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12 July 2023

Re: 20230515 – St Andrews Gardens, Royal Pier Road, Gravesend, Kent

Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for works to facilitate the mooring of the historic steam tug Cervia at St Andrews Quay, Royal Pier Road, Gravesend, DA12 2BD, and its proposed use as a heritage museum under Use Class F1, in accordance with Section 192 of The Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Thank you for consulting us on the above planning application.

I welcome this positive application which would add to the heritage interest of Gravesend.

The wharf where it is proposed to moor the historic steam tug Cervia has archaeological interest, related to the wharf's historic development. The proposals would include some limited below-ground works for services and possibly to the wharf, and I therefore recommend that if the project goes ahead the 'groundworks' are subject to an archaeological watching brief. The following condition could be 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 an archaeological watching brief so that excavations and other development works are observed and items of interest and finds are recorded. The watching brief shall be undertaken by an archaeologist approved by the Local Planning Authority and in accordance with a written programme and specification, which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.***

- B) The archaeological watching brief, recording, post excavation assessment, analysis and reporting shall be carried out in accordance with the agreed specification and timetable.***
- C) Within 6 months of the completion of the watching brief a Report 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

I would be pleased to discuss the above further and agree a specification for the watching brief with the applicant's archaeologist.

Yours sincerely

Casper Johnson MCIfA FSA
Senior Archaeological Officer
Heritage Conservation