



## 7 River Walk, Tonbridge, Kent

### Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief Report





**7 RIVER WALK, TONBRIDGE,  
KENT**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND  
WATCHING BRIEF REPORT**

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## QUALITY ASSURANCE

SITE CODE	<b>87200</b>	ACCESSION CODE		CLIENT CODE	
PLANNING APPLICATION REF.	<b>TM/11/02887/FL</b>	NGR		<b>558881, 146434</b>	

VERSION	STATUS*	PREPARED BY	APPROVED BY	APPROVER'S SIGNATURE	DATE	FILE
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02	E	DDR	DDR		21/11/12	X:\PROJECTS\87200\REPORT\WORKING VERSIONS\87200.02 DDR

I= Internal Draft E= External Draft F= Final

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## **7 RIVER WALK, TONBRIDGE, KENT**

### **Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief Report**

#### ***Summary***

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Churchill Retirement Living (the Client), to carry out an archaeological evaluation and watching brief on land at 7 River Walk, Tonbridge, Kent. The Site covers approximately 0.15 hectares and is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 558881, 146434 (**Figure 1**).

The archaeological works were required in compliance with Condition 12 of planning consent (Planning Application No. TM/11/02887/FL) granted by Kent County Council in relation to the demolition of an existing office block and redevelopment to create 31 sheltered apartments for the elderly including car parking and landscaping.

The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of two archaeological trial trenches and the watching brief involved the monitoring of a foundation trench for a flood defence wall. All mechanical excavation was undertaken using a JCB fitted with a toothless grading bucket, under constant archaeological supervision.

The previous development appears to have greatly impacted upon the potential for any surviving archaeological remains on the Site. The archaeological works revealed deep layers of made and disturbed ground exceeding 1.28m below ground level and no archaeological features or deposits were encountered.

The watching brief was undertaken on 8 November 2012 and the evaluation on 19 November 2012.

**7 RIVER WALK, TONBRIDGE,  
KENT****Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief Report*****Acknowledgements***

The archaeological evaluation was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Churchill Retirement Living, and the assistance of Suzanne Gailey is gratefully appreciated in this respect. Thanks are also extended to Wendy Rogers, the Senior Archaeological Advisor to Kent County Council, for her advice and guidance. The assistance of Mr Jerry Bond of Churchill Retirement Living is also gratefully acknowledged.

The evaluation was directed by Sarah Mounce assisted by Adam Tuffey and the watching brief was undertaken by Joanna Condliffe. The report was compiled by Sarah Mounce, and the illustrations were prepared by Elizabeth James. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Damian De Rosa.

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## 7 RIVER WALK, TONBRIDGE, KENT

### Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief Report

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

##### 1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Churchill Retirement Living (hereafter referred to as 'the Client') to carry out an archaeological evaluation and watching brief in order to assess the archaeological potential of an area of land west of River Walk, Tonbridge, Kent (hereafter referred to as 'the Site') and centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 558881, 146434 (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The archaeological works were required in compliance with Condition 12 of planning consent (Planning Application No. TM/11/02887/FL) granted by Kent County Council in relation to the demolition of an existing office block and redevelopment to create 31 sheltered apartments for the elderly including car parking and landscaping.

1.1.3 The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of two archaeological trial trenches and the monitoring of a foundation trench for a flood defence wall in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (CgMs 2012).

1.1.4 The watching brief took place on 8 November 2012 with the evaluation undertaken on 19 November 2012. This report documents the results from the archaeological evaluation and watching brief.

##### 1.2 Site location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The Site is located to the west of River Walk and to the south of New Wharf Road, on the western edge of Tonbridge town centre, as shown on **Figure 1**. To the east of the Site, beyond River Walk, is an open-air car park, associated with a supermarket, and to the south-east is a three-storey municipal office building, known as *Crown Building*.

1.2.2 The River Medway, flows in a north-westerly direction, immediately to the west of the Site. On the north-western bank of the river is a "Water Works".

1.2.3 The Site comprises a flat-lying, almost rectangular plot of land of about 0.15 hectares. The Site was previously occupied, until its recent demolition, by a three-storey building, comprising two stories of office accommodation at first and second floor level. A single-storey mezzanine office annex was located on the western side of the southern end of the building. Raised landscaping beds, with brick wall surrounds, are present along the eastern boundary with River Walk.

1.2.4 Information provided by British Geological Survey National Records Centre from borehole records in the vicinity of the Site indicate that ground



conditions consist of clays and silts to a depth of about 6.5m and this is then underlain by 0.5m of gravel and clay. Sands and clay described as the Lower Tunbridge Wells Sand and then Wadhurst Clay are shown to a depth of 21m. Groundwater observations indicate that water was struck at a depth of 3.5m.

- 1.2.5 The 1:50,000 solid and drift geology map of Sevenoaks (Sheet 287) published by the Institute of Geological Sciences (now the British Geological Survey) indicates the Site to be underlain by superficial deposits of alluvium and then River Terrace Gravels. The underlying solid strata comprise the Tunbridge Wells Sand of the Cretaceous System.
- 1.2.6 A geoarchaeological borehole investigation of the Site was undertaken by Quest, the results of which are presented as a standalone report at the back of this document (**Appendix 4**).

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

- 2.1.1 A summary of the archaeological and historical records contained by the Historic Environment Record (HER) is presented below.

#### ***Prehistoric***

- 2.1.2 During the late 1950s, approximately 800m to the south of the Site, a Palaeolithic Acheulian hand-axe was found in Woodside Road.
- 2.1.3 An unspecified number of Mesolithic microliths were recovered from Martin's Field, Tonbridge (Wymer 1977, 160).
- 2.1.4 An Iron Age stater (coin) was found in Tonbridge in the early twentieth century (Brit. Num. Jnl. 1907, 359).

#### ***Roman***

- 2.1.5 A fourth century coin of Constantine date was found on the mound of Tonbridge Castle, in c.1885-6 (Wadmore 1886, 12).

#### ***Medieval***

- 2.1.6 Tonbridge Castle (approximately 250m north-east of the Site) dates from at least 1088 and there may have been an earlier structure on the site.
- 2.1.7 Remains of the medieval defences (13<sup>th</sup> century ditch and rampart have been recorded) and parts of the ditch are still visible in the townscape today.

#### ***Post-Medieval***

- 2.1.8 There are many listed buildings in Tonbridge dating to the late medieval and post-medieval periods. Hildon Manor for example, located on the London Road whilst having a 17<sup>th</sup> century exterior retains its 15<sup>th</sup> century core. Another famous late medieval structure, known as the Jelly House, leans out precariously into Mill Street.

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**19<sup>th</sup> century and Modern**

- 2.1.9 The 1866 County Series Plan indicates that the majority of the Site was occupied by a Timber Yard, with some small associated structures. A small watercourse, which connects into the River Medway to the west, crosses the southern part of the Site. New Wharf is shown to the north of the Site and a Water Works is present to the north-west of the River Medway. There is no development immediately to the east or south of the Site, and the edge of the town centre is approximately 60m to the east at this time.
- 2.1.10 By 1897, the Timber Yard was no longer shown on the Site and, with the exception of a building in the northernmost part of the Site, all structures appear to have been demolished. Development had extended to within 30m of the eastern boundary by this time. With the exception of the construction of a small building in the centre of the Site, no significant changes are shown on the 1908 edition. By the time of the publication of the 1945 map, which was surveyed in 1937, a new building had been constructed in the centre of the Site. A road had been constructed to the east of the Site and a *Hall* had been built to the east of the new road. The watercourse which crossed the southern part of the Site is no longer shown.
- 2.1.11 By 1958, when the 1969 edition was surveyed, the building, on Site, is marked as *Riverside Café*. The existing *Crown Building* had been constructed to the south-east. The *Hall* to the east of the Site had been demolished and replaced by an open-air car park by 1971.
- 2.1.12 In 1981 planning consent was granted for the existing office block present on the Site and the current configuration is shown on the 1986 map. Since the late 1980s, no significant changes have occurred on the Site or in the immediate surrounding area.

**2.2 Previous Work**

- 2.2.1 Very few archaeological investigations have been undertaken within Tonbridge or the surrounding area and no work has previously been conducted on the Site.
- 2.2.2 Wessex Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation in 2010 to the north of the Site at the rear of 182 High Street (Wessex Archaeology 2010). Three of the trenches revealed a bank which may be associated with the medieval town defences known as The Fosse (Scheduled Ancient Monument 136).

**3 AIMS****3.1 General**

- 3.1.1 The aims of the evaluation as set out in the WSI (CgMs 2012) were:
- To identify and record the general nature of any remains present.
  - To confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.
  - To confirm and map the extent of any remains.
  - To record through preservation by record any remains encountered.

- To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present.
- To determine the potential of the Site to provide environmental and or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present.

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 Introduction**

4.1.1 The evaluation and the preparation of this report was undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out in the WSI (CgMs 2012) and carried out in compliance with the standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (IfA 2008) and *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA 2008).

### **4.2 Fieldwork programme**

4.2.1 In accordance with the WSI (CgMs 2012), the evaluation comprised the excavation of two 5m x 2m trenches (**Figure 1**).

4.2.2 Trenches 1 and 2 were positioned within the footprint of the proposed development, with Trench 1 located at the northern end of the Site and Trench 2 situated along the south-east boundary towards the southern end of the Site (**Figure 1**).

4.2.3 A third trench (10m x 2m) as proposed in the WSI, located towards the centre of the Site, was not excavated, in agreement with KCC following consultation with CgMs. This was due to the extreme ground disturbance caused by the foundations of the previous building, as was observed during the watching brief.

4.2.4 The watching brief also monitored the excavation of the foundation trench for the flood defence wall located within the south-west corner of the Site. The foundation trench was aligned north-east – south-west and turned south-eastwards at its north-east end. It measured c. 22.5m long by 1.5m wide and 0.4m deep, and crossed over the concrete foundations of the previous building.

### **4.3 Trenching methodology**

4.3.1 Trench locations were surveyed using a GPS SmartNet Rover and tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. All trenches were marked out prior to excavation and were 'swept' before and during excavation with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) to verify the absence of any underground services.

4.3.2 All trenches were opened with a JCB fitted with a toothless grading bucket, under constant archaeological supervision.

4.3.3 Made ground was stockpiled adjacent to the trenches from which it derived. Machining continued in spits down to the top of the undisturbed natural geology or archaeological deposits, whichever was encountered first.

4.3.4 All spoil excavated was scanned visually for artefacts.

#### **4.4 Recording**

- 4.4.1 All archaeological features and deposits encountered during the evaluation were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording sheets and a continuous unique numbering system.
- 4.4.2 A representative section, not less than 1m in length, of deposits from ground surface to the top of the natural geology was recorded, in both trenches. All Site drawings were drawn at an appropriate scale, typically 1:10 for sections and 1:20 or 1:50 for plans.
- 4.4.3 All written, drawn and photographic records were compiled in accordance with the Wessex Archaeology Fieldwork Recording Manual. Hand-drawn records of individual interventions were tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid with the GPS and subsequently digitised.
- 4.4.4 Photographs were taken as appropriate, providing a record of excavated trenches along with images of the flood defence trench. The record also includes images of the overall Site. The photographic record comprises black and white, colour slide and digital photography. A photographic register of all photographs taken is contained within the project archive.
- 4.4.5 All interventions were surveyed using a GPS tied into the Ordnance Survey.
- 4.4.6 A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. A full list is presented in **Appendix 1**. Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes; each number has been attributed to a specific trench with the primary number(s) relating to specific trenches (*i.e.* **Trench 1, 101+**, **Trench 2, 201+** etc.).

#### **4.5 Reinstatement**

- 4.5.1 Trenches were backfilled with excavated spoil, compacted down using the machine bucket and left to level on completion.

#### **4.6 Health and Safety**

- 4.6.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, the Management of Health and Safety regulations 1992 and Health and Safety in Field Archaeology 1997, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.
- 4.6.2 A Health and Safety Risk Assessment was produced by Wessex Archaeology (WA 2012), which was read and understood by all staff attending the Site before groundwork commenced.

### **5 RESULTS**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

- 5.1.1 The following sections provide a summary description of the results of the evaluation and watching brief. A tabulated summary of the trenches is provided in **Appendix 1** of this report.

5.1.2 **Figure 1** shows the overall location of the trenches and watching brief area, and **Figures 2 to 4** provide illustrations of the evaluation trenches and the monitored (watching brief) area with selected photographs.

## 5.2 Trench 1 (Figure 2)

### **Soil Profile**

5.2.1 Across the trench a deposit of made ground (**101**) comprising mid grey brown silty clay with moderate brick, concrete rubble, plastic sheeting and metal pipes was recorded to a depth of more than 1.28m below ground level. Within the south-eastern end of the trench, a patch of mid brown orange re-deposited clay (**102**) comprising occasional ceramic building material (CBM) was revealed between 0.77m and 1.44m below ground level. Part way along the trench a test slot was dug to investigate the depth of the natural horizon; mid blue grey alluvial clay (**103**) was observed at 1.44m below ground level (20.795m aOD).

### **Archaeological Remains**

5.2.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed within this trench.

## 5.3 Trench 2 (Figure 3)

### **Soil Profile**

5.3.1 The stratigraphic sequence identified within this trench consisted of a deep layer of made ground (**201**) comprising mid brown grey gritty silty clay with moderate brick, concrete rubble and occasional metal pipes and plastic sheeting. The made ground was recorded to a depth of 1.24m below ground level within the north-east end of the trench but exceeded this depth towards the south-west end. The made ground directly overlay a layer of light to mid orange brown alluvial clay (**202**) which was revealed within the north-east end of the trench at 1.24m below ground level (21.233m aOD).

### **Archaeological Remains**

5.3.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed within this trench.

## 5.4 Flood Defence Trench (Figure 4)

### **Soil Profile**

5.4.1 At the south-west end of this trench three layers of made ground were recorded (**Plate 5**). The uppermost layer comprised light grey yellow sandy clay (**001**) with occasional CBM overlaying black silty sand (**002**) with brick and concrete rubble. Beneath this was mid grey brown silty clay (**003**) with occasional CBM fragments. These three layers exceeded the excavated depth of 0.4m below ground level and were truncated by a modern concrete foundation (**006**) aligned north-west – south-east. To the north-east of this concrete foundation a layer of made ground (**009**) comprising mid grey brown silty clay with common concrete rubble and brick sealed two separate layers of alluvium (**005** and **007**). Within the central area of the trench alluvial clay layer (**005**) comprising blue green silty clay was recorded at 0.22m below ground level (21.35m aOD) (**Plate 6**). Within the north-east end of the trench alluvial clay layer (**007**), consisting of mid orange brown clay, was recorded at a depth of 0.32m below ground level (21.4m aOD). Confined to the south-east end of the trench along its north-west – south-

east alignment was a thin lens of black sandy gravel (**008**); this was recorded at 0.27-0.32m below ground level between made ground layer (**009**) and alluvial clay layer (**007**) (**Plate 7**).

#### **Archaeological Remains**

- 5.4.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed within the foundation trench.
- 5.4.3 Four modern concrete foundations were recorded within the trench; three were aligned north-west – south-east and the fourth ran along a north-east south-west alignment. These foundations were also observed at ground level.

## **6 FINDS**

- 6.1.1 No artefacts other than of modern origin were recovered from the works; these consisted of brick, concrete rubble and fragments of metal. The objects were noted but not retained.

## **7 ENVIRONMENTAL**

- 7.1.1 No features or deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the course of the evaluation or watching brief.

## **8 CONCLUSIONS**

- 8.1.1 The archaeological works identified no features or deposits of archaeological significance or interest within the Site.
- 8.1.2 The previous development appears to have greatly impacted upon the potential for any surviving archaeological remains on the Site. The made ground layers were recorded to depths of more than 1.24m in Trench 2 and exceeded 1.28m below ground level in Trench 1. Alluvial layers were observed within the two trenches; the highest layers were recorded at 21.4m aOD towards the river. These descended to 21.233m aOD (Trench 2) towards the south-east boundary and descended even further to 20.795m aOD (Trench 1) towards the northern corner of the Site.
- 8.1.3 The evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the specification. The model of archaeological potential across the Site has been tested and no remains of archaeological potential have been identified.

## **9 ARCHIVE**

### **9.1 Preparation and deposition**

- 9.1.1 The complete project archive will be prepared in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's Guidelines for Archive Preparation and in accordance with Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-Term Storage (Walker 1990) and following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995). On completion of the project, the archive will be deposited with Tonbridge Museum.

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## 9.2 The archive

- 9.2.1 Following the fieldwork the archive and all artefacts were subsequently transported to Wessex Archaeology's Rochester office where they were processed and assessed for this report. The accompanying documentary records from the archaeological works have been compiled into a stable fully cross-referenced and indexed archive in accordance with Appendix 6 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).
- 9.2.2 The contents of the project archive, comprises a A4 ring-bound file containing the following:
- 3 Trench Record Sheets
  - 2 A4 Drawings, including 1 Graphics Registers
  - 3 Photographic Record Sheets
  - Day Book
  - A copy of the WSI
- 9.2.3 The project archive including plans, photographs and written records are currently held at Wessex Archaeology's Rochester office under the site code **87200**. The project archive will be deposited with the local museum.
- 9.2.4 Details of the Site, including a copy of this report, will be submitted online to the OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) database.

## 9.3 Copyright

- 9.3.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the Site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved. The recipient museum, however, will be granted an exclusive license for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profit making, and conforms to the Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003.

## 9.4 Security Copy

- 9.4.1 In line with current best practice, on completion of the project a security copy of the paper records will be prepared, in the form of microfilm. The master jackets and one diazo copy of the microfilm will be submitted to the National Monuments Record Centre (NMR) (English Heritage) in Swindon; a second diazo copy will be deposited with the paper records at an appropriate local museum, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology.

## 10 REFERENCES

### 10.1 Bibliographical References

CgMs Consulting 2012 *7 River Walk, Tonbridge, Kent. Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation.*

English Heritage 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects.* London

Institute for Archaeologists 2008 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*

Institute for Archaeologists 2008 *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

SMA 1995 *Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive.* Society of Museum Archaeologists

Walker K. 1990 *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-Term Storage.* UKIC Archaeology Section

Wessex Archaeology 2012 *7 River Walk, Tonbridge, Kent. Project Health and Safety Risk Assessment.* Ref: 87200.01

Wessex Archaeology 2010 *Land to the rear of 182 High Street, Tonbridge, Kent, Archaeological Evaluation.* Ref: 70370.01



## APPENDIX 1: TABLE OF TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

All (+) indicate deposits/features not fully excavated  
 CBM – ceramic building material

<b>Trench 1</b>	<b>Dimensions :</b>	5m x 2m x 1.5m	
	<b>Land use:</b>	Urban	
	<b>Coordinates:</b>	E558890.342 N146439.329, 22.167m aOD	
<b>Context</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>
101	Made ground	Mid grey brown silty clay with moderate brick and concrete rubble, and occasional plastic and metal pipes	0.00-1.28
102	Made ground – redeposited clay	Mid brown orange clay with occasional CBM	0.77-1.44
103	Natural - alluvium	Mid blue grey clay	1.44+

<b>Trench 2</b>	<b>Dimensions :</b>	5m x 2m x 1.45m	
	<b>Land use:</b>	Urban	
	<b>Coordinates:</b>	E558880.818 N146399.484, 22.379m aOD	
<b>Context</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>
201	Made ground	Mid brown grey gritty silty clay with abundant small-medium sub-rounded pebbles, moderate red brick, concrete rubble, and occasional metal pipes and plastic sheeting	0.00-1.24
202	Natural - alluvium	Light-mid orange brown clay	1.24+

<b>Flood Defence Trench</b>	<b>Dimensions :</b>	c. 22.5m x 1.5m x 0.4m	
	<b>Land use:</b>	Urban	
	<b>Elevation:</b>	SW end: 21.57m aOD / NE end: 21.72m aOD	
<b>Context</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>
001	Made ground – seals 002 and 003	Light grey yellow sandy clay with lenses of mid brown silt and occasional CBM fragments	0.00-0.4+
002	Made ground – seals 003	Black silty sand with occasional brick and concrete rubble	0.25-0.4+
003	Made ground	Mid grey brown silty clay with charcoal, CBM fragments and gravel	0.25-0.4+
004	Fill – modern made ground within 006	Blue grey clay with CBM and concrete rubble, and medium gravels	0.27-0.4+
005	Natural - alluvium	Blue green silty clay	0.22-0.4+
006	Cut – modern foundation trench containing 004	NNE/SSW linear containing concrete foundation	0.00-0.4+
007	Natural - alluvium	Mid orange brown clay with abundant manganese flecks	0.32+
008	Made ground – thin lens	Black sandy gravel with common charcoal	0.27-0.32
009	Made ground – seals 005; 007; 008	Mid grey brown silty clay with common small concrete rubble and brick, and moderate small sub-rounded stones	0.00-0.27

## APPENDIX 2: KENT COUNTY COUNCIL HER SUMMARY FORM

<b>Site Name:</b> 7 River Walk, Tonbridge, Kent	
<b>Site Address:</b> 7 River Walk Tonbridge Kent TN9 1DX	
<b>Summary of discoveries:</b> No features or deposits of archaeological significance were encountered across the Site.	
<b>District/Unitary:</b> Tonbridge and Malling	<b>Parish:</b> Tonbridge
<b>Period(s):</b> Modern	
<b>NGR (centre of site to nearest 1m):</b> 558881 146343 <b>(NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs)</b>	
<b>Type of archaeological work:</b> Evaluation and Watching Brief	
<b>Date of fieldwork (dd/mm/yy):</b> 8/11/12 and 19/11/12	
<b>Unit/contractor undertaking recording:</b> Wessex Archaeology	
<b>Geology:</b>	
<b>Title and author of accompanying report:</b> 7 River Walk, Tonbridge, Kent. Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief Report. Wessex Archaeology	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)</b>  No features or deposits of archaeological significance were encountered across the Site.  The previous development appears to have greatly impacted upon the potential for any surviving archaeological remains on the Site. The made ground layers were recorded to depths of more than 1.24m in Trench 2 and exceeded 1.28m below ground level in Trench 1. Alluvial layers were observed within the three trenches; the highest layers were recorded at 21.4m aOD towards the river. These descended to 21.233m aOD (Trench 2) towards the south east boundary and descended even further to 20.795m aOD (Trench 1) towards the northern corner of the Site.  <p style="text-align: right;"><b>(cont on attached sheet)</b></p>	
<b>Location of archive/finds:</b> Wessex Archaeology Rochester	
<b>Contact at Unit:</b> Damian De Rosa	<b>Date:</b> 23/11/12

**APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM**

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: wessexar1-138056**

### Project details

Project name	7 RIVER WALK, TONBRIDGE, KENT
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Churchill Retirement Living (the Client), to carry out an archaeological evaluation and watching brief on land at 7 River Walk, Tonbridge, Kent. The Site covers approximately 0.15 hectares and is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 558881, 146434 (Figure 1). The archaeological works were required in compliance with Condition 12 of planning consent (Planning Application No. TM/11/02887/FL) granted by Kent County Council in relation to the demolition of an existing office block and redevelopment to create 31 sheltered apartments for the elderly including car parking and landscaping. The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of two archaeological trial trenches and the watching brief involved the monitoring of a foundation trench for a flood defence wall. All mechanical excavation was undertaken using a JCB fitted with a toothless grading bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. The previous development appears to have greatly impacted upon the potential for any surviving archaeological remains on the Site. The archaeological works revealed deep layers of made and disturbed ground exceeding 1.28m below ground level and no archaeological features or deposits were encountered.
Project dates	Start: 08-11-2012 End: 19-11-2012
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	87200 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices
Monument type	NONE None

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT TONBRIDGE AND MALLING TONBRIDGE 7 River Walk, Tonbridge, Kent
Postcode	TN9 1DX
Study area	0.15 Hectares

Lat/Long Datum (other) 558881, 146434  
 Height OD / Depth Min: 20.79m Max: 21.35m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation Wessex Archaeology  
 Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body  
 Project design originator CgMs  
 Project director/manager Damian de Rosa  
 Project supervisor Sarah Mounce  
 Type of sponsor/funding body Developer  
 Name of sponsor/funding body Churchill Retirement Living

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No  
 Digital Archive recipient Kent County Council  
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Survey"  
 Paper Archive recipient Kent County Council  
 Paper Media available "Context sheet","Drawing","Notebook - Excavation"," Research"," General Notes","Report","Survey ","Unpublished Text"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
 Title 7 River Walk, Tonbridge, Kent. Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief Report  
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Monce, S  
 Other bibliographic details WA 87200.02  
 Date 2012  
 Issuer or publisher Wessex Archaeology  
 Place of issue or publication Unpublished

Description            Standard Wessex Archaeology A4 report with 4 figures. Front and back covers.

Entered by            Damian De Rosa (d.derosa@wessexarch.co.uk)

Entered on            11 December 2012

## OASIS:

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Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm> for this page

**APPENDIX 4: QUEST - GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK REPORT**

## **7 RIVER WALK, TONBRIDGE, KENT (NGR: TQ 58880 46420): GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK REPORT**

**D.S. Young, C.P. Green and J. Peagam**

*Quaternary Scientific (QUEST), School of Human and Environmental Sciences, University of Reading, Whiteknights, PO Box 227, Reading, RG6 6AB, UK*

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### **INTRODUCTION**

This report summarises the findings arising out of the geoarchaeological fieldwork and deposit modelling undertaken by Quaternary Scientific (University of Reading) in connection with the proposed development at 7 River Walk, Tonbridge (National Grid Reference: TQ 58880 46420; Figure 1). Quaternary Scientific were commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake the geoarchaeological investigations. The site lies to the south of the historic centre of the town of Tonbridge in Kent, on the floodplain of the River Medway which at and upstream of the site occupies two channels. The western boundary of the site is the right bank of the southern channel, just upstream of the point where the two channels re-join. The floodplain surface here is at a level of *ca.* 21m OD. The British Geological Survey (1:50,000 Sheet 287 Sevenoaks 1971) shows the area underlain by the alluvium of the River Medway. The bedrock beneath the floodplain is the Lower Cretaceous Tunbridge Wells Sand. To the south of the river the lower valley side slopes are occupied by Brickearth, and to the north remnants of the Second and Third Terraces of the Medway are present beneath the northern and western outskirts of the town.

Six exploratory boreholes have been put down at the site (Jomas Associates Ltd., 2012; Figure 2). All but one of the boreholes recorded a surface layer of Made Ground (0.9-1.6m thick). In Borehole BH1 no Made Ground was recognised, and the near-surface horizons appeared to be a natural soil developed in the upper part of the Alluvium. In the borehole logs, the Alluvium is described as sandy, silty clay, brown or grey in colour and generally soft but with firmer upper horizons in WS3, WS5 and BH1. Scattered limestone and sandstone clasts were present in the fine-grained alluvium in all the boreholes except WS5, close to the southern boundary of the site. Peaty horizons were recorded in two of the boreholes - at 5.8-6.7m bgs in WS1, and at 3.05-3.5m bgs and 4.6-5.45m bgs in WS3. In addition, 'many peaty inclusions' were recorded in WS4 below 3.7m bgs. In four of the boreholes, the contact between the fine-grained alluvium and underlying gravel was recorded - at 6.7m bgs in WS1, 6.6m bgs in WS4, 4.95m bgs in WS5 and at 6.6m bgs in BH1. The contact between the gravel and underlying bedrock was seen in Borehole BH1 at 12.0m bgs.

The sediment sequences recorded at the 7 River Walk site are similar in general terms to



those encountered widely beneath the floodplains of rivers in south east England, with gravels of probable Late Devensian Late Glacial age occupying a buried channel and overlain by fine-grained sediments representing deposition during the Holocene. As observed elsewhere, the more organic (peaty) horizons, where they are present, are preserved in the lower part of the sequence.

The aim of the geoarchaeological investigations was to clarify the nature of the sub-surface stratigraphy across the site, and to evaluate the potential of the sedimentary sequences for reconstructing the environmental history of the site and its environs. The following objectives were proposed in order to achieve this aim:

1. To obtain two geoarchaeological boreholes from selected locations at the site (Figure 2).
2. To examine the lithostratigraphy of the new boreholes and existing geotechnical records to provide an interpretation of the major depositional units across the site.

The two new geoarchaeological borehole locations (<QBH1> and <QBH2>) were chosen in order to (1) duplicate the sequences recorded in the area of boreholes <WS1> and <WS3>, in which 'peaty clay' horizons were recorded overlying the basal sand and gravel; and (2) to confirm the expected sedimentary sequence in these areas of the site (in particular the surface of the Sand and Gravel and the presence of any significant organic horizons).

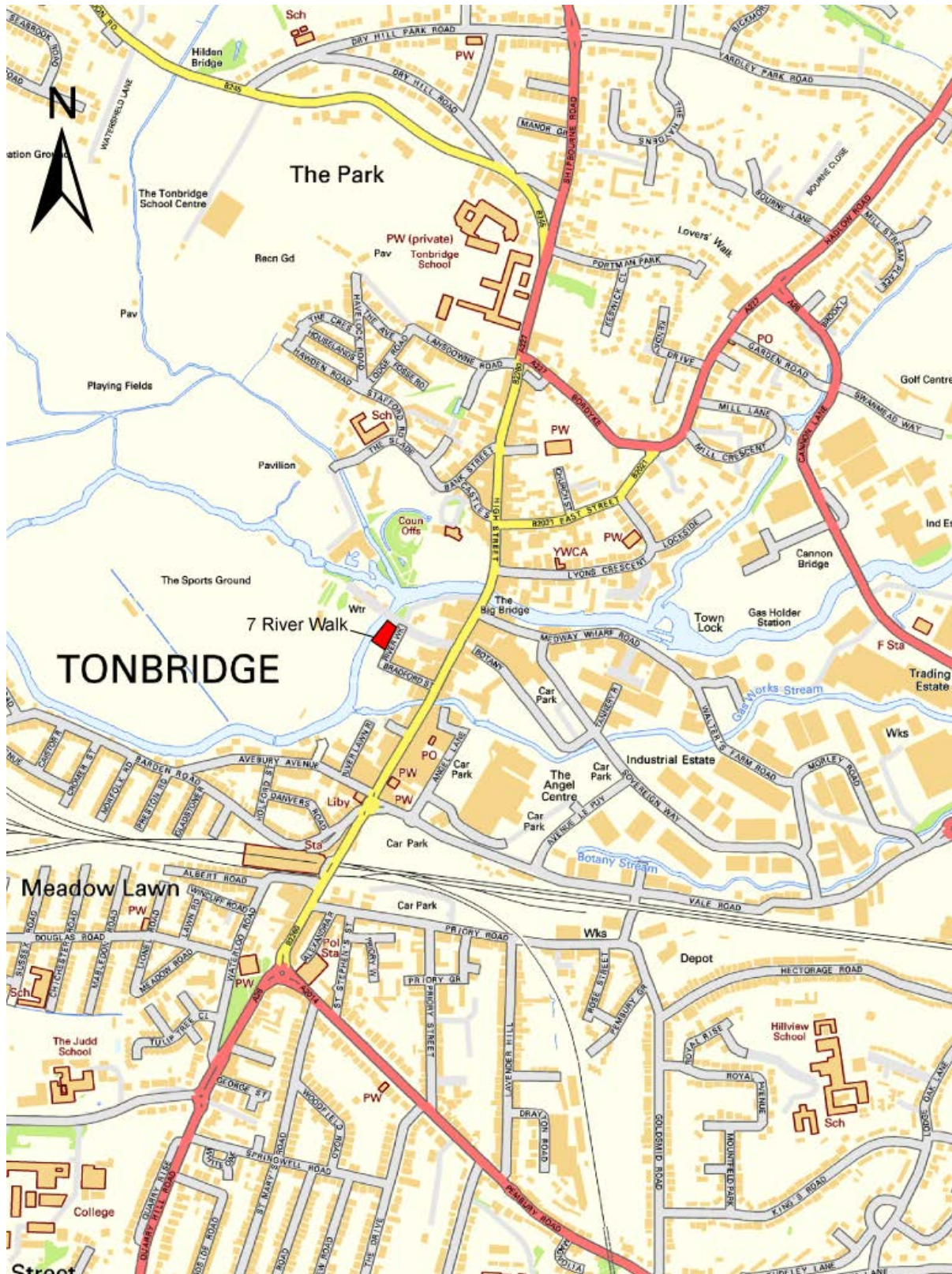


Figure 1: Location of 7 River Walk, Tonbridge, Kent. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right [2012]

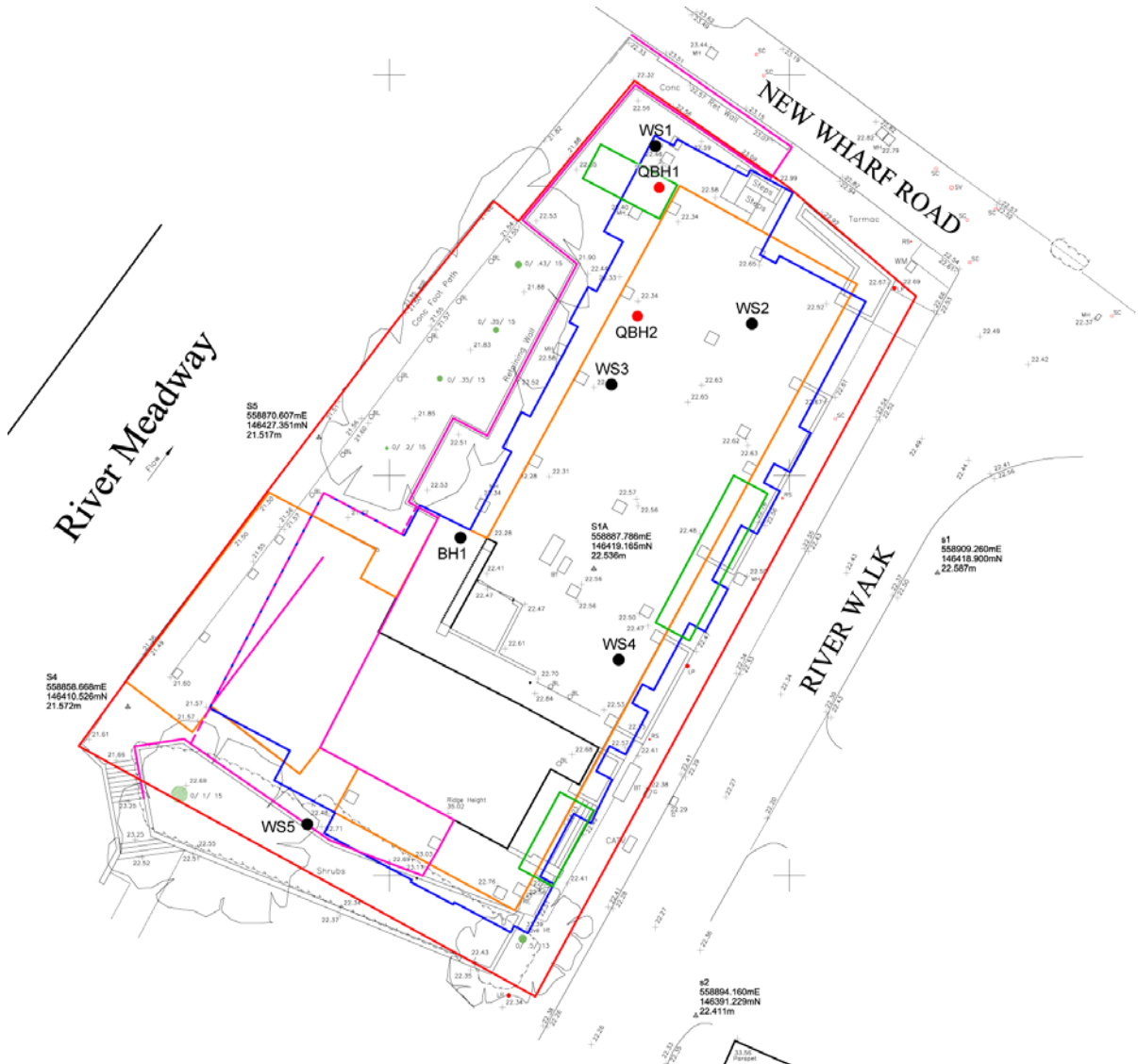


Figure 2: Detailed site map incorporating the location of the previous geotechnical boreholes and the new Quest boreholes (QBH1 and QBH2) at 7 River Walk, Tonbridge, Kent (adapted from original image provided by CgMs Consulting).

## **METHODS**

### ***Field investigations***

Two boreholes (boreholes <QBH1> and <QBH2>) were put down at the site in November 2012 (Figure 2). Borehole core samples were recovered using an Eijkelkamp window sampler and gouge set using an Atlas Copco TT 2-stroke percussion engine. This coring technique is a suitable method for the recovery of continuous, undisturbed core samples and provides sub-samples suitable for not only sedimentary and microfossil assessment and analysis, but also macrofossil analysis. The recovered core samples were wrapped in clear plastic to prevent moisture loss, labelled with the depth (metres from ground surface) and orientation (top and base) and returned to Quaternary Scientific for storage in a purpose built facility at 2°C. This temperature prevents fungal growth on the core surface, which may lead to anomalous radiocarbon dates, and moisture loss. The spatial attributes of each borehole were recorded using a Leica DGPS (Table 1 and Figure 2).

**Table 1: Borehole attributes, 7 River Walk, Tonbridge, Kent.**

<b>Borehole number</b>	<b>Easting</b>	<b>Northing</b>	<b>Elevation (m OD)</b>
<QBH1>	558890.858	146441.785	22.15
<QBH2>	558890.692	146434.633	22.30

### ***Lithostratigraphic descriptions***

The lithostratigraphy of boreholes <QBH1> and <QBH2> was described in the laboratory using standard procedures for recording unconsolidated sediment and organic sediments, noting the physical properties (colour), composition (gravel, sand, clay, silt and organic matter) and inclusions (e.g. artefacts) (Tröels-Smith, 1955). The procedure involved: (1) cleaning the samples with a spatula or scalpel blade and distilled water to remove surface contaminants; (2) recording the physical properties, most notably colour using a Munsell Soil Colour Chart; (3) recording the composition; gravel (*Grana glareosa*; Gg), fine sand (*Grana arenosa*; Ga), silt (*Argilla granosa*; Ag) and clay (*Argilla steatoides*); (4) recording the degree of peat humification and (5) recording the unit boundaries e.g. sharp or diffuse. The results are displayed in Figure 3 and in Tables 2 and 3.

## **RESULTS, INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE LITHOSTRATIGRAPHIC DESCRIPTIONS**

The results of the lithostratigraphic descriptions of boreholes <QBH1> and <QBH2> are displayed in Tables 2 and 3 and in Figure 3.

The basal unit at the site is a horizon of Sand and Gravel (Figure 3). These sediments are indicative of deposition in a high energy braided river system. The new geoarchaeological

boreholes indicate that the surface of the Sand and Gravel is fairly level in this part of the site at ca. 16.5m OD (recorded at 16.45m OD in borehole <QBH1> and 16.71m OD in borehole <QBH2>). Assuming an approximately level modern surface across the site, the surface of the Sand and Gravel is fairly level elsewhere, recorded at 6.7m bgs in <WS1>, 6.6m bgs in <WS4> and at 6.6m bgs in <BH1> (Jomas Associates Ltd., 2012). The Gravel surface was recorded at 4.95m bgs at the southern end of the site (borehole <WS5>), indicating either a rising gravel surface towards the south or a higher surface elevation in this part of the site. No elevation data was available for nearby BGS borehole records, and thus the recorded surface elevation of the Gravel in these boreholes is not considered here.

Succeeding the Sand and Gravel and recorded up to a level of ca. 17.6m OD was a unit of sandy silt with detrital herbaceous material and detrital wood, frequently recorded as horizontal laminations. This unit is recorded in geotechnical boreholes <WS1>, <WS3> and <WS4> as a sandy peaty clay with much silt and wood to a level of ca. 4.60m bgs. This unit most likely represents the lower part of the Holocene Alluvium, the sediments of which were deposited as the energy of flow decreased and the river channel probably became confined to a single meandering channel. The frequent laminations of detrital herbaceous material and wood are indicative of frequent overbank flood events during this period.

Above ca. 17.6m OD the Alluvium is composed of silty clay or clayey silt, indicative of a further reduction in the energy of flow in this part of the floodplain. In borehole <QBH2> decomposed organic material, frequent horizontal beds of detrital herbaceous material and detrital wood were recorded between 19.14 and 19.56m OD, again indicative of frequent overbank flood events in this area. Above ca. 20.0m OD the Alluvium is more clay-rich, generally composed of silty clay with traces of detrital herbaceous material and evidence for modern soil forming (pedogenic) processes. The Alluvium is truncated by Made Ground so that the upper surface of the Alluvium lies at 20.71m OD in borehole <QBH1> and ca. 20.87m OD in <QBH2>. The Made Ground is ca. 1.5m thick in this part of the site, and the modern surface elevation is 22.15 and 22.30m OD in boreholes <QBH1> and <QBH2> respectively.

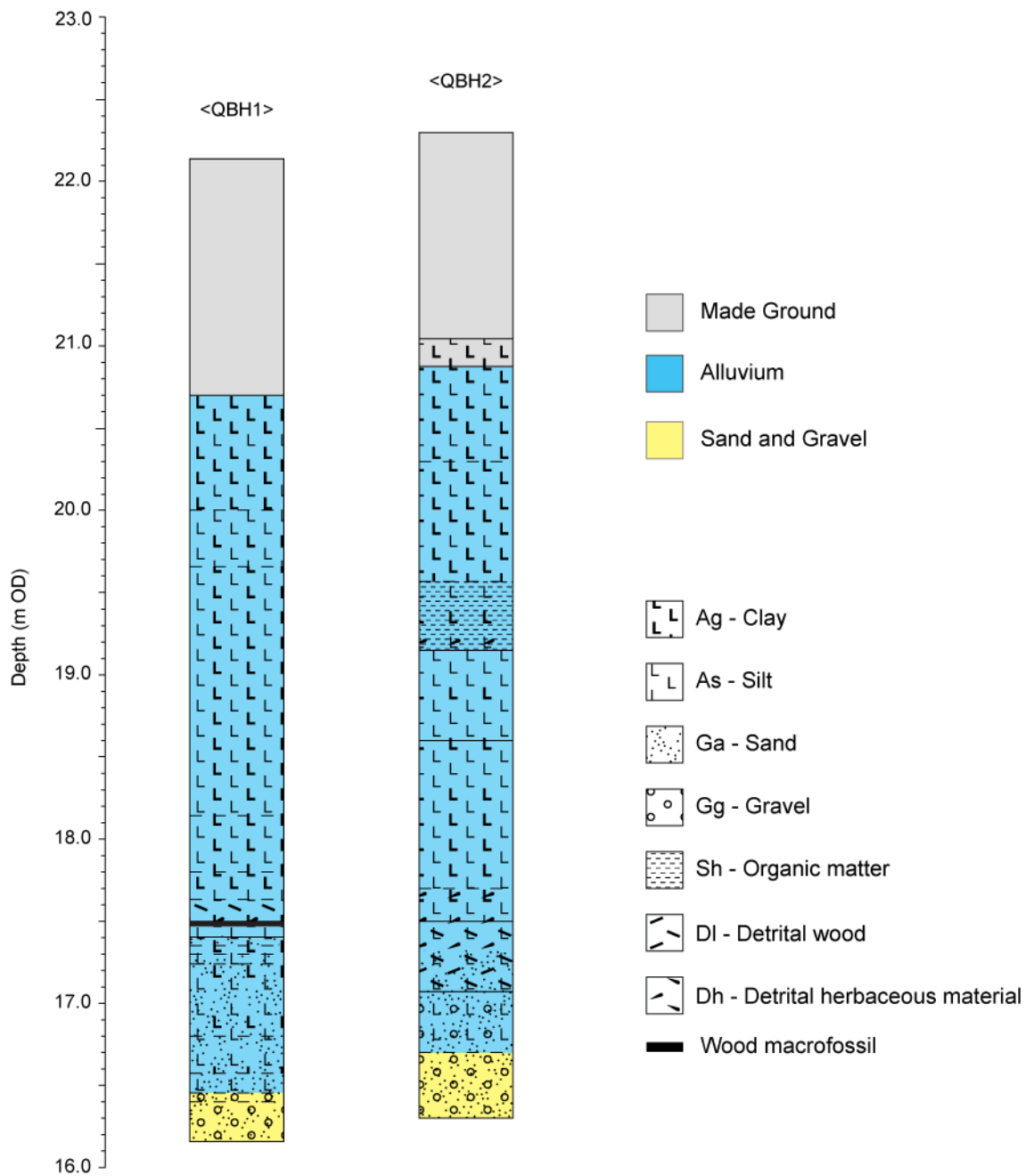


Figure 3: Lithostratigraphic description of boreholes <QBH1> and <QBH2>, 7 River Walk, Tonbridge, Kent

**Table 2: Lithostratigraphic description of Borehole <QBH1>, 7 River Walk, Tonbridge, Kent**

Depth (m OD)	Depth (m bgs)	Composition
22.15 to 20.71	0.00 to 1.44	Made ground containing gravel, charcoal, brick fragments, sand and clay. Sharp contact in to:
20.71 to 19.98	1.44 to 2.17	Gley 1 4/10GY; As3 Ag1 Dh+; dark greenish grey silty clay with traces of detrital herbaceous material. Diffuse contact in to:
19.98 to 19.68	2.17 to 2.47	Gley 1 5/5GY; Ag3 As1; greenish grey clayey silt with occasional iron nodules. Diffuse contact in to:
19.68 to 18.15	2.47 to 4.00	10YR 4/4; As2 Ag2; dark yellowish brown silt and clay with frequent iron nodules.
18.15 to 17.83	4.00 to 4.32	Gley 1 5/5GY; As2 Ag2; greenish grey silt and clay with occasional iron nodules. Diffuse contact in to:
17.83 to 17.66	4.32 to 4.49	Gley 1 4/10GY; As3 Ag1; dark greenish grey silty clay. Diffuse contact in to:
17.66 to 17.49	4.49 to 4.66	10YR 2/1; As1 Ag1 Dh1 DI1; black silt and clay with frequent horizontal beds of detrital herbaceous material and detrital wood. Sharp contact in to:
17.49 to 17.47	4.66 to 4.68	Wood macrofossil
17.47 to 17.40	4.68 to 4.75	10YR 3/1; As2 Ag2 DI+; very dark grey silt and clay with traces of detrital wood. Sharp contact in to:
17.40 to 17.37	4.75 to 4.78	5Y 4/2; Ag2 As1 Ga1; olive grey sandy clayey silt. Diffuse contact in to:
17.37 to 17.29	4.78 to 4.86	10YR 3/1; As2 Ag2 DI+; very dark grey silt and clay with traces of detrital wood. Diffuse contact in to:
17.29 to 17.26	4.86 to 4.89	5Y 4/2; Ag2 As1 Ga1; olive grey clayey sandy silt. Diffuse contact in to:
17.26 to 16.81	4.89 to 5.34	10YR 4/2; Ga1 Gg1 Ag1 As1 Gg+; dark greyish brown silty clayey sand with gravel clasts. Diffuse contact in to:
16.81 to 16.58	5.34 to 5.57	10YR 2/1; Gg1 Ag1 Ga1 As1 DI+; black silty clayey sand with gravel clasts and traces of detrital wood. Diffuse contact in to:
16.58 to 16.45	5.57 to 5.70	10YR 3/1; Ga3 Ag1; very dark grey silty sand. Diffuse contact in to:
16.45 to 16.39	5.70 to 5.76	10YR 4/2; Gg2 Ga1 Ag1; dark greyish brown silty sandy gravel. Diffuse contact in to:
16.39 to 16.15	5.76 to 6.00	10YR 4/6; Gg2 Ga2; dark yellowish brown sand and gravel.

**Table 3: Lithostratigraphic description of Borehole <QBH2>, 7 River Walk, Tonbridge, Kent**

Depth (m OD)	Depth (m BGS)	Composition
22.30 to 21.05	0.00 to 1.25	Made ground containing gravel, slag, brick fragments, sand and clay. Sharp contact in to:
21.05 to 20.87	1.25 to 1.43	10YR 5/4; As3 Ag1 Gg+; greyish brown silty clay with occasional gravel clasts, brick fragments and iron nodules. Sharp contact in to:
20.87 to 20.30	1.43 to 2.00	Gley 1 4/10Y; As3 Ag1 Dh+; dark greenish grey silty clay with traces of detrital herbaceous material.
20.30 to 19.56	2.00 to 2.74	Gley 1 5/N; As3 Ag1; grey silty clay. Diffuse contact in to:

19.56 to 19.22	2.74 to 3.08	7.5YR 4/1; As2 Ag1 Sh1 Dh+ DI+; dark grey organic silty clay with horizontal beds of detrital herbaceous material and detrital wood.
19.22 to 19.14	3.08 to 3.16	7.5YR 4/1; As1 Ag1 Sh1 Dh1; dark grey organic silt and clay with frequent horizontal beds of detrital herbaceous material. Sharp contact in to:
19.14 to 18.60	3.16 to 3.70	Gley 1 6/5GY; As2 Ag2; greenish grey silt and clay. Sharp contact in to:
18.60 to 18.30	3.70 to 4.00	7.5YR 4/3; Ag3 As1; brown clayey silt with frequent iron nodules. Brown mottling.
18.30 to 17.71	4.00 to 4.59	Gley 1 4/10Y; As2 Ag2 Dh+; dark greenish grey silt and clay with traces of detrital herbaceous material. Diffuse contact in to:
17.71 to 17.50	4.59 to 4.80	5YR 4/1; Ag2 As1 Dh1; dark grey clayey silt with frequent horizontal beds of detrital herbaceous material. Sharp contact in to:
17.50 to 17.30	4.80 to 5.00	5YR 3/1; Ag2 DI1 Dh1; very dark grey silt with frequent horizontal beds of detrital herbaceous material and detrital wood.
17.30 to 17.09	5.00 to 5.21	Gley 1 4/10Y; Ag2 DI1 Ga1; dark greenish grey; sandy silt with detrital wood. Sharp contact in to:
17.09 to 16.71	5.21 to 5.59	Gley 1 4/10Y; Ag2 Gg1 Ga1 DI+; sandy silt with gravel and occasional horizontal beds of detrital wood. Diffuse contact in to:
16.71 to 16.30	5.59 to 6.00	10YR 4/6; Gg3 Ga1; dark yellowish brown sandy gravel.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The aim of the geoarchaeological investigations was to clarify the nature of the sub-surface stratigraphy across the site, and to evaluate the potential of the sedimentary sequences for reconstructing the environmental history of the site and its environs. In particular, the two new geoarchaeological borehole locations (<QBH1> and <QBH2>) were chosen in order to duplicate the sequences recorded in the area of boreholes <WS1> and <WS3>, in which 'peaty clay' horizons were recorded overlying the basal sand and gravel.

The sedimentary sequences in boreholes <QBH1> and <QBH2> overlying the Sand and Gravel at 7 River Walk are broadly consistent with the Holocene alluvial sediments that are found across the middle and lower reaches of rivers draining in to the English Channel, usually comprising a lower unit of sandy alluvium which often contains visible organic remains, which may include wood, other plant remains, and Mollusca; this horizon is evident at 7 River Walk below ca. 17.6m OD. In many places this sandy alluvium is overlain by a peat bed, representing the development of a more stable terrestrial surface across the floor of the valley. At the 7 River Walk site sediment deposits indicative of more stable terrestrial surfaces (i.e. peat) are absent however, indicating either that a) this part of the floodplain has not experienced a lowering of the water level suitable for such sedimentation, or b) such



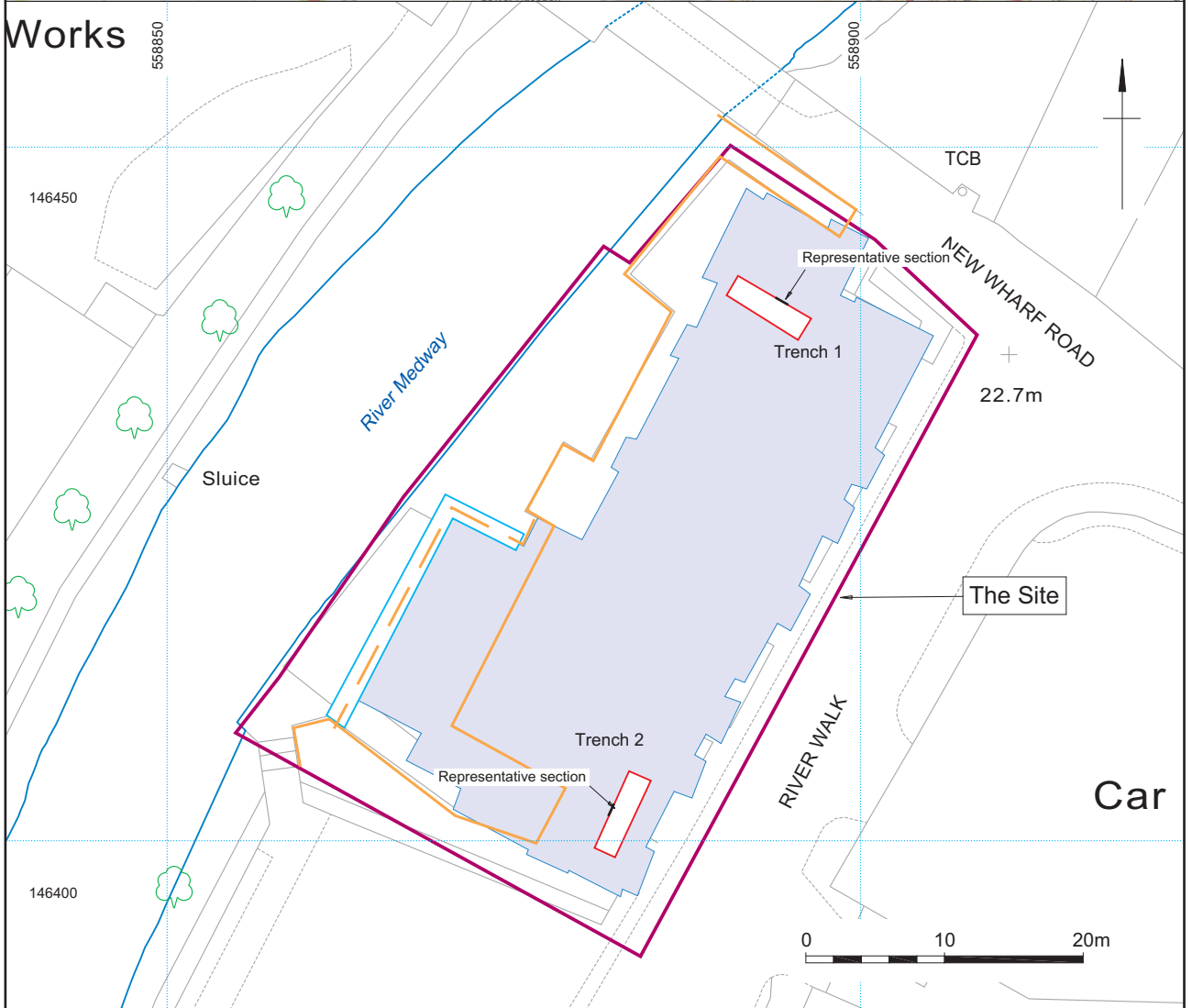
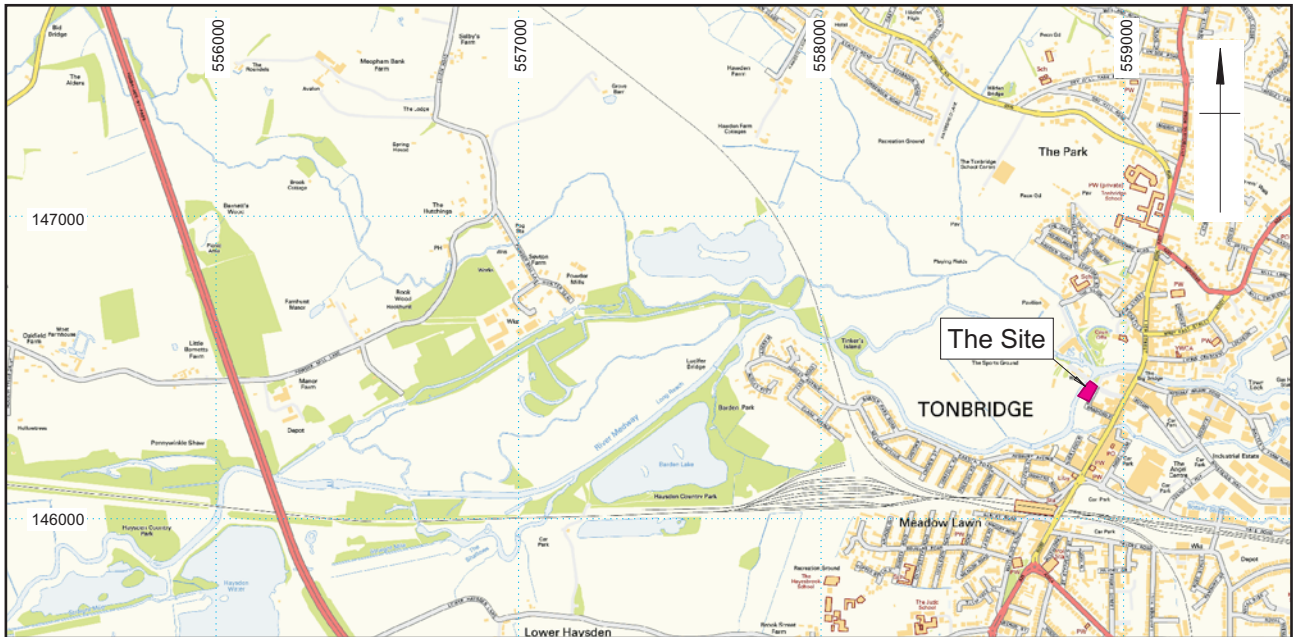
deposits have subsequently been eroded. Notably, the 'peaty' horizons recorded in boreholes <WS1> and <WS3> were not recorded in the new geoarchaeological boreholes. Given the proximity of the new sequences to those collected previously (within ca. 2m), it is considered likely that this difference is due to the different descriptive terms (and differing technical constraints in terms of recorded detail) used by the geotechnical drilling team, and that the new geoarchaeological boreholes represent a more accurate record of the sedimentary sequences at the site.


The uppermost unit almost everywhere and evident at the 7 River Walk site above ca. 17.6m OD is a silty alluvium in which visible organic remains are uncommon; often, this horizon represents evidence of the effects of an increase in sediment supply produced by soil erosion associated with the intensification of land-use from the Neolithic period onward.

## REFERENCES

Jomas Associates Ltd. (2012) *River Walk, Tonbridge Site Investigation Results*. Unpublished exploratory hole records.

Trøels-Smith, J. (1955) Karakterisering af løse jordarter (Characterisation of unconsolidated sediments), *Danm. Geol. Unders.*, **Ser IV 3**, 73.



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="border: 1px solid red; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Evaluation trench</li> <li><span style="border: 2px solid blue; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Area of watching brief</li> <li><span style="background-color: lightblue; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Development footprint</li> <li><span style="border: 2px dashed orange; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Flood defences</li> </ul>	<p>Digital data reproduced from Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright November 2012. All rights reserved. Reference Number: 100020449.          Contains Ordnance Survey open data © Crown Copyright and database right 2012          This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.</p>		
	Date: 21/11/12	Revision Number: 0	
	Scale: 1:25000 & 1:500@ A4	Illustrator: SEJ	
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Site and trench location plan

Figure 1



Plate 1: Trench 1, south-west facing representative section



Plate 2: Trench 1 viewed from the south-east



Plate 3: Trench 2, south-east facing representative section



Plate 4: Trench 2 viewed from the south-west

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Scale:	N/A	Illustrator:	SEJ
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Plate 5: South-west end of Flood Defence trench viewed from south-east



Plate 6: Centre of Flood defence trench viewed from south-east



Plate 7: North-east end of Flood Defence trench viewed from north-west



Plate 8: Flood Defence trench viewed from north-east



Plate 9: Flood Defence trench viewed from south-east



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