

Allen Archaeology Limited

SPECIFICATION FOR A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF: LAND AT WORCESTER CLOSE, ISTEAD RISE, GRAVESEND, KENT

Application:	20230136
Client:	Elkins Construction
National Grid References:	TQ 6364 7023
Date:	17th February 2022
AAL Site Code:	GRWC 25

1.0 Summary

This document is the specification for a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Land At Worcester Close, Istead Rise, Gravesend, Kent, DA13 9LB, for the construction of 8 new affordable rent residential units (Use Class C3) with associated vehicular and pedestrian access, car parking, cycle parking, refuse storage and landscaping. (Planning Ref: 20230136).

The fieldwork, recording and reporting will conform to current national guidelines, as set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists code of conduct, 'Standard for archaeological monitoring and recording' (CIfA 2023a), 'Universal guidance for archaeological monitoring and recording' (CIfA 2023b) and the Historic England document 'Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment' (Historic England 2015). The proposed works will also conform to the standard Kent County Council specification for watching briefs (Heritage Conservation Group 2020).

2.0 Site Location and Description

The proposed development site is located in the village of Istead Rise, in the administrative borough of Gravesham, Kent. It is situated c.3.2km south-southwest of the centre of Gravesend and c.11km west-northwest of the centre of Rochester. The site is approximately 0.13 hectares and is presently an undeveloped area of trees and grass. The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 6364 7023 and is c.74m above Ordnance Datum.

The bedrock geology comprises chalk in Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation (undifferentiated), with no superficial geology deposits recorded (<https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/geology-of-britain-viewer>).

3.0 Planning Background

Full planning consent was sought from Gravesham Borough Council for the Construction of 8 new affordable rent residential units (Use Class C3) with associated vehicular and pedestrian access, car parking, cycle parking, refuse storage and landscaping.

Planning consent was granted for this application on the 29/11/2023 with the following condition for archaeological work:

5. No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of an archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Following on from the evaluation, any safeguarding measures to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation and recording in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation and timetable shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded in accordance with Policies CS19 and CS20 of the Gravesham Local Plan Core Strategy (September 2014) and saved Policy TC7 of the Gravesham Local Plan First Review (1994).

However, Casper Johnson, Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council has indicated that an

archaeological watching brief is the most appropriate mitigation for this project.

This approach is consistent with the guidelines that are set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), with the particular sections of relevance being Paragraphs 192 and 194 of 'Section 16. Conserving and enhancing the historic environment' (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 2024) and the Gravesham Local Plan Core Strategy (GBC 2014).

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The below information has been taken from the recent Desk Based Assessment for the site (AAL 2022).

Prehistoric

Early prehistoric activity is well-represented in the wider region, particularly along the Thames Valley. Evidence of activity dating back to the Bronze Age has been recorded to the north of the proposed development site, comprising of a grave containing a Beaker vessel and the remains of two adults and a child (MKE80425). Several cropmarks of circular enclosures and field systems of probable prehistoric date have been identified on aerial photos to the east and northeast of the site (MKE1747, MKE9462, MKE9464). A Neolithic polished flint axe (MKE1648), Iron Age coins (MKE1645, MKE58050, MKE58806, MKE66849), and a late Bronze Age copper alloy spearhead (MKE66902) have been found at various locations. Two scatters of prehistoric worked flint were identified 400m to the east-southeast and 650m to the east-northeast (MKE78114 and MKE78121).

Excavations to the north of the proposed development site (MKE42966) have revealed extensive late Iron Age activity, including pits, ditches, postholes, and two hearths. A Middle Iron Age ditch was recorded c.120m south of this settlement (MKE42966). Field systems have been identified on aerial photos just under 300m to the east-southeast, where ditches ranging in date from the late Iron Age to 3rd century AD, as well as some evidence of buildings, in the form of pits, postholes, brick, tile and daub were excavated in 1997 (MKE1744).

Roman

A series of enclosures dating from the 1st to 3rd century AD, along with metalled roads, were discovered c.900m north-northeast of the site (MKE80452). One of the enclosures contained a timber building destroyed by fire in AD 70 – 120, as well as two neonate burials. Two potential Roman settlement sites have been identified from cropmarks (MKE1748 and MKE9461). Five find spots of individual Roman coins and a 2nd-century enamelled brooch were recorded (MKE110588, MKE110589, MKE57995, MKE58136, MKE110587, MKE110585). Nine sherds of Roman pottery were recovered during fieldwalking c.800m to the north-northeast of the site (MKE78326).

Early Medieval

Evidence for early medieval activity is limited to a single find spot of an Anglo-Scandinavian copper alloy harness fitting (MKE66983).

Medieval

Istead Rise is a modern settlement and does not appear in the Domesday Book. Nearby Gravesend is however mentioned and was an estate of the Bishop of Bayeux, populated by 4 villans and eight slaves. A church and a 'hithe' (port/harbour) are also mentioned (Williams and Martin 2002).

Medieval activity is represented by finds recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS), including five silver coins, a sword pommel, a copper alloy key, a copper alloy buckle and a 13th century seal (MKE76667, MKE66984, MKE66972, MKE58002, MKE57917, MKE66666, MKE57945, MKE57944, MKE1742). A ditch was also found to the north of the proposed development site during an evaluation (MKE78377).

Post-Medieval

Several extant or former farm buildings, such as Downs Hall and Downs Farm (MKE27766 and MKE84170), represent this period. A former chalk mine (MKE16793) is also noted. Finds include a Spanish reale coin (MKE58524), a 17th-century lead token (MKE57942), a crotal bell (MKE110590), a cast lead palm guard (MKE95454), and a coin weight (MKE95453).

Modern

A World War Two heavy anti-aircraft battery and camp, built in 1938, was located to the southwest (MKE20611). By 1976, the area was heavily developed for housing.

Undated

Cropmarks of possible enclosures, trackways, and pits (MKE1441, MKE1629, MKE9463, MKE9466, MKE1743), along with chalk tunnels exposed in 1972 (MKE1730), are recorded as of uncertain date.

5.0 Objectives

The purpose of the watching brief will be for monitoring and recording associated with any groundworks associated with the new residential development.

Evidence shall be gathered to establish the presence/absence, nature, date, depth, quality of survival and importance of any archaeological deposits to enable an assessment of the potential and significance of the archaeological remains, and to assess the impact of the development upon the archaeology

6.0 Methodology

The scheme of archaeological works includes monitoring of all ground works associated with the construction of the 8 new rent residential units, with the ability to stop and fully record archaeological features.

The archaeological contractor will confirm the extent of proposed works in advance with the site developer and inform the Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council that arrangements are in place for appropriate monitoring.

The frequency of archaeological monitoring visits, ground works observed and any constraints experienced while carrying out the monitoring should be detailed. In the watching brief report, a schedule of visits, date and duration will be provided.

The archaeologist will inspect exposed walls, foundations and surfaces revealed. The main contractor will allow the archaeological contractor reasonable time and resources to undertake any inspection or recording required.

Further limited archaeological investigation may be necessary to clarify the extent and nature of some archaeological deposits or features of historic interest. In this case, hand excavation will be required wherever safe access to the excavations is possible.

If significant remains are unexpectedly encountered the archaeological contractor will inform the Senior Archaeological Officer and the developer immediately and further mitigation measures will be agreed. If appropriate, more detailed archaeological excavation and recording work will need to be agreed with Kent County Council.

All monitoring will be undertaken by one experienced field archaeologist. They will act strictly in accordance with the contents of this document, and will adhere to national and local guidelines regarding agreed best practice for archaeological monitoring and recording projects.

All groundworks should be carried out using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, except for where removal of concrete or tarmac surfaces or obstructions necessitates the use of a hydraulic breaker or toothed bucket, at the discretion of the supervising archaeologist.

A full written record of the archaeological deposits will be made on standard Allen Archaeology Limited recording sheets. All archaeological features will be drawn in plan and section, as well as a selection of sections to show the general stratigraphic sequence. Sections to be drawn will be marked with string and nails and allocated an individual drawing number with a comprehensive record of all drawings to be

maintained, with the location of every section drawing plotted onto the site master plan and correctly referenced. All sections will be drawn at an appropriate scale (1:10, 1:20 or 1:50), with Ordnance Datum heights being displayed on each drawing.

Digital photography will form an integral part of the recording strategy (at a minimum resolution of 10 megapixels), and all photographs will, where appropriate, incorporate scales, an identification board and directional arrow.

Should human remains be encountered the Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council and the local coroner will be informed immediately. An appropriate strategy for the management of the human remains will be discussed with the Senior Archaeological Officer. The human remains will be left in situ, unless their condition indicates that exhumation would be more appropriate. If uncovered, human remains left in situ will be carefully covered with geotextile (terram) and soft soil from elsewhere on the site. If removal is essential an exhumation licence will be requested from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) authorizing the removal of the remains. These will be cleaned, photographed and recorded on standard AAL human skeletal remains recording sheets, prior to removal for cleaning at the offices of AAL and subsequent analysis by the named specialist.

Following excavation and initial processing at the offices of Allen Archaeology Limited all human remains will then be sent to the named specialist, Malin Holst. All assessment and analysis will be in accordance with all relevant CifA and English Heritage guidance, including 'Human Bones from Archaeological Sites: Guidance for Producing Assessment Documents and Analytical Reports' (English Heritage 2004).

Any artefacts found during the process of fieldwork that are deemed to be 'treasure' (as defined by the Treasure Act 2023) will immediately be reported to the Finds Liaison Officer (FLO) of the Portable Antiquities Scheme covering Kent so that it is reported to the appropriate Coroner within 14 days of discovery to comply with the requirements of the Act.

All finds of all classes will be collected, other than obviously modern finds from topsoil and subsoil contexts. The spoil from the excavated areas will be examined for further artefact recovery. Finds collected during the fieldwork will be bagged and labelled with the appropriate deposit context number, while registered finds will be 3D located and bagged individually with the deposit context number and small find number. If necessary, the relevant specialist will visit the site during fieldwork to advise on the artefact collection and retention strategies. All finds will be processed (cleaned, marked and labelled as appropriate) at the AAL offices. These will then be submitted for specialist reporting to the following organisations/persons (depending on their availability):

Joshua T. Hogue	Worked lithics
Barbara McNee	Prehistoric Pottery
Phil Mills	Roman ceramics
Paul Blinkhorn	Post-Roman Ceramics and Ceramic Building Material
Bryn Leadbetter	Animal bone
Malin Holst	Human remains
Yvonne Rose	Other finds
Bryn Leadbetter	Environmental analysis

7.0 Post-Excavation and Reporting

On completion of site operations, the records produced will be checked and ordered and a stratigraphic matrix of all archaeological features and deposits prepared.

Upon completion of all site works, a fully illustrated report text will then be prepared that will contain the following information:

- A non-technical summary of the results
- A description of the archaeological setting of the site

- Description of the topography and geology of the investigation area
- Description of the methodologies used during the investigation and discussion of their effectiveness in the light of the results
- A text describing the results of the investigation
- Overall plan of the site showing excavated areas, accurately located to the national grid
- Plans of the excavated areas showing the archaeological features exposed
- Sections of the archaeological features
- Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed and their context within the surrounding landscape
- Specialist reports on the finds from the site
- Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features or groups of features
- A completed OASIS form will be included within the report
- A completed Kent Historic Environment Record Report Form will be included within the report

8.0 Curatorial Monitoring

Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological works on the site rests with the Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council. The Senior Archaeological Officer will be informed by AAL in writing at least one week prior to the commencement of the project to enable them to make appropriate monitoring arrangements.

Internal monitoring will be by undertaken by the AAL Project Management team.

9.0 Archive

The documentation and records generated by the excavation will be assembled in accordance with the national guidelines in 'Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation' (Brown 2011).

The archiving of archaeological sites in Kent is currently under review and as such, the precise arrangements for archiving this site currently cannot be known and will be agreed at a later date with the Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council and the Local Planning Authority.

10.0 Report Dissemination

A draft report will be submitted to the Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council within four weeks of the completion of the fieldwork, unless there are reasonable grounds for more time. Digital copies of the report will be sent to the client, the Local Planning Authority and the County Archaeologist for approval. The project report will be submitted to the ADS and the final report uploaded to OASIS within two weeks of approval.

11.0 Variations to the Proposed Scheme

Variations to the proposed scheme will only be made following written approval from the Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council.

Should any further investigation be required beyond the scope of the brief for works, or this specification, then the cost and duration of those supplementary examinations will be negotiated between the client and the contractor.

12.0 Health and Safety

All work will be carried out in a way that complies with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and its related regulations and codes of practice. Employees of AAL will perform their duties in accordance with company safety policy, with senior staff responsible for monitoring compliance with health and safety requirements and legislation. A detailed site-specific Risk Assessment will be carried out in advance of any archaeological fieldwork.

All staff will have read the site-specific Risk Assessment.

12.0 Insurances

Allen Archaeology Limited maintains Employers Liability Insurance to £10,000,000.00, Public Liability Insurance to £5,000,000.00 and Professional Indemnity Insurance to £2,000,000.00. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied upon request.

13.0 Copyright

Allen Archaeology Limited shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that an exclusive license is hereby provided to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project described in this document.

License is also given to the archaeological curator to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes. This license does not cover commercial use of the material by Kent County Council or a third party.

The author of any specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes for further publication.

14.0 Bibliography

Brown, D H, 2011, *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*, Second edition, Archaeological Archives Forum

AAL, 2022, *Archaeological Desk-based Assessment: land at Worcester Close, Istead Rise, Gravesend*, Kent. Lincoln: Allen Archaeology Ltd

CIfA, 2023a, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: Reading

CIfA, 2023b, *Universal Guidance for Archaeological Excavation*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: Reading

GBC, 2014, *Gravesham Local Plan Core Strategy*. Gravesham: Gravesham Borough Council. Available from <https://www.gravesham.gov.uk/local-plan-policy>

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2024, *National Planning Policy Framework*. London, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Heritage Conservation Group, 2020, *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief in Kent*, Maidstone: Kent County Council

Historic England, 2015, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment. The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*

UKIC, 1990, *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990)*, London: United Kingdom Institute for Conservation

Prepared by
Adam Lodoen
Allen Archaeology
Ltd, 18th February
2025

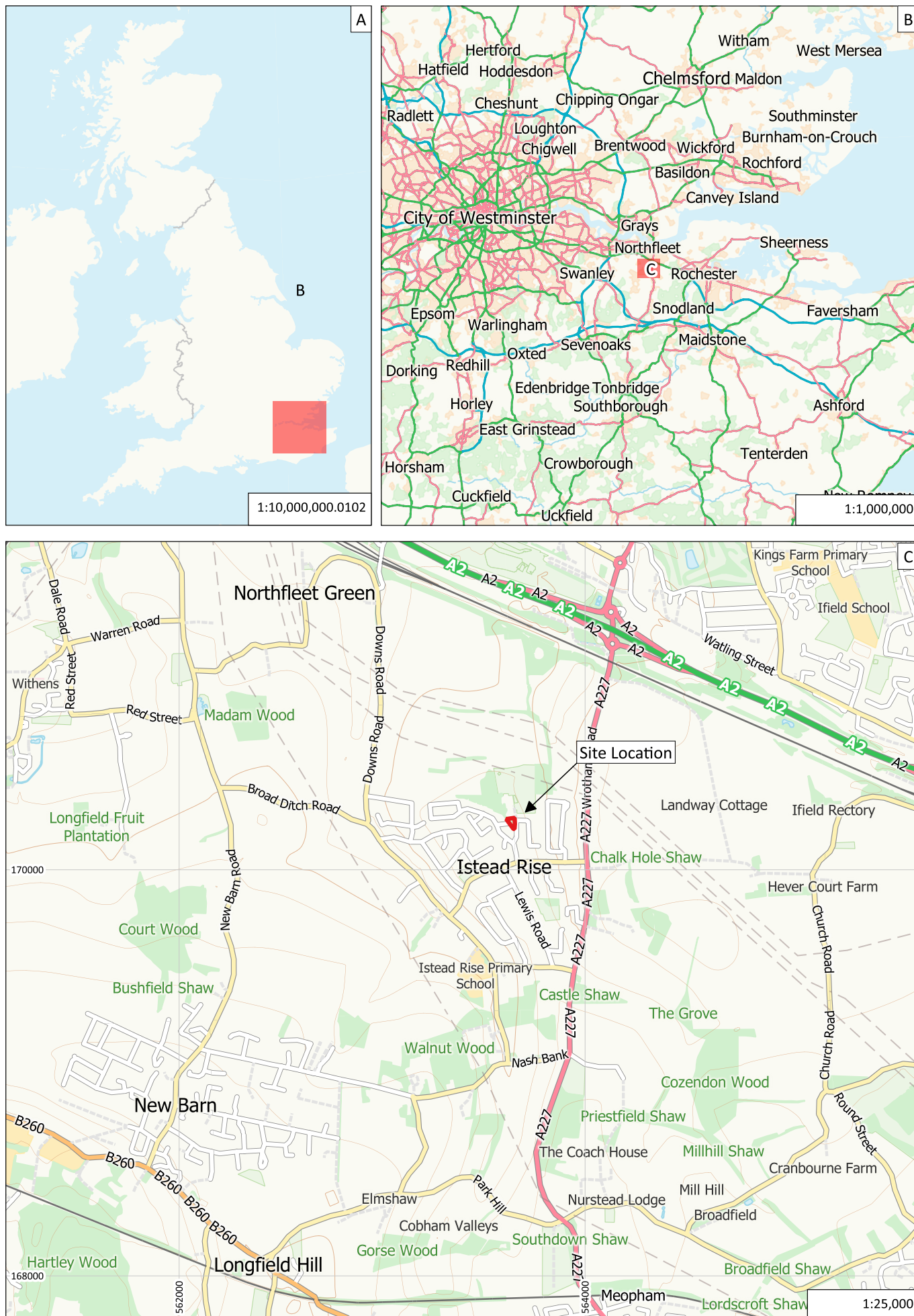
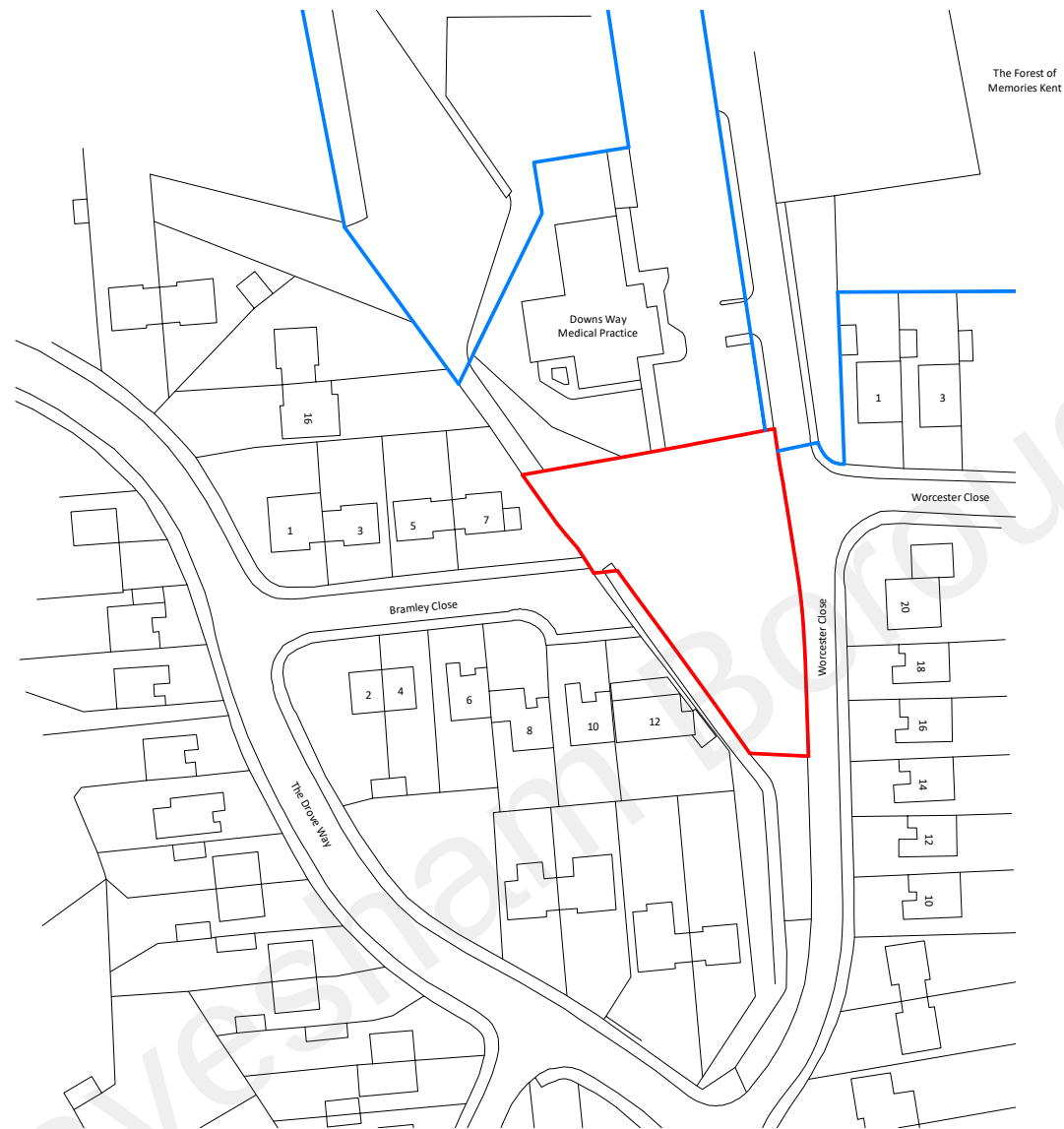


Figure 1: Site location outlined in red



Land at Worcestershire Close,
Istead Rise, Gravesend, Kent
Site Code: LSCA24



Key

- Site Boundary
- Other land owned by applicant

Notes:
Do not scale. All dimensions are in millimetres unless otherwise stated.
This drawing should be read in conjunction with all relevant project information and contract documentation. All dimensions to be checked prior to fabrication and or commencement of works. All works to comply with all relevant legal standards, building regulations and warranty provider requirements. Report any discrepancies, if in doubt ask.

Revisions:					
Rev	Status	Date	Description	Drn	Chkd
C01	A3	23.01.23	Planning Issue	HLB	AA

Client Name:
Gravesham Borough Council

Project Name:
Worcester Close

Drawing Name:
Site Location Plan

Drawing Number:
WCL-BPTW-S01-ZZ-DR-A-0102

Rev:
C01

Status:
A3

Project No:
20-102

RIBA Stage:
3

Drawn By:
HLB

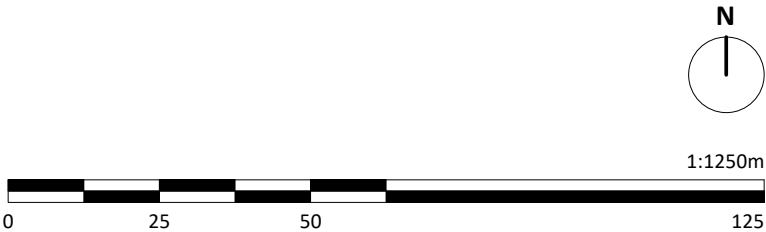
Scale:
1:1250 @ A3

PLANNING ISSUE

40 Norman Road,
Greenwich, London
SE10 9QX
t. 020 8293 5175
bptw.co.uk



Note:
Plan based on Ordnance Survey data (by others).





Allen Archaeology Limited
www.allenarchaeology.co.uk

Company Registered in England and Wales No: 6935529

Lincoln

Whisby Lodge
Hillcroft Business Park
Whisby Road
Lincoln
Lincolnshire
LN6 3QL

T: +44 (0) 1522 685356
E: info@allenarchaeology.co.uk

West

Arion Business Centre
Harriet House
118 High Street
Birmingham
B23 6BG
T: +44 (0) 800 610 2545
E: birmingham@allenarchaeology.co.uk

Northeast

Office 17, Birtley Business Centre
85 Station Lane
Birtley
Chester-le-Street
County Durham
DH3 1QT

T: +44 (0) 7710 099045
E: northeast@allenarchaeology.co.uk

East

Wellington House
East Road
Cambridge
Cambridgeshire
CB1 1BH
T: +44 (0) 800 610 2550
E: cambridge@allenarchaeology.co.uk

Northwest

Office 4
Barbury House,
8 Hardy Close,
Nelson Court Business Centre,
Preston,
PR2 2XP

T: +44 (0) 1772 963039
M: +44 (0) 7710 099052
E: northwest@allenarchaeology.co.uk

South

International House
Southampton International Business Park
George Curl Way
Southampton
SO18 2RZ
T: +44 (0) 800 610 2555
E: southampton@allenarchaeology.co.uk