



**14 New Road, Chatham, Kent**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

Site Code: 33220

NGR Site Centre: 575720 167655

Planning Application Number: MC/21/1900

Prepared on behalf of:

Kirsten Associates

on behalf of

Goldpillar Global

July 2022

Compiled by:

David Britchfield BA MCIfA

**Ravelin Archaeological Services**

01634 612640/07702 587630

ravelinarchservices@gmail.com

Report Reference: 33220.01

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## Quality Assurance

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# 14 New Road, Chatham, Kent

## Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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## **Summary**

*In June 2022 Ravelin Archaeological Services carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording of the site at 14 New Road, Chatham, Kent. The works were commissioned by Kirsten Associates on behalf of Goldpillar Global and carried out during the excavation of a single trench located within the rear ground floor of the building. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with an archaeological Watching Brief Specification prepared by Wessex Archaeology.*

*No Archaeological finds or features were encountered.*

# 14 New Road, Chatham, Kent

## Archaeological Watching Brief Report

NGR Site Centre: 575720 167655  
Site Code: 33220

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Ravelin Archaeological Services (RAS) has been commissioned by Kirsten Associates on behalf of Goldpillar Global (the Client), to undertake a programme of archaeological works during the proposed development at 14 New Road, Chatham, Kent (Figure 1).

1.1.2 Development proposals include the conversion of existing office building into seven self-contained residential units consisting of three 1 bedroom dwellings and four 2 bedroom dwellings including a one storey rear extension and external alterations. In acknowledgement of the archaeological potential of the site, archaeological issues have been addressed by the Kent County Council (KCC) Senior Archaeological Officer (under planning application number: MC/21/1900) whereby the following advice was offered;

*'No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a watching brief to be undertaken by an archaeologist approved by the Local Planning Authority so that the excavation is observed and items of interest and finds are recorded. The watching brief shall be in accordance with a written programme and specification which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority'*

*'Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded. No development shall take place until the implementation of a watching brief to be undertaken by an archaeologist approved by the Local Planning Authority has been secured so that the excavation of the foundations and lower ground under floor heating is observed, and items of interest and finds are recorded. The watching brief shall be carried out in accordance with a written programme and specification, which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.'*

*Reason: Required before commencement of development to avoid any irreversible detrimental impact on any archaeological interest and in accordance with Policy BNE21 of the Local Plan 2003.'*

(MC/21/1900, Condition 4, dated 15/09/2021)

1.1.3 The fieldwork, which comprised a programme of archaeological monitoring (Watching Brief), was carried out in June 2022 (Table 2, Section 4.4 below) in accordance with an archaeological specification prepared by Wessex Archaeology (2022).

## 1.2 Site Description and Topography

1.2.1 The site is centred on NGR 575720 167655, on the north-eastern side of New Road, within the New Road Conservation Area directly west of Chatham town centre. The site forms part of ‘Gibraltar Place’ (WA 2022: 2.2.6) constructed between 1783 and 1820 (further historical information provided below). The actual groundworks development area was located to the rear of the existing building (Plate 1), on the lower ground floor, directly adjacent to a sunken courtyard which neighbours the site to the northwest (Plate 2). At the time of monitoring the lower ground floor consisted of a concrete slab at a level of 25.69m aOD, 2.5m below the existing rear ground level.



*Plate 1 Gibraltar Terrace, view from New Road, with No. 14 at the centre of shot.*

1.2.2 According to the British Geological Society, the underlying geology consists of Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation – Chalk, sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 86 to 94 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. These sedimentary rocks are shallow-marine in origin. No superficial deposits are recorded (British Geological Survey 2021).



*Plate 2 Rear of the property showing the roof of the lower group floor with lightwells, viewed from the southwest*

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

2.1.1 The archaeological potential of the site has been based on the location of remains presently recorded with the Historic Environment Record (Table 1) held and maintained by Kent County Council (see 2.2 below). This is supported by an archaeological and historical narrative prepared by Wessex Archaeology, both of which are detailed below.

### **2.2 Historic Environment Record (Accessed 29/06/2022)**

2.2.1 The HER records the following sites, within a 250m radius of the site;

<i><b>HER Number</b></i>	<i><b>Name</b></i>
TQ 76 NE 1098	CHATHAM HOUSE (NUMBER 14) AND ATTACHED FRONT AREA AND STEP RAILINGS
TQ 76 NE 1184	19 Maidstone Road
TQ 76 NE 1099	8 AND 10 NEW ROAD
TQ 76 NE 1102	No 2 New Road (South West side) (formerly listed as Nos 2 - 38)

<i>HER Number</i>	<i>Name</i>
TQ 76 NE 1100	4 AND 6 NEW ROAD
TQ 76 NE 1089	CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE DIVINE
TQ 76 NE 1097	NUMBERS 52 AND 54 AND ATTACHED FRONT AREA AND STEP RAILINGS
TQ 76 NE 393	Site of the Zion Baptist Church, Clover Street, Chatham
TQ 76 NE 1096	NUMBER 58 AND ATTACHED FRONT AREA AND STEP RAILINGS
TQ 76 NE 69	Post medieval pits and artefacts, found between 220-250 High Street, Rochester
TQ 76 NE 1094	LORD DUNCAN PUBLIC HOUSE
TQ 76 NE 1095	60 NEW ROAD
TQ 76 NE 70	Post medieval pits and clay pipe assemblage, 220-250 High Street, Rochester
TQ 76 NE 704	Roman Pottery, nr Highsted Wood
TQ 76 NE 108	St Michael's the Archangel RC Church, Hills Terrace, Chatham
TQ 76 NE 139	Presbyterian Church, New Road, Chatham
TQ 76 NE 1246	Weapons pit/Fougasse firing point
TQ 76 NE 1078	STATUE OF THOMAS WAGHORN
TQ 76 NE 75	19th century pipemaking waste, Richard Street, Chatham
TQ 76 NE 412	Clover Street Maltings
TQ 76 NE 69	Post medieval pits and artefacts, found between 220-250 High Street, Rochester
TQ 76 NE 1094	LORD DUNCAN PUBLIC HOUSE
TQ 76 NE 1095	60 NEW ROAD
TQ 76 NE 70	Post medieval pits and clay pipe assemblage, 220-250 High Street, Rochester
TQ 76 NE 704	Roman Pottery, nr Highsted Wood
TQ 76 NE 108	St Michael's the Archangel RC Church, Hills Terrace, Chatham
TQ 76 NE 139	Presbyterian Church, New Road, Chatham
TQ 76 NE 1246	Weapons pit/Fougasse firing point
TQ 76 NE 1078	STATUE OF THOMAS WAGHORN
TQ 76 NE 75	19th century pipemaking waste, Richard Street, Chatham
TQ 76 NE 412	Clover Street Maltings
TQ 76 NE 74	19th century tobacco pipe kiln waste, 19 Maidstone Road, Chatham
TQ 76 NE 1267	Seventh Day Adventist church, New Road, Chatham
TQ 76 NE 112	Congregational Church (Ebenezer Chapel), Clover Street, Chatham
TQ 76 NE 283	Chatham station, Station Road, Chatham
TQ 76 NE 1351	Cherry Tree Hall Mill
TQ 76 NE 66	Military road gate, Best Street, Chatham
TQ 76 NE 1358	Second World War Concrete reinforced loopoled wall

<i>HER Number</i>	<i>Name</i>
TQ 76 NE 267	Chatham
MKE92159	Plaque on 11 Ordnance Terrace, Chatham

Table 1 Historic Environmental Record (250m radius)

### **2.3 Written Scheme of investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2022)**

2.3.1 The following section is taken from the Written Scheme of Investigation and provides an extensive historical narrative for the development site (2022: p2-4);

2.3.2 New Road was created in 1791, when an act of parliament was granted for the cleaning and lighting of Chatham's streets. This included the building of New Road to bypass the congested High Street and formed a continuation of New Road Rochester. Building work was completed with the erection of the viaduct over Rome Lane (now Railway Street) in 1794. Once built, New Road became part of the main road between London, Canterbury, and Dover. The road was originally a residential district and most of the properties were originally single occupancy houses. Hasted, in 1798, described New Road and its origins as follows:

*"Close to the houses on the opposite or south side of the High-street, over the chalk hill at about a quarter of a mile distance, there has been a new road cut of late at a very great expense, by the authority of parliament, to avoid the inconvenience of passing through this street. The inhabitants of Chatham were so much alarmed at this, left, the thoroughfare of their town being neglected, their traffic would likewise soon decay, that they refused to have their town comprehended in the act, which those of Rochester obtained, for the new paving and otherwise beautifying that town and Stroud, as the making this new road was to be part of the act. However, they soon found, on the other hand, that if the town of Chatham too was not made more safe and commodious for travellers, the greatest part of them would most probably avoid so unsafe and disagreeable a thoroughfare, by travelling the new road, which again alarmed them so much, that in 1772 they procured an act themselves for the like purposes, which was followed by another more extensive in 1776; in consequence of which the High-street has been new paved and lighted, and several of the annoyances have been removed, which before rendered this narrow thoroughfare so inconvenient and disagreeable to passengers; the expenses of which are railed on the proprietors of houses and lands, by a rate not exceeding ninepence in the pound."*

2.3.3 The eastern part of the land on which New Road was built was owned by Thomas Whittaker, who was quick to take advantage of the new, wide street for high status dwellings.

- 2.3.4 The western half of New Road was owned by the Best Family, owners of the local brewery situated on what is now Manor Road and a large house in Rome Lane (now Railway Street). The south side of the road was developed first, with the construction of Gibraltar Terrace (Nos. 2-38 New Road). This has a complex constructional history with a façade being built in eight phases between 1793 and 1820. Nos. 12-16 were built first as a symmetrical block of four houses. The terrace was gradually extended eastwards during the last decade of the 18th century, with Nos. 18-38 added. A western extension (Nos. 2-12) was constructed during the early 19th century in a slightly different style.
- 2.3.5 It is likely that the frontages were built by a principal builder, who sub-let each property to different builders who then built the rears, either singly or in pairs. This was common practice during the 18th and 19th centuries and would account for the varied design of the rear of the terrace.
- 2.3.6 Approximately 100m to the west of the site evidence of 19th century tobacco pipe kiln waste was found. This was at 19 Maidstone Road in c.1980 and was interpreted as indicative of the site of a Pipe Workshop. Derived from activities of members of the Birchall Family, prominent pipe makers in Chatham in the early 19th century.
- 2.3.7 Approximately 200m north- northeast of the site between the summer of 1978 and spring of 1979 excavations for the foundations of a new store at 220-250 High Street revealed at least twenty rubbish and cess pits. The fills produced a large amount of clay pipes, dating from the early seventeenth to nineteenth century. The site was part of the manor of Chatham which was sold and broken up for development in 1621.

#### *Chatham House*

- 2.3.8 The 1866 Ordnance Survey map shows Chatham House, at that time part of the whole terrace labelled 'Gibraltar Place'. The map shows a roughly uniform rear building line to the main houses of the terrace (i.e. aside from their rear projections). Chatham House at this time notably had a nearly square footprint, with the rear building line straight and with a rear light well, accessed by a staircase, beyond which the garden can be seen. There were dwellings adjoining the garden to the SW.

### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 Specific Aims**

3.1.1 The aims and objectives of the archaeological watching brief, as set out in the WSI (2022: p4), was to identify, excavate, record, and analyse archaeological remains that may be disturbed by the proposed development and to contribute to the historical and archaeological knowledge of the Site through the recording of archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the proposed development.

3.1.2 The aims of the monitoring were to:

- allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of the development or other works;
- provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard; and
- guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

3.1.3 The objectives of the monitoring were to:

- determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified works area;
- record and establish, within the constraints of the works, the extent, character, date, condition, and quality of any surviving archaeological remains (a preservation by record);
- place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- make available information about the archaeological resource on the site by preparing a report on the results of the watching brief.

## 4 METHODOLOGY

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the Specification (Wessex Archaeology 2022) and carried out in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (CIfA 2014).

### 4.2 Fieldwork

4.2.1 The excavation of the concrete slab and lower formation layers was carried out by hand using electric drills and shovels. All spoil was removed and stockpiled, temporarily, within the site. Plate 3 provides a view of this process. Archaeological monitoring was carried out throughout all excavation works.



*Plate 3 Hand excavation of the foundation trench*

### 4.3 Recording

4.3.1 A complete drawn record comprising both plans and sections, to appropriate scales (1:50 for plans, 1:10 for sections) was undertaken. Photographs were taken, as appropriate, providing a record of excavated features and deposits. The photographic record comprises digital photography. A photographic register of all photographs taken is contained within the project archive.

4.3.2 A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. A full list is presented in the Results section below. Layers and fills are identified in this report thus (101), whilst the cut of the feature is shown [104]. Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes.

#### 4.4 Timetable

4.4.1 Archaeological monitoring was carried out on the following days;

<b>Task</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Staff</b>
Archaeological monitoring during the construction of foundations	23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2022	David Britchfield BA MCIfA

*Table 2 Attendance Schedule*

## 5 RESULTS

### 5.1 Archaeological Watching Brief

5.1.1 Archaeological monitoring was carried out following the excavation of a foundation trench associated with the proposed development. The foundation layout was rectangular in plan measuring approximately 5m in length, 0.7m in width and excavated to a depth of approximately 0.4m (Figure 3, Plate 4). The ground surface within the lower ground floor was at a level of approximately 25.69m aOD (local datum height of 10.03m)

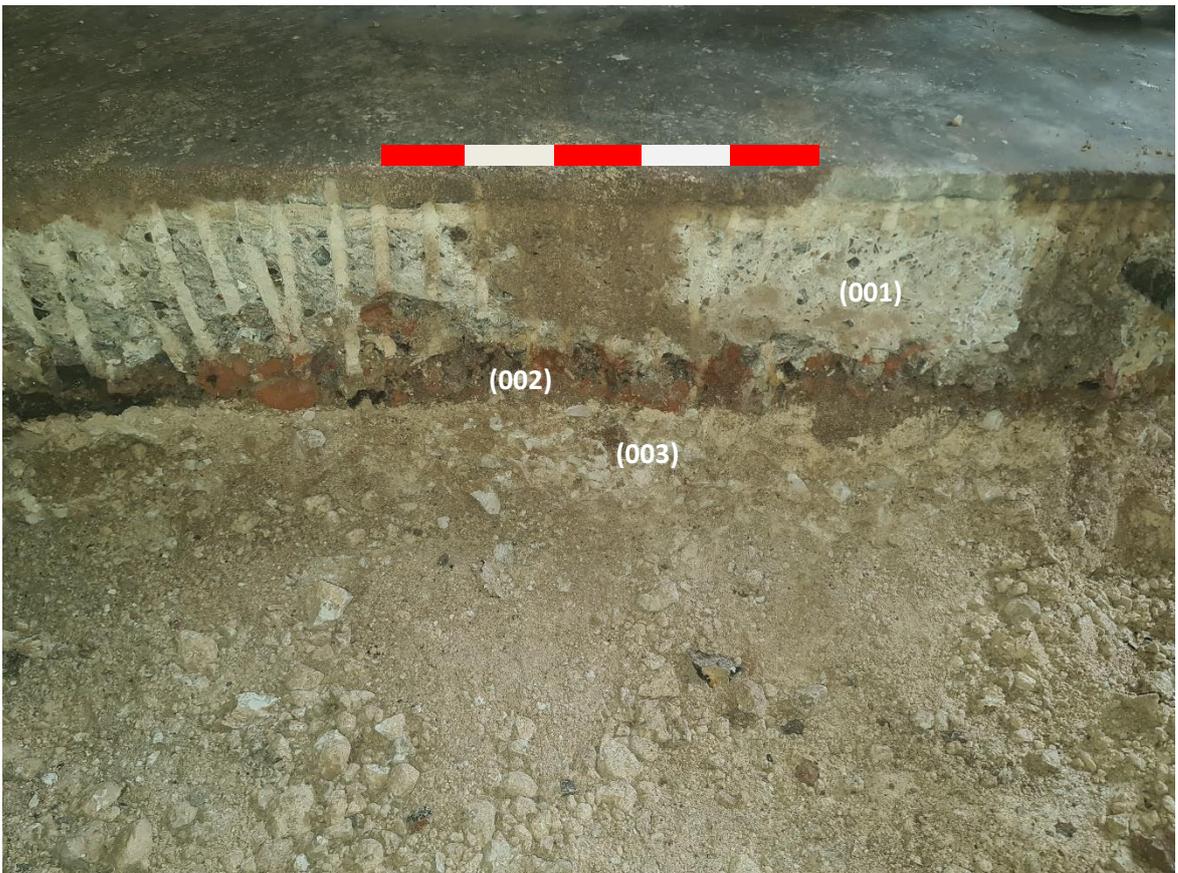
5.1.1 The stratigraphic sequence consisted of a concrete slab (001) overlaying redeposited bricks and hardcore (002) which sealed natural chalk bedrock (003). Representative Section 1 (RS1) was located on the southern extent of the excavated trench (Table 3, Plate 5). Excavation works ceased at a depth of 0.45m, no further works are to be carried out.

<b>Context Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Depths (m)</b>
(001)	Concrete	Existing floor surface	0.00-0.31
(002)	Redeposited bricks, stone and fragments of concrete	Formation	0.31-0.39+
(003)	Compact chalk bedrock	Natural geology	0.39-0.45+

*Table 3 Stratigraphic Sequence representative Section RS1 (0.00m = 25.69m aOD)*



*Plate 4 view of the trench following completion of excavation works*



*Plate 5 Representative Section RS1*

5.1.2 No archaeological finds features were present within the excavated trenches.

## **6 DISCUSSION**

### **6.1 Archaeological Narrative**

6.1.1 From the outset it appeared evident that the construction of New Road and Gibraltar Terrace would have involved the remodelling of the natural local topography. With New Road at a height of approximately 25m aOD and the carpark to the rear of Gibraltar Terrace at a level of approximately 32m aOD (Figure 2) this would suggest a natural fall of approximately 7m over a distance of 75m (1:10 fall). The construction of the New Road terrace would therefore have involved cutting into the natural chalk bank to create a level formation surface. It is suggested that such actions would have removed any archaeological features that may have been present.

6.1.2 It is therefore suggested that the proposed development had no impact on any archaeological remains and that remains, should they be present, will be preserved elsewhere on site and within the surrounding area.

### **6.2 Conclusions**

6.2.1 Archaeological monitoring and recording has been successful in fulfilling the aims and objectives of the watching brief Specification. No buried archaeological remains were recorded during the works.

## **7 ARCHIVE**

### **7.1 General**

7.1.1 The Site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital data, will be prepared following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

7.1.2 All archive elements will be marked with the Site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises 1 file/document case of paper records & A4 graphics.

## **8 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

8.1.1 Ravelin Archaeological Services would like to thank Mr Tim Aina of Kirsten Associates for commissioning the project on behalf of Mr Pian Deoclides of Goldpillar Global. Thanks are also extended to Ben Found, Senior Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council, for his advice and assistance.

8.1.2 David Britchfield BA MCIfA carried out the archaeological fieldwork and produced the draft text for this report; Illustrations for this report were produced by Ravelin Archaeological Services.

## 9 REFERENCES

### 9.1 Bibliography

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

Wessex Archaeology, 2022, *14 New Road, Chatham, Kent: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief*. Document Reference: 257730.1

### 9.2 Websites

British Geological Society <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/>

Exploring Kent's Past

<https://webapps.kent.gov.uk/KCC.ExploringKentsPast.Web.Sites.Public/SingleResult.aspx?uid=TK>  
[E1046](#)

Heritage Gateway <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/>

**10 APPENDIX 1 – KCCHC HER FORM**

**Site Name** 14 New Road, Chatham, Rochester, Kent, ME15 9BA

**RAS Site Code:** 33220

**Summary:** *In June 2022 Ravelin Archaeological Services carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording of the site at 14 New Road, Chatham, Kent. The works were commissioned by Kirsten Associates on behalf of Goldpillar Global and carried out during the excavation of a single trench located within the rear ground floor of the building. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with an archaeological Watching Brief Specification prepared by Wessex Archaeology.*

*No Archaeological finds or features were encountered.*

**District/Unitary:** Medway Council/Kent County Council

**Period(s):** NA

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** NGR 577294 152809

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Watching Brief

**Date of recording:** 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022

**Unit undertaking recording:** Ravelin Archaeological Services

**Geology:** Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation – Chalk, sedimentary Bedrock (BGS Online).

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Britchfield, D., (2022). *Watching Brief at 14 New Road, Chatham, Kent*. Rochester, Kent: Ravelin Archaeological Services. Ref: 33220.01

**Location of archive/finds:** Ravelin Archaeological Services. Rochester, Kent

**Contact at Unit:** David Britchfield

**Date:** 27/07/2022

**11 APPENDIX 2 – OASIS FORM**

**OASIS ID (UID):** ravelina1-508348

**Project Name:** Watching Brief at 14 New Road, Chatham, Kent

**Activity type:** Watching Brief

**Project Identifier(s):** Watching Brief at 14 New Road, Chatham, Kent

**Planning Id:** MC/21/1900

**Reason for Investigation:** Planning: Post determination

**Organisation Responsible for work:** Ravelin Archaeological Services

**Project Dates:** 23-Jun-2022

**HER Identifiers:** [no data]

**Project Methodology:** Archaeological monitoring

**Project Results:** No buried archaeological remains were recorded during the works.

**Keywords:**

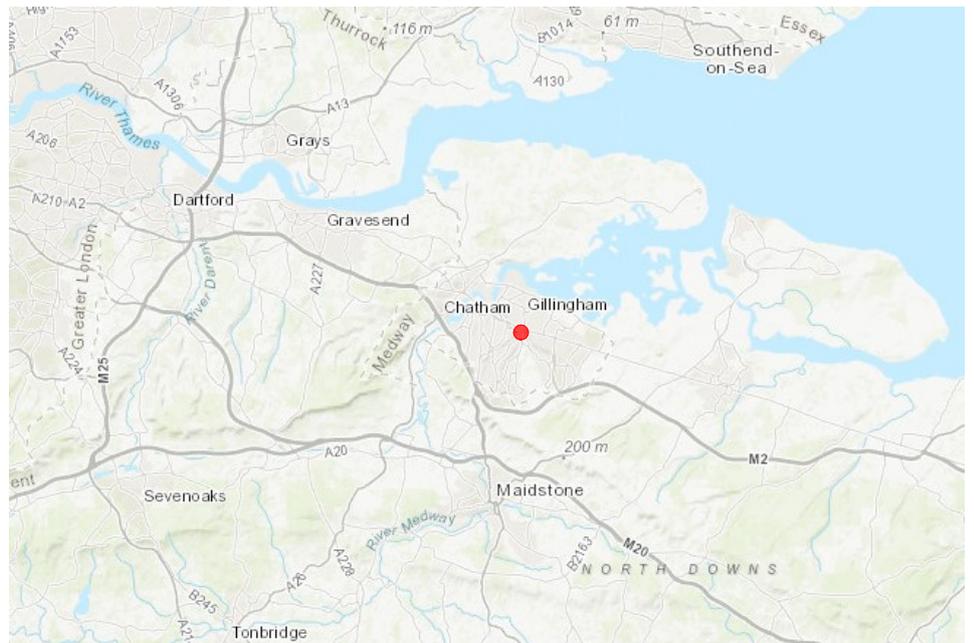
**Archive:**

**Reports in OASIS:** Britchfield, D., (2022). *Watching Brief at 14 New Road, Chatham, Kent*. Rochester, Kent:

Ravelin Archaeological Services. Ref: 33220.01



England (NTS)



Kent (NTS)



Courtesy of National Library of Scotland (NTS)

Pian Deoclides  
 14 New Road  
 Chatham  
 Kent  
 ME4 4QR

Additional information

Key  
 ● Site Location

Project No.  
 33220

Date  
 01/07/2022

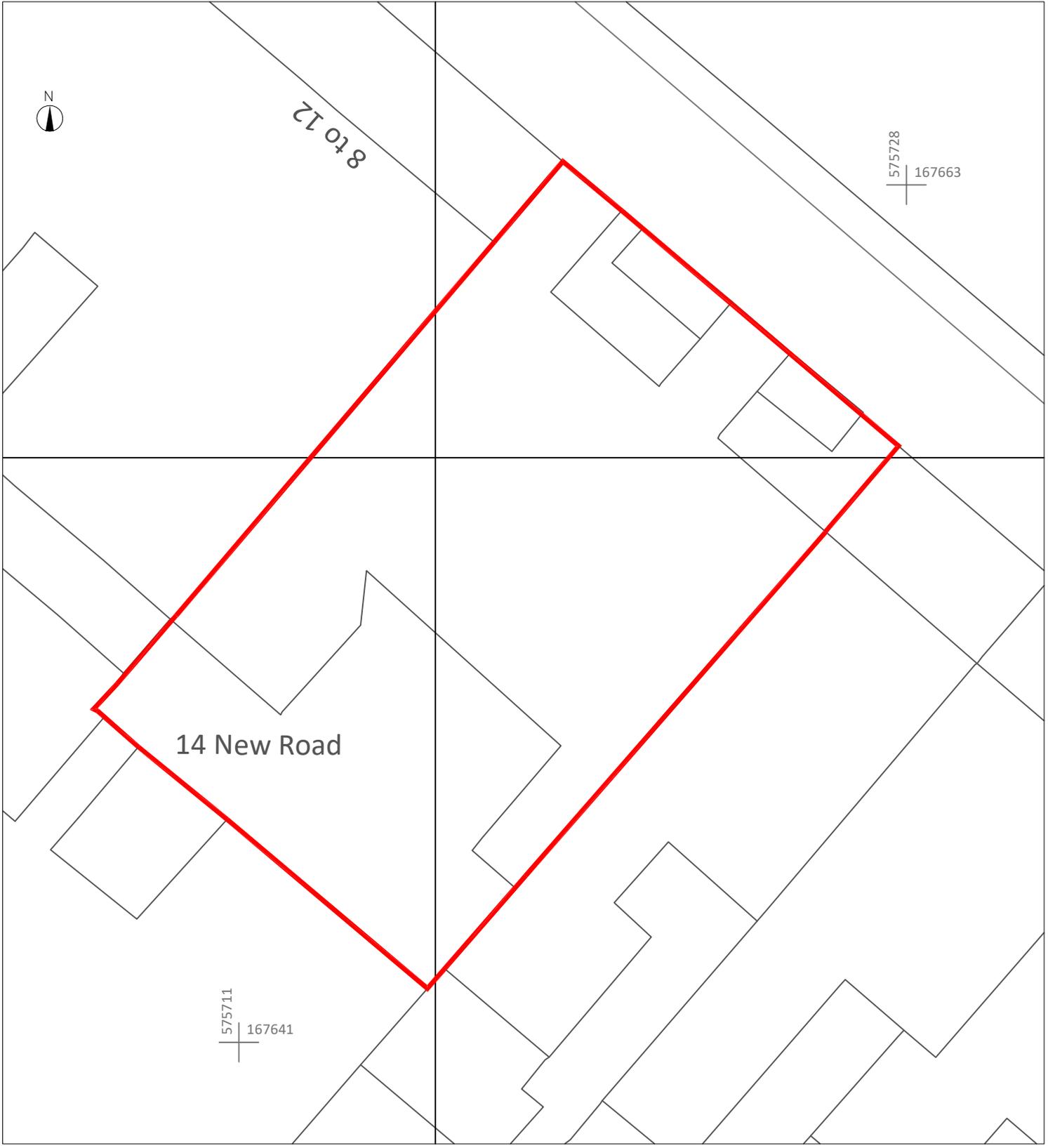
Drawn by  
 PDW

Checked by  
 DB



**Ravelin  
 Archaeological Services**  
 54 High Street  
 Wouldham  
 Rochester  
 Kent  
 ME1 3UT  
 Tel: 07702 587630  
 admin@ravelinarchservices.co.uk

Figure 1 Site Location Plan



Pian Deocides  
 14 New Road  
 Chatham  
 Kent  
 ME4 4QR

Additional information			
Key			
— Site Boundary			
Project No. 33220	Date 01/07/2022	Drawn by PDW	Checked by DB

**Ravelin**  
**Archaeological Services**  
 54 High Street  
 Wouldham  
 Rochester  
 Kent  
 ME1 3UT  
 Tel: 07702 587630  
 admin@ravelinarchservices.co.uk

Figure 2 Site Plan

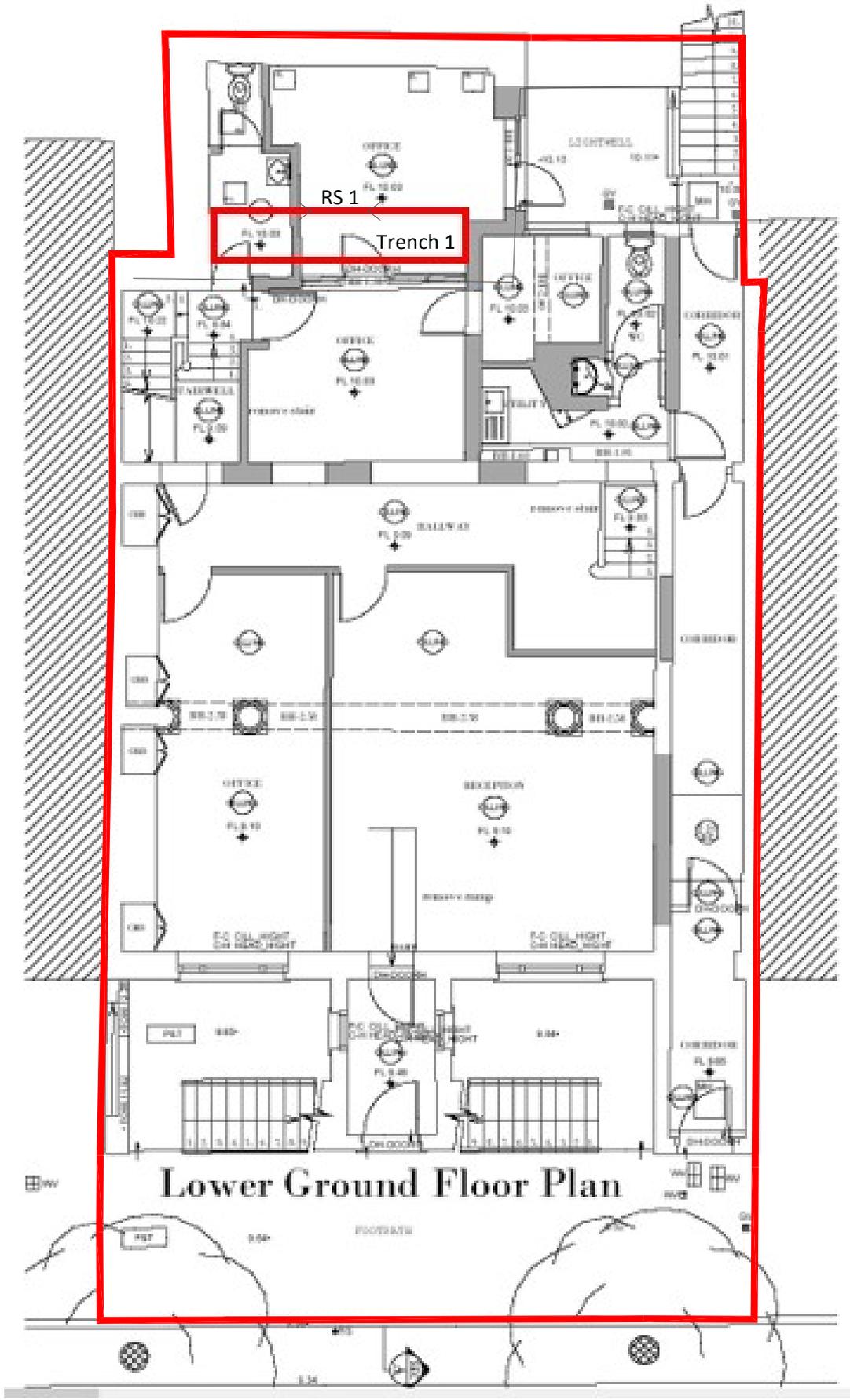


Pian Deocides  
 14 New Road  
 Chatham  
 Kent  
 ME4 4QR

Additional information			
Key			
— Site Boundary		— Trench	
Project No. 33220	Date 01/07/2022	Drawn by PDW	Checked by DB

**Ravelin**  
 Archaeological Services  
 54 High Street  
 Wouldham  
 Rochester  
 Kent  
 ME1 3UT  
 Tel: 07702 587630  
 admin@ravelinarchservices.co.uk

Figure 2 Site Plan



### Lower Ground Floor Plan

Additional information

- Key
- Trench

Project No.  
33220

Date  
04/07/2022

Drawn by  
PDW

Checked by  
DB



**Ravelin**  
**Archaeological Services**  
54 High Street  
Wouldham  
Rochester  
Kent  
ME1 3UT  
Tel: 07702 587630  
admin@ravelinarchservices.co.uk

Pian Deocides  
14 New Road  
Chatham  
Kent  
ME4 4QR

Figure 3 Trench Location Plan