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20th February 2023

2023 0039 Abbey Farm , Church Street, Higham, Rochester Ken

Erection of a two storey side extension

Thank you for consulting us on this application.

Abbey Farm is understood to incorporate north and west walls of the frater of the west range of the medieval Benedictine Priory of St Marys. The core of the priory is a Scheduled monument (1010241) and Abbey Farm sits at the centre of the scheduled area in which most of the archaeological interest is below-ground. These structures and remains are important heritage assets and those within the Scheduled area are legally protected. The applicant, if they have not already done so, should contact Historic England to discuss the proposals and discuss the requirements for scheduled monument consent. Consideration will need to be given to any impacts to the surviving, upstanding historic fabric and to the nature and extent of all below-ground works. Further to discussions with Historic England, I would be happy to make recommendations about the type of archaeological work that would be required to mitigate impacts.

I would be pleased to discuss the above further.

Yours sincerely

Casper Johnson
Senior Archaeological Officer
Heritage Conservation