



**An Archaeological Watching Brief on
land to the rear of the former
Greyhound Public House,
10-12 New Street, Sandwich, Kent
*June 2009***

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An Archaeological Watching Brief on land to the rear of
the former Greyhound Public House, 10-12 New Street,
Sandwich, Kent

NGR: 633008 158111

Site Code: GPS-WB-09

(Planning Application Number: DOV/08/00966)

Report for

Lee Evans Partnership

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An Archaeological Watching Brief on land to the rear of the former Greyhound Public House, 10-12 New Street, Sandwich, Kent

NGR: 633008 158111

Site Code: GPS-WB-09

SUMMARY

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological watching brief on land to the rear of the former Greyhound Public House in Sandwich. A planning application (PAN: DOV/08/00966) for the construction of ... "single storey and first floor extensions, external flue and associated alterations to facilitate use of the ground floor as a restaurant and the change of use of the first floor to 2 self contained flats (existing extensions to be demolished)." (KCCHC, 2009), at the above site was submitted to Dover District Council (DDC) whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Dover District Council requested that an Archaeological Investigation be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCCHC Mar 2009) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.

The archaeological watching brief commissioned encountered no significant archaeological remains, with the area under immediate threat having only modern deposits. This may have been partly due to the minimal impact of the development which at its maximum depth reached 300mm below the modern surface. At only one place was the Victorian overburden removed in its entirety, and immediately below this lay pure dark riverine/estuarine silts. This, most likely, shows that any previous structures had been removed totally prior to the construction of the Greyhound Public House, however, as the area exposed was very limited, it is possible that remains may exist below the Victorian overburden in other areas, or indeed below the building itself.

These Archaeological Investigations have therefore been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification.

INTRODUCTION

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by **Lee Evans Partnership** to carry out an archaeological watching brief at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCCHC 2009) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council. The work was carried out in stages between the 1st June and 26th June 2009.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY

The application site is located in the centre of the old town of Sandwich at an elevation of around 3m AOD and just to the south west of the main parish church of St. Clements. The National Grid Reference for the new development is NGR 633008 158111. The underlying geology of the site and the line of New Street, according to the British Geological Survey, consists of Palaeocene Thanet Beds, the areas to the northeast and southwest of New Street are shown as alluvial deposits. The site overlooks the Delf Stream to the north.

PLANNING BACKGROUND

A planning application (PAN: DOV/08/00966) for the construction of “...single storey and first floor extensions, external flue and associated alterations to facilitate use of the ground floor as a restaurant and the change of use of the first floor to 2 self contained flats (existing extensions to be demolished).” (KCCHC, 2009), at the above site was submitted to Dover District Council (DDC). Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Dover District Council, requested that a Watching Brief be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The following condition was attached to the planning consent:

“No development shall take place until the applicant(s), 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 and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority. (Kent and Medway Structure Plan Policy QL7).

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.” (KCCHC, 2009).

Requirements for the archaeological watching brief are to establish the presence or absence, phase and date of any archaeological features.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The area surrounding New Street is rich in listed buildings showing a relatively undisturbed medieval to late medieval townscape. The earlier history of the area is characterised by Iron Age Gold coins (TR35 NW34) and (TR35 NW48) which have been recovered from unrecorded locations within the area of the town and a C3rd Roman coin (TR35 NW41) which was found, “...under the bridge at Sandown Gate.”. The Early medieval period is represented by (TR35 NW46), a pair of Saxon Runic stones which were recovered from, “...an open field nr. Sandwich about 1830.”

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the archaeological watching brief are to, "...contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of the archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundworks." (KCC 2009)

METHODOLOGY

The watching brief was carried out in several phases according to the needs of the developers between the 1st June and 26th June 2009. The areas were to be initially scanned for surface finds prior to excavation. Excavation of footings will be carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, with the intention of removing the overburden to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon/natural subsoil or formation level, under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist. The areas of excavation will be subsequently hand-cleaned with the intention of revealing features in plan and section. Features under threat will be excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to more extensive investigations, should these prove to be necessary. The archaeological watching brief will be carried out in accordance with current IfA Standards and Guidance, (IfA, 2008), and the methodology as stated in the Archaeological Specification, (KCCHC, 2009).

The footings and bases of the drainage trenches were surveyed in by James Madden at Digitise This using a Leica 1200 series GPS. This information was then digitised using AutoCAD 2007 and the final plan dropped directly onto an Ordnance Survey tile.

A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. A full list is presented in Appendix 1. Layers and fills are recorded **(100)**. The cut of the feature is shown **[100]**. Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes; these are used in the report and shown in bold.

MONITORING

The curator was informed of the commencement of the project and was informed each day intrusive works were undertaken, however, no site visits occurred and monitoring was carried out by telephone.

RESULTS

The very limited stratigraphic sequence across the site comprised a modern concrete layer, unnumbered, beneath which lay what appeared to be a late Victorian overburden layer which, nearest to the house under the new extension, was divided into two strata, **(100) (101)**. These were probably related to the construction of the Greyhound Public House, the natural geology below this was seen to be a black silt of riverine or estuarine origin, **(103)**. The overburden layers were similar, but the upper layer, **(100)** consisted of a fine grey silt, comprising 70% of

the matrix, whereas in **(101)** it comprised only 5-10% of the matrix; the remaining part of these layers was made up with frequent moderate to large sub-rounded – angular flints, mortar fragments and brick pieces. Below this lay a black silt layer which was of alluvial origin. As the excavation of the wall footing to the south was separated from the area of the extension, the overburden seen there was given a separate number, **(102)**. This was seen to be very similar to context **(100)** with grey silt making up the majority of the matrix, the rest being construction debris. Mechanical excavation ceased at a maximum depth of 0.30m for the footings of the extension and boundary walls which was not enough to penetrate the overburden layer except in a small area close to the main building. Here careful examination and investigation for truncating features was carried out. The remainder of the site was only reduced by 0.10m.

The Watching Brief took the form of using a single 0.30m toothless grading bucket to excavate the footings for the new extension and the footings for the new southern boundary wall to a depth of 0.30m below the original surface level, following the use of a 0.60m grading bucket to strip the area of concrete which was up to 0.10m in thickness. Due to the height of groundwater, the new foul and storm drains were to be run across the courtyard area at a level only 0.10m below the present surface, the lines for these were cut and monitored however these only went down approximately 50mm into the overburden, subsequently this area was to be built up again to a higher level.

FINDS

No archaeological finds were recovered; the only materials seen were fragments of bricks similar to those in the current building and probably dating to its construction phase.

DISCUSSION

The watching brief carried out on land to the rear of the former Greyhound Public House did not encounter any archaeological remains save for the probable construction layer of the present building. The works did not impinge on any significant archaeology; there is a possibility that traces of the original medieval building do still exist in the grounds, but due to the shallow depth of the works nothing was seen of them. The black silt layer seen beneath the Victorian overburden is undoubtedly natural and may derive from very early marine silts which would date it to before the settlement of Sandwich existed, or it possibly originates from the nearby Delf Stream. No sample was taken as the deposit was not threatened by the development.

CONCLUSION

The archaeological works have been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. Despite the archaeological potential of the surrounding area, coupled with good preservation of the natural silts surviving on site, significant buried archaeological remains were not present in the construction area suggesting that the proposed development presents no impact upon the local archaeological resource.

This work has therefore assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development and mitigated the impact on such archaeology as was going to be destroyed. The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Archaeological Officer (KCCHC) of any further archaeological mitigations measures that may be necessary in connection with future development proposals.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SWAT would like to thank [Lee Evans Partnership](#) for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Heritage and Conservation (Kent County Council) for their advice and assistance. Geoff Morley carried out the archaeological fieldwork, illustrations were produced by James Madden.

Geoff Morley MSc (Oxon) FSA Scot PlfA

October 2009

REFERENCES

British Geological Survey, (BGS) (1966) Sheet 290, Dover. Solid and Drift Edition.

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) (2008) *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief*.

<http://www.archaeologists.net/modules/icontent/inPages/docs/codes/watch2.pdf>

Kent County Council (KCCHC) (2009) *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief at the Greyhound Public House, 10-12 New Street, Sandwich, Near Dover, Kent*. Kent County Council Heritage & Conservation

CONTENTS OF SITE ARCHIVE

Correspondence

Photographs: Photographs 51.

Photocopies of Ordnance Survey and other maps:

Drawings: One A3 permatrace site drawing, comprising 2 representative sections.

Finds: Victorian Brick fragments and mortar.

Context Register including: Context Register (1), Drawings Register (1), Photographic Register (1), and Context Sheets (4)

The archive is currently held in secure controlled storage at SWAT headquarters. It is hoped to be deposited at Dover Museum upon completion.

APPENDIX 1 - Context Summary

Site to the rear of the former Greyhound Public House, New Street, Sandwich, Kent

Site Code: GPS/EV/09

	Context No.	Stratigraphic Extents	Description
	(100)	2.31m-2.16m OD	Overburden. Friable mid grey clay silt with occasional to moderate inclusions of sub-rounded – angular flints mortar and brick fragments.
	(101)	2.16m-2.01m OD	Overburden. Friable mid grey clay silt with abundant inclusions of sub-rounded – angular flints mortar and brick fragments.
	(102)	Below 2.45m OD	Overburden. Friable mid grey clay silt with occasional to moderate inclusions of sub-rounded – angular flints mortar and brick fragments.
	(103)	Below 2.01m OD	Natural. Black, possibly estuarine silts

APPENDIX 2 – Kent County Council SMR Summary Form

Site Name: <i>Site to the rear of the former Greyhound Public House</i>	
SWAT Site Code: <i>GPS-WB-09</i>	
Site Address: <i>10-12 New Street, Sandwich, Kent</i>	
Summary: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological watching brief on land to the rear of the former Greyhound Public House in Sandwich. A planning application (PAN: DOV/08/00966) for the construction of ... "single storey and first floor extensions, external flue and associated alterations to facilitate use of the ground floor as a restaurant and the change of use of the first floor to 2 self contained flats (existing extensions to be demolished)." (KCCHC, 2009), at the above site was submitted to Dover District Council (DDC) whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Dover District Council requested that an Archaeological Investigation be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCCHC Mar 2009) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.</i> <i>The archaeological watching brief commissioned encountered no significant archaeological remains, with the area under immediate threat having only modern deposits. This may have been partly due to the minimal impact of the development which at its maximum depth reached 300mm below the modern surface. At only one place was the Victorian overburden removed in its entirety, and immediately below this lay pure dark riverine/estuarine silts. This, most likely, shows that any previous structures had been removed totally prior to the construction of the Greyhound Public House, however, as the area exposed was very limited, it is possible that remains may exist below the Victorian overburden in other areas, or indeed below the building itself.</i>	
District/Unitary: <i>Dover</i>	Parish: <i>Sandwich</i>
Period(s): Tentative: <i>Modern</i>	
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs): <i>NGR 633008 158111</i>	
Type of archaeological work (delete) <i>Watching Brief</i>	
Date of Recording: <i>June 2009</i>	
Unit undertaking recording: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT)</i>	
Geology:	
Title and author of accompanying report: <i>Morley, G. (2009) An Archaeological Watching Brief on land to the rear of the former</i> Greyhound Public House, 10-12 New Street, Sandwich, Kent	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate) <i>As above</i> <p style="text-align: right;">(cont. on attached sheet)</p>	
Location of archive/finds: <i>SWAT</i>	
Contact at Unit: <i>Paul Wilkinson</i>	Date: <i>18th October 2009</i>

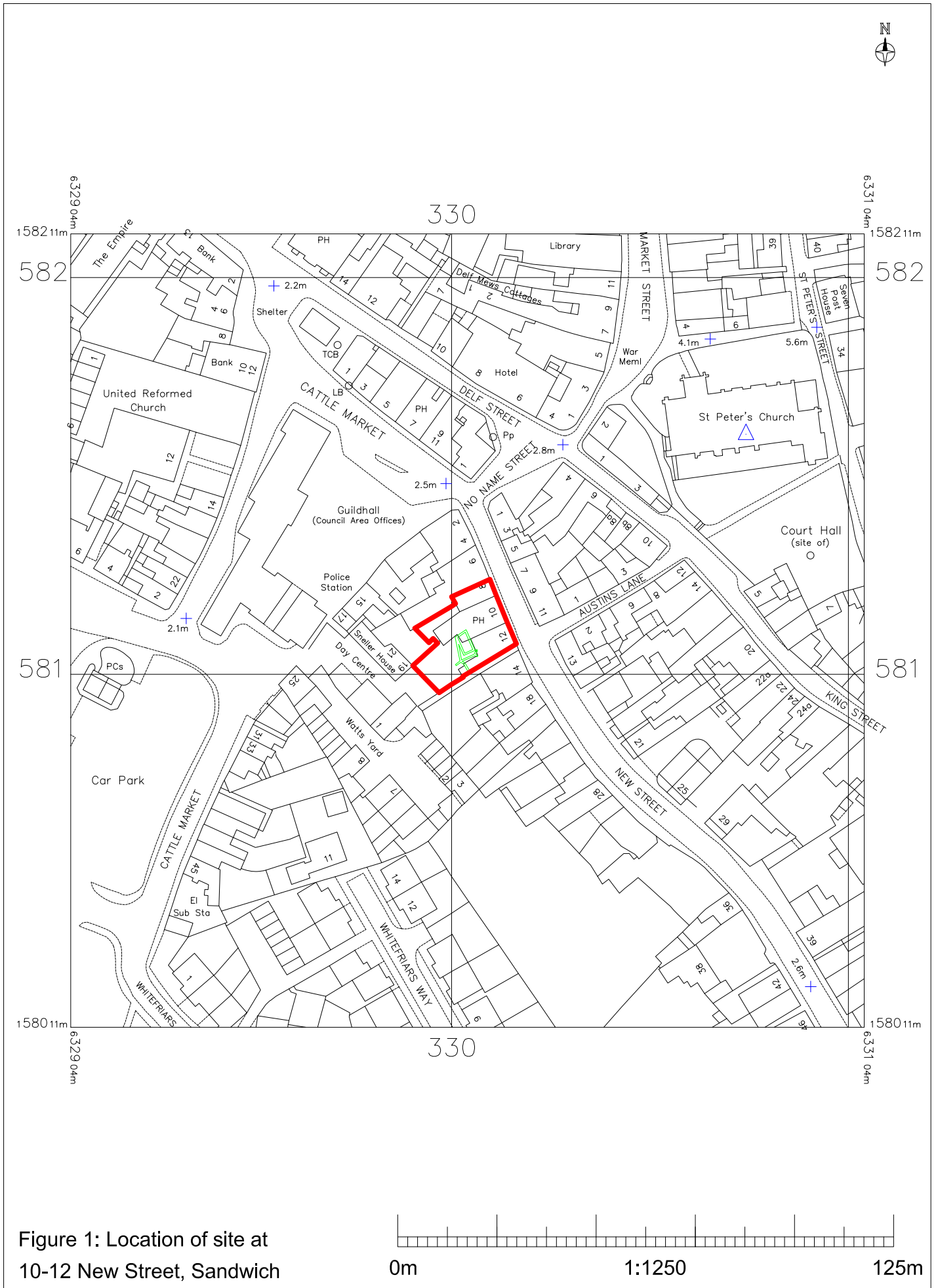
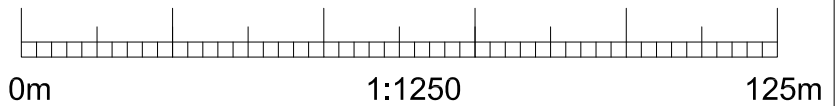


Figure 1: Location of site at
10-12 New Street, Sandwich



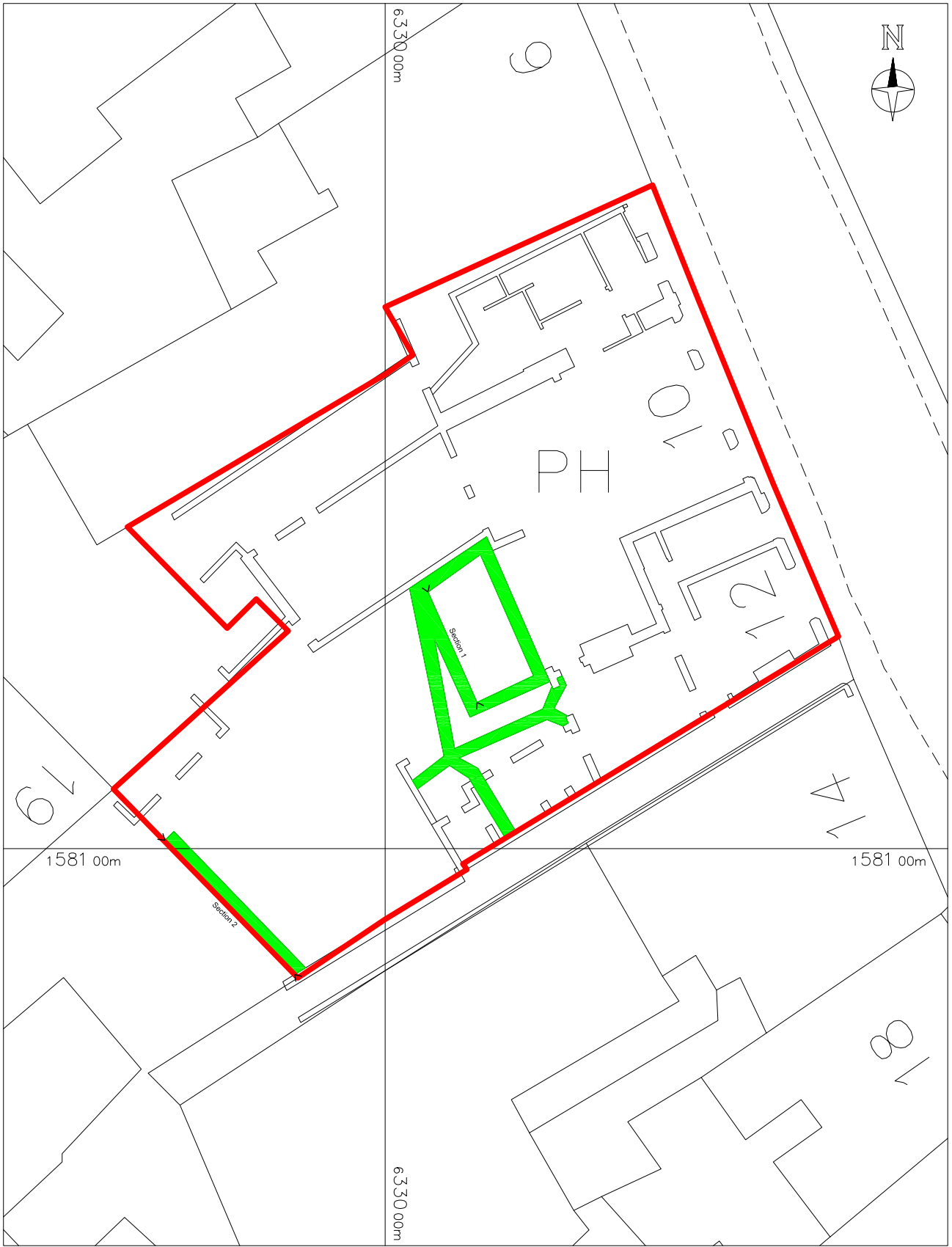
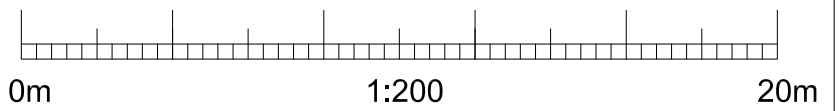
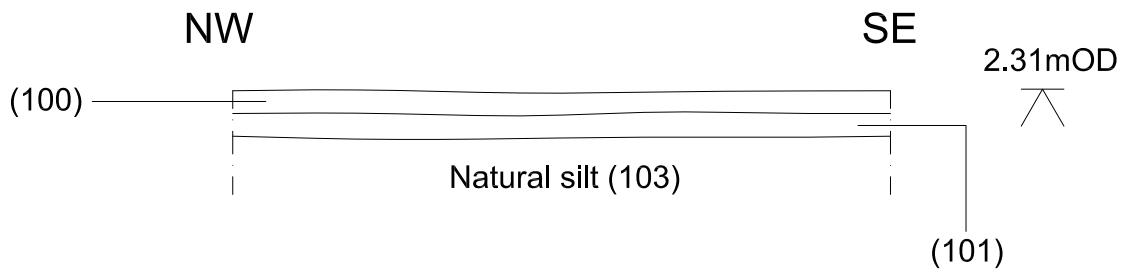


Figure 2: Location of watching brief within 10-12 New Street, Sandwich



Section 1



Section 2

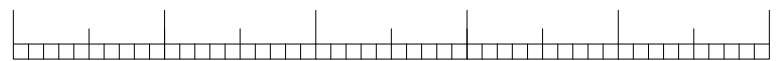
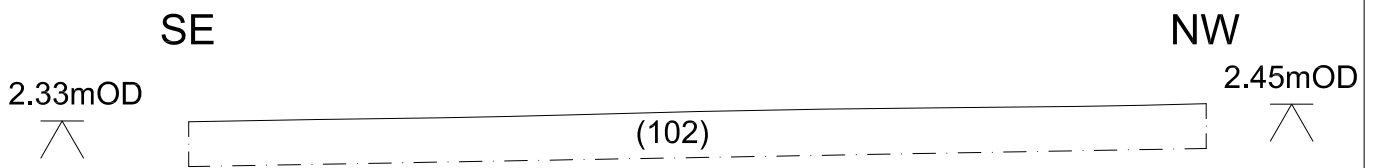


Figure 3: Sections 1 and 2