



KENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECTS

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**The results of an archaeological evaluation by trial trench prior to development on land adjacent
to Custom House, The Terrace, Gravesend, Kent DA12 2BW**

**Planning Reference 20210757 (Gravesend Borough Council)
NGR 565194/174318
March 2024**

**Tim Allen
for
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The results of an archaeological evaluation by trial trench prior to development on land adjacent to Custom House, The Terrace, Gravesend, Kent DA12 2BW

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1) Introduction and planning background

In January 2024 Kent Archaeological Projects (KAP) was instructed by Mr Michael Keckes of Mile Property Group Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land to be impacted on by groundworks associated with a development described in Gravesham Borough Council Planning Application 20210757 as follows:

The demolition of the southern part of the workshop building and existing corridor link at first floor level between Custom House and the outbuildings and conversion of Custom House, the coach house and outbuildings to include extensions, the Old Boathouse and the Boathouse with external alterations and erection of a new three-storey building to provide 27 residential units (6 x 1 bed, 15 x 2 bed and 6 x 3 bed) with associated landscaping and parking.

The development is due to take place on land for the most part north of Custom House, The Terrace, Gravesend, and south of a substantial concrete revetment and embankment separating the site from the River Thames (see **Figs A, B, 1 & 2 below**).

The Custom House, which is a Grade II Listed Building lying adjacent and north of the eastern end of The Terrace, was built in the early nineteenth century. It and its associated grounds occupy an approximate area of 3,803m² centred on National Grid Reference TQ 6515 7437. The house was originally the base for HM Customs and Excise Service and was also the Customs Commissioner's main residence and office before being taken over by HM Revenue Customs. Its use for this purpose ceased in 2018, when the building was vacated.

The part of the site to be developed in terms of new build consists of a flat, tarmac courtyard, most lying between and south of two attached red-brick buildings to the east and two attached London-stock brick buildings to the east, the latter due for demolition. The northern most of those was probably the original boat house used by the HMCE excise men, the attached building to the south being a workshop of more recent construction.

The archaeological evaluation was preceded by and took place according to the terms of a specification written by Kent Archaeological Projects (March 2024). Archaeological mitigation prior to development in the form of an evaluation was required by Gravesham Borough Council as Condition 5 of planning consent for the development following recommendations made by Casper Johnson, Senior Kent County Council Archaeological Officer of the County Heritage

Conservation Group with consultative responsibility for the Borough of Gravesham. Condition 5 requires that:

No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been 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 Policy CS20 of the Gravesham Local Plan Core Strategy (September 2014), saved Policy TC7 of the Gravesham Local Plan First Review (1994) and section 16 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2023).

The evaluation took place on the 13th, 14th and 15th March 2024 and took the form of the mechanical excavation of five evaluation trenches under constant archaeological direction followed by manual cleaning and recording according to a standard specification for evaluation as issued by the Heritage Conservation Group of Kent County Council.

2) Summary of results

The evaluation exposed two sets of archaeological evidence. The earliest related to the early-nineteenth century reclamation of part the Thames intertidal zone prior to the construction of Custom House and its associated building complex to the north. The second related to subsequent riverside structural alterations including the construction of channels, probably undertaken to afford easy access to the river by boat, with one almost certainly providing such access by excise men from a boat house located some seven metres to the south

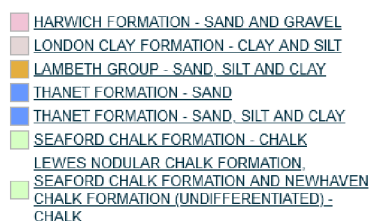
i) Landscape and geology

The site lies on what is now flat land located immediately adjacent to the south bank of the River Thames, from which it is separated by a substantial modern concrete barrier wall. It was previously noted during a site visit that the northern part of the site would have been dominated by riverine alluvial deposits before the construction of that wall. Consistent with that assumption, such deposits were exposed during the evaluation in the site's northern part, where deposits exposed in Trench 1 indicated that this area originally lay within the southern margin of the Thames intertidal zone.

The British Geological Survey (see figure below) shows the area as Chalk, with sand, silt and silt deposits attributed variously to the Lambeth Group and the Harwich and Thanet formations shown to the south east and west, with an outcrop of London Clay indicated to the southwest. However, in contrast to the alluvial deposits in the north part of the site, higher lying deposits exposed to the south during the evaluation consisted of Chalk, the surface of which was punctuated by linear hollows filled with mid orange-brown Brickearth, defined in the Geological Survey as Quaternary Head Brickearth.



Bedrock geology



ii) Archaeological and historical background

A search of the Kent Historic Environment Record (HER) was undertaken within a 500m radius around the site centre. This search returned 205 results for archaeological sites, finds and listed buildings. A full gazetteer of these results is presented in Appendix I of the desk-based assessment undertaken prior to the present work (KAP March 2021). The following

archaeological and historical background represents a summary of the HER data, documentary, cartographic and aerial photograph research, and a study of material held by the Kent History and Library Centre archives.

Prehistoric (700,000 BC to AD 43)

The KHER holds one record of finds of this period. Twelve Palaeolithic hand axes and 12 pieces of debitage have been recovered from the general Gravesend area (TQ67SW436).

Roman (AD 43 to 410)

The KHER records one site of this period. A settlement site was excavated by the Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit in August 1978. Extensive evidence of Roman settlement was found across the whole five acres and it is clear that it extends beyond the available area on all four sides. Numerous ditches, some very large, were found crossing the area and these probably define the limits of extensive enclosures containing wooden structures. Traces of *opus signinum* hint at the presence of at least one small masonry building somewhere in the area. The finds include quantities of local and imported Roman pottery ranging in date from the first to the fourth centuries. This includes material of mid-first century date and a Roman military origin is be considered plausible for this site (TQ 67SW110).

Saxon (AD 410 to 1066)

Two records of this period are held in the KHER. A watching brief and excavation during groundworks associated with the development of the Sensory Gardens site, Transport Quarter, Gravesend, was undertaken by Archaeology South East between 20th October 2010 and 22th February 2011. A 0.35m thick loose dark orange brown silty sand colluvium deposit, containing moderate charcoal flecking, with occasional artefacts and the partial skeleton of a cow, including a sherd of Saxon pottery from 5th/6th Century (TQ67SW642).

The second record is of a find-spot of on Anglo-Saxon 'Sceat' silver penny dated to between 1059 and 1062 (TQ67SE1241).

Medieval (1066 to 1540)

The KHER holds six records of this period as follows: An Anglo-Norman silver penny dated to 1135-1154 (TQ67SE1245); Milton Chantry (TQ67SE1107), founded c. 1155 (now a Grade II Listed Building housing a museum; the remains of Gravesend Blockhouse (TQ67SW5), built in 1539; the site of a manorial complex (TQ67SW233), built between 1362 and 1368 by Edward III (the complex consisted of a hall and king's chamber, a chapel, a gatehouse, two houses next to the gate and as ancillary buildings a kitchen, three houses with latrines, two ovens and a bakery, two granges, a bridge and a wharf); excavations at No.43 High Street, Gravesend in 1963 (TQ67SW131) uncovered five pits of varying depth in an area behind a cobbler's shop. The pits produced many vessels including storage vessels, jugs and tankards ranging from the thirteenth to eighteenth century in date, and the site of 81 High Street, Gravesend, (TQ67SW232), where medieval cesspits were discovered.

Post-Medieval (1540 to 1901)

The HER lists 105 entries for this period, all of which are Listed Buildings dating from the later medieval period to the early twentieth century.

4) Results

The overall stratigraphic sequence exposed in the evaluation trenches is both complex and detailed, as is evident from the context-based tabulated results presented below. A discussion of these results and their significance is presented in below.

Tabulated trench results

Trench 1	Dimensions: 16.62m x 1.8m Trench alignment: E-W Pre-excavation surface OD, 4.25m Figures 1 & 2, Plates 7 – 14		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth below present ground surface
101	Tarmac consolidation surface	Layer of compacted tarmac surfacing still in use	40mm
102	Tarmac bedding layer	Grey-black crushed re-compacted tarmac fragments, fine-crushed building rubble and fine aggregate gravel	40mm - 55mm
103	Mixed flints and mid orange-brown sandy clay-silt	Consolidation/levelling layer (re-deposited natural brickearth)	0.55m-0.75m
104	Tarmac consolidation surface	Earlier buried layer of compacted tarmac surfacing	0.75m-0.8m
105	Layer of crushed tarmac	Crushed/fragmented compacted tarmac used as a bedding layer	0.8m-0.83
106	Layer of redeposited chalk mixed with some humic soil	As this layer is 0.38m thick in the west and 0.18m in the east but its upper surface is roughly horizontal this is probably a levelling layer deposited prior to laying the overlying tarmac surface, later replaced by another (104)	0.83m-1.21m
107	Mixed chalk and humic clay-silt	Top fill of probable backfilled man-made channel 112, over 108 in the western end of the trench	0.57m-72m
108	Light-mid stiff orange-brown clay-silt	Probably alluvial fill in silted up man-made channel, possibly providing boat access to the river, over 109 in west end of trench	0.72m-1.00m
109	Thin layer of chalk	Probable colluvial (down-slope) chalk debris from layer 114, over 110	1.00m-1.03m
110	Very thin layer of orange-brown clay-silt	Probable basal alluvial deposit in Channel 112, west end	1.03m-1.2m
111	Chalk exposed in the base of channel 112	Probably natural chalk	1.2m+
112	Cut or bank edge of channel	Edge of Channel 112 indicated by a line of narrow wooden stakes (see Plate 13)	1.2m+
113	Layer of mixed building rubble, humic clay-silt and rock fragments	Backfill/levelling over a severely slumped area caused by the presence of two probable man-made channels in the east end of the trench, over 114, cut by 117	0.75m-0.98m
114	Compacted crushed chalk layer/floor and channel abutment	Almost certainly a deliberately deposited chalk layer skirting and contemporary with Channel 112, under 113, over 115	0.63m-1.10m+

	skirting east side of Channel 112		
115	Grey-brown clay-silt	Probably alluvial clay-silt filling a made-made channel as indicated by a line of wooden revetment stakes, which it lies immediately to the east of (see Plate 14). Under 14, cut by 117	1.10m+
116	Cut of bank edge of wooden stakes	Almost certainly the remains of the earliest man-made channel exposed in the trench. Extends approximately north-south (see Plate 14). Under and abutted by chalk layer 114, which is probably contemporary with Channel 112	0.9m+
117	Cut for or edge of a man-made channel	Almost certainly the remains of a later man-made channel providing access to the Thames from the boat house located some seven metres to the south. The cut intersects rubble backfill/levelling layer 113 (see Plate 9). Filled by 119	N/A
118	Mid yellow-brown mixed deposit of stones, sand and clay-silt	Probably, like 106, which it underlies, part of the levelling undertaken prior to laying of tarmac surface 104/105	0.5m-1.00m
119	Composite and laminated deposit of mid brown clay silt and gravel. Fill of 117	The compacted, horizontally banded nature of this deposit is suggestive of purposive rather than natural alluvial deposition, probably as the initial filling and levelling off of Channel 117 prior to the final process of levelling represented by deposits 118 & 106	0.75m-1.5m

Trench 2	Dimensions: 15.4m x 1.8m Trench alignment: N-S Pre-excavation surface OD, 4.99m Figures 1 & 2, Plates 15-17		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth below present ground surface
201	Tarmac consolidation surface	This layer of compacted tarmac surface that's still in use. Same as 101	40mm
202	Tarmac bedding layer	Grey-black crushed re-compacted tarmac fragments, fine-crushed building rubble and fine aggregate gravel.	40mm - 55mm
203	Levelling up/bedding layer	Grey-black crushed re-compacted tarmac fragments, bricks (in the north end), fine-crushed building rubble and fine aggregate gravel. Similar to 102	55mm – 0.20m
204	Tarmac consolidation surface	Earlier buried layer of compacted tarmac surfacing	0.20m-0.37m
205	Layer of crushed tarmac	Crushed/fragmented compacted tarmac used as a bedding layer, including a thin layer of underlying sand	0.37m-0.75m
206	Layer of compacted crushed chalk	Discontinuous chalk layer. Probably the upper part of a substantial programme of deposition undertaken to raise the ground level what had been on the tidal fringe of the Thames	0.75m-0.8m
207	Mixed layer of boulders, clay-silt, brick fragments, gravel and brickearth	Substantial levelling-up deposit (lower part of a substantial programme of deposition as described above)	0.8m-1.23m
208	Mid grey-brown alluvium	Probably alluvial (tidally deposited) clay-silt in the form of re-deposited London Clay laid down prior to the levelling-up process discussed above	1.23m-1.52m

Trench 3	Dimensions: 14.5m x 1.8m Trench alignment: NNE-SSW Pre-excavation surface OD, 6.40m Figures 1 & 2, Plates 18 & 19,		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth below present ground surface
301	Tarmac consolidation surface	This layer of compacted tarmac surface that's still in use. Same as 101 and 201	40mm
302	Tarmac bedding layer	Grey-black crushed re-compacted tarmac fragments, fine-crushed building rubble and fine aggregate gravel.	40mm – 0.24m
303	Concrete slab	0.12m-thick concrete slab/platform lying south of the workshop to the rear of the boathouse and adjacent the garden lying south of Custom House	0.24m-0.36m
304	Mixed light orange-brown gravel, sand and clay-silt	Commercial aggregate bedding/levelling layer for overlying concrete slab	0.36m-0.66m
305	Dark brown humic clay-silt	Buried garden/top soil (probably originally part of the Custom House garden).	0.66m-0.9m
306	Thin discontinuous layer compacted crushed chalk	3mm-thick patchy spread of compacted crushed chalk underlying buried garden/topsoil.	0.9m -0.93m
307	Mid-dark brown friable sandy humic clay-silt	0.3m-0.42m-thick humic palaeosol (old buried topsoil pre-dating the construction of the Custom House). Undifferentiated (graded) boundary between this and the underlying orange-brown sandy clay silt	0.93m-1.55m (max)
308	Orange-brown sandy clay-silt	Quaternary orange-brown sandy clay-silt (Brickearth)	0.1.35m-1.55m+
309	Bedrock Chalk	Exposed bedrock Chalk under Quaternary orange-brown sandy clay-silt (Brickearth)	1..55m+

Trench 4	Dimensions: 13.5m x 1.8m Trench alignment: N-S (approx.) Pre-excavation surface OD, 6.22m Figures 1 & 2, Plate 20		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth below present ground surface
401	Tarmac consolidation surface	This layer of compacted tarmac surface that's still in use. Same as 101 and 201	40mm
402	Tarmac bedding layer	Grey-black crushed re-compacted tarmac fragments, fine-crushed building rubble and fine aggregate gravel.	40mm – 0.15m
403	Compact mixed layer of crushed brick, brick fragments, patches of humic clay-silt and orange-brown powdered mortar	Levelling-up and ground-surface raising layer prior to making the courtyard surface associated with Customs House	0.15m-0.32m

404	Thin band of compacted crushed chalk.	One of three chalk layers deposited as part of the ground-raising groundworks associated with the construction of Custom House	0.32m -0.37m
405	Thin band of stiff mid orange-brown clay-silt	One of three this clay-silt layers deposited as part of the ground-raising groundworks associated with the construction of Custom House	0.37m-0.42m
406	Thin discontinuous layer compacted crushed chalk	Like 404, one of three such chalk layers deposited as part of the ground-raising groundworks associated with the construction of Custom House	0.42m -0.93m
407	Very thin band of stiff mid orange-brown clay-silt	One of three such clay-silt layers, like 405 & 409, deposited as part of the ground-raising groundworks associated with the construction of Custom House	0.93m-0.95m
408	Thin discontinuous layer compacted crushed chalk	Like 406, one of three such chalk layers deposited as part of the ground-raising groundworks associated with the construction of Custom House	0.95m -0.98m
409	Very thin band of stiff mid orange-brown clay-silt	One of three clay-silt layers, like 405 & 409, deposited as part of the ground-raising groundworks associated with the construction of Custom House	0.98m-1.02m
410	Mid-dark brown friable sandy humic clay-silt	0.3m-0.42m-thick humic palaeosol (old buried topsoil pre-dating the construction of the Custom House). Undifferentiated (graded) boundary between this and the underlying orange-brown sandy clay silt. Probably same as 307.	1.02m-1.35m
411	Orange-brown sandy clay-silt	Quaternary orange-brown sandy clay-silt (Brickearth). Same as 308	0.1.35m-1.55m+
412	Bedrock Chalk	Exposed bedrock Chalk under Quaternary orange-brown sandy clay-silt (Brickearth). Same as 309	0.78m (in south end) - 1.55m+ (in north end)

Trench 5	Dimensions: 7m x 1.8m Trench alignment: N-S (approx.) Pre-excavation surface OD, 5.47m Figures 1 & 2, Plates 21 & 22		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth below present ground surface
501	Tarmac consolidation surface	This layer of compacted tarmac surface that's still in use. Same as 101	40mm
502	Tarmac bedding layer	Grey-black crushed re-compacted tarmac fragments, fine-crushed building rubble and fine aggregate gravel.	40mm - 63mm
503	Tarmac consolidation surface	A now- buried layer of compacted tarmac surfacing	63mm – 0.25m
504	Tarmac bedding layer	Fine-crushed building rubble, powdered chalk and mortar and fine aggregate gravel.	0.25m-0.35m
505	Mid-light grey-brown homogenous fine clay-silt	Alluvial (riverine, tidally deposited clay-silt [probably re-deposited London Clay]). Abuts 506 (see below), which is almost certainly natural Quaternary Brickearth	0.35m- 2m in the north end, 0.6m in the south end
506	Mid orange-brown sandy clay silt	Natural Quaternary Brickearth, which was exposed in the south end of this trench, where its northern edge raised sharply from 2m deep to 0.6m over a distance of 1.3m, suggesting this once represented part of the old southern Thames river bank in this area	0.6m-2m+

Trenches 3 and 4 exposed higher-lying natural chalk underlying natural orange-brown brickearth in the southern part of the site and centrally-placed Trench 5 exposed the steeply rising north-facing edge of the brickearth, with fine alluvial clay-silt abutting and overlying it to the north (see **Plate 22**). The steeply rising brickearth in that trench was interpreted with some confidence as part of the Thames river bank before the construction of the Custom House and its ancillary buildings. Similarly, Trench 2, cut some five metres to the north, exposed natural brickearth underlying fine alluvial clay-silt (almost certainly tidally re-deposited London Clay). In this case the thickness of the clay-silt increased incrementally to the north, presumably where it extended further into the Thames southern intertidal zone.

The above-described deposits in Trenches 2, 3 & 4, along with those in Trench 1 (see below), all underlay multiple levelling-up dump deposits, the deposit sequences varying in thickness from 0.65m to 1.9m. The process of dumping and the compacting of a variety of mixed materials (including construction rubble, chalk, brickearth and crushed tarmac) eventually resulted in the creation of the current horizontal ground surface, which was recently subject to two phases of tarmac surfacing, one still in use. In Trench 5, made ground of 1.90m thickness was present as a result of (probably) later ground re-instatement following the construction of sunken red-brick building some two-metres to the west (the original cut edge of the sunken area was evident in the alluvial clay-silt as can be seen in the left (south) part of Trench 5 (see **Plate 21**).

A significantly more complex stratigraphic sequence was evident in Trench 1, where alluvial (riverine) clay-silt had been either cut into or, in one case, removed to create three channels, two skirted by and, where exposed, contained within wooden stake revetments (112 and 116, see **Plates 13 & 15**). The other (117), which was cut into earlier backfill deposits, probably led to the boathouse some seven metres to the south (see **Plate 9**).

The consecutive cutting of channels to provide access by boat to the river culminated with channel 117, which, as mentioned, post-dated the backfills of an earlier channel but was also eventually backfilled to create a northward extension of the expansive horizontal courtyard surface previously established to the south.

6) References

Kent Archaeological Projects, March 2021, *The Custom House, The Terrace, Gravesend, Kent DA12 2BW: Archaeological Desk-based Assessment (pre-planning)*. Unpublished client report

Kent Archaeological Projects, March 2024, *An archaeological site-specific written scheme of investigation (Part A) for an archaeological evaluation by trial trench prior to development on land at The Custom House, The Terrace, Gravesend, Kent DA12 2BW (Planning Reference 20210757)*



Figure A. Site location

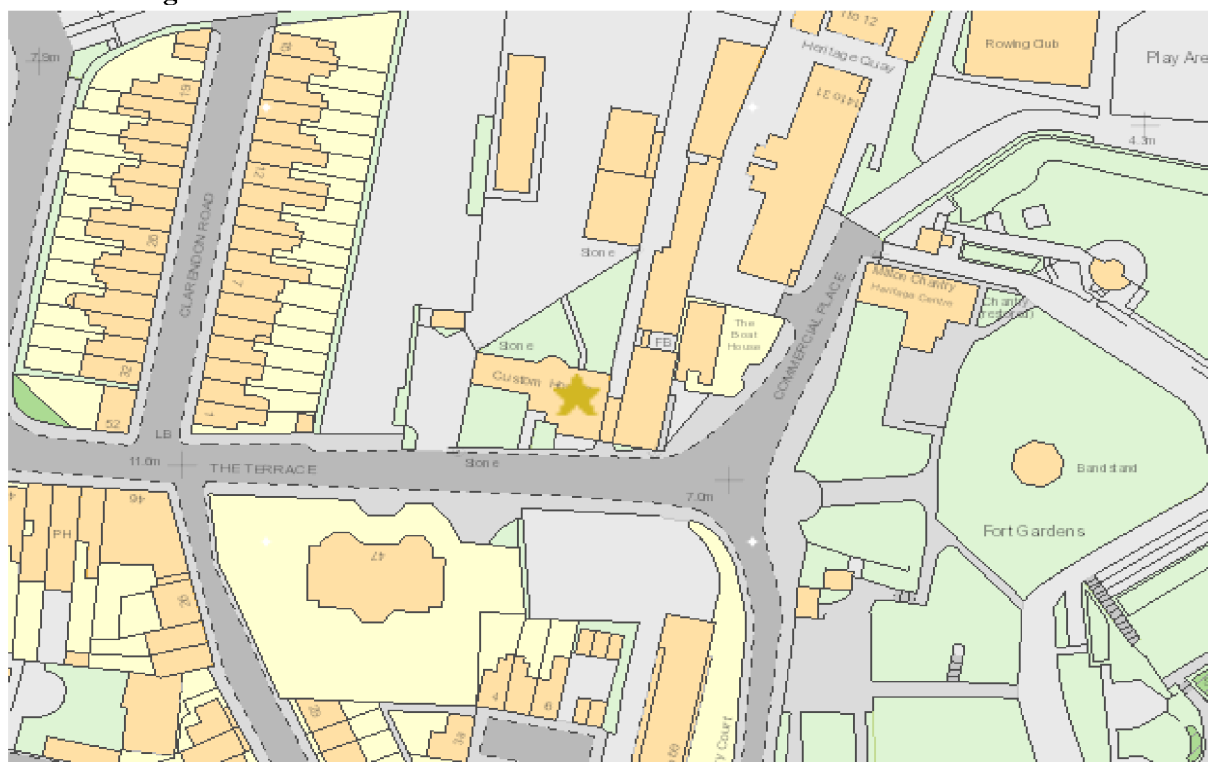


Figure B. Site location showing The Custom House and its surrounding grounds



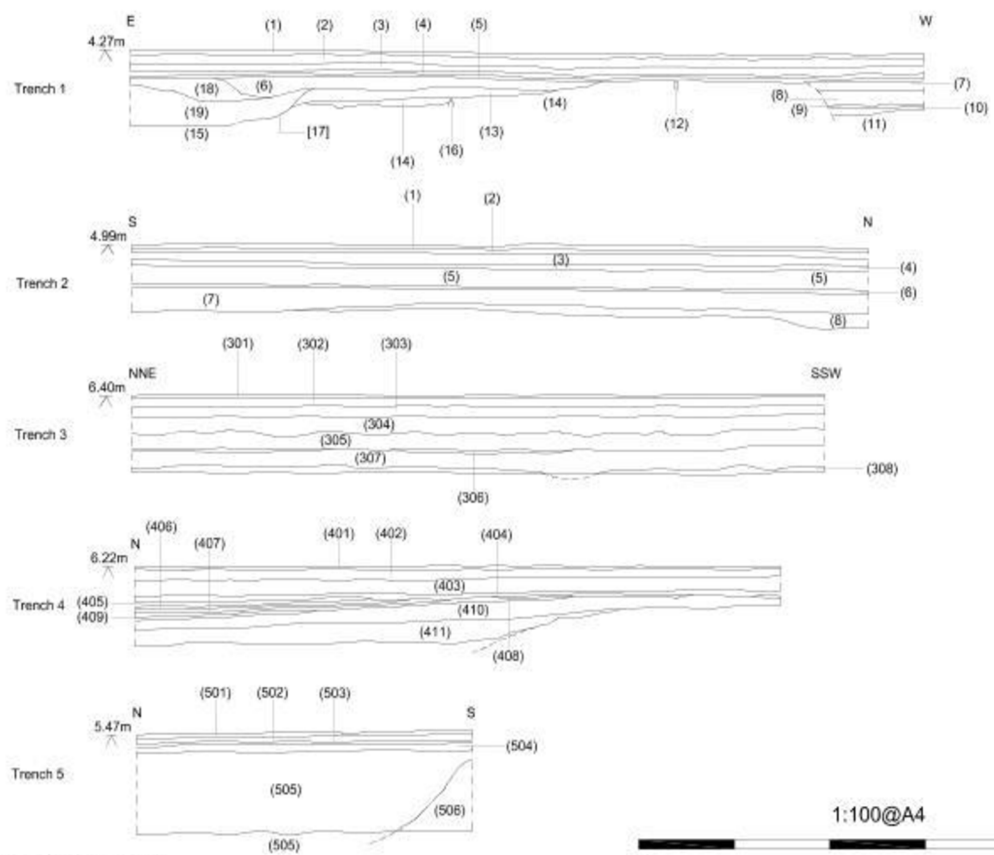


Figure 2: Trench Sections





Plate 1. The site looking north across the Thames towards the Essex coast in the background



Plate 2. The entrance to the site looking north (Custom House visible on the right)



Plate 3. The Custom House boathouse with blocked arched entrances and a later workshop to the rear and with Custom House in the background



Plate 4. The boathouse looking south with red-brick ancillary buildings to the right (west)



Plate 5. The red-brick ancillary buildings to the west (looking south)



Plate 6. The boathouse with a walled walkway and adjacent workshops and offices to the east



Plate 7. The commencement of the Trench 1 evaluation (east end, 1.4m scale)



Plate 8. Trench 1 (ear-west aligned in the northern part of the site) looking east with a 1.5m deep channel exposed in the background (assumed to provide access by boat to the boathouse shown in Plates 3, 4 & 6, a chalk floor in the mid-ground and two earlier channels in the back- and foreground (1.4m scale lying north-south over a functioning modern water main)



Plate 9. The eastern end of Trench 1 looking south showing the later water channel (on the left) cutting an earlier channel capped by levelling deposits to the right, which cut a chalk layer/floor adjacent to and contemporary with the earliest exposed channel in the trench's west end. The boathouse can be seen in the background (1.4m scale)



Plate 10. The western and earliest exposed channel in Trench 1 looking south showing the infilling stratified levelling deposits (1.4m scale)



Plate 11. Trench 1. The later exposed channel cut to the east by a modern water main (1.4m scale), looking south



Plate 12. Trench 1. As above showing a pile of rusted steel objects comprising part of the channel's backfill (1.4m scale), from deposit 108



Plate 13. Trench 1. The vestigial timber remains of the channel's narrow stake wooden revetments and the adjacent chalk floor/layer to the east



Plate 14. Trench 1. The chalk floor/layer cut in the foreground by a later channel (0.6m and 0.8m scales. Note the wooden staked revetment (116) underlying chalk layer 114.



Plate 15. Trench 2 (north-south aligned and cut at a right angle some 3m south of and perpendicular to Trench 1), looking south with natural orange-brown brickearth underlying a 1.2m-thick layer of made ground (1.4m scale)



Plate 16. The north end of Trench 2 showing made ground over alluvial (riverine) clay silt (1.4m scale)



Plate 17. The south end of Trench 2 showing finely stratified 1.2m-thick made ground of levelling/demolition and other building debris deposits overlying natural clay-silt, which underlay alluvial clay-silt in the north of the trench (1.4m scale)



Plate 18. Trench 3 (cut on an east-north-east/west-south-west alignment just south of the modern workshop, see Plates 1 & 3) showing natural basal chalk with brickearth striations under made ground (1.4m scale)



Plate 19. The 1.2m-thick made ground overlying natural brickearth and bedrock chalk in Trench 3 (1.4m scale).



Plate 20. Trench 4 looking south, cut on a north-south alignment in the south-west part of the site exposing natural basal chalk with brickearth striations under finely stratified made ground of levelling/demolition and other building debris deposits similar to those exposed in Trenches 2 and 3, (1.4m scale)



Plate 21. Trench 5, cut on a north-west-north/south-east-south alignment in the courtyard area west of the modern work shop area, exposed made ground with a maximum depth of 1.90m present here as a result of ground re-instatement following the construction of the sunken red-brick building shown in the background. The original excavation cut into alluvial clay-silt can be seen in the left part of the trench brickearth to the south. The made ground here was not evident in the opposite section (see Plate below) and was (1.4m scale)



Plate 22. The southern end of Trench 5 showing alluvial (riverine) clay-clay silt overlying/abutting natural orange-brown brickearth (1.4m scale)

8) KCC HER Summary Form

Site Name: Custom House, The Terrace, Gravesend, Kent DA12 2BW	
Site Address: As above	
Summary: The evaluation exposed two sets of archaeological evidence. The earliest related to the early-nineteenth century reclamation of part the Thames intertidal zone prior to the construction of Custom House and its associated building complex to the north. The second related to subsequent riverside structural alterations including the construction of channels, probably undertaken to afford easy access to the river by boat, with one almost certainly providing such access by excise men from a boat house located some seven metres to the south.	
District/Unitary: Gravesham	Parish: Gravesend
Period(s): Early nineteenth century and later	
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): 565194/174318	
Type of archaeological work: Evaluation (Gravesham Planning Ref 20210757)	
Date of Recording: 13/04/24 - 15/03/24	
Unit undertaking recording: Kent Archaeological Projects	
Geology: Chalk under alluvial (riverine) sandy clay-silt with frequent flint inclusions	
Title and author of accompanying report: <i>The results of an archaeological evaluation by trial trench prior to development on land adjacent to Custom House, The Terrace, Gravesend, Kent DA12 2BW</i> , T. Allen	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate). The evaluation exposed early nineteenth-century ground raising and levelling deposits laid over what had been part of the southern Thames intertidal zone to the north and part of the Thames river bank to the south prior to the construction of Custom House, its complex of ancillary buildings and an associated courtyard surface. The ground- and levelling process took place in two phases, the later one undertaken to extend courtyard northward over an area giving direct access to the riverfront by man-made channels, two with wooden-stake revetments and one (the latest) probably providing to a boat house located some seven metres to the south.	
Location of archive/finds: KAP Office	
Contact at Unit: Tim Allen	Date: 15/04/2024