



METHOD STATEMENT:
PRESERVATION, STORAGE, CLEANING, AND RELOCATION OF
FOUNDATION STONE

FOR

Former Police Station
133 Windmill Street
Gravesend, Kent
DA12 1DB

Churchill Retirement Living
Churchill House
6 Chertsey Road
Byfleet
Surrey
KT14 7AG

Tel: 01932 338700
www.churchillretirement.co.uk

REV -
DATE 02.09.26

GRAVESEND FOUNDATION STONE METHOD STATEMENT

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1. INTRODUCTION

This method statement has been prepared for submission to Gravesham Borough Council to discharge **CONDITION 22** attached to:-

Planning Application Reference: **20260131**

Erection of 67 Retirement Living Apartments for older people (comprising 67no. 1 bedrooms) including communal facilities, access, car parking and landscaping.

Condition 22 states:- *No above ground works shall commence until a method statement has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority, detailing how the foundation stone to commemorate the building of the Civil Defence Control Centre that previously occupied shall be stored, cleaned, relocated and installed (including timeframe). The stone shall be installed as per the approved method statement prior to occupation of the development.*

This Method Statement details the procedures for the safe handling, protection, storage, cleaning, and subsequent reinstatement of the historic Borough of Gravesend foundation stone (originally laid on July 25, 1940, for the Police, Fire Brigade, and Civil Defence Buildings). The objective is to ensure the Portland stone slab is preserved and retained & reinstated in the new development, as a memorial to the original building located on this site.

2. PRE-DEMOLITION REMOVAL & STORAGE

Prior to the demolition of the former police station, the foundation stone was carefully removed in accordance with the method statement 20085GD – P1, which was submitted & approved under condition 17 of Planning Permission 20220432

The works were carried out by Churchill Retirement's specialist demolition Sub Contractor under the supervision of Churchill Retirement's Site Manager:

MALDON DEMOLITION, station road, maldon, essex, CM9 4LQ
t.01621 859217, e.01621 859217. W.www.maldondemo.co.uk

The foundation stone was successfully removed intact & a record photograph taken, showing its condition.

The memorial stone is now suitably wrapped & . The Container is currently being stored in Maldon Demolitions lockable 4m x2m materials storage container until it's future reinstated in the new development.

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Image 1 – Record of Foundation stone post demolition.

3. CLEANING

Upon visual inspection the stone is considered in relatively good condition and requires minimal cleaning. The aim of cleaning is not to return the memorial to a 'like new' appearance but to safely remove particulate deposits, staining and biological growths that will cause the stone to deteriorate.

A gentle cleaning will be carried out with clean water and a soft nylon brush. No chemicals are envisaged being required and a cautious approach will be adhered to. A 'hot wash' cleaning system may be trialled, but in a position where they will not be readily viewed and a combination used where minimal pressure and heat are championed.

The current interpretation plaque on the stone is considered ill sized and an unsympathetic addition to the monument. The proposal is to carefully remove this prior to cleaning and one cleaned the fixing holes filled with a mortar to match the colour of the stone

4. RELOCATION AND INSTALLATION

The proposal is to relocate and build the stone into the right hand side pier of the entrance to the newly built CRL development (As below):

Details of the entrance feature can be found on drawing **20085GD- 731** submitted with this condition application.

All operatives who will inducted and briefed on the approved method statement and plan of works for reinstatement of memorial foundation stone by Churchill Retirement Living's(CRL) Site Manager.

All works will be carried out by CRL sub contractor brick workers under the supervision of CRL's site manager. Any signs of distress to the stone, works will immediately halt until an alternative method of installation found.

The stone will be carefully lifted into place by trained operatives inline with manual handling guidance.

When building up the brick work above the newly placed stone a temporary polythene protective sheet will be placed over the stone to prevent any accidental drips of mortar landing on the monument.

A new interpretation plaque will made and placed in proximity to the stone when in its final location as shown on Drawing **20085GD-731**

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The foundation stone will be installed after the main envelope to the building is completed & during the completion of the Soft landscaping of the development, which is typically 4-6 weeks prior to the completion of the project.

5. WALL CONSTRUCTION

The new entrance feature will consist of double skin facing brick wall to match the main buff brick used in the newly built development. The two skins will be stretcher laid and tied together using stainless steel wall ties at regular centres and coursing as per the manufacturers recommendations.

To the back of the memorial slab will be fixed 4 no ANCON SPV stainless steel wall tiles using suitable plugs and screw fixings and positions to course into / strap the monument into the rear brick work.

Any holes for the fixings will be made using a diamond tipped drill and positioned at least 125mm away from the corners to eliminate any risk of cracking.

When up to 5 courses above finished ground level (375mm) the memorial wall will then be carefully placed into position in the road side of the wall. 10mm plastic packing blocks will be placed under the stone ensure it is at the correct height to course in.

Then the remaining brickwork around and behind the newly installed monument will be carefully built up.

Upon completion of the wall the protective sheeting will be removed.

6. NEW INTERPRETATION BOARD

A new interpretation plaque will be made and placed in proximity to the stone when in its final location as shown on Drawing 20085GD-731

Suggested wording for a new interpretation board is set out below and is subject to the agreement of the local authority. To be constructed in brushed aluminium with black lettering

Proposed wording:

THE CIVIL DEFENCE CONTROL CENTRE FOUNDATION STONE

This foundation stone was originally laid on 25th July 1940 by the Mayor of the Borough of Gravesend.

It marked the construction of the town's Police, Fire Brigade, and Civil Defence buildings, which stood on this site throughout the Second World War.

Serving as the nerve centre for local emergency services, air raid wardens, and rescue coordinators during the conflict, the building was a vital piece of Gravesend's wartime heritage.

It was demolished in 1973 for a new Gravesend Police Station, which stood here until 2016.

This foundation stone slab has been preserved and permanently relocated here to honour the resilience and dedication of the emergency services and civil defence volunteers who protected the borough.