



Planning Team  
Gravesend Borough Council  
Civic Centre, Windmill Street  
Gravesend  
Kent  
DA12 1AU

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

Email: [Jacob.warrender@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Jacob.warrender@kent.gov.uk)  
Ask for: Jacob Warrender

Date: 02/12/25

**Re: 20250993**

**Outline application for the erection of up to 120 residential dwellings, public open space and associated works. Approval is sought for the principle means of vehicular access from Longfield Road and all other matters are reserved.**

**Location: Land Adjacent To, Longfield Road, Meopham, Gravesend, Kent**

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

The site lies within an area of archaeological potential associated with medieval and post-medieval settlement. Evidence for which includes the Grade I listed St John the Baptist church, which is situated c. 600 southeast of the development site and a record of Anglo-Saxon buildings within the general area of the church. In the wider area of Meopham there is archaeological evidence for prehistoric and Romano-British activity including evidence of Romano-British archaeology within the vicinity of the church.

Historical mapping from the 19<sup>th</sup> century shows that Longfield road (B260) is extant from the earliest mapped periods and is potentially significantly older.

Aerial photography from 1940 shows three structures located off Longfield road to the north of the site and these are not present within later mapping or aerial photography and are likely to evidence of military heritage. If archaeological evidence of these structures in present we would expect this to be preserved 'in situ.'

The Heritage Statement and DBA (Pegasus Sept 2025) incorporating a geophysical survey has highlighted that the site lies within an area of archaeological potential and are accepted.

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While the DBA suggests that potential for evidence of for archaeological periods is low, it should be noted that the lack of known sites dating to these periods within the local area may be partially due to the paucity of archaeological work carried out within the local area rather than necessarily a lack of archaeological sites. The Geophysical survey carried out on the site has detected several anomalies that are potentially archaeological in nature.

In view of the size of the site and the potential for as yet unknown significant archaeology, I would recommend that a programme of pre-determination trial trenching is carried out the site. This work can be targeted on identified geophysical anomalies and the area of the site to the north located around the presumably WW2 structures.

I hope the above is helpful and would be pleased to discuss further if required.

Yours sincerely

Jake Warrender  
Archaeological Officer

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