 months of the completion of the programme of archaeological works a Report shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

REASON: To ensure that the archaeological interest of the site that would be affected by the development is properly examined and recorded in accordance with local and national planning policy.

I would be happy to discuss any of the above further and provide a brief for the necessary archaeological recording works.

Yours sincerely

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Jacob Warrender
Senior Archaeological Officer

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