



Benacre View, Off Thanet Way, Whitstable, Kent

3 messages

Alan N

8 December 2022 at 08:59

To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted] Cllr Chris Cornell [redacted] Valerie Kenny
[redacted]

Dear CCC,

Please add this to my consultation contributions.

Dear Catsby,

Thanks for opportunity to comment in your consultation about possible future planning application on land south of the Thanet Way. I have previously corresponded with colleagues in your company about this.

I paste below an extract from my contribution to the council on the Whitstable elements of the latest local plan proposals:

Land South of The Thanet Way Policy W6. In 1910 major Territorial Army manoeuvres began with an implied invasion at Whitstable. The first day's major battle centred on Clapham Heights (an eminence overlooking the town). (4) This site is almost certainly the location of the centre of the battle (there was trigonometry point of the summit of the site supporting its value for views across the surrounding area). Newspapers gave accounts of the exercise, including suggestions trenches had been dug. (5)(6) Metal detecting will likely discover if artefacts remain on this site. A group of volunteer detectorists have found artefacts on two nearby sites dateable to these manoeuvres (and may be available to undertake further voluntary work).

Golden Hill Policy W7. The 1910 manoeuvres likely extended into this area. There is also the possibility of Second World War artefacts as the road probably had a temporary road block as buoys are still on the grass verge.

I submit it is important to ensure capture of as much evidence of our local history as possible before the proposed major developments destroy it. The town was in the 20th Century front line and these sites probably hold artefacts lost by those who strove to defend our shores. Field archaeology surveys at Whitstable Heights and land adjacent to the Thanet Way (CA/21/01696) appear to have been cursory without published results (as far as I've been able to ascertain). Both sites likely witnessed the 1910 manoeuvres but were not, as far as I know, detected. Much may already have been lost.

Alan Nutten



NCMD-6J2F-8L5D

1 See annotated aerial photograph and a screen shot from Google Earth attached. More images from other dates are available.

2 extract - "An extensive concentration of features located in the north and west of the site was interpreted as the remains of a hilltop settlement, probably part of a farmstead. Abundant ceramic material dated the settlement to the Earliest Iron Age (c.950/850 bc)." <https://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/arch-cant/vol/137/excavations-and-other-archaeological-investigations-thanet-way-1990-95>

3 Whitstable and the French Prisoners of War, Wallace Harvey, Empire Publications 1988

4 Grantham Journal 6th August 1910

5 The Faversham Mercury 6th August 1910

6 The Whitstable Times and Heme Bay Herald 6th August 1910

Is the Golden Hill element of the plan (W7) included in Benacre View?

The group I work with are currently busy on 2 conflict archaeology sites but we would still be very pleased to have permission to detect site W6 and W7 to determine whether artefacts remain from 1910 or either World War. Without detection I hope council will impose (and enforce) comprehensive archaeology requirements if any planning is approved.

I'm sure you are familiar with council's Heritage Strategy. Sadly, this says little about Whitstable's important 20thC history. However, one of its objectives is to "PROTECT: to preserve and enhance our heritage assets and their significance" and "To safeguard our heritage for the future, understand its significance and employ the necessary mechanisms to conserve and enhance this outstanding resource". In the context of planning on the scale hoped for protection will be limited to recording and safeguarding of artefacts – but I hope these opportunity will not be missed. The local museum provides a vehicle for sharing information on finds and displaying suitable artefacts (although space there will unlikely result in permanent display of 'routine' items).

Council's strategy says "Canterbury City Council is committed to ensuring heritage remains central to how we deliver our services, working across the organisation to collectively achieve our ambitions. We recognise the important role we have in providing leadership and bringing stakeholders together. We will also ensure our expertise within the council across a range of disciplines, from heritage specific skills and knowledge to fund raising and beyond, is effectively directed to support partners in delivering projects that meet the vision and objectives of this strategy."

I hope the heritage potential of your site(s) can be established and recorded (if appropriate) well before any development is considered.

Best wishes,

Alan

Katie Yates

To: Alan N

9 December 2022 at 11:37

Cc: [Redacted] Cllr Chris Cornell
[Redacted] Valerie Kenny [Redacted]

Dear Alan,

Thank you for your comments, which I will circulate to the team working on the proposals.

We have a heritage consultant who is preparing a heritage and archaeology assessment which will be submitted with the planning application.

It is expected that should permission be granted that it will be subject to a condition which requires archaeology investigation to be undertaken in advance of any commencement of works.

Kind regards,

Katie

Katie Yates
Associate Director, Marketing and Communications

[Redacted]

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Alan N [REDACTED]

9 December 2022 at 11:55

To: Katie Yates [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED] Cllr Chris Cornell [REDACTED] Valerie Kenny [REDACTED]

Dear Katie,

Thank you for your reply.

Please let your heritage consultant know I'd be happy to contribute my research if s/he would like it. I'd also be keen to take part in any field survey (as a free of charge volunteer ... obviously!).

Season's felicitations,

Alan

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Dear CCC,

[Quoted text hidden]