

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at
St Peter & St Paul Church,
Gravesend
Kent**

NGR: TQ 65861 73838



Jake Wilson

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at
St Peter & St Paul Church,
Gravesend
Kent.**

NGR: TQ 65861 73838

**ASE Project No: 171209
Site Code: PAP18**

**ASE Report No: 2018078
OASIS id: archaeol6-312015**

Jake Wilson

Illustrations by Naomi Humphreys

Prepared by:	Jake Wilson	Archaeologist	
Reviewed and approved by:	Lucy Sibun	Senior Archaeologist	
Date of Issue:	March 2018		
Version:			

**Archaeology South-East
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex
BN41 1DR**

**Tel: 01273 426830
Fax: 01273 420866
Email: fau@ucl.ac.uk**

Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief on a test pit at St Peter & St Paul Church, Gravesend. The work was commissioned by Gravesham Borough Council and was carried out by Archaeology South-East on the 22nd February 2018.

No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered during the watching brief.

CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Archaeological Background
- 3.0 Archaeological Methodology
- 4.0 Results
- 5.0 Discussion and Conclusions

Bibliography
Acknowledgements

HER Summary
OASIS Form

TABLES:

- Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive
- Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples
- Table 3: Test pit 1 list of recorded contexts

FIGURES

- Figure 1: Site location
- Figure 2: Site plan
- Figure 3: Site photographs

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London (UCL), were commissioned by Gravesham Borough Council (hereafter 'the client') to undertake an archaeological watching brief on St Peter & St Paul Church, Gravesend, Kent (hereafter referred to as 'the site'), centred on NGR 65861 73838 (Figure 1).

1.1.2 The work was required by Rochester Diocese's faculty ahead of the removal and rebuilding of a retaining wall to the north west of the church building.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site is located within the town of Gravesend in Kent and is bounded by East Milton road to the south, and by Raphael road to the west running to the northeast. The land is currently occupied by a large churchyard and St Peter and St Paul Church. The site is positioned at the base of a slight hill, which slopes up from east to west along the route of East Milton road.

1.2.2 According to the British Geological Survey 1:50,000 scale geological mapping available online (BGS 2018), the natural bedrock geology of the Site comprises of Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation (undifferentiated) - Chalk.

1.3 Scope of Report

1.3.1 This report details the findings of the archaeological watching brief carried out on 22nd February 2018. The archaeological work was undertaken by Jake Wilson. The project was managed by Paul Mason (fieldwork) and by Dan Swift (post-excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The archaeological potential is based on the proximity of the archaeological remains presently recorded in the Kent Historic Environment Record (HER) and these are summarised below.

2.2 Prehistoric 450 000BC-AD42

2.2.1 Evidence for human activity in the vicinity of the site stretches back to the Palaeolithic with find-spots of axes (TQ67SW435, TQ67SW436). Lithics of Mesolithic date (TQ67SW379) and a Neolithic flint axe (TQ67SW26) have also been found within the area. Human activity continues into the Bronze Age with a find of a looped and socketed axe (TQ67SE4). Archaeological evidence of settlement in the Iron Age includes both settlement activity in the form of pits and ditches (TQ67SW424, TQ67SW378) and artefactual evidence including a coin (TQ67 SE5).

2.3 Roman AD43-409

2.3.1 An occupation site of Roman date has been recorded in the area (TQ67SW110) along with pits, ditches and an inhumation burial (TQ67SW374). Samian ware has also been recovered in the vicinity (TQ67 SE3).

2.4 Early Medieval AD410-1065

2.4.1 Limited early medieval (Saxon) activity has been identified through the excavation of pits (TQ67 SW375).

2.5 Medieval AD1066-1539

2.5.1 The town appears to expand in the later medieval period with the town itself being recorded in documentary sources (TQ67SW172). Also recorded are a manorial complex (TQ67SW233), cess pits (TQ67SW232) and further undefined pits (TQ67SW131).

2.6 Post-medieval AD1540-1900

2.6.1 Numerous buildings are recorded within the vicinity of the site during the post-medieval period, including breweries and house foundations. The railway also passed close by.

2.7 Modern AD1900-present

2.7.1 Features relating to World War II, including an emergency water tank, were located within 1000m of the site; in addition, air raid shelters, firewatchers' headquarters, a police telephone box and a civil defence control centre were all located in the vicinity.

2.8 Project Aims and Objectives

2.8.1 The general aims of the evaluation were:

- To define, insofar as possible, the date, character, form and function of any archaeological features observed on site.
- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the footprint of the proposed groundwork and to preserve by record any such remains.
- To determine the survival, extent and minimum depth below modern ground level of any such remains.
- To determine the nature and significance of any archaeological and/or geoarchaeological deposits.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 The location of the test-pit is shown on Figure 2. The test pit was scanned prior to excavation using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) operated by accredited ASE personnel.
- 3.1.2 The test pit was excavated by hand under the supervision of an experienced Archaeologist with all spoil placed at least 0.5m away from the test pit edge.
- 3.1.3 All deposits were recorded using standard ASE context sheets with colours recorded by visual inspection only. A digital photographic record was made of the work. The spoil heap and the test pit base were scanned by eye for unstratified artefacts.
- 3.1.4 All recording and planning was conducted in accordance with the Kent County Council specification for archaeological watching briefs (KCC 2007).

3.2 Archive

- 3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at a local museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Context sheets	2
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	11
Context register	0
Drawing register	0
Watching brief forms	1
Trench Record forms	0

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box)	0
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	0
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	0

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
[1/001]	Layer	Made Ground	1m	1m	0.27m
[1/002]	Layer	Made Ground	1m	1m	1.23m+

Table 3 Test pit 1 list of recorded contexts.

- 4.1.1 Test pit 1 was located to the northwest of the church building and measured 1m x 1m in length and 1.5m in depth.
- 4.1.2 Deposit [1/002] was a post-medieval made ground consisting of a light brown chalk clay mixed infrequently with post-medieval building rubble and chalk deposits.
- 4.1.3 Overlying [1/002] was deposit [1/001], another post-medieval made ground consisting of a dark brown silt-clay mixed frequently with post-medieval building rubble.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

5.1.1 The test pit excavated on site exhibited the same stratigraphy throughout. A layer of post-medieval made ground [1/002], was overlain by a secondary layer of post-medieval made ground [1/001]. The depth of the test pit did not exceed 1.50m and the excavation did not expose the natural geology.

5.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

5.2.1 The area in which the watching brief took place had been affected by moderate groundworks including multiple layers of post-medieval made ground; possibly all up-cast from the construction of the large post-medieval wall running to the north of the site and bordering the churchyard.

5.3 Consideration of aims and objectives

5.3.1 The conditions on site were conducive to confident and efficient identification and recording of the test pit and as such it is considered that this watching brief has successfully achieved its objective.

5.4 Conclusions

5.4.1 The watching brief has succeeded in establishing the presence and minimum depth of the post-medieval made ground within this area of the churchyard, adjacent to the retaining wall.

5.4.2 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered within the test pit.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

British Geological Survey (BGS), Geology of Britain Viewer Accessed on 15th December 2018 <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

Kent County Council, 2007 *Standard Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief/evaluation/excavation*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

ASE would like to thank Gravesham Borough Council for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project.

HER enquiry no.					
Site code	PAP18				
Project code	171209				
Planning reference	-				
Site address	SS Peter and Paul Church, Gravesend,				
District/Borough	Kent				
NGR (12 figures)	65861 73838				
Geology	Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation (undifferentiated)- Chalk.				
Fieldwork type	WB				
Date of fieldwork	22/02/18				
Sponsor/client	Gravesham Borough Council				
Project manager	Paul Mason				
Project supervisor	Jake Wilson				
Period summary					
				Post-Med	Other
Project summary (100 word max)	An archaeological watching brief on a test pit was conducted at SS Peter & Paul Church, Gravesend, Kent, NGR 65861 73838, on the 22nd of February 2018. One test pit measuring 1m in length/width was excavated by hand. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered during the watching brief.				
Museum/Accession No.					

OASIS ID: archaeol6-312015

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at SS Peter and Paul Church, Gravesend Kent
Short description of the project	This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out by Archaeology South-East at SS Peter and Paul Church, Gravesend, on the 22nd of February 2018. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered during the watching brief.
Project dates	Start: 22-02-2018 End: 22-02-2018
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	PAP18 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 4 - Churchyard
Monument type	- None
Significant Finds	- None
Methods & techniques	"Test Pits"
Development type	Estate management (i.e. maintenance of existing structures and landscape by capital works and on-going maintenance)
Prompt	Faculty jurisdiction
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT GRAVESHAM GRAVESEND SS Peter and Paul Church
Postcode	DA12 2JL
Study area	1 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 6576 7390 51.439293 0.385199 51 26 21 N 000 23 06 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Position derived from charts
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0m Max: 0m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	ASE
Project design originator	ASE
Project director/manager	Paul Mason
Project supervisor	Jake Wilson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client

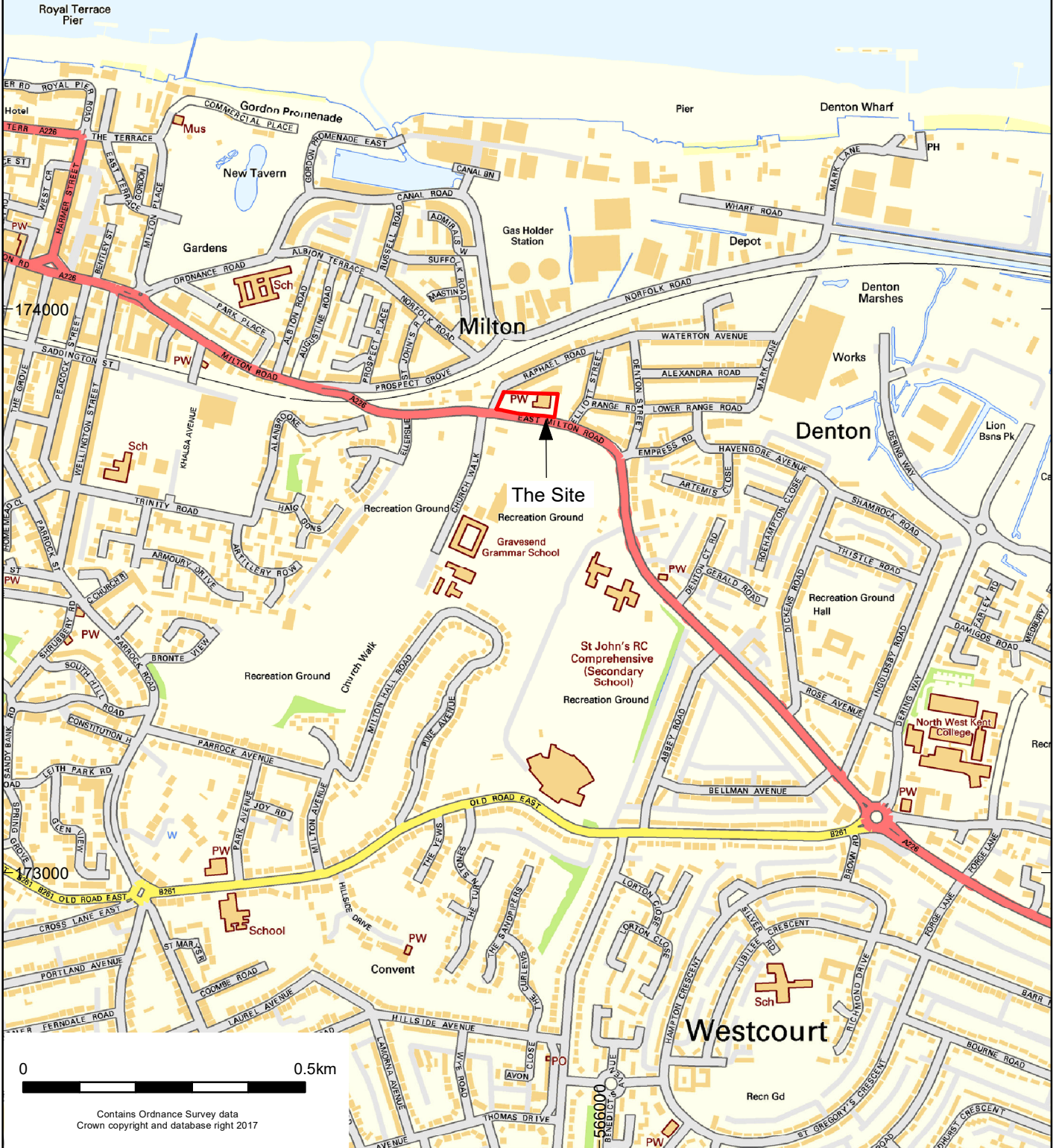
Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Media available	"Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Photograph","Report"

Entered by	Jake Wilson (Tcrnjrw@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	19 March 2018

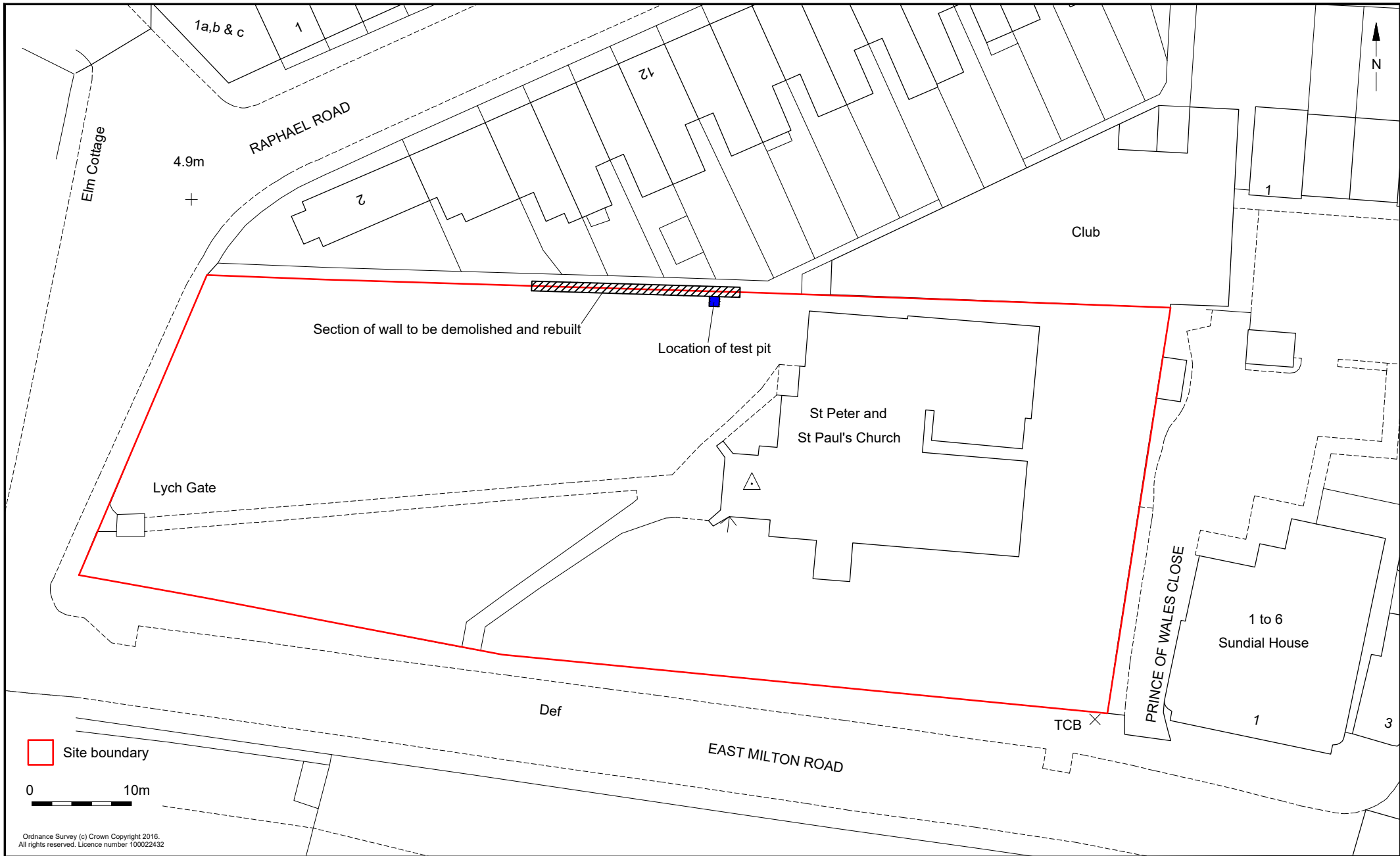


River Thames
Gravesend R



Contains Ordnance Survey data
Crown copyright and database right 2017

© Archaeology South-East		St. Peter and St. Paul's Church, Gravesend, Kent		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 171209	March 2018	Site location		
Report Ref: 2018078	Drawn by: NH			



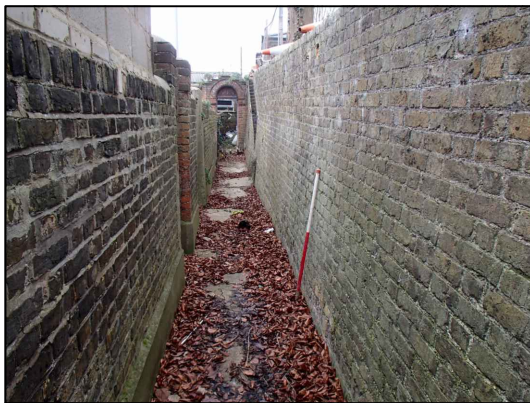
© Archaeology South-East		St. peter and St. Paul's Church, Gravesend, Kent	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 171209	March 2018	Site plan	
Report Ref: 2018078	Drawn by: NH		



Test pit 1, looking northeast



Test pit 1, looking west



Section of retaining wall (right) to be demolished and rebuilt

© Archaeology South-East		St. peter and St. Paul's Church, Gravesend, Kent	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 171209	March 2018	Site photographs	
Report Ref: 2018078	Drawn by: NH		

Sussex Office

Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex BN41 1DR
tel: +44(0)1273 426830
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk

Essex Office

27 Eastways
Witham
Essex
CM8 3YQ
tel: +44(0)1376 331470
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk

London Office

Centre for Applied Archaeology
UCL Institute of Archaeology
31-34 Gordon Square
London WC1H 0PY
tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.ucl.ac.uk/caa

