

20241121 Land At Worcester Close

KCC Heritage

Thank you for consulting us on this application for the approval of condition 5 (Partial) attached to planning reference number 20230136 relating to Archaeological field evaluation works.

Condition 5 of 20230135 is as follows:

Archaeology

5. No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of an 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. 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 shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded in accordance with Policies CS19 and CS20 of the Gravesham Local Plan Core Strategy (September 2014) and saved Policy TC7 of the Gravesham Local Plan First Review (1994).

In my letter of 23 March 2023 in response to the planning application, I had recommended a condition for an archaeological watching brief.

In either case, the applicant has not submitted a Written Scheme of Investigation, but only a page from the desk-based assessment, submitted with the original application in 2023.

I still consider that a targeted watching brief of specific groundworks would be the most appropriate mitigation in this case. Are you able to ask the applicant to submit a WSI for a targeted watching brief and ask that this would be approved in this case, instead of a WSI for field evaluation?

I would be happy to discuss this with the applicant and/or their archaeological contractor to help move things forward. If that would be helpful then please do pass on my email - casper.johnson@kent.gov.uk