

# Devon visitor attraction, billed as UK's 'oldest home', up for sale

Britain's "oldest home", in Devon, has gone on the market for the first time in 120 years.

Kents Cavern, in Torquay dates back to the prehistoric age. The freehold property includes UNESCO protected caves, which have been open to the public since the 19th century.

The property, caves and business, which have been owned by the same family since 1903, are being marketed by Bettsworths Chartered Surveyors at a guide price of £2-£2.5m.

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The caves have attracted in excess of 10m visitors from all over the world and the sale is said to "offer the chance to invest in the heritage and culture of the area". The caves are part of the English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark, which celebrates the geological heritage of the area. Kents Cavern, described as "one of the most important Stone Age sites in Europe", was formed over 2.5m years ago.

Matt Bettsworth, director of Bettsworths and agent for the sale, said: "We are delighted to offer this totally unique opportunity to the market. What a fantastic chance to purchase a very different but hugely successful freehold business with extensive assets, all in a fabulous location, minutes from the beautiful coastline of Torbay and South Devon."

The business is being sold with a strong financial performance record, and a team of staff. The sale includes the underground caverns, woodland trail, visitor centre and restaurant/cafe,

car park, surrounding land, and recently totally refurbished luxury three-bedroom holiday let or owner's accommodation.

The business also offers events such as weddings, cinema, Santa's grotto, underground theatre, yoga, corporate receptions and private hire.

The sale of Kents Cavern is expected to generate interest from investors, entrepreneurs, operators, the cultural heritage sector and businesses in the tourism industry. The current owners of Kents Cavern have expressed their gratitude to their customers and staff for their support over the years.

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