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**Heritage Conservation
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Ask for: Casper Johnson
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5 May 2022

**Re: 2022 0382 – The Charter - Land At Market Square And Horn Yard Car Parks
New Swan Yard, Gravesend, DA12 2EN**

Application for approval of condition 5b attached to planning permission reference number 2020 0343 relating to the archaeological field investigation for the relevant phase.

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

The application has been submitted with a Post-excavation Assessment (PXA) report by Wessex Archaeology setting out the results of the archaeological mitigation recording at the site. The work revealed extensive ground-level and below-ground remains of the 19th and 20th century use of the site. No evidence for earlier activity was recorded but it is thought likely that the extensive and repeated construction during the 19th and 20th century may have removed any evidence of earlier activity.

Based on the archaeological work carried out at the site I do not think that any archaeological remains have been revealed that are of such significance that they should be preserved in situ. It is my opinion that the record made by Wessex Archaeology and subsequent analysis and publication of the results, will provide an appropriate mitigation of the impact of the present development.

The archaeological investigations have provided important facts about the nature of development across the site and in conjunction with more detailed documentary analysis, will allow a more refined interpretation of life in this part of Gravesend, during the 19th and 20th century. I therefore agree with the proposals in the PXA for further analysis and documentary research and this work will also provide a useful example of how archaeological recording of 19th and 20th century remains can challenge and aid interpretation based on historic map evidence.

If the applicant has agreed funding for the final analysis and reporting as set out in the PXA, I would be happy for Condition 5b to be discharged.

In addition, and as noted above I have no recommendations to make for a requirement for preservation in situ of any remains at the site, therefore, Condition 5c could also be discharged.

I hope that this is helpful and would be pleased to discuss any of the above further.

Yours sincerely

Casper Johnson BA (Hons) FRSA MCIfA FSA
Senior Archaeological Officer
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Gravesham Borough Council