

20240139 Barn North Of Abbey Farm Barn Church Street Higham Rochester Kent ME3 7LS

KCC Heritage 17 May 2024

Thank you for consulting us on this application and my apologies for the delayed response.

The site lies within an area of multi-period archaeological potential but with particular interest as it lies within the probable precinct of the medieval Benedictine priory but outside the scheduled area.

No doubt your Conservation Officer will provide advice in respect of the potential impact of the proposals on the Church Street Conservation Area, in which the site is located, and nearby designated buildings and sites.

In respect of archaeological interest, development of the site could impact below-ground archaeological remains and I recommend that if planning permission were to be granted the following condition should 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 groundworks are observed and heritage assets with archaeological interest are recorded. The watching brief shall be undertaken by an archaeologist approved by the Local Planning Authority and in accordance with a 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.
- 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 in accordance with local and national planning policy