



## Gravesend Eastern Quarter, Gravesend, Kent

### Archaeological Evaluation Interim Summary

#### 1.1 *Project background*

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by CgMs Heritage (Part of the RPS) (the client) to undertake the excavation of a single archaeological evaluation trench on land at Gravesend Eastern Quarter, Gravesend, Kent. Centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 564804, 174311 and is hereafter referred to as 'the site' (**Fig 1**).
- 1.1.2 A hybrid planning application was submitted to Gravesham Borough Council and approved in 2014, for the demolition of buildings and redevelopment of land in Gravesend Town Centre known as the 'Heritage Quarter' comprising of the Western Quarter and Eastern Quarter (20120931).
- 1.1.3 In the Eastern Quarter this comprises the construction of three new buildings to provide 141 residential units, restaurant space and a hotel, along with associated car parking, associated servicing, landscaping and highway works.
- 1.1.4 In terms of undertaking the Archaeological Evaluation, the site has been divided into 3 Zones, as shown on Drawing DR-A-04100 Rev B (**Appendix 1**). The Archaeological Evaluation work will take place in a phased approach across the three zones.
- 1.1.5 An interim archaeological evaluation, insofar as Archaeological Zone 1, was undertaken from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> of January 2019.
- 1.1.6 The evaluation comprised a single trial trench, measuring 15m x 2m, with contingency for the trench to be stepped once to a maximum depth of 2.4m below ground level (BGL) if required (**Fig 2**). Due to the presence of below ground services, the trench had to be reduced in length to 12m.
- 1.1.7 This evaluation is part of a larger scheme of investigation, which will comprise a further 8 targeted trenches, which will be located across the site positioned to identify archaeological remains. The results of the work detailed in this statement will be reproduced in full and included in a full evaluation report on completion of the fieldwork for the remainder of the Gravesend Eastern Quarter (i.e. Archaeological Zones 2 and 3).

#### 1.2 *Previous Investigations*

##### *Sub Surface Geotechnical investigation - 2008*

- 1.2.1 In 2008, Sub Surface undertook geotechnical investigations within both the Eastern and Western Quarter. Boreholes 1 and 2 were located within the Eastern Quarter.

Borehole 1 which was located in the southeast corner of the site recorded made ground deposits to a depth of 1.2m BGL overlying the natural chalk bedrock geology. Borehole 2 was located in the northern section of the site. Made ground was recorded as overlying natural chalk bedrock geology to 3.5m BGL.

### 1.3 ***Aim of the evaluation***

1.3.1 The aims and objectives of the evaluation were set out in written scheme of investigation (WSI) (Wessex Archaeology 2018). The trench undertaken in this phase of initial work was Trench no.7 as identified in the WSI, located with the following purpose:

- *Trench 7 targets open space and part of the Coach Manufactory, and its location, orientation and size has been dictated by terracing levels within the existing carpark.*

### 1.4 ***Archaeological results***

1.4.1 The underlying geology, mapped as the Lewes Nodular Formation, Seaford Chalk and Newhaven Chalk Formation (British Geological Survey), was identified at 1.1m BGL and as such there was no requirement to step the trench in this case.

1.4.2 Trench 7 (**Fig 2; Plates 1 & 2**) was orientated east, southeast – west, northwest, the stratigraphy encountered (**Plate 3**) consisted of 0.09m of modern paving and sand (**701**) which overlay a layer of concrete and Type 1 crush (**702**) measuring 0.5m in depth, this overlay a modern made ground deposit (**703**) measuring 0.45m in depth which contained common inclusions of brick and tile, for the majority of the trench this deposit immediately overlay the natural chalk geology (**704**) at an average depth of 1.1m BGL. At the eastern end of the trench this deposit overlay a 2<sup>nd</sup> layer of modern made ground (**705**) essentially similar to the overlying material (**703**), formed within a depression caused by modern demolition activities at the site.

1.4.3 A single instance of modern, probably 21<sup>st</sup> century intrusion (visible on **Plate 2**) was identified cutting initially through the upper level of modern made ground (**703**) through to natural geology, this was located adjacent to the features discussed below.

1.4.4 A cut feature (**Plate 4**) was identified sealed below this layer of Made Ground consisting of a modern ‘robber trench’ **706** of 20<sup>th</sup> century date which was backfilled with disturbed material (**707**) including numerous modern ceramics along with fragments of clay tobacco pipe and animal bone (see **finds** below). The modern robber cut **706** truncated an earlier foundation cut **708** the width of a single line of horizontal bricks, typical of a small ancillary structure.

1.4.5 Historic map regression at the site (CgMs 2018) depicts the area subject to several periods of demolition and construction, up to 1986, where several small structures are visible prior to the construction of the carpark which occupies the site today. It is likely the demolition and levelling of these structures which has resulted in the encountered stratigraphy.

### 1.5 ***Finds by Grace Jones***

A small assemblage of finds was recovered from context **707**. The pottery is of post-medieval and modern date, comprising a brown salt-glazed stoneware, two post-medieval redwares, two sherds from a bowl in a white-slipped redware and four

refined whitewares (three of which have blue transfer-printed decoration). Two stem fragments from clay tobacco pipes, and a rib fragment from a cattle-sized animal, were also recovered.

**Table 1:** Quantification of finds, context 707

Context	Pottery		Clay pipe		Animal bone	
	No.	Wg (g)	No.	Wg (g)	No.	Wg (g)
707	9	285	2	8	1	1

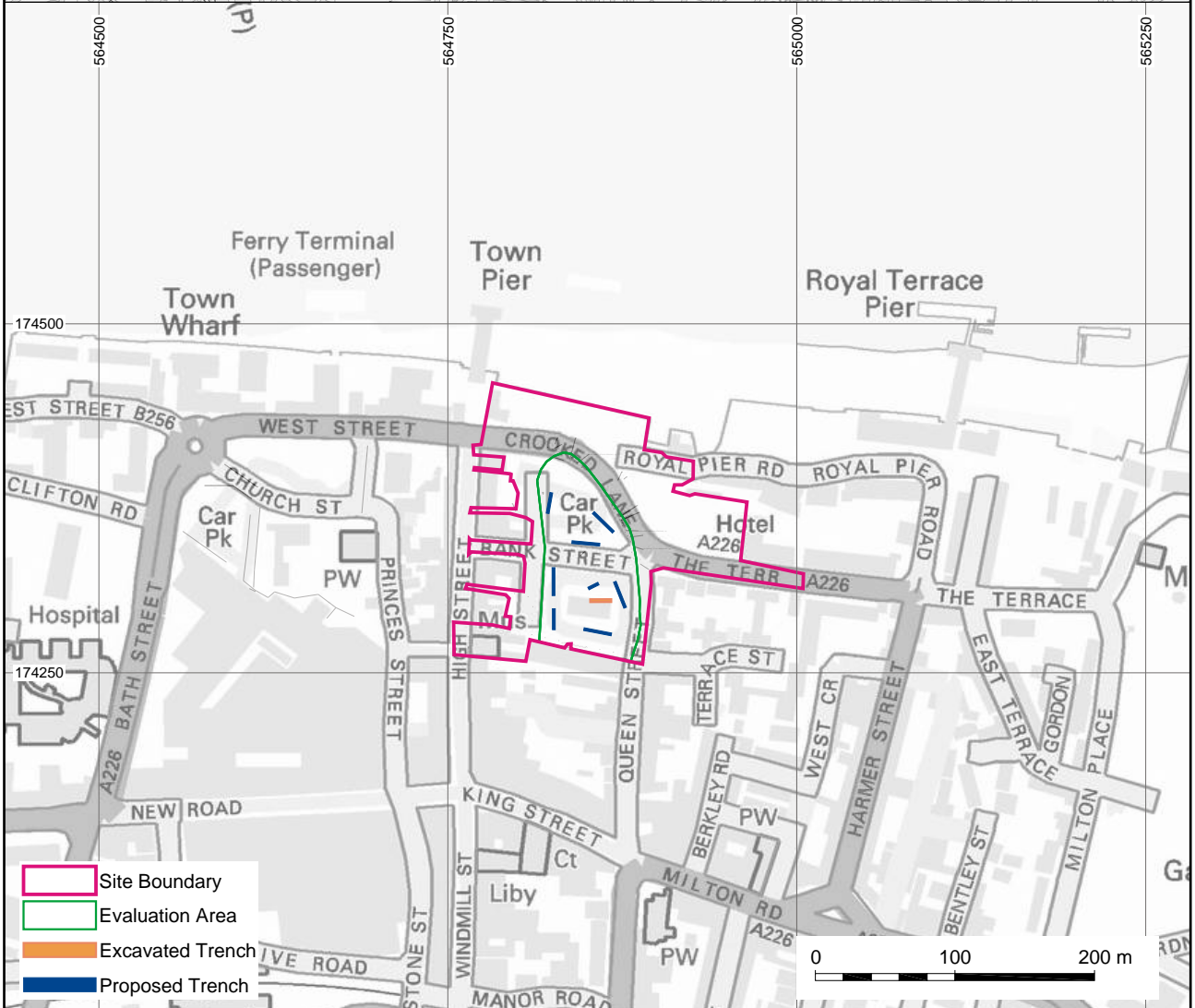
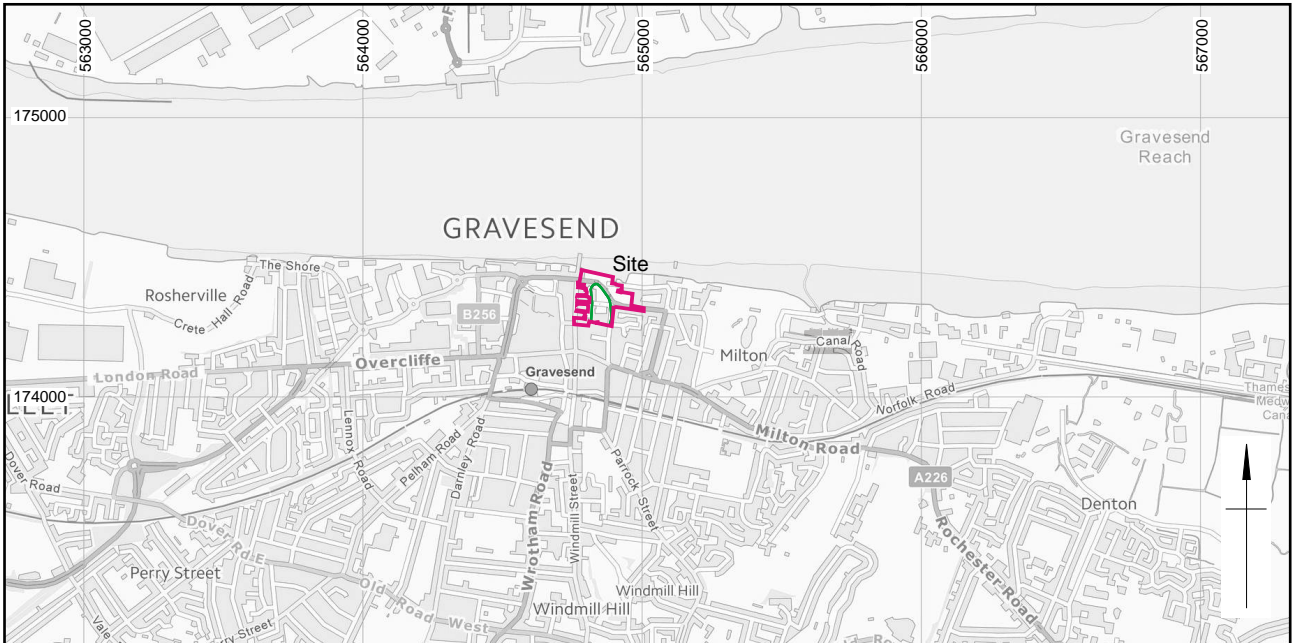
- 1.5.2 The results of the work detailed in this statement will be reproduced in full in a full Evaluation Report on completion of the remaining fieldwork at the Gravesend Eastern Quarter.

### ***Bibliography***

British Geological Survey online viewer <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> (accessed 07/01/2019)

CgMs 2018 *Eastern Quarter, Gravesend, Kent: Archaeological Desk Based Assessment*.  
Ref: RvKM/24674

Wessex Archaeology 2018 *Gravesend Eastern Quarter. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*. Unpublished Client report. Ref. 206680

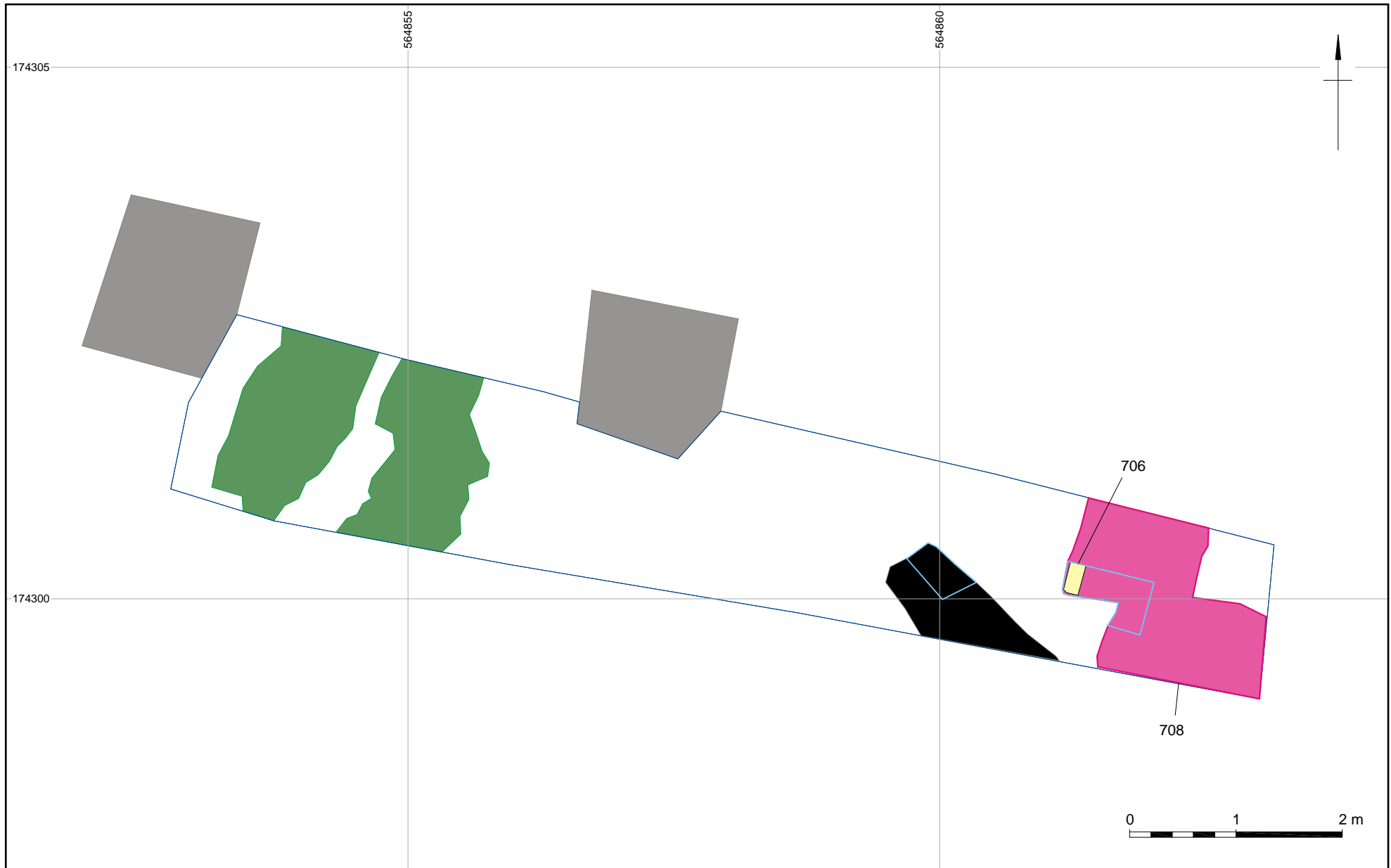


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Site location

Figure 1











 Coordinate system: OSGB36 (OSTN15/OSGM15)	 Evaluation Trench	 Robber Trench	 Geology	Date: 14/01/2019	Revision Number: 0	
	 Concrete Pillar	 Footing	 Modern	 Slot	Scale: 1:50 at A4	Illustrator: ALS
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Plate 1: Trench 7, viewed from the west



Plate 2: Trench 7, viewed from the east



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Plate 3: Representative section of Trench 7, viewed from the north



Plate 4: Robber trench 706 and footing 708, viewed from the south

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## **Appendix 1 : Archaeological Zoning Plan**





**DRAWINGS RECORD**

REV	DATE	ISSUED FOR	COMMENTS	REV BY	CHK BY
A	10/10/18	ISSUED FOR INFORMATION		JC	CC
B	15/11/18	DESIGN REVIEW		JC	CC

**KEY**

- EXISTING ELEMENTS
- PROPOSED ELEMENTS
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL ZONE 1
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL ZONE 2
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL ZONE 3
- ▨ STEP
- ▨ EVALUATION TRENCH

**SIGNIFICANT HEALTH AND SAFETY RISKS (UNUSUAL AND DIFFICULT TO MANAGE ONLY)**  
 It is assumed that all works will be carried out by a competent contractor working, where appropriate, to an approved method statement. In addition to the hazards/risks normally associated with the types of work detailed on this drawing, note the following:

**DO NOT SCALE OFF THIS DRAWING**

This scheme is subject to town planning and all other necessary consents. Dimensions, area and levels where given are only approximate and subject to site survey. All dimensions are to be checked on site. Any discrepancies or variations are to be reported to the architect before work commences. Figured dimensions only are to be taken from this drawing. This drawing is to be read in conjunction with all relevant consultants and / or specialists drawings / documents and any discrepancies or variations are to be reported to the architect before the affected work commences. Magnetic media does not constitute contract documentation and updates of this data will occur. These files are current as of the date of issue. Your use of the content of these files is at your own risk. Reference should always be made to the hard copy which is superior to the digital format. Any document produced by yourselves which contains part or all of this data remains your responsibility and attributed to yourselves. Whilst Leslie Jones make every effort to ensure that it is scanned for viruses, we cannot guarantee that it does not contain any.

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Job Title  
 MARKET SQUARE / ST ANDREWS WHARF

Project Number 3732

Drawing Title  
 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ZONING PLAN

As @A1 11/14/18 MC CC indicated

project	originator	volume	level	type	role	number
3732 - LJA	E0 - B1 - DR	A -	04100			

revision	code	description
B		DESIGN REVIEW