

2021

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT 27-28 HIGH STREET, GRAVESEND DA11 0AZ



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27-28 HIGH STREET, GRAVESEND DA11 0AZ

Written Scheme of Investigation

Report reference: DAS027-22

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28 February 2022



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Planning Reference: 20200412

NGR: TQ 64759 74229

DAS Site Code: HSG22-WB

OASIS Reference Number: TBC

Report prepared for Jaipal Singh (Client)

By Darnley Archaeological Services Ltd Company, No 12320658

Report Number DAS 0027-22

February 2022





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1. Introduction

- 1.1. This WSI sets out the project's background, the aims and objectives, the methods and standards to be employed on-site, the scope of post-excavation activities, and archiving methods. The WSI conforms to MoRPHE guidelines (Historic England 2015) and sets out a methodology for following best practice procedures as set out by Historic England the generic specification from Kent County Council and CIFA (2014a)
- 1.2. This WSI will be submitted to the client. All reports will be forwarded by the client to the Local Planning Authority, KCC and archived to the local archaeological society or another suitable custodian. The client will be consulted if any significant finds are made during the excavations.
- 1.3. 20200412 concerns demolition of existing building and erection of a three-storey and four-storey building on the same footprint, to create one retail unit on the ground floor and five residential units above (3 x 2 beds and 2 x 1 bed).

2. Location, Topography, and Geology

- 2.1. The proposed development site (PDS) is in Gravesend town centre adjacent to the Borough Market and in the area known as the Heritage Quarter. High Street, Gravesend is the oldest part of the town centre and was the main road linking the old A2 to Gravesend Pier.
- 2.2. The site is on top of the bedrock of Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation (undifferentiated) - Chalk. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 72 to 94 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. Local environment previously dominated by warm chalk seas.
- 2.3. The site is relatively level, with the site boundary at a consistent 17m (+/- 1m) aOD.

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1. High Street Gravesend lies within the Conservation Area High Street and Queen Street, Gravesend (designated 16/01/1970) detailed study of the Kent Historic Environment Record database was undertaken to assist the written scheme of investigation (Figure 3). The following provides nearby entries on the HER with a brief description within a 100m radius assessment area:¹

Medieval/Post Medieval - the assessment area demonstrates several heritage assets associated with urban settlement. Remains of demolished buildings, cellars and post holes

¹ <https://webapps.kent.gov.uk/KCC.ExploringKentsPast.Web.Sites.Public/Default.aspx>



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associated with earlier structures have been recorded along with many listed buildings. Excavation of buildings on the High Street have resulted in a better understanding of an older Gravesend.

TQ 67 SW 229	Four storey early 19th century building. Fragments of earlier brickwork is visible in the basement cut into the natural chalk. The front comprises possible 18th century brickwork with 2 1/4 inch bricks. At the rear, the fabric is of perhaps 17th century with 2 inch red bricks. South wall of the cellar is carved out of natural chalk of which a baulk survives at the rear. Long rectangular brick-lined basement. Now demolished.
TQ 67 SW 172	Gravesend Town. Medieval - 1066 AD to 1539 AD
TQ 67 SW 228	Observation on geotechnical test pits and boreholes recorded the presence of two cellars of 18th/19th century in date. Both were around 2.9m in depth and one still retained its barrel-vaulted ceiling aligned east to west. A distillery is shown on the 1st Ed OS map of the site.
TQ 67 SW 231	Site of distillery shown on the 1st Ed OS map. Cellars found during groundwork date to the 18th - 19th century and were associated with buildings linked to the distillery. Three deep-cut cellars, two brick-lined 19th century cellars and one earlier cut directly into the natural chalk. Ceramic inclusions within the rubble backfill of the earlier cellar provided the only significant archaeological evidence and a possible founding date, c.1660-1680, for the distillery.
TQ 67 SW 1117	The Kent Public House Listed Building (II) – 1089053: Early C19. 4 storeys stock brick. 2 sashes with glazing bars intact. Late C19 bar front with panelled risers and left side passageway.
TQ 67 SW 1069	The Albion Public House Listed Building (II) – 1089056: C18. 3 storeys painted brick. Parapet. 2 sashes with glazing bars intact. Contemporary bar front with pilasters and panelled risers. The rear elevation is weatherboarded and has a half-hipped tiled gable and 2 sashes with glazing bars intact. Nos 55 to 59 and 55A form a group
TQ 67 SW 1340	Old Town Hall National Fire Service Station Second World War National Fire Service Station in the Market Place area north of the Old Town Hall in Gravesend. This originated pre-war as a municipal fire station. It consisted of brick buildings for the storage of a fire appliance, a hose drying tower and a temporary hut, as well as an open area for the storage of sections of water pipe. This was, for a time, the parent site for other National Fire Service Action Stations across the district. The war service use originated in 1939 and lasted until 1945. Peacetime fire services were provided from a new fire station which had been built in Windmill Street in 1942. The Market Place fire station was demolished post-war and has left no known traces.



TQ 67 SW 1071	Listed Building (II) – 1089055: Nos. 57 and 58 High Street, C18. 3 storeys stuccoed. Parapet. 1 dormer. 2 sashes with glazing bars intact to 2nd floor only set in moulded architraves with cornice and brackets to 1st floor. Modern shopfront. This was formerly part of the Albion Public House. Nos 55 to 59 and 55A form a group.
TQ 67 SW 1070	Listed Building (II) - 1367124: No. 56 High Street, C18. 3 storeys painted brick. Parapet and dropped Moulded eaves cornice. 2 sashes with glazing bars intact. Modern shopfront. This was formerly part of the Albion Public House.
TQ 67 SW 1155	Listed Building (II*) – 1054761: The Town Hall, Main construction periods 1836 to 1883. Townhall (19thc). Second World War air-raid siren on the roof of the Old Town Hall, High Street, Gravesend. This was part of the arrangements to warn the community of an approaching air raid and to give the all-clear. It was probably installed in 1939 and would have been decommissioned in 1945. The siren was removed post-war, perhaps by 1946. Summary from record TQ 67 SW 1320: Second World War Civil Defence Control Centre at the former early 19th century Police Station in a suite of rooms at the Old Town Hall in the High Street, Gravesend. This was for the coordination of rescue and other emergency services within Gravesend, in the event of an air raid. It appears to have been established by around May 1939 and to have continued until 1941. The nature of any adaptation to the premises is unknown. There is nothing obvious to be seen today. The premises are now used as a local history museum. Description from record TQ 67 SW 1301: Second World War air raid siren mounted on the roof of the Old Town Hall, High Street in Gravesend. This was part of the arrangements to warn the community of an approaching air raid and to give the all-clear once the raiders had passed. There was a control unit on the ground floor of the Town Hall. The siren was probably installed in 1939 and appears to have been placed behind the top of the classical pediment of the Town Hall. It would have been decommissioned by the end of the Second World War in Europe in 1945. The siren was subsequently removed at an uncertain date post-war but perhaps in 1946. It is not known whether its fixings survive.
TQ 67 SW 1102	Listed Building (II) – 1089054: Nos. 55 and 55A High Street, An early to mid C19 corner building. 4 storeys stuccoed. Parapet. Long and short quoins. 2 sashes with verticals only set in Italianate surrounds. 2nd floor windows have cambered heads, 1st floor windows have cornices above. Similar window set in the rounded corner. Modern shopfront. The Jury Street elevation also has 2



	sashes and a 2 storey extension in matching style with round-headed doorcase which is No 55A. Nos 55 to 59 and 55A form a group.
TQ 67 SW 481	Listed Building (II) – 1393707: Two k6 telephone kiosks outside the old Town Hall. The K6 is a standardised design made of cast iron, painted red overall with long horizontal glazing in door and sides and with the crowns situated on the top panels being applied not perforated. There are rectangular white display signs, reading TELEPHONE beneath the shallow curved roof. These kiosks have modernised internal equipment. The kiosks are in good condition, situated within the immediate vicinity of the Grade II* listed Old Town Hall. One is located to the far right of the front elevation, acting as a focal point terminating the view east along Jury Street, and the other is located under the portico of the Old Town Hall.
TQ 67 SW 1097	Listed Building (II) – 1089035: Statue of Queen Victoria in Borough Market House. Dated 1698 (sic). J Broad was the sculptor. A standing stone statue with full imperial regalia on stone plinth.
TQ 67 SW 105	Congregational Church, Princes Street, Gravesend. Built-in 1717 and closed in 1953, the building was demolished in 1961. Shown on the Ordnance Survey maps; 1862-1875, 1897-1900, 1907-1923, 1929-1952.
TQ 67 SW 131	No. 43 High Street – Excavated Feature: Pits containing Medieval and Post Medieval pottery and metalware. (1) Excavations at No.43 High Street, Gravesend in 1963 uncovered five pits of varying depth in an area behind a cobbler's shop. The pits produced many vessels, from storage vessels to jugs and tankards ranging from thirteenth to eighteenth century in date. From the evidence it would appear that the site had been in continuous occupation from the thirteenth century, with very extensive occupation in the seventeenth century until the present day. From the pottery evidence, it was possible to approximately date the rubbish pits as: Pit No.1 c.1590 - c.1770 No.2 c.1790 - c.1830 No.3 c.1790 and finally filled c.1850 No.4? and filled c.1860 No.5 ? and filled when basement was dug c.1845.
TQ 67 SW 1259	High Street Second World War public air raid shelter, 49/50 High Street. Second World War public air raid shelter in shop premises at 49/50 High Street, Gravesend, probably established in 1939/40 and decommissioned by the end of the war in Europe, in 1945. Design and form are unknown. The shop survives.
TQ 67 SW 132	Post-medieval rubbish pits. Excavations at the premises of Messers Chiesman in 1961 -1962. Several post-medieval rubbish pits found. One of which contained a complete George III chamber pot.
TQ 67 SW 1314	Brewhouse Yard Second World War air-raid shelter, Gravesend. Second World War air-raid shelter at 1 Brewhouse Yard,



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	Gravesend. This was probably in the basement and would have originated c. 1939/40, decommissioned by 1945. The basement is thought still to exist.
TQ 67 SW 1236	British Home Stores Second World War air-raid shelter, New Road, Gravesend. Second World War public air raid shelter, established in 1939 in the basement of British Home Stores, 5-10 New Road, Gravesend. Details of this are unknown. The basement is thought still to exist but is not accessible to visitors.
TQ 67 SW 635	Post holes at 3-5 Queen Street, Gravesend. 3 post holes were observed during an evaluation at 3-5 Queen Street, Gravesend by SWAT Archaeology in June 2011, on land designated for a small block of flats.
TQ 67 SW 189	Site of the National School, King Street, Gravesend. Site of the National School, King Street. The Free School, founded in 1580, was united with the National School. In 1835 a new building was erected on the site in King Street.
TQ 67 SW 1112	Listed Building (II) – 1240061: K2 Telephone Kiosk outside Crown Courts. Designed 1927 by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott. Made by various contractors. Cast iron. Square kiosk with domed roof. Unperforated crowns to top panels and margin glazing to windows and door.
TQ 67 SW 1129	Listed Building (II) – 1366592: No. 30 King Street. Grade II listed building. Main construction periods 1889 to 1889

4. Aims and Objectives

- 4.1. Darnley Archaeological Services Ltd compiled an excavation strategy for the work, providing complete details of the Watching Brief methodology.
- The PDS is located in the centre of a Conservation Area, and there are multiple examples of archaeological remains in the immediate area. Notwithstanding the importance of the area in understanding the history of the development and generation of Gravesend, there are numerous remains of archaeological significance from Romano-British settlement (TQ 67 SW 110) to the north to Medieval to Post-Medieval pit and finds (TQ 67 SW 13) immediately opposite the PDS. We, therefore, estimate the chances of finding archaeological remains to be high.
 - Following the watching brief observing six test pits², a method of piling through the cellar backfill and into the bedrock has been adapted (see Fig 4). The piling will occur first, followed by the excavation of beam slots across (north-south) the existing property floor.

² Taylor, R., *Report for an Archaeological Watching Brief of Six Geotechnical Test Pits at 27-28 High Street, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0AZ* (2021, Darnley Archaeological Services Ltd)



The watching brief will observe two beam slots that will cut through existing soils and contrast these with one beam slot cut through cellar backfill.

4.2. The aims of the Watching Brief are to:

- **Ensure that the planned excavations at the site mentioned in 4.1 are observed and that features of archaeological interest are correctly examined and recorded, as per 20200412 planning document.**

4.3. The objectives of this development project are to:

- **View & record excavation of 3 x selected beam slots following piling as per Fig 4.**

5. Fieldwork Methods

5.1. All work will be undertaken following the methods set out within this WSI, according to best practice as set out by ClfA. Before excavation, any significant variation on these methods will be agreed with the Client, Gravesham Borough Council, and KCC.

Setting out the excavation areas

5.2. Excavation areas will be set out according to the plans (Fig 4). Locations will be recorded in relation to known OS points using GIS.

Excavation

5.3. All groundworks will be excavated using a machine and bucket and by hand. However, any contexts or features of archaeological interest will be excavated solely by hand. A suitably qualified professional archaeologist will supervise all excavation areas.

5.4. Any archaeological features will be hand excavated in a manner that permits detailed recording and sampling (e.g. half or quarter sectioning all features).

6. Recording

6.1. Recording standards will be the same as for all formal excavations.

6.2. Archaeological features will be recorded in plan at an appropriate scale and located to the National Grid as accurately as possible.

6.3. Each context will be recorded on proforma records, which should include the following minimum details: character; contextual relationships; detailed description (dimensions and shape; soil components, colour, texture and consistency); associated finds; interpretation and phasing as well as cross-references to the drawn, photographic and finds registers. Each context will be recorded on an individual record.



- 6.4. Sections will be drawn through all significant cut features and levelled to ordnance datum.
- 6.5. All excavation areas will be assigned a trench number before excavation.
- 6.6. A complete drawn record of excavated archaeological features and deposits will be made, including plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections). All drawings will be tied into the OS National Grid. All OD heights of features will be recorded.
- 6.7. A digital photographic record will be maintained throughout the investigation, to include:
 - 6.7.1. site prior to fieldwork;
 - 6.7.2. site during work, including working shots and specific stages of fieldwork;
 - 6.7.3. the layout of any archaeological features, including plans and section drawings;
 - 6.7.4. site following backfilling

7. Survey

- 7.1. All excavated areas and features will be surveyed using manual recording techniques.

8. Finds

- 8.1. All stratified finds will be collected by context or, where appropriate, individually recorded in 3 dimensions.
- 8.2. Unstratified finds will only be collected where they contribute significantly to the project objectives or are of intrinsic interest.

Treasure

- 8.3. Finds of "treasure" will be reported under the Treasure Act procedures. Upon discovering any treasure as defined by the *Treasure Act 1996*, the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) and the landowner will be notified immediately. All information required by the Treasure Act (finder, location, material, date, associated items, etc.) will be reported to the PAS, who will discuss the treasure with the landowner.

Human Remains

- 8.4. In the event of discovering any human remains, the archaeological contractor will inform the client, the Council.
- 8.5. Archaeology Service and the Ministry of Justice via the submission of an application form for the 'Archaeological/Accidental/Site Investigation License regarding the disturbance of human remains.



- 8.6. The Human remains will be left in-situ, covered and protected. Where the Ministry of Justice issue a licence for their excavation, the licence requirements must be followed.

Conservation & Sampling

Provision should be made within the contingency for conservation (lifting and treatment) of fragile objects and collecting and analysing environmental and scientific (including dating) samples. Sampling is to be carried out under a strategy that is related to the project objectives.

Contingency Fund

The client should consider the nature of possible "unexpected discoveries" and the likely impact of the development upon them. Arrangements should include the boundary of the area for excavation, the period of temporary cessation of construction works within this area and the resources (expressed in person-days, specialist input etc.) available to undertake the excavation.

Post Excavation Methods and Reporting

- 8.7. The archive will be maintained and consolidated on-site. All written and drawn records from the excavation were collated, checked for consistency and stratigraphic relationships. The site's preliminary phasing will be based on recorded stratigraphic relationships on context sheets, site drawings, pottery spot dates, and other relevant information.

Finds evidence

- 8.8. All retained finds will be washed, weighed, counted, and identified off-site. They will be recorded to a level appropriate to the aims and objectives of the excavation. Artefacts and other finds will be suitably bagged and boxed following the standards of the ClfA.

9. Reporting

- 9.1. Following fieldwork, the assessment of stratigraphic, artefactual and ecofactual evidence report will be submitted to the HER, with a full OASIS entry, by Richard Taylor.

The report will include:

- Non-technical summary;
- Project background;
- Archaeological and historical context;



- Aims and objectives;
- Methods;
- Results – stratigraphic, finds and environmental;
- Statement of potential – of the stratigraphic, finds and environmental data – the extent to which the archive might be able to meet the original aims and research objectives of the project;
- Updated Project Design, including a summary of recommendations for any further analyses and updated project aims, with proposals for any publication (including a task list scheduling the personnel and resources required for analyses);
- Archive preparation and deposition arrangements;
- Appendices; illustrations & references

10. Archive Storage and Curation

- 10.1. It is recommended that any significant project archive resulting from the excavation is deposited with the local archaeological society, Kent Museums or the Kent Archaeological Society. The complete archive may include paper records, graphics, artefacts and digital data, which will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Kent Museums and following nationally recommended guidelines.

11. Health & Safety

- 11.1. All projects must be carried out following safe working practices and under a defined Health and Safety Policy.
- 11.2. Risk Assessments will be carried out for the investigation. If the risk assessment indicates it is necessary, the Watching Brief requirements can be varied in the interests of health and safety.

12. Personnel

- 12.1. The fieldwork will be directed and supervised by experienced archaeologists with long track records in professional archaeology and with ClfA certified organisations. The archaeological contractor holds the overall responsibility for the investigation and post-excavation activities:

Fred Birkbeck is a qualified archaeologist, Branding and Communication Manager and a Trustee on the Kent Archaeological Society Council. He is also on the survey team along with Richard Taylor contributing heavily to the planning of various survey and fieldwork projects, especially regarding member engagement and broadening participation. Fred has also contributed to a television project for Channel Four. He leads research projects for the University of Kent.



Richard Taylor is a qualified teacher, TV presenter, archaeologist, and published writer with experience in a variety of teaching and educational management roles including, most recently, as a Director of Darnley Archaeological Services, and previously as Community Archaeologist for Kent County Council with a remit to develop a youth-focused heritage education strategy and broaden heritage volunteer participation.

13. Insurance

- 13.1. The work undertaken at Veterinary Hospital, Maidstone Road, Ashford, as described in this Written Scheme of Investigation, will be covered by Darnley Archaeological Services Ltd Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance: Public Liability Insurance (Policy No. UN/000912; valid until 27 May 2022) and Public Indemnity Insurance (Policy No. 00024528PIC; valid until 27 May 2022) is with Towergate Insurance Brokers.

14. References

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists [CIfA], 2014a *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation*. Reading, CIfA

CIfA, 2014e *Regulations for Professional Conduct*. Reading, CIfA

English Heritage, 2011, *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory, Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (second edition).
Portsmouth, English Heritage

Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council, 2017, *KCC Heritage Specification For An Archaeological Watching Brief Forming A Phase Of Programme Of Archaeological Works*

Historic England, 2015, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: the MGreatoRPHE project managers' guide*. Historic England

Taylor, R. (2021) *Report for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Marshall's Place, Amber Lane, Chart Sutton, Kent ME17 7SE (DAS0015-21)*.

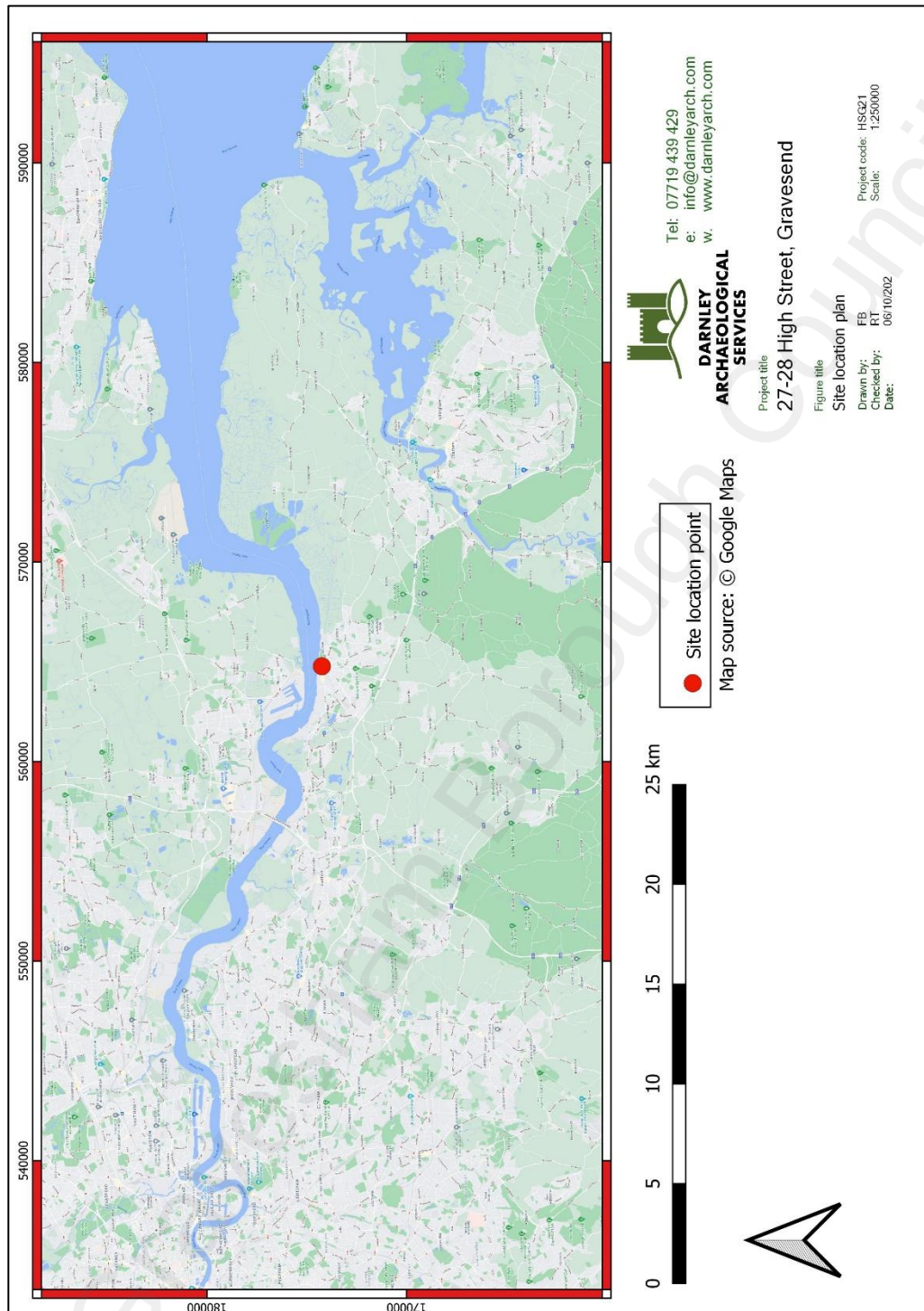
www.bgs.ac.uk

<https://webapps.kent.gov.uk/KCC.ExploringKentsPast.Web>



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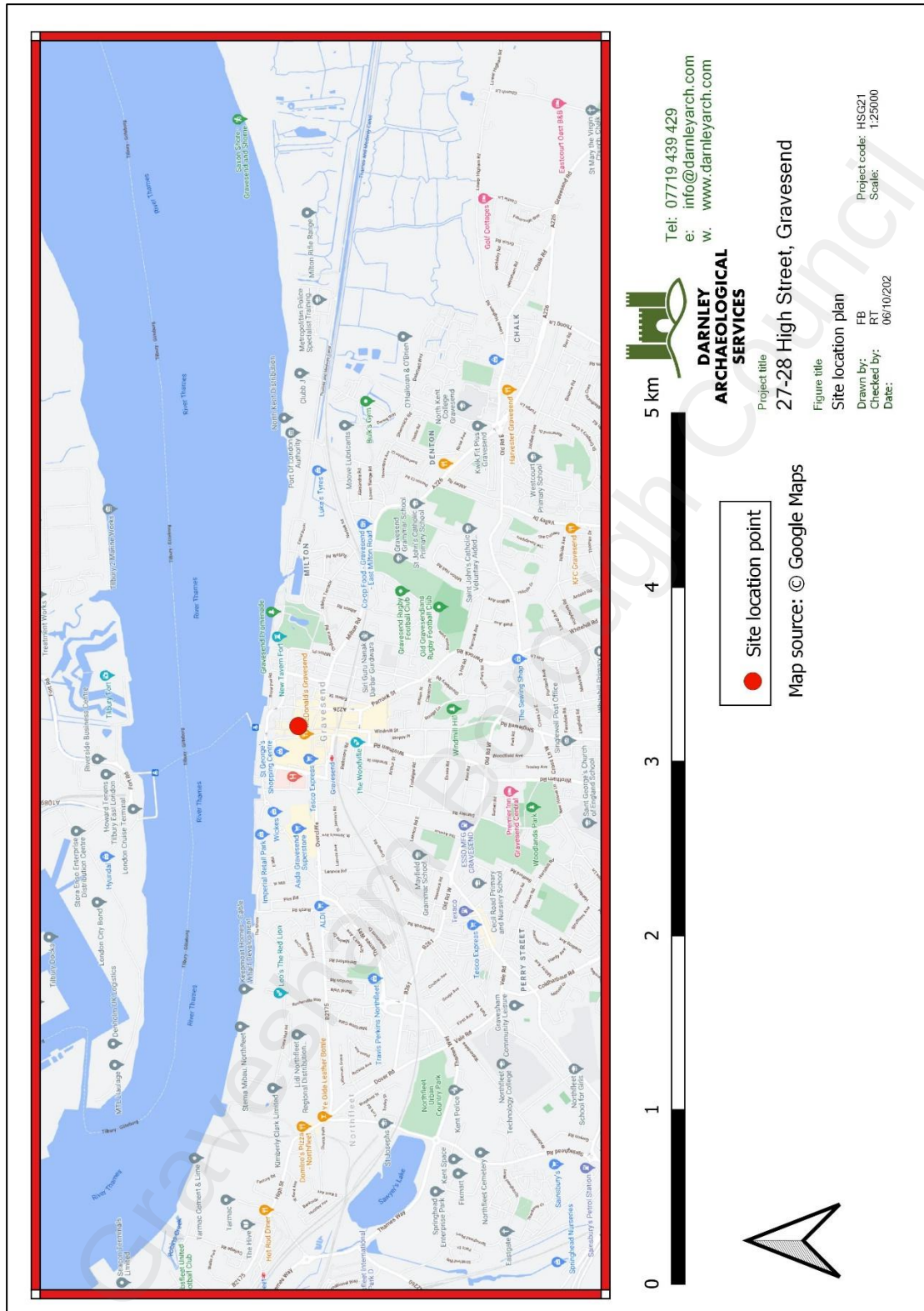
Appendix 1 – Figures



(Figure 1 – 1:250000 Site Location of HSG22)



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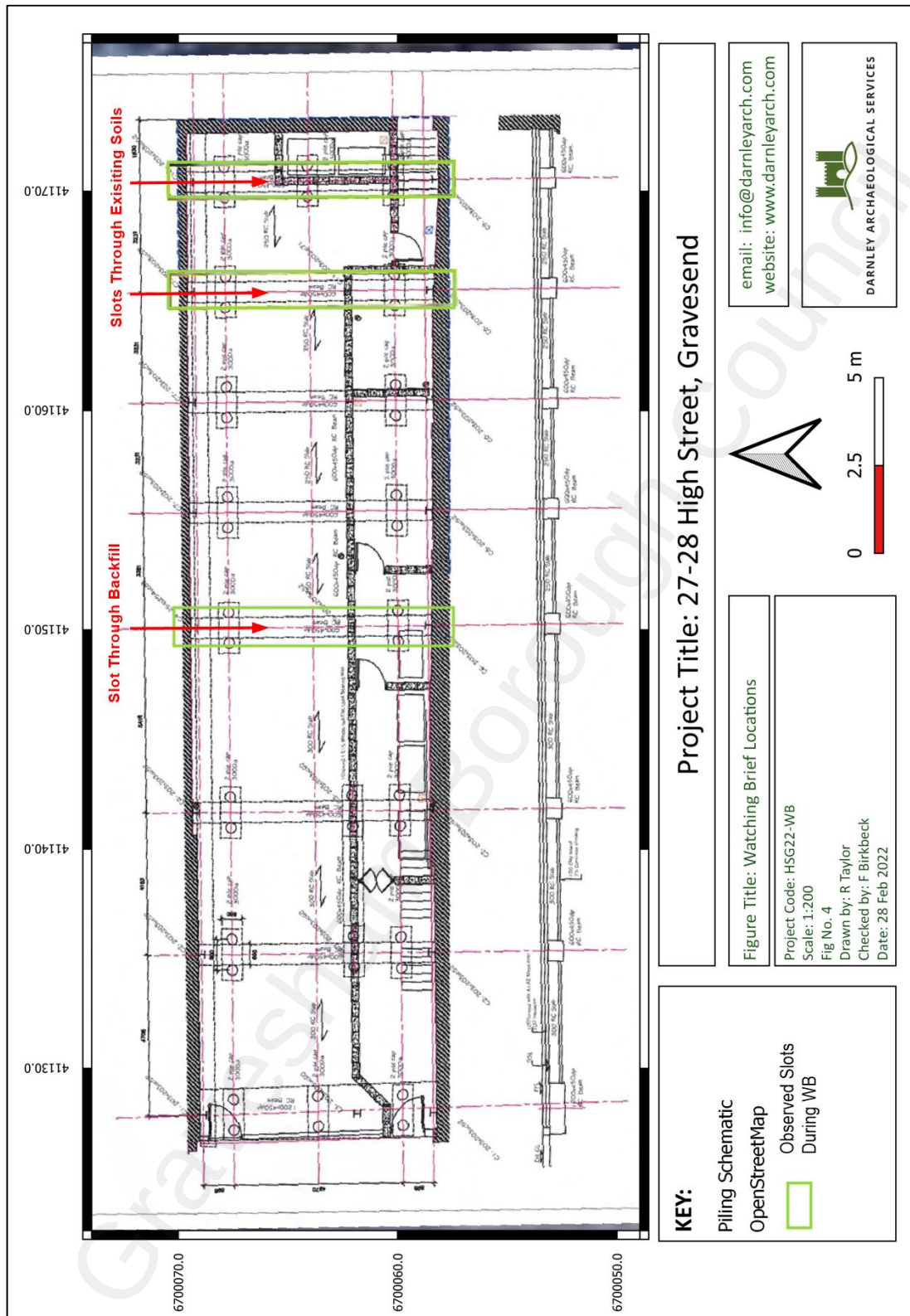


(Fig 2 - 1:25000 Site Location of HSG22)

27-28 HIGH STREET, GRAVESEND DA11
0AZ
Written Scheme of Investigation
Report reference: DAS027-22
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(Fig 3 – 1:1200 HSG22 Map of Nearby Heritage Assets)



(Fig 4 – 1:200 Georeferenced Watching Brief Area - Beam Slot Plan)