



**Tollgate Service Area,
Northfleet**

**Archaeological
Assessment**

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On behalf of:
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Executive Summary

- S1 This Archaeological Assessment has been prepared by EDP for Rapleys LLP, to inform and support the preparation, submission and positive determination of planning proposals for Tollgate Service Area, Northfleet.
- S2 Whilst an assessment of the local landscape indicates a high presence of Prehistoric and Roman activity, the evidence suggests that the modern development of the site is likely to have heavily truncated or entirely destroyed any archaeological remains within it, such that its archaeological potential is very limited. Instead, any surviving remains would likely be restricted to isolated pockets of the site which have been subject to less built development, such as the north-west corner of the site, albeit this has undergone some level of landscaping associated with the construction of the A2.
- S3 There is a very low potential for the site to contain archaeological remains dating to the medieval to modern period beyond features relating to medieval and post-medieval agricultural practices, features relating to the 19th century Northumberland Bottom farm and cottage in the north-west of the site or features relating to earlier phases of the public house located within the main parcel of the site, all of which would be of no greater than low, local value.
- S4 It is concluded that the site contains no archaeological remains that would be of such significance as to warrant physical preservation *in situ*. At the most, the groundworks relating to the proposed development might affect heavily truncated archaeological features. In this regard, any impacts are not considered to be a determinative matter and instead, if further investigation is required by the archaeological advisor, this could be suitably addressed through an appropriately worded condition following any planning consent granted. The scope of any such works would be agreed in advance with the archaeological advisor.
- S5 Therefore, in terms of archaeology, the planning proposals are considered to comply with the relevant paragraphs of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF), and relevant policies within the Gravesham Local Plan.

Section 1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report has been prepared by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP) for Rapleys LLP (hereafter referred to as ‘the client’). It sets out the results of an Archaeological Assessment of Tollgate Service Area, Northfleet (hereafter referred to as ‘the site’) to inform a full planning application for new EV charging bays and a forecourt canopy charging area.
- 1.2 The aims of this assessment are to consider the available historical and archaeological resources for the site, to establish its archaeological interest and/or potential and to identify the nature and magnitude of any impacts upon that resource as a result of the proposed development’s implementation, in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF), as well as local planning policy.
- 1.3 In accordance with good practice and guidance, the information from desktop sources has been checked and augmented by the completion of a walkover survey by a highly experienced archaeologist in September 2022.
- 1.4 The scope of the report does not include a full assessment of significance of the existing buildings within the site, nor does it include an assessment of potential setting impacts to designated and/or non-designated built historic assets from the proposed development. It solely focuses on the potential of impacts to standing and buried archaeological remains, whether known or unknown (unrecorded) within the site.
- 1.5 Assessment of the existing buildings, as well as any wider ‘setting’ effects, are considered within a stand-alone Heritage Statement (report reference: edp7841_r001), which should be read in conjunction with this report to understand the full breadth of impacts on the historic environment resulting from the implementation of the proposed development.

LOCATION AND BOUNDARIES

- 1.6 The site comprises an approximately 1.3 hectare (ha) plot, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 564250 171213. Its location and layout are shown on **Plan EDP 1**.
- 1.7 The site is located on the southern edge of Gravesend, sandwiched between the former and current courses of the A2 and accessed off the roundabout interchange with the A2 and A227, which lies to the west of the site. The site itself comprises areas of hardstanding and the buildings of the former Tollgate Hotel. This comprises the original 1920s building located in the north-western part of the site along with 1970s accommodation blocks located to the east. These buildings are discussed in full in the Heritage Statement (edp7841_r001).
- 1.8 The site is defined currently by robust boundaries, particularly on the northern, western and eastern sides, which are formed by hedges. The southern boundary is defined by a close board fence.

GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 1.9 Topographically, the site is situated on a very gradual incline, sloping downwards from a high point at the south-east corner, which is positioned at a height of c.48m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), to a low point at the north-west corner, located at c.44m aOD.
- 1.10 Geologically speaking, the British Geological Survey (BGS) records the underlying bedrock geology as being of the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation. This is a sedimentary bedrock formed between 93.9 and 72.1 million years ago during the Cretaceous period.
- 1.11 A single superficial deposit is recorded by the BGS across the very western edge of the site, this comprises a thin band of Head deposit (clay, silt, sand and gravel); a sedimentary superficial deposit formed between 2.588 million years ago and the present during the Quaternary period.

PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 1.12 Prior to the current application, there have been numerous planning applications submitted to the Gravesham Borough Council (GBC) at the site address. Most pertinent to these proposals are an application in 2013 (GBC ref. 20131018), comprising demolition of the former hotel and erection of a petrol filling station, and in 2016 (GBC ref. 20160215), which equally comprised the demolition of the buildings for the construction of a petrol filling station.
- 1.13 In relation to the 2013 application, this was the subject of decisions to grant conditional planning permission on 15 January 2014 and subsequently on 22 July 2015, although was quashed on Judicial Review due to Green Belt matters.
- 1.14 The 2016 application was also resolved to grant on 07 February 2018 but was also subject of a legal challenge and remitted for re-determination. This was latterly appealed on non-determination although subsequently withdrawn.
- 1.15 Neither of these two applications identified that archaeological remains were a matter of such significance to prevent development of the site, and mitigation measures were recommended as a condition on any planning consent for both applications, in advance of the demolition of the buildings.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 1.16 The proposed development is for the demolition of the buildings and erection of EV charging points and new petrol forecourt.

Section 2

Legislation and Planning Guidance

- 2.1 This section summarises the key elements of the legislative and planning policy context relating to the proposed development, at both national and local levels.

LEGISLATION

The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

- 2.2 Legislation covering the treatment of scheduled monuments is the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979* (HMSO 1979). This Act details the designation, care and management of scheduled monuments, as well as detailing the procedures for obtaining permission for works that would directly impact upon their preservation.
- 2.3 The Act does not confer any statutory protection on the setting of scheduled monuments, but this is addressed as a policy matter in the relevant paragraphs of the NPPF.
- 2.4 The practical application of the Act (through the relevant paragraphs of the NPPF) is dealt within the following paragraphs.

National Planning Policy

- 2.5 The NPPF was revised in December 2023. Section 16 sets out the government's approach to the conservation and management of the historic environment, including both listed buildings and conservation areas, through the planning process.
- 2.6 The opening paragraph, 195, recognises that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource that should be conserved in a manner proportionate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of existing and future generations.
- 2.7 Paragraph 200 concerns planning applications, stating that:
- "In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation."*
- 2.8 Paragraph 205 considers the weight given within the planning decision with regard to impacts on designated heritage assets, stating that:

“When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset’s conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance.”

- 2.9 Paragraph 206 considers the level of harmful effects on designated heritage assets and states that:

“Any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of:

- a. Grade II listed buildings, or grade II registered parks or gardens, should be exceptional; and*
- b. Assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, registered battlefields, Grade I and II* listed buildings, Grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.”*

- 2.10 With regard to the decision-making process, paragraphs 207 and 208 are of relevance. Paragraph 207 states that:

“Where a proposed development will lead to substantial harm to (or total loss of significance of) a designated heritage asset, local planning authorities should refuse consent, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or total loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss, or all of the following apply:

- a. the nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site;*
- b. no viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation;*
- c. conservation by grant-funding or some form of not for profit, charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible; and*
- d. the harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use.”*

- 2.11 Paragraph 208 states that:

“Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use.”

- 2.12 With regard to non-designated heritage assets, paragraph 209 states that:

“The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that directly or indirectly affect non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.”

2.13 Furthermore, footnote 68 to paragraph 206 states that:

“Non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest, which are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments, should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets.”

2.14 In this regard, footnote 68 is clear in stating that for a heritage asset of archaeological interest to be considered equivalent to a scheduled monument and hence a designated heritage asset in terms of the Framework, it must first be “*demonstrated*” that it is of sufficient archaeological interest to warrant that elevated level of protection.

Local Planning Policy

2.15 In terms of local planning policy, the Gravesham Local Plan Core Strategy was adopted in September 2014 and reviewed in 2019.

2.16 Policy CS 20 concerns heritage assets and states that:

“The Council will accord a high priority towards the preservation, protection and enhancement of its heritage and historic environment as a non-renewable resource, central to the regeneration of the area and the reinforcement of sense of place. Particular attention in this regard will be focused on those heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. Securing viable, sustainable and appropriate futures for such assets at risk will need to be reconciled with the sensitivity to change that many present.

Proposals and initiatives will be supported which preserve and, where appropriate, enhance the significance of the Borough's heritage assets, their setting where it contributes to the significance of the asset and their interpretation and enjoyment, especially where these contribute to the distinct identity of the Borough.

These include:

- *Gravesend Town Centre, its development as a heritage riverside town, and its setting;*
- *The Borough's urban and rural conservation areas; and*
- *Surviving built features and archaeology relating to the Borough's maritime, military, industrial and transport history.*

When considering the impact of a proposed development on a designated heritage asset, the weight that will be given to the asset's conservation value will be commensurate with the importance and significance of the asset. For non-designated assets, decisions will have regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.”

2.17 The plans and policies above have been taken into account in relation to the formulation of this assessment.

Section 3

Methodology

- 3.1 This Archaeological Assessment has been prepared in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment* issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA, 2020), with which EDP is a Registered Organisation (RO).
- 3.2 The assessment principally involved consultation of readily available archaeological and historical information from documentary and cartographic sources. The major sources of information comprised the following:
- The National Heritage List for England (NHLE) curated by Historic England;
 - The Kent Historic Environment Record (HER), which holds information on known archaeological sites, monuments and finds, as well as previous investigations;
 - Historic maps and documents from online sources;
 - Aerial photographs held by Historic England; and
 - LiDAR datasets.
- 3.3 This report provides a synthesis of relevant information for the site derived from a search area extending up to 1km from its boundary, hereafter known as the 'study area'. This allows for additional contextual information on the site's archaeological interest or potential to be gathered and understood.
- 3.4 Information gathered from the repositories and sources listed above was checked and augmented through the completion of a site walkover survey by a highly experienced archaeologist in September 2022.
- 3.5 This assessment is purely focused on the impacts of the proposed development upon the archaeological record. Thus, as such, the report does not consider any direct impacts upon the existing built form located within the site, or indirect impacts as a result of changes within the wider settings of heritage assets. Instead, these are covered fully by the stand alone Heritage Statement (report reference: edp7841_r001), which should be read in conjunction with this report.
- 3.6 Designated heritage assets are therefore only discussed within this report insofar as they illustrate or influence the archaeological interest or potential of the site. It does not provide any consideration of their setting.

LIDAR DATA

- 3.7 Airborne LiDAR data (light detection and ranging) was utilised as a source of primary data for the current assessment. LiDAR scanning records height data and has applications in the recording of archaeological earthworks.

- 3.8 A Digital Terrain Model (DTM) for the site was acquired from the Environment Agency Data available online. Resolution of the data is at one data point for each 1m², a low resolution which, for archaeological prospection, has a fairly limited application, aside from in the identification of larger earthworks.
- 3.9 The DTM was processed using the Relief Visualisation Toolbox (ver. 1.3 ZRC SAZU, 2016). This software allows for a range of visualisation techniques to be applied to the data. Different techniques have varying degrees of successful application, depending on the nature of the environment where the data was collected. As such, the whole suite of visualisations was produced and then the individual images appraised as to their usefulness in the current context. This appraisal identified that of the visualisation techniques, multiple direction hill-shades produced the best quality and most useful imagery for the Archaeology Assessment.

Multiple Direction Hill-shades

- 3.10 Relief shading or hill-shading is the most commonly used LiDAR visualisation technique. It illuminates the DTM from a specific angle, imitating the sun, and therefore, produces the most 'natural' and intuitively readable imagery. However, it is limited in that areas facing directly towards or away from the illumination source are saturated (homogeneously bright or dark respectively) and little detail can be perceived; plus, features that lie parallel to the light source can be imperceptible.
- 3.11 This effect can be overcome by combining hill-shades from different directions in three different colour bands into a single image. This technique was used to produce useful images for the assessment, providing an additional source of data on the site's archaeological interest and/or potential (see **Plan EDP 6**), which was used for guiding the focus and limits of the site visit and walkover.

Section 4

Existing Information

INTRODUCTION

- 4.1 The site does not contain any designated heritage assets, such as scheduled monuments, listed buildings, conservation areas or registered parks and gardens (as per Annex 2 of the NPPF) and so proposals for its development would not give rise to any direct effect in that regard.
- 4.2 There are also no designated heritage assets located within the 1km study area (**Plan EDP 1**).
- 4.3 The closest scheduled monuments comprise Roman enclosure SE of Vagniacae (1004226), located c.2.1km west of the site, Springhead Roman site (1005140), located c.2.3km west of the site, as well as Neolithic sites near Ebbsfleet (1004206) located c.3km north-west of the site and Palaeolithic sites near Baker's Hole (1003557), located c.3.8km north-west of the site.
- 4.4 The closest listed buildings are a cluster of Grade II listed buildings located c.1.1km to the east of the site; Orchard House (1054827), Corner Cottage (1341498), Chapel Farmhouse (1054798) and The George Inn (1089051), as well as the Grade II* listed Ifield Court (1350208) located c.1.3km to the south.
- 4.5 The closest conservation areas are Darnley Road, Gravesend and Windmill Hill, Gravesend, both located c.1.9km to the north of the site. The closest registered park and garden is Gravesend Cemetery (1001633), located c.1.7km to the north.
- 4.6 As stated above, these assets are only considered within the remit of this report where they are relevant to the archaeological interest and potential of the site. Designated assets located within the wider surroundings of the site are discussed in full in the associated Heritage Statement (edp7841_r001).
- 4.7 The site contains built form which collectively comprises the former Tollgate Hotel, which originated as a wayside public house in the 1920s but much expanded and altered in the latter part of the 20th century. Whilst these buildings are not statutorily or locally designated, the previous applications on the site have identified some potential heritage interest in these buildings. These assets are considered with regard to their significance within the Heritage Statement (edp7841_r001). They are considered within this report only where they are relevant to the archaeological interest and/or potential of the site.
- 4.8 The following paragraphs detail and contextualise the site's archaeological interest and/or potential, with reference to known archaeological assets and other records within a 1km study area from the site boundary.
- 4.9 As far as 'non-designated' archaeological assets are concerned, there are two monuments noted on the Kent HER within the site boundaries. These comprise a Romano-British rubbish

pit (**TQ 67 SW 16**) and a post medieval farmstead 'Northumberland Bottom' (**MKE88826**), discussed in full in the period specific sections below.

- 4.10 There are also 100 HER records within 1km of the site, dating from the prehistoric to modern periods. Inasmuch as they provide a context for and understanding of the site's archaeological interest and/or potential, these records are also described below within the relevant period sections.
- 4.11 The Kent HER also holds data for previously recorded archaeological investigations of 'events'. No intrusive archaeological works have been undertaken within the site to date, however, two events are identified within the site by the HER relating to a regional research project 'Archaeological survey of mineral extraction sites around the Thames Estuary' (**EKE14761**) and a wider desk-based assessment along the route of the A2 'Cultural Heritage Desk Based Assessment: A2 Outdoor Activity Park, Gravesend' (**EKE17687**). These projects are not considered to inform the archaeological potential of the site itself and are not considered further within this report.
- 4.12 A further 53 archaeological events are recorded within the 1km study area. These archaeological interventions are discussed below where relevant to the archaeological interest and/potential of the site.
- 4.13 The locations of all HER monuments and events, which are recorded within the site and in its wider surroundings, are shown on **Plans EDP 2** and **3** respectively, and this information should be reviewed alongside the following paragraphs.

PREVIOUSLY RECORDED INFORMATION

Palaeolithic – Iron Age (c.1,000,000 BC–AD 43)

- 4.14 There are no non-designated heritage assets dating from the prehistoric periods recorded on the HER within the site, but there are 49 recorded within the 1km search area.
- 4.15 Due to the proportionally large number of records within the study area across the prehistoric period, the period is broken down into smaller sub-periods below.

Palaeolithic (c.700,000 BC – c.10,000 BC)

- 4.16 There are no records dating to the palaeolithic period held by the HER within the site, but three are recorded within the 1km study area.
- 4.17 Each of these records related to findspots; this includes a Lower Palaeolithic hand axe (**TQ 67 SW 369**) recovered c.500m west of the site during an evaluation in 1999 (**EKE9046**), three residual flints (**TQ 67 SW 621**) recovered c.500m east of the site during an excavation in 2009 (**EKE13197**) and a possible Palaeolithic flint tool (**TQ 67 SE 284**) recovered c.800m north-east of the site during an evaluation in 2006 (**EKE9255**).
- 4.18 Each of these finds was considered to be residual, having been displaced at a later date, and no associated features or deposits were identified.

- 4.19 Whilst there is therefore evidence for human presence within the local landscape during the Palaeolithic period, this evidence is relatively sparse and limited to random find spots, likely representing casual loss in antiquity.
- 4.20 The region of Kent is rich in finds of Palaeolithic material (Wymer 1982, 8); however, these finds are predominantly discovered within the fluvial terrace deposits of the major river valleys of the Thames and its tributaries the Cray, Darent and Medway (Lewis 2000a; Lewis 2000b). Given the relative proximity of the site to the River Thames, located c.3km to the north, and the presence of Head deposits at the north-west corner of the site, which are known to have potential to contain Palaeolithic remains and can range from being almost undisturbed to heavily disturbed and well-travelled (Bates et al, 2019), the potential for the site to contain Palaeolithic remains cannot be ruled out entirely.
- 4.21 However, it is noted that: 1) any such remains would likely relate to residual, unstratified find spots as discovered in the study area and are unlikely to be of greater than low, local value; and 2) it is likely that any such findspots would have been disturbed and removed during the construction of the existing built form within the site during the 20th century (discussed in full below) .
- 4.22 Overall, it is therefore concluded that the majority of the site has been so heavily disturbed by the existing built form that any such finds would have been lost. Instead, there is only a limited potential for such remains to survive in isolated pockets of the site, which have been subject to less disturbance, but even still areas of former development are extensive across the site (see site visit below).

Mesolithic (c.10,000 BC – c.5,000 BC)

- 4.23 There are no records dating to the Mesolithic period held by the HER within the site, but five are recorded within the 1km study area.
- 4.24 Each of these records relate to findspots; this includes a cluster of residual flint finds during an excavation in 2009, located c.550m west of the site (**TQ 67 SW 622/EKE13197**). These finds comprised a few blades dating from the Mesolithic to Early Neolithic period, as well as a number of flakes and tools dating to the Neolithic/Early Bronze Age including a polished flint chisel and the butt of a polished axe. Approximately 750m to the west of the site, a range of residual Mesolithic flints were recovered during an excavation in 2007 (**TQ 67 SW 1808/EKE9835**), this included a rod microlith in a pit, a narrow blade, a single platform pyramidal core of bullhead flint and a probable tranche axe or adze fragment.
- 4.25 To the east, c.650m from the site, a large Pleistocene hollow was uncovered during an excavation in 2007 containing worked flints, most likely washed into it, dating from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age (**TQ 67 SW 534/EKE12176**). These flints comprised general flakes dating from the Mesolithic period onwards, as well as a leaf arrowhead and flint knife considered most likely to be Neolithic in date.
- 4.26 Further north-east, c.800m from the site, a re-deposited 'pyramid' flint core of probable Mesolithic or Neolithic date was recovered from the subsoil of an evaluation trench excavated in 2005 (**TQ 67 SE 283/EKE9330**). Approximately 950m north-east of the site,

a group of residual flint flakings likely dating from the Mesolithic period onwards were recovered from topsoil during a watching brief in 2007 (**TQ 67 SE 1235/EKE10533**).

- 4.27 As above, the HER records do indicate human presence within the local landscape from the Mesolithic period onwards, however, this evidence is relatively sparse and limited to random residual find spots with no associated features, likely representing casual loss in antiquity. Equally, none of the above records are located within 500m of the site and it is not considered that any associated activity would extend to within the site bounds.
- 4.28 As discussed above, the majority of the site is considered to have been so heavily disturbed by the existing built form that any such finds would have been lost,. Thus overall, there is considered to be only a limited potential for the site to contain buried archaeological remains of this date. Any such remains would most likely: 1) relate to residual, unstratified find spots as discovered in the study area and are unlikely to be of greater than low, local value; and 2) be located within localised areas of the site subject to less disturbance, such as the north-west corner of the site, which contains superficial Head deposits, which may preserve such remains but has undergone some landscaping associated with the construction of the A2.

Neolithic (c.5,000 BC – c.2,300 BC)

- 4.29 There are no records dating to the Neolithic period held by the HER within the site, but six are recorded within the 1km study area, not including those finds discussed above as possibly Mesolithic or Neolithic in date.
- 4.30 Three features dating to the Neolithic period have been identified; these comprise a post-hole encountered during a watching brief in 2012, located c.150m north-west of the site (**TQ 67 SW 1377/EKE14970**). The post-hole contained charcoal and fired clay but no datable finds, however, the feature was estimated to be Neolithic or Bronze Age in date, contemporary to the archaeological horizon on the rest of the site.
- 4.31 A sub rectangular ditched enclosure containing flint debitage, possibly a Neolithic Mortuary Enclosure or Long Barrow, was encountered c.200m south-east of the site during an excavation in 1995 (**TQ 67 SW 418/EWX9111**). The last feature comprised a single pit revealed c.500m north-west of the site during an evaluation in 1992 (**TQ 67 SW 177/EKE8147**). The pit contained a scatter of Neolithic or early Bronze Age flints. Evidence of a Bronze Age enclosure system and associated pits, as well as evidence of Iron Age settlement was also encountered within these trenches, potentially indicating continued occupation of a site.
- 4.32 The remaining records relate to find spots and include the leaf arrowhead/flint knife (**TQ 67 SW 534**) and polished flint chisel/butt of a polished axe (**TQ 67 SW 622**) discussed above. In addition to these is a Neolithic Axe, recovered c.300m south of the site from an allotment in 1920 (**TQ 67 SW 22**).
- 4.33 The HER again indicates a level of activity within the local landscape during the Neolithic period and in relative proximity to the site, with some limited evidence of potential settlement, as seen from the possible mortuary enclosure and pits/post-holes. Given this proximity to the site, there is some potential for the site to contain features of this date.

However, as discussed above, the modern development of the site has most likely truncated or entirely destroyed any such remains, with the exception of the isolated pockets of the site, which have been subject to less disturbance, such as the north-west corner.

- 4.34 Overall, there is therefore only a limited potential for isolated pockets of the site to contain finds, features or deposits of Neolithic date, which have not been destroyed by later development. Any such buried remains would most likely comprise unstratified find spots, representing casual loss in antiquity, or features associated with small scale local land management or possibly settlement, such as infilled ditches, pits or post-holes. These finds and features are unlikely to be of greater than low, local value.

Bronze Age (c.2,300 BC – c.600 BC)

- 4.35 There are no records dating to the Bronze Age period held by the HER within the site, but 16 are recorded within the 1km study area.
- 4.36 These records include a number of funerary features, the closest of which is located c.175m south-west of the site. This record comprises an Early Bronze Age Beaker Pit containing the fragmented remains of at least five vessels, uncovered during archaeological works during the widening of the A2 in 2008 (**TQ 67 SW 461/EKE9903**). A second beaker burial was uncovered c.300m south-east of the site during an excavation in 1998 (**TQ 67 SW 542/EWX9125**). This feature comprised a burial with two adult inhumations with associated Beaker vessels the disturbed remains of an infant.
- 4.37 Approximately 400m west of the site an excavation along the proposed route of the A2 in 2009 revealed a single ditch which contained residual worked flints but also worked flints of the Middle to Late Bronze Age including a horned scraper, a concave scraper, a side scraper and two hammerstones. Five cremations were found near the ditch, only one of which was urned, with the vessel dated to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age (**TQ 67 SW 623/EKE13197**). Also, c.450m to the west, an excavation along the A2 in 2007 revealed a Bronze Age ditched enclosure and unaccompanied cremations (**TQ 67 SW 488/EKE9835**). A number of Iron Age and Roman settlement features were also recorded, possibly indicating the continued settlement of a known site.
- 4.38 Further to the west, c.600m from the site, this excavation also revealed a Bronze Age ring ditch along with two crouched inhumations, one of which contained a small fragment of copper alloy and two cremations with associated urns (**TQ 67 SW 624/EKE13197**). Also, 675m west of the site, a cremation burial with associated urn was recorded during a 1998 excavation (**TQ 67 SW 544/EWX9125**).
- 4.39 The HER also records a number of features related to settlement and land management during this period. This includes a grouping of Late Bronze Age or Iron Age settlement features uncovered c.400m west of the site during the 2009 excavations along the A2 (**TQ 67 SW 625/EKE13197**). These features comprised pit groups, post holes, a field system, a drove way and a hollow way. Also, c.500m to the west of the site was a boundary ditch and pit containing Mid/Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pottery sherds encountered during an evaluation in 1997 (**TQ 67 SW 1060/EKE10032**). Worked flint of similar date range found scattered across the site in residual contexts.

- 4.40 Approximately 475m north-west of the site, a Bronze Age enclosure and pit were identified during an excavation in 1994 (**TQ 67 SW 177/EKE8288**). The works also encountered a Neolithic pit, discussed above, as well as Iron Age settlement features, possibly indicating continued occupation of a site.
- 4.41 To the south-east, approximately 575m from the site, a grouping of Early Bronze Age pits and a field system, possibly also of Early Bronze Age date, were encountered during a 2006 excavation along the route of the A2 (**TQ 67 SW 525/EKE9916**). Further to the south-east, c.825m from the site, an enclosed settlement of probable Bronze Age date has been recorded from cropmarks during a regional appraisal of aerial photographs (**TQ 67 SW 126/EKE20439**). Bronze Age features were found in this location during an excavation in 2007 (**TQ 67 SE 355/EKE12176**), this included a ditched enclosure with associated pits and post-holes, possibly representing a round house. Approximately 950m south-east of the site, a 1997 evaluation recorded two Bronze Age pits, a possible post hole and a number of shallow gullies interpreted as field boundaries, also tentatively dated to the Bronze Age period through limited pottery sherd finds (**TQ 67 SE 244/EKE9037**).
- 4.42 Approximately 500m south of the site, a cropmark of a circular/sub-circular enclosed settlement with internal features and entrance has been identified from a review of aerial photographs and interpreted as likely Bronze Age in date (**TQ 67 SW 135**).
- 4.43 The final two records comprise find spots of a gold bracelet, recovered c.950m west of the site (**MKE66928**) and a cluster of Bronze Age flints, predominantly scraper, found during a programme of field walking in 1995 (**TQ 67 SW 508**).
- 4.44 The HER data thus indicates that the local landscape was well settled during this period, with settlement features, land management and funerary practices being evident, all of which are in relative proximity to the site.
- 4.45 As discussed above, it is established that the majority of the site has been heavily disturbed by its modern development, such that it is unlikely that any features of this date would survive. This is with the exception of isolated parts of the site, which have been subject to minimal development, but even still areas of former development are extensive across the site (see 'Site Walkover' below). Such remains would most likely relate to find spots, or features relating to small scale settlement and land management, such as infilled ditches and pits, which are unlikely to be of greater than low, local value. However, given the proximity of known cremations and burials, there is potential for funerary features to be encountered, which could be of more moderate, regional value, albeit they are likely to be in a poor state of preservation due to truncation from the modern development of the site.

Iron Age (c.600 BC – AD 43)

- 4.46 There are no records dating to the Iron Age period held by the HER within the site, but 16 are recorded within the 1km study area.
- 4.47 This includes those features of possible Bronze Age or Iron Age date discussed above; Five cremations were found near the ditch, only one of which was urned, with the vessel dated to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age (**TQ 67 SW 623/EKE13197**) located approximately 400m west of the site, and a grouping of Late Bronze Age or Iron Age settlement features

comprised pit groups, post holes, a field system, a drove way and a hollow way, located c.400m west of the site (**TQ 67 SW 625/EKE13197**).

- 4.48 Also, c.450m to the west, an excavation along the A2 in 2007 revealed a number of Iron Age features. These included four post structures in clusters, containing whole pots, iron objects, charred grain and loom weights and items indicative of salt manufacture as well as a series of enclosure ditches. Funerary features were also uncovered including one inhumation burial and several cremations, one of which accompanied by two pots and four brooches, two connected by a chain, the other buried in a bronze bound decorated yew bucket, accompanied by four pots and a bronze sheath, probably from a drinking horn (**TQ 67 SW 488/EKE9835**). A number of Bronze Age and Roman settlement features were also recorded, possibly indicating the continued settlement of a known site.
- 4.49 Iron Age settlement features including segmented ditches, pits and post holes were encountered approximately 200m west of the site during works along the A2 in 2008 (**TQ 67 SW 462/EKE9903**). Also c.225m west of the site, an evaluation in 1997 revealed eight ditches dating from the Late Iron Age/early Roman period through to the early 3rd century, forming a field system (**TQ 67 SW 123/EKE11577**). A pit, a post hole and some evidence of buildings in the form of brick, tile and daub were also found.
- 4.50 Further west, c.375m from the site, a group of post holes containing Iron Age pottery were found during an excavation in 2009 (**TQ 67 SW 627/EKE13197**). Approximately 475m west of the site, a grouping of Late Iron Age to Roman features were encountered during an evaluation in 1997 (**TQ 67 SW 1061/EKE10032**). These features included pits, ditches, slots and post-holes and two hearths containing finds of pottery, daub, animal bone and flint. Also, c.500m west of the site, a Middle Iron Age ditch, possibly a stock enclosure, was encountered during an excavation in 2008 (**TQ 67 SW 546/EWX9125**).
- 4.51 A Middle Iron Age enclosure ditch was also revealed c.950m west of the site during excavations in 2009 (**TQ 67 SW 626/EKE13197**), along with a Late Iron Age/early Roman inhumation cemetery (**TQ 67 SW 629**). This comprised five inhumations, which were found in two groups; dating evidence was limited to a single sherd of pottery from one burial, indicating an Iron Age or Roman date, although the inhumations cut the Middle Iron Age ditch, suggesting a Late Iron Age or Roman date.
- 4.52 A Late Iron Age settlement was also identified c.775m west of the site during excavations in 1998 (**TQ 67 SW 547/EWX9125**). These settlement features included a hollow way with a ditch and bank, likely of Middle Iron Age date, a Late Iron Age enclosure, which was most likely related to livestock as no associated domestic features were found internally, and a horse burial was encountered to the west of the enclosure. Domestic features included a number of pits, ovens or kilns, a possible hearth and two burials comprising an urned cremation, with copper alloy ring, and a pit containing disarticulated human remains of at least two individuals containing a Colchester type one-piece bow brooch. The site continued in use into the Roman period, reaching its height in the late 1st century AD.
- 4.53 To the east of the site, c.550m from its boundary, a Late Iron Age/early Romano-British pit and undated linear feature were found during a 1997 evaluation (**TQ 67 SW 1050/EKE9046**). Further east, c.950m from the site, a collection of Early and Middle Iron Age features was encountered during an excavation in 2007

(**TQ 67 SE 356/EKE12176**). These features comprised a number of storage pits, which contained animal bones, loomweights and pottery, as well as a pit containing a significant portion of a human skull. Post holes were also found in the area, with at least two four post structures.

- 4.54 The remaining three features comprise find spots, including two Iron Age copper alloy coins (**MKE66686** and **MKE58121**), found c.550 and 875m west of the site respectively. An Iron Age gold stater was also found c.300m south of the site in 1921 (**TQ 67 SW 19**).
- 4.55 As with the Bronze Age period, the HER data evidences a settled local landscape during this period, with evidence of settlement features, land management and funerary practices, all of which are in relative proximity to the site.
- 4.56 However, it has been established that the majority of the site has been heavily disturbed by its modern development, such that it is unlikely that any features of this date would survive. This is with the exception of isolated parts of the site, which have been subject to minimal development, but even still areas of former development are extensive across the site (see site visit below). Such remains would most likely relate to features associated with small scale settlement and land management, such as infilled ditches and pits, which are unlikely to be of greater than low, local value. However, given the proximity of known cremations and burials, there is potential for funerary features to be encountered, which could be of more moderate value.

Roman (AD 43–410)

- 4.57 There is one record dating to the Roman period held by the HER within the site, and 17 are recorded within the 1km study area.
- 4.58 The record located within the north-east corner of the site comprises a Romano-British rubbish pit (**TQ 67 SW 16**). The pit appears to have been first recorded in 1932, although no further details on it are held by the HER with the exception that it has since been destroyed by road widening for the M2 extension.
- 4.59 The features located within the study area includes those features of possible Iron Age or Roman date discussed above. These features comprise a field system located c.225m west of the site (**TQ 67 SW 123/EKE11577**), a grouping of pits, ditches and post-holes located c.475m west of the site (**TQ 67 SW 1061/EKE10032**) and a pit found c.550m east of the site (**TQ 67 SW 1050/EKE9046**).
- 4.60 Also as discussed above, a settlement of Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman features was identified c.450m to the west during an excavation along the A2 in 2007 (**TQ 67 SW 488/EKE9835**). The Roman features were limited to boundary ditches, with the area then being abandoned before it was re-occupied in the medieval period.
- 4.61 Approximately 25m north of the site lies the route of the Roman Road 'Watling Street' (**TQ 86 SW 132**), which runs largely south-east to north-west from Canterbury to Rochester.
- 4.62 A number of burial features are recorded within the study area. A tile cist was found c.150m east of the site in 1921, although no funerary remains were found within the cist, suggesting

it had been robbed (**TQ 67 SW 17**). A cemetery enclosure was also recorded c.175m west of the site during excavations in 2007 (**TQ 67 SW 464/EKE9903**). This comprised a rectangular cemetery enclosure, which included two early Roman high status cremation burials in square pits and several other lower status cremation burials and later inhumations. A cremation was also identified c.550m west of the site during the 2009 excavation (**TQ 67 SW 630/EKE13197**). This comprised an adult cremation burial with a vessel, an adjacent pit containing a complete 1st century AD early Roman bead-rimmed jar was identified, along with two possible marker posts.

- 4.63 Approximately 250m south-west of the site, a group of Roman settlement features were identified during an excavation in 1998 (**TQ 67 SW 548/EWX9125**). These features included a group of enclosure ditches which were laid out in the 1st century AD and continued in use no later than that 3rd century AD. Domestic activity was represented by a number of pits, ovens and possible structural elements, including a timber building, which appears to have been destroyed by fire, AD 70–120. Two neonate burials were also identified, one with a carinated beaker in Upchurch fine grey ware dated AD 70–130. There was also evidence of a metalled road surface.
- 4.64 An enclosure system was also identified c.700m west of the site during an excavation in 2009 (**TQ 67 SW 632/EKE13197**). The enclosure ditches contained 1st century Roman pottery, and an associated pit also contained early Roman pottery.
- 4.65 Further potential features of Roman date have been identified through crop mark evidence during a review of aerial photographs, although these features remain as yet untested by archaeological investigation. These features include two rectangular enclosed settlements with entrances and internal features, located c.450m south of the site (**TQ 67 SW 127** and **TQ 67 SW 134**), as well as a possible boundary ditch and enclosures with associated pits located c.750m west of the site (**TQ 67 SW 140** and **TQ 67 SW 125**).
- 4.66 The remaining three features comprise find spots, including a 3rd century coin of Diocletian found c.10m south of the site during works on the A2 in 1927 (**TQ 67 SW 11**), copper alloy coin found c.600m south of the site (**MKE57995**) and pottery finds located c.300m south of the site during a programme of fieldwalking in 1994 (**TQ 67 SW 502**).
- 4.67 The HER data clearly indicates that the landscape was settled during the Roman period, with the site itself containing evidence of domestic activity, as evidenced by the waste pit. Those features located within the surrounding area relate to settlement, land management and funerary practices.
- 4.68 However, as discussed above and indicated by the subsequent destruction of the waste pit within the site, it has been established that the majority of the site has been heavily disturbed by its modern development, such that it is unlikely that any features of this date would survive. Only isolated pockets of the site may possibly have survived, which may have been subject to minimal development.
- 4.69 Such remains would most likely relate to features associated with small scale road side settlement and land management, such as infilled ditches and pits, which are unlikely to be of greater than low, local value, although there is the potential for road side settlement to include features or structures of more moderate, regional interest. Similarly, given the

proximity of known cremations and burials, there is potential for funerary features to be encountered, which could be of more moderate, regional value, albeit they would likely be in a poor state of preservation given the extent of later truncation.

Early Medieval and Medieval (AD 410–1485)

- 4.70 There are no early medieval or medieval records in the HER data identified within the site. However, there are five records dating to this period within the 1km study area.
- 4.71 Approximately 225m south-west of the site a medieval ditch was found during an evaluation in 1997, no other associated features were recorded (**TQ 67 SW 505/EKE11577**).
- 4.72 A cluster of settlement features was identified c.450m to the west during an excavation along the A2 in 2007 (**TQ 67 SW 488/EKE9835**). These features included sunken featured buildings, sub-rectangular pits, kilns and a denehole. A grouping of additional deneholes were identified during a 2008 excavation, located c.250m west of the site (**TQ 67 SW 463/EKE9903**).
- 4.73 Approximately 650m west of the site, a large enclosure was identified during a 1998 excavation (**TQ 67 SW 552/EWX9125**). Post holes either side of the entrance probably formed a gateway, and the interior was subdivided by further ditches and contained a post structure of undetermined function. The enclosure was dated to the 12th century and probably used for livestock management. In the 13th century the enclosure was heavily modified and extended, with the addition of a working hollow or sunken floored building with an oven in the centre; a few rubbish pits were also identified.
- 4.74 The remaining two records relate to findspots; these include a medieval copper alloy buckle frame found c.875 west of the site during a programme of fieldwalking in 1994 (**TQ 67 SW 492**). A second copper alloy buckle was also recorded c.825m west of the site (**MKE58085**), it is possible that this is a duplicate record.
- 4.75 The surrounding settlements of Southfleet, Northfleet and Gravesend village are recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086, indicating that these settlements were well established by the 11th century.
- 4.76 Given the distance of the site from these known settlements, as well as review of historic cartographic sources (discussed in full below), the likelihood is that the land that now comprises the site was in use as agricultural land, common land or waste land during the medieval period, located at the periphery of settlement.
- 4.77 As such, it is unlikely that the site contains features or deposits beyond those related to agricultural management, such as buried plough soils or infilled boundary ditches, or possible features related to small scale settlement associated with the management of the land, which would be of no greater than low, local archaeological interest. This is in line with the known features in the study area, which reflect agricultural management of the land and associated localised settlement features.

- 4.78 As discussed, above, the site has undergone substantial modern development, such that only isolated pockets of the site, which have been subject to less development are considered to retain any potential for such remains.

Post-medieval to modern (AD 1485–Present)

- 4.79 There is one post-medieval to modern record amongst the HER data identified within the site and there are a further 20 within the 1km search area.
- 4.80 The record within the site relates to Northumberland Bottom (**MKE88826**), a former L-plan farmstead with detached ancillary buildings, seen on 19th century mapping, which has since been entirely demolished. Only two small, detached buildings are located within the site itself, considered to be either roadside cottages or agricultural ancillary buildings (discussed fully in the Cartographic Sources section below), along with field boundaries dividing small plots around the farmstead and cottage garden. Whilst there are no above-ground remains of these buildings, there is potential for this portion of the site to contain buried remains, such as foundations or associated field boundaries; as structures/features associated with a modern farmstead or modern cottages, any such remains would be of negligible historic value.
- 4.81 Post-medieval settlement within the study area is evidenced through a number of features, including a trackway located c.50m south-east of the site, identified as two parallel ditches during an excavation in 2006 (**TQ 67 SW 124/EKE9916**). A collection of late medieval or post-medieval features were identified c.1km east of the site during an evaluation in 2010 (**TQ 67 SE 375/EKE15662**). These features included ditches, pits and post-holes, likely related to agricultural management of the land.
- 4.82 A 19th century ‘denehole’ comprising a chalk lined pit, likely for use as a storage pit or possibly extraction, was identified c.250m north-east of the site during subsidence works in 2009 (**TQ 67 SW 465**). A large shaft, used for chalk extraction, has also been identified c.950m south-west of the site and provisionally dated to the 18th century (**TQ 67 SW 601**).
- 4.83 A second farmstead is identified c.775m east of the site (**MKE84319**), again the farm is visible on 19th century mapping but has since been demolished.
- 4.84 The remaining records all date to the mid-late 20th century. Each relate to military features, with the exception of two ‘pillar box’ letterboxes, located c.650m east and 850m north-west respectively (**TQ 67 SW 518** and **TQ 67 SW 511**). The military features predominantly date to the Second World War and include a gas decontamination building (**TQ 67 SE 281**), air wardens posts (**TQ 67 SE 1155** and **TQ 67 SW 1297**), a camp including barracks, radar station, air raid shelter, and anti-aircraft battery (**TQ 67 SW 370**), fortifications (**TQ 67 SW 1164** and **TQ 67 SW 1162**), emergency telephone boxes (**TQ 67 SW 1305** and **TQ 67 SW 1241**) battle head-quarters (**TQ 67 SW 1168**), and an aircraft crash site (**TQ 67 SE 358**). Each of these structures has since been removed.
- 4.85 The closest features to the site itself are the battle head-quarters (**TQ 67 SW 1168**), emergency telephone box (**TQ 67 SW 1305**) and fortification (**TQ 67 SW 1164**), located c.10m to 35m north and west of the site at the cross roads between two toll roads running north to south and east to west. There is no evidence that these military features extended

into the site at any time and they have since been removed following the end of the war; their sites have been developed in association with the expansion of the A2.

- 4.86 The final two features relate to Cold War defences and comprise a 'rest centre' in the event of an air attack, located c.900m north-west of the site (**TQ 67 SW 1286**) and an air raid siren located c.850m north-west of the site (**TQ 67 SW 1350**).
- 4.87 The extent of each of these records is well defined and does not extend into the site, with the exception of the two possible cottages or ancillary buildings to Northumberland Bottom farm. As discussed above, any buried remains related to these structures, such as foundations, or related to former field boundaries, would be of no greater than negligible heritage significance.
- 4.88 No further records of this date are held by the HER within the site; however, an assessment of historic mapping (discussed in full below) indicates that the site was most predominantly under agricultural use, although crossed by a north to south running turn pike road, from at least the mid-19th century, and likely prior to this. The site was then developed in the 1920s for use as a public house, which has been subsequently expanded to form the current extant hotel buildings located within the site.
- 4.89 Based on this information, there is considered to be a very low potential for the site to contain archaeological features, deposits or remains from this period, beyond features related to Northumberland Bottom farm in the north-west of the site, which would be of no greater than negligible heritage significance and are likely to have been completely removed through the historical sequence of road widening and building in this area.

Unknown

- 4.90 Seven features of unknown date are recorded within the search area by the HER. This includes a lychet system, identified as earthworks during a walkover survey c.200m south-east of the site (**TQ 67 SE 282**), a ditched trackway, possibly of prehistoric or Roman date, encountered c.200m south-east of the site during a 1995 evaluation (**TQ 67 SW 419/EWX9111**), a cropmark of two small rectangular enclosures identified by aerial photographs c.250m and 450m south of the site (**TQ 67 SW 3** and **TQ 67 SW 136**), three undated urned cremations identified during a 2009 excavation c.400m west of the site (**TQ 67 SW 631/EKE13197**), a grouping of undated ditches found during an evaluation in 2006 c.750m north-east of the site (**TQ 67 SE 281/EKE9255**) and an undated denehole located c.750m north-east of the site (**TQ 67 SW 8**).
- 4.91 These features do not extend into the site, and do not contribute to an understanding of its archaeological potential; as such, they are not discussed further.

CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

- 4.92 The earliest available map showing the site is an Ordnance Survey Draft plan of 1797 (not reproduced). This map shows the site as located across two agricultural field parcels, divided by the north to south running toll road. This is also reflected in William Barlow's map

of 1800 (not reproduced). No built form is located within the site at this time, and instead simply evidences its agricultural nature in the late 18th century, and likely prior to this.

- 4.93 The next map assessed was the 1838 Tithe map of Northfleet Parish (**Plan EDP 4**). This map shows the majority of the site located within a long rectangular field (Plot 613), with the north-west portion of the site located within a second long narrow field, although with one curved boundary at the west (Plot 623). Both fields are recorded within the Tithe apportionment as owned by Alexander Raphael Esq and occupied by a Mr John Tilden and Mr Thomas Collyer respectively. Both fields are recorded as being under arable use at this time.
- 4.94 At the northern end of Plot 623, located immediately south of the north-west corner of the site, is a small building, likely an ancillary building associated with the adjacent cottage and gardens to the north (Plot 624), which is situated at the very north-west corner of the site. This cottage is also owned by Alexander Raphael Esq and occupied by Mr Thomas Collyer.
- 4.95 The fields 613 and 623 are divided by the north to south running Toll Road. On the eastern side of this road, immediately north-east of the cottage, and outside of the site boundary, a Turnpike House is depicted at the crossroads between the north to south and east to west running roads (Plot 625a). The house is owned by the Gravesend and Wrotham Turnpike Trust and is identifiable as a tollbooth as the map shows a gate across the road. On the western side of the road, to the immediate north of the cottage and outside of the site boundary, a public house and garden owned and run by Jane Robinson is recorded (Plot 625).
- 4.96 The next map to show the site is the 1864–82 Ordnance Survey (OS) map (not depicted). This map continues to show the site as predominantly located within agricultural fields, divided by the toll road cross-roads, which are now labelled as Northumberland Bottom.
- 4.97 The map shows that the main field in which the site is located (Plot 613 on the Tithe) has had its eastern boundary removed to amalgamate it into a larger field, with a footpath depicted running north-west to south-east across this large field. Conversely, the western field (Plot 623 on the Tithe), is shown to have been divided into two by a new east to west orientated boundary, which lies to the south of the site.
- 4.98 The cottage and gardens continue to be depicted, located at the very north-west corner of the site. Immediately south of this, and outside the site boundary, the former outbuilding seen in the Tithe map appears to have been extended, forming the origins of the L plan farmstead in this location, discussed above as HER **MKE88826**. A second detached building is also illustrated within the north-west portion of the site, possibly an additional road side cottage, or possibly an ancillary building associated with the farmstead.
- 4.99 The former tollbooth to the north of the site is now illustrated as a public house, named the Turnpike Gate Inn, and additional buildings are shown constructed along the western portion of Watling Street (outside of the site).
- 4.100 By the 1897 edition OS map (**Plan EDP 5**), the inn at the crossroads was shown as 'Turnpike Inn'. No further changes are evident, and the site remains as is shown on the 1864 edition map. Similarly, there are no notable changes on the 1907 OS map (**Plan EDP 5**).

- 4.101 By the 1929 edition OS map, however, (**Plan EDP 5**), the agricultural land within the main parcel of the site has been developed for a new public house 'Toll Gate Inn', which reflects the existing building on the site. This new inn replaced the original pub, located to the north-west outside of the site boundary, which was demolished during road widening in the 1920s. A full history of the existing pub building is included in the Heritage Statement (edp7841_r001), which should be read in conjunction with this report. The new pub located within the site was set diagonally, in order to face the cross roads, and is built in a simple butterfly plan with a central block flanked by two angled single storey wings, with additional small structures to the rear and along the roadside to the east and associated grounds. This formation is reflected in the 1954–62 map (not reproduced).
- 4.102 The 1979 OS map (**Plan EDP 5**) shows the drastic changes caused by the upgrading of the A2 in the 1960s, comprising the widening of the A2, opened as an upgraded three lane dual carriageway and the junction completely changed into a grade separated junction with roundabout.
- 4.103 The map also shows changes to the inn, and now shows the accommodation blocks located to the south-east and south of the main building. The main building still retains its basic form, but a large square addition has been added to the western wing. Other changes to the original building also include the widening of the northern wing and additions to the rear.
- 4.104 The small buildings located at the north-west corner of the site have been demolished to allow for the alteration of the A2 and are now depicted as a small area of woodland. This portion of the site therefore likely underwent a degree of disturbance to allow for the demolition and levelling of this area for landscaping associated with the A2 development, although likely less than that associated with the construction of the built form to the eastern part of the site.
- 4.105 This review of the available cartographic sources underlines the agricultural use of the site from the late 18th century, and likely prior to this, until it was developed in the early 20th century. It therefore supports the conclusions of the period specific sections above that the substantial modern development of the site has likely truncated or entirely destroyed any buried archaeological remains predating the modern period within the main portion of the site, although there is some potential for features to have survived those areas which have been subject to more limited disturbance. Any buried archaeological remains are therefore most likely related to the modern cottages or ancillary farm buildings and field boundaries seen in the north-west corner of the site or related to earlier phases of the modern hotel located to the east, neither of which is likely to be of greater than very low, local value.

LIDAR DATA

- 4.106 The LiDAR data, which dates from 2022, was obtained from the Defra website¹ and is reproduced as **Plan EDP 6**. LiDAR Composite Digital Terrain Model (DTM) data was downloaded at the resolution of 1m. The data was converted to a vrt file and imported into

¹ <https://environment.data.gov.uk/DefraDataDownload/?Mode=survey>.

QGIS 3.10 with GRASS 7.8.4 and then processed to show hill-shade at an altitude of 45° with an azimuth of 315° in a multidirectional format. (**Plan EDP 6**).

- 4.107 The LiDAR illustrates the extant hotel buildings and access roads, which are seen on-site today, as well as showing that the site has been subject to substantial groundworks, with various areas of levelling to lower or raise the ground (which can be seen at its undisturbed level immediately to the east of the site boundary) for the modern built form and roads associated with the A2 expansion.
- 4.108 The north-west portion of the site shows no built form or earthwork features, however, this surface is likely the result of made ground and levelling associated with the A2 expansion, as the ground rises gradually in an earthwork bund to the north of the site.
- 4.109 No hitherto unknown or unrecorded features of potential archaeological interest or significance were identified, however, the LiDAR illustrates the level of disturbance across the site from modern development, although the north-west portion appears less impacted, although may comprise some degree of made ground or levelling associated with the adjacent road works.

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

- 4.110 A total of 98 vertical photographs covering the site and its immediate environs, were identified within online collections maintained by the Historic England Archive in Swindon.
- 4.111 The available images span the period from September 1940 to August 1992 and add detail to the land use and development sequence shown on those historic maps discussed above.
- 4.112 These photos largely confirm the development of the site, as shown by the historic maps; the photographs from 1940 show the site as depicted on the 1936 OS map, with the inn shown as a butterfly plan building and associated parking and landscaping areas. The north-west area of the site comprises the two detached buildings, likely roadside cottages or outbuildings associated with the farmstead to the south, and adjacent garden plots. However, it is noted that the land immediately north of these buildings, and on the northern boundary of the site, appears to have undergone some ground levelling to allow for the widening of Watling Street to the north.
- 4.113 Photographs from 1967 show the substantial development of new A2 road; this includes the new access road, which dissects the site, and the roundabout immediately to the south-west. The north-west corner has been cleared of its former buildings and appears to have been levelled as part of the landscaping associated with these roadworks.
- 4.114 The expansion of the inn is shown on photographs dating from 1975 onwards, with additional residential blocks and associated parking and landscaping added, to reflect the current formation of the site. The north-west corner of the site is shown to contain woodland across its entirety at this date, although this has been partially cleared to present day.
- 4.115 No additional archaeological features are identified. No other cropmark or earthwork features, suggesting the presence of any form of potentially significant archaeological activity, were identified within the site on the aerial photographs. Instead, these

photographs confirm the conclusions of the earlier sections, that the site has undergone substantial development from the mid-20th century onwards, such that it is unlikely that any features predating the modern period survive.

SITE WALKOVER

- 4.116 The site was visited in September 2022 in good weather conditions. A selection of images illustrating the condition and nature of the site is presented in **Appendix EDP 1**.
- 4.117 The bulk of the site is occupied by the former Tollgate motel, whilst a smaller part is located to the north-west comprising the approach roads to the site and a small part adjacent to the north of the A2 access roundabout. This part is occupied by grass and scrub trees but was evidently landscaped, being a piece of land sandwiched between the old A2 (to the north – now itself a landscaped green corridor) and the new A2 to the south.
- 4.118 Otherwise, the remainder (i.e. the greater part) of the site is occupied entirely by the buildings and landscaped grounds of the former Tollgate motel, which developed over the period between the 1920s and 1970s. The site has a general slope upwards to the east, with various buildings and hardscaping areas terraced into the slope.
- 4.119 Broadly speaking, the 1920s building is located in the northern part of the site. This is described in the Heritage Statement (edp7841_r001), but otherwise it is surrounded by tarmac areas and hard standing (**Images EDP A1.1** and **A1.2**). The building itself is located on a level platform, partially terraced into the slope to the rear (**Image EDP A1.2**).
- 4.120 To the south-east there are two freestanding single storey buildings (**Image EDP A1.3**), which are located again on building platforms terraced into the slope. Surrounding these is a levelled area to the rear, clearly terraced into the slope (**Image EDP A1.4**), although the surrounding grass areas possibly represent the previous landform.
- 4.121 Around the northern and eastern parts of the site are the 1970s extensions to the motel, with the northern wing stepping up the slope and no doubt terraced into the natural ground (**Image EDP A1.5**). The eastern block is located on a levelled platform on the eastern part of the site (**Image EDP A1.4**).
- 4.122 The intervening areas within the site are occupied by various areas of tarmac carparking and roads (e.g. **Image EDP A1.6**), which may reflect the original landform, but their construction at least is likely to have disturbed the underlying substrate.
- 4.123 No upstanding archaeological features were identified on the site visit, instead it is apparent that there have been large scale earthworks and ground reduction associated with the construction of the hotel buildings.

Section 5 Conclusions

- 5.1 This report has established the archaeological interest and/or potential of the site and also identified the nature and magnitude of any impacts upon that resource as a result of the proposed development's implementation, in accordance with national planning guidance in the NPPF, as well as local planning policy.
- 5.2 Whilst an assessment of the local landscape indicates a high presence of Prehistoric and Roman activity, the evidence suggests that the modern development of the site is likely to have heavily truncated or entirely destroyed any archaeological remains within it, such that its archaeological potential is very limited. Instead, any surviving remains would likely be restricted to isolated pockets of the site, which may have been subject to less built development. Moreover, these remains are most likely to relate to random find spots or features related to small scale settlement or land management, which are unlikely to be of greater than low, local value, although there is limited potential for funerary remains, which could be of more moderate value, albeit they would likely be in a poor state of preservation due to later truncation.
- 5.3 The site most likely comprised agricultural land during the medieval period. As such, it is unlikely that the site contains features or deposits of this date beyond those related to agricultural management. Such features would be of no greater than low, local archaeological interest and would be limited to isolated areas within the site which have not been previously disturbed. There is also a very low potential for the site to contain archaeological remains dating to the post-medieval to modern period beyond features related to earlier phases of the public house located within the main parcel of the site, which would be of no greater than low, local value, and those related to the 19th century farm and cottages in the north-west of the site, which would be of no greater than negligible heritage significance.
- 5.4 It is thus concluded that the site contains no archaeological remains that would be of such significance as to warrant physical preservation *in situ*. At the most, the groundworks relating to the proposed development might affect heavily truncated archaeological features that were not recorded when the site was developed in the 20th century. In this regard, any impacts are not considered to be a determinative matter and instead, if further investigation is required by the archaeological advisor, this could be suitably addressed through an appropriately worded condition following any planning consent granted. The scope of any such works would be agreed in advance with the archaeological advisor.
- 5.5 Therefore, in terms of archaeology, the planning proposals are considered to comply with the relevant paragraphs of the NPPF, and relevant policies within the Gravesham Local Plan.

Section 6

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LIST OF CONSULTED MAPS

- OS Draft 1-inch Map, 1797
- William Barlow Map, 1800
- 1841 Tithe Map of Northfleet Parish
- The First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1864 -82
- The Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1896
- The 1908-09 Edition Ordnance Survey Map
- The 1929 Edition Ordnance Survey Map
- The 1954-62 Edition Ordnance Survey Map
- The 1970 Edition Ordnance Survey Map

Appendix EDP 1 Images



Image EDP A1.1: View of the 1920s inn looking north-east, showing the landscaping to the front of the building.



Image EDP A1.2: View of the much-altered 1920s building showing how it is terraced into the slope, looking north-east.



Image EDP A1.3: View of the two buildings in the centre of the site looking south, showing the building platforms terraced into the slope.



Image EDP A1.4: View of the centre of the site looking east, showing the terracing in this part of the site and the 1970s motel building built on a level platform.



Image EDP A1.5: View north of the northern 1970s block, showing how it steps up and is terraced into the slope.



Image EDP A1.6: General view of the site looking east, showing the general disposition of the buildings and tarmacked car park areas.

Plans

Plan EDP 1: Overview of Designated Heritage Assets
(edp7841_d001a 18 March 2024 GYo/EBR)

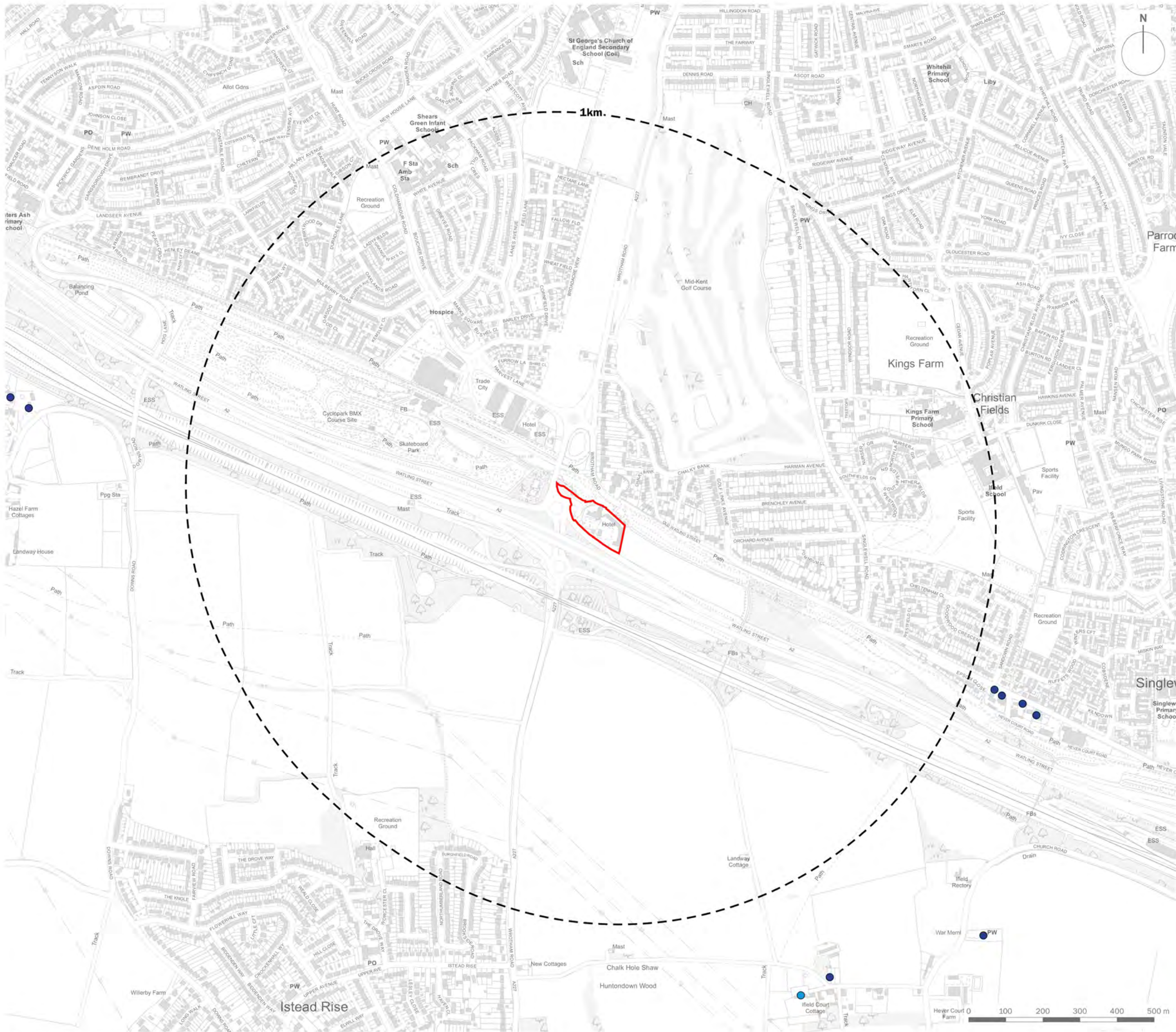
Plan EDP 2: Overview of HER Monuments
(edp7841_d002a 18 March 2024 GYo/EBR)

Plan EDP 3: Overview of HER Events
(edp7841_d003a 18 March 2024 GYo/EBR)

Plan EDP 4: Extracts of 1838 Tithe Map of the Parish of Northfleet
(edp7841_d004a 18 March 2024 GYo/EBR)

Plan EDP 5: Extracts of OS Mapping
(edp7841_d005a 18 March 2024 GYo/EBR)

Plan EDP 6: Extracts of LiDAR Data
(edp7841_d006a 18 March 2024 GYo/EBR)

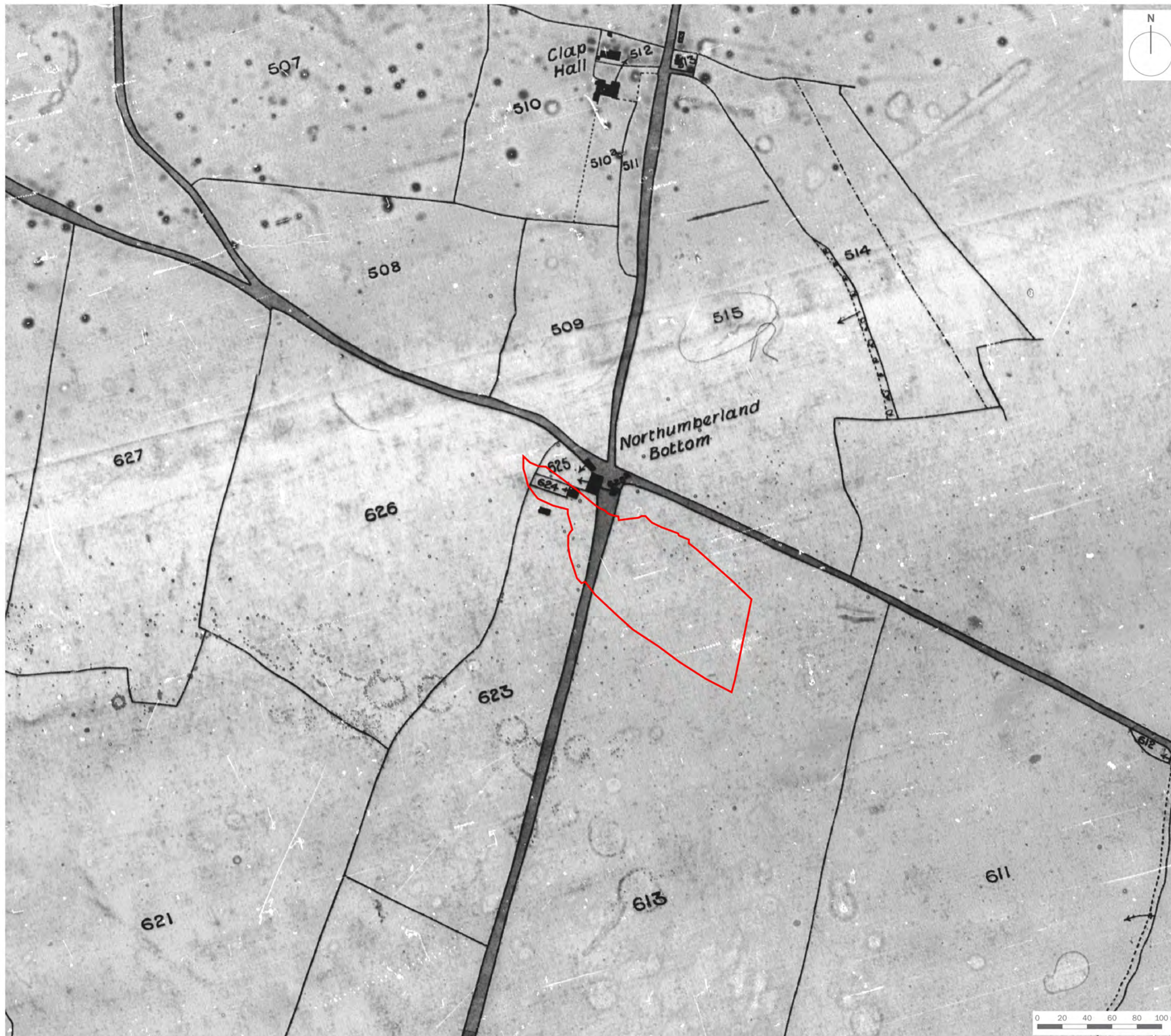


- Site Boundary
- 1km Study Area
- Grade II* Listed Building
- Grade II Listed Building

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project title	Tollgate Service Area, Northfleet		
drawing title	Overview of Designated Heritage Assets		
date	18 MARCH 2024	drawn by	GYo
drawing number	edp7841_d001a	checked	EBR
scale	1:10,000 @ A3	QA	DJo



client	Rapleys LLP		
project title	Tollgate Service Area, Northfleet		
drawing title	Overview of HER Monuments		
date	18 MARCH 2024	drawn by	GYo
drawing number	edp7841_d002a	checked	EBR
scale	1:10,000 @ A3	QA	DJo



 Approximate Site Boundary

client

Rapleys LLP

project title

Tollgate Service Area, Northfleet

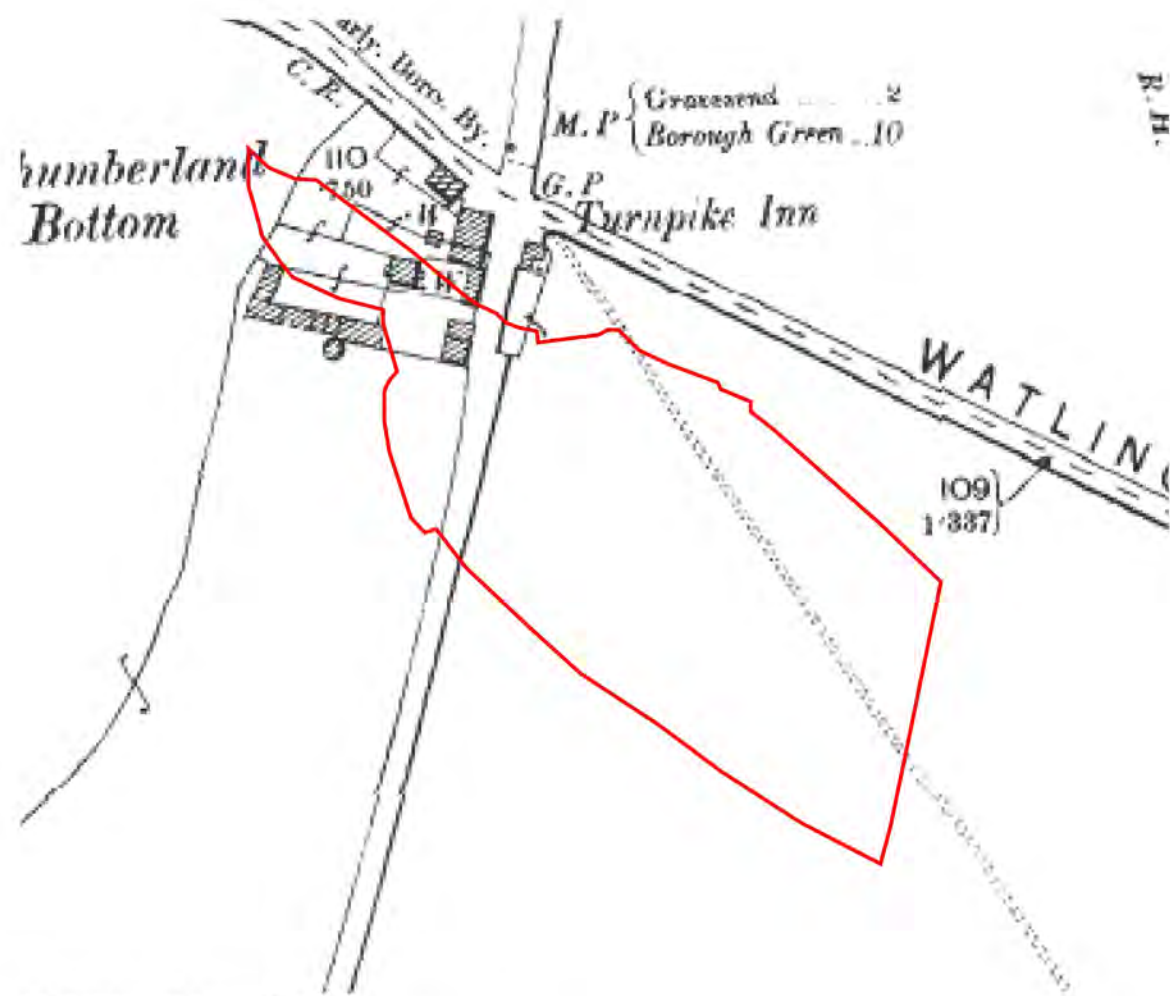
drawing title

Extracts of 1838 Tithe Map of the Parish of Northfleet

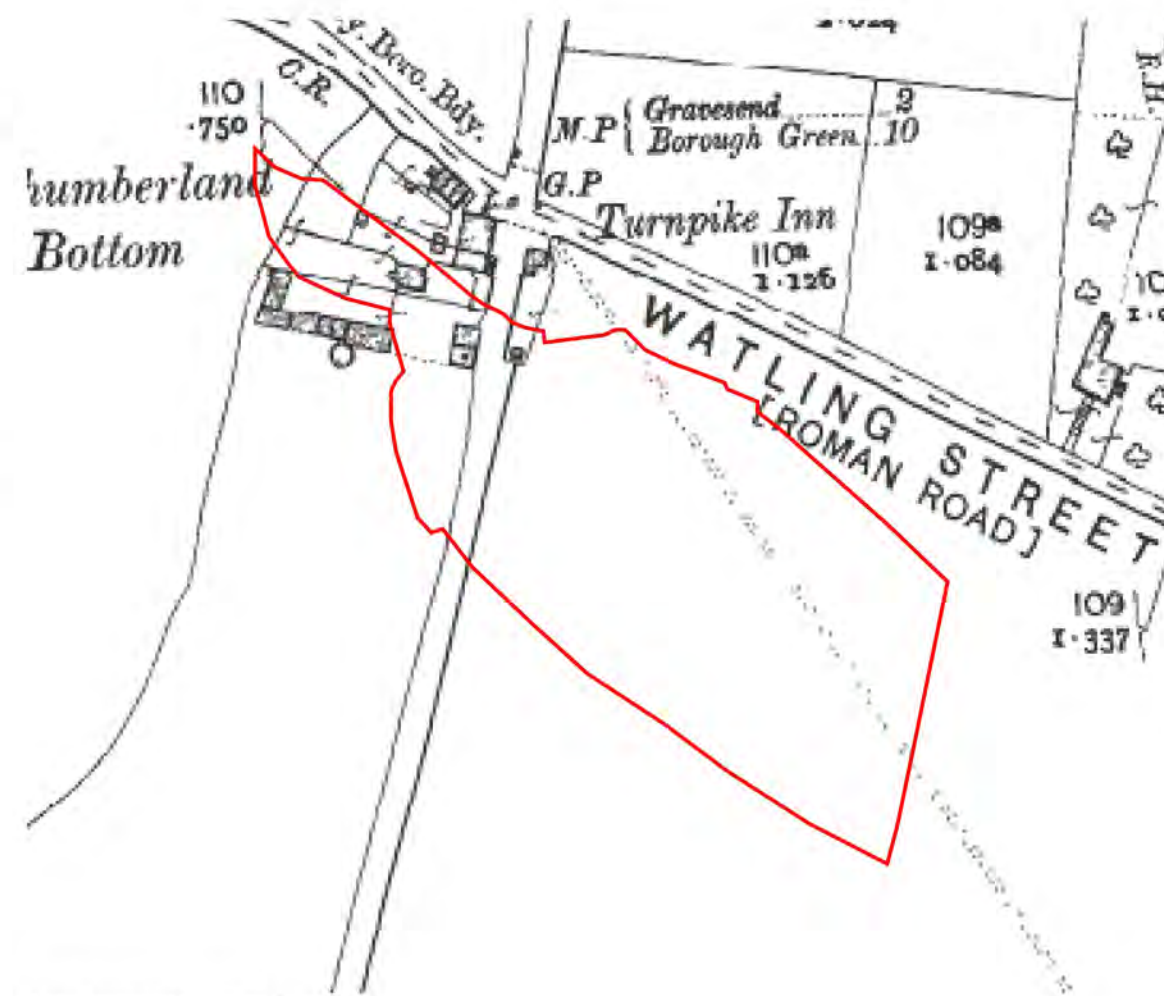
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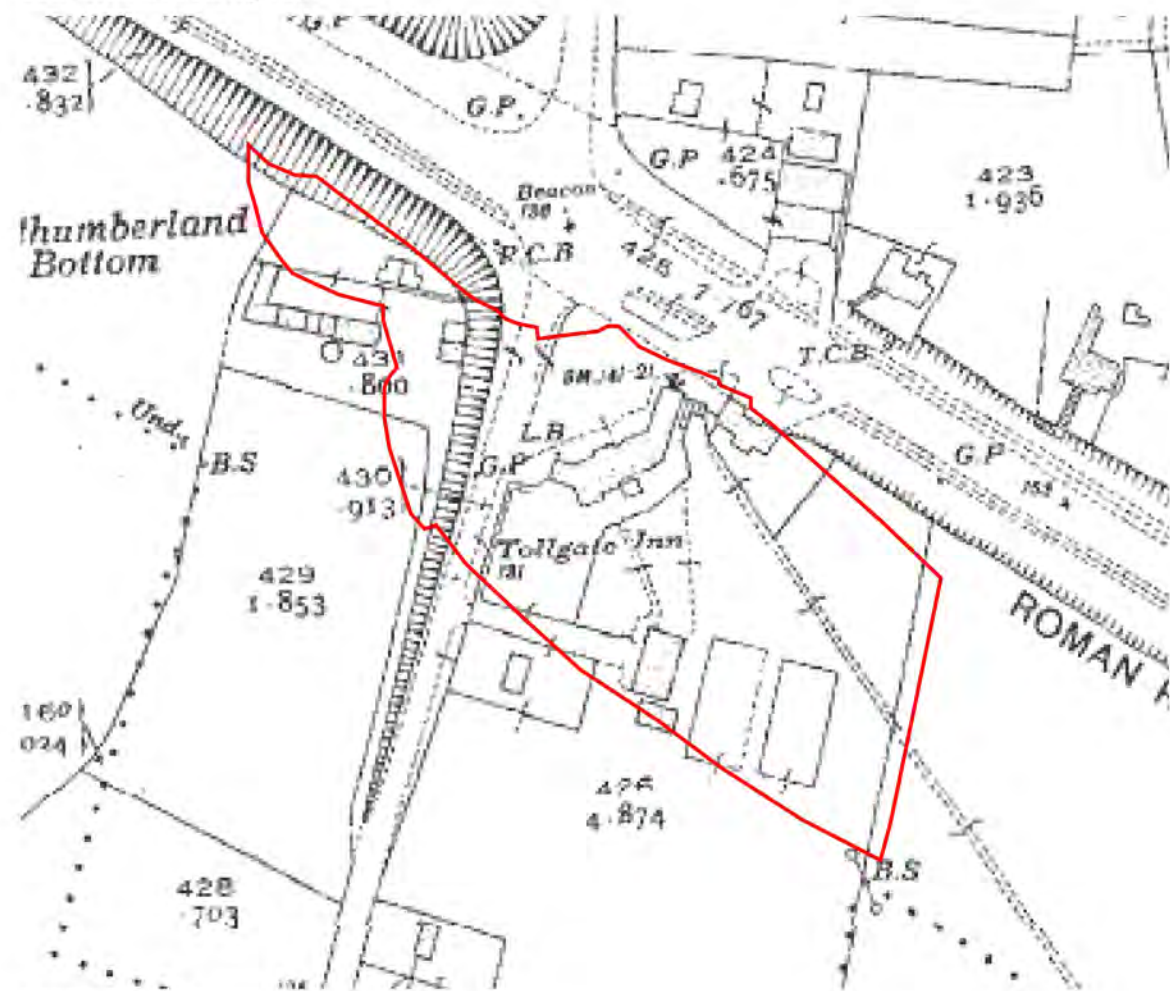
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1897 Ordnance Survey Map



1907 Ordnance Survey Map



1929 Ordnance Survey Map



1979 Ordnance Survey Map

 Approximate Site Boundary



client	Rapleys LLP		
project title	Tollgate Service Area, Northfleet		
drawing title	Extracts of OS Mapping		
date	18 MARCH 2024	drawn by	GYo
drawing number	edp7841_d005a	checked	EBR
scale	1:2,000 @ A3	QA	DJo



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Site Boundary



LiDAR Data Using 1m Digital Terrain Model (DTM) with Multi-directional Azimuth Shading

client			
Rapleys LLP			
project title			
Tollgate Service Area, Northfleet			
drawing title			
Extracts of Lidar Data			
date	18 MARCH 2024	drawn by	GYo
drawing number	edp7841_d006a	checked	EBR
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