

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION


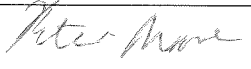
Site Name

Land at Singlewell Maintenance Depot (IMD), Singlewell, Kent

Type of project

Archaeological Watching Brief

Quality Control

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An Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at Singlewell Maintenance Depot (IMD), Singlewell, Kent

Site Code: KSMD 06

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 6580 7030

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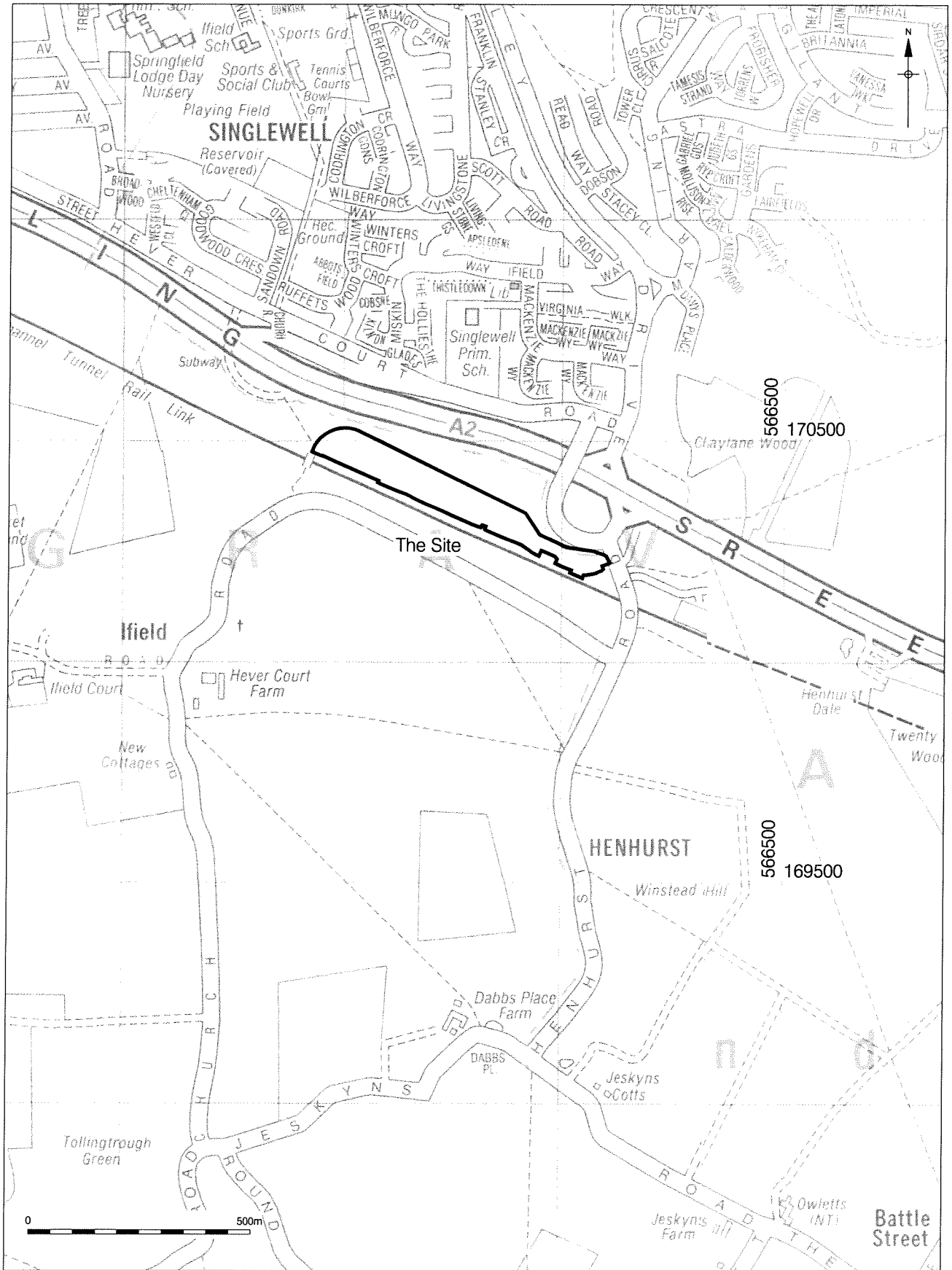
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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken on land at Singlewell Infrastructure Maintenance Depot (IMD), Singlewell, Kent, during the ground reduction phase of the remodelling of earthworks and excavation of a "box" for a new road. The site is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 6580 7030. The project was commissioned by CgMs consulting Ltd. on behalf of Jackson's Ltd., between 9th and 26th January 2006. Pre-Construct Archaeology undertook the fieldwork.
- 1.2 The watching brief consisted of the observation of the ground reduction phase of landscaping activities associated with the remodelling of earthworks to the north of the IMD, the remodelling of earthworks between the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL) and Church Road and the construction of the IMD and balancing pond.
- 1.3 Approximately 3.5m of overburden was removed from the original earthworks that ran parallel with the CTRL. Additionally, a further 0.50m to 0.07m of overburden was removed from a "box" cut to contain a new road.
- 1.4 The watching brief did not identify any archaeological features. Natural deposits or the remains of a sealed ground surface were not reached during the removal of the original earthworks. Modern 20th century made ground was observed over the vast majority of the site. A small area of Thanet Sand was observed in the eastern end of the "box" cut for the road, and small amounts of gravelly sand and chalk gravel were observed towards the west, which may have been "tiger-striped" natural. The rest of the area within the "box" consisted of 20th century made-ground.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on land at Singlewell Infrastructure Maintenance Depot (IMD), Singlewell, Kent, between 9th and 26th January 2006, during the ground reduction phase. The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of Jackson's Ltd. The site was project managed for Pre-Construct Archaeology by Peter Moore and supervised by the author.
- 2.2 The site is bound to the north by the A2, to the south by the CTRL, to the east by Henhurst Road and to the west by Church Road.
- 2.3 The National Grid Reference of the site is TQ 6580 7030.
- 2.4 The site was assigned the code KSMD 06.
- 2.5 Approximately 3.5m of overburden was removed from the original earthworks that formed the embankment for the CTRL and 0.50m to 0.07m of overburden was removed from a "box" cut to contain a new road associated with the IMD. The dimensions of the original earthworks were approximately 10.00m north south, 750m east west and 3.50m thick. The dimensions of the "box" were 6.00m north south and 750m east west.



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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:12,500

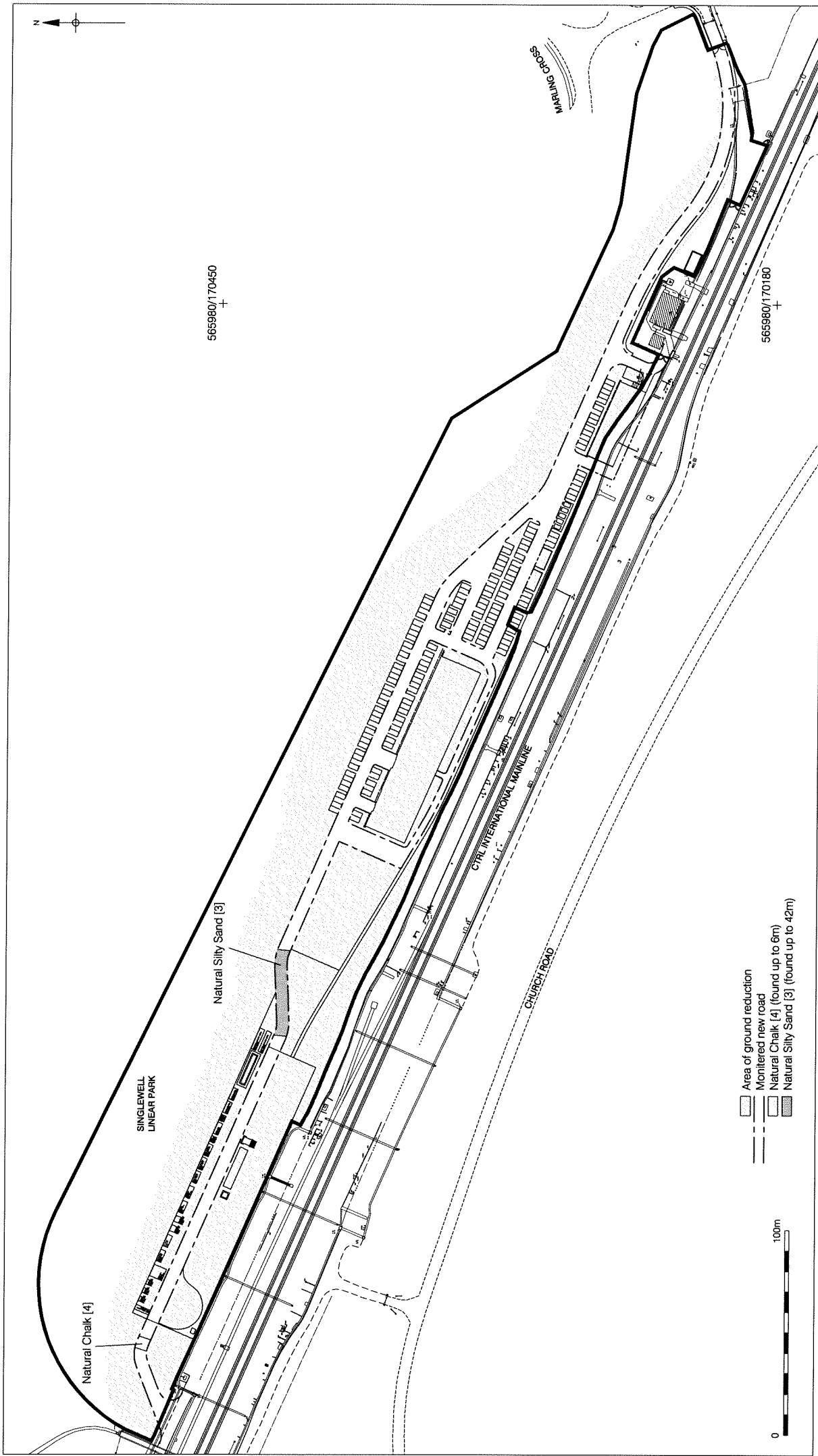


Figure 2
 Area of Watching Brief
 1:2,500

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In November 1990 the Department of the Environment issued Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16) "Archaeology and Planning" providing guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the preservation and investigation of archaeological remains.
- 3.2 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority is bound by the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance PPG16, by current Structure and Local Plan policy and by other material.
- 3.3 The relevant Development Plan framework is provided by the Kent and Medway Structure Plan at Draft Deposit stage and the Gravesham Borough Council Local Plan. The adopted Kent Structure Plan states:

POLICY QL8: ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

The archaeological and historic integrity of scheduled ancient monuments and other important archaeological sites, together with their settings, will be protected and, where possible, enhanced.

Where important or potentially important archaeological remains may exist, developers will be required to arrange for archaeological assessment and/or field evaluation to be carried out in advance of the determination of planning applications.

Where the case for development affecting an archaeological site is accepted, the archaeological remains should be preserved in situ. Where preservation in situ is not possible or justified, appropriate provision for preservation by record will be required.

- 3.4 The Gravesham Borough Council Environmental Management Plan for Singlewell Maintenance Depot states:

10.1 Areas of Archaeological Interest:

The cultural and historical resources in the immediate vicinity of the scheme includes a series of cropmark sites which may indicate settlement remains and field systems of possibly Iron Age or Romano-British date; prehistoric finds including flint work from surface artefact collection, and subsurface features as identified from geophysical survey. Possible indication of Saxon

occupation has also been found in the area. The A2 follows the line of Roman Watling Street and a number of Roman features and artefacts have been located in the vicinity.

10.2 Affected Archaeological Sites

North site location of the IMD off Henhurst Road

The north site will be excavated to a level profile across the area to be determined by design in order to allow the subsequent construction of the building foundations and the associated road and hardstanding infrastructure. Subsurface features may be affected during construction, including previously excavated archaeological features (three stones) moved as CTRL mitigation works.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 4.1 The natural geology of the site consists of a silty sand, thought to be Thanet Sand, which was observed in the east of the site. A small patch of possible natural, resembling tiger-striped chalk gravel and sandy silt was observed in the western end of the site.
- 4.2 The topography of the current land surface within the boundaries of the site is generally flat, sloping away slightly to the west.

5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 OVERVIEW OF PREVIOUS WORK

- 5.1.1 The remodelling of the earthwork between the CTRL and Church Road is located in an area that has already been subject to archaeological mitigation. This consisted of an archaeological watching brief carried out to the north of the study site during the construction of the CTRL Section 1. The watching brief revealed dispersed archaeological activity within the area examined. Although the archaeological resource had been badly truncated in most areas, the watching brief identified localised concentrations of archaeological features. To the north of the CTRL mainline, any archaeological remains that may be present were preserved *in situ*, beneath the earthworks forming the Liner Park. Within the stripped area to the south of the CTRL mainline, a discrete area of archaeological features including a metalled surface, forming a trackway of probable Roman date was preserved *in situ* beneath the restored farmland.
- 5.1.2 The watching brief identified several features that were interpreted as being part of an agricultural landscape. Several fragments of trackways, thought to date to the Roman period, were also observed. It is thought that these trackways connected to Watling Street.

5.1 PREHISTORIC

- 5.1.1 The 1994 assessment of Historic and Cultural Effects identified a prehistoric finds scatter within the area of the proposed development at the west end of the IMD, continuing to the west beyond the area of the proposed works (Hawkins, 2005).

5.2 ROMAN

- 5.1.1 It is thought that Watling Street, the main Roman Road between London and Canterbury, ran close to the southern boundary of the site, parallel with the A2.
- 5.1.2 A watching brief undertaken during the construction of the CTRL identified several fragments of metalled surfaces, which were interpreted as trackways. These were situated to the south of the CTRL main line. They may represent access routes that connected with Watling Street.

- 5.1.3 A number of cut features were also identified during the watching brief. These features (e.g. ditches) are likely to represent organisation of the landscape, possibly for agricultural purposes (Hawkins, 2005).
- 5.1.4 A series of cropmark sites have been identified in the vicinity of the study site. These may indicate settlement remains and field systems of Iron Age or Romano-British date.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The areas to be reduced were laid out by the groundwork contractors in accordance with the proposed development plan. Remodelling of the earthworks to the north of the IMD involved the placement of the spoil from the construction of the IMD to form new earthworks. This did not involve any excavation below current ground level, ensuring the continued preservation of the archaeological resource. The remodelling of the earthworks between the CTRL and Church Road is located within an area that has already been subject to archaeological mitigation. A discrete area of preservation *in situ* of the archaeological resource is contained within the area of ground reduction. During construction of the new earthworks, the area of preservation was protected and appropriate construction methodologies applied in order to enable its continued preservation below the earthworks.
- 6.2 The contractors used a 360 mechanical excavator, fitted with a ditching bucket, to remodel the earthworks and excavate the "box" for the new road. The areas of ground reduction were excavated in spits under archaeological supervision.
- 6.3 The areas to be excavated were located in the positions shown on a Jackson's Ltd prepared plan. The area within the "box" was reduced to a project level of 67m OD and the area below the earthworks was reduced to a level of approximately 68m OD. These spot heights were obtained from a Jackson's engineering plan on site and are therefore approximate. Any deposits or features encountered were to be recorded on pro-forma record sheets. Any archaeological features were to be planned at a scale of 1:20. Sections were recorded at 1:20.

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHASE DISCUSSION

7.1 PHASE 1- NATURAL

- 7.1.1 A layer of loose, mid brownish-yellow laminated silty sand, [3], the top of which was at an approximate level of 67.5mOD, was observed in the eastern end of the "box". The dimensions of the exposed area of the deposit were 6.0m north south, 42m east west and over 0.50m thick, the base of the deposit not having been reached. A large quantity of uncontaminated, redeposited natural sand was found throughout the site that was, after further machining, found to seal modern deposits. However, as layer [3] exhibited clear microstratigraphy in the form of distinct, wavy, continuous laminae, the chances of it being redeposited were deemed to be slim. It was therefore interpreted as being natural Thanet sand.
- 7.1.2 A deposit of possible natural, [4], was also observed in the western end of the "box", the top of the deposit being at an approximate level of 67m OD. This consisted of stripes of firm, mid red-brown sandy silt with frequent sub-angular to rounded flint pebbles and stripes of compact, light yellowish-grey chalk gravel, containing angular cobble to pebble sized fragments of chalk. The deposit was 6.0m east west, 5.5m north south and of unknown depth. The nature of the deposit was hard to ascertain without the excavation of a deeper slot as the entire site was sealed in a large quantity of redeposited natural from the construction of the CTRL. However, the distinct striping and compact nature of the deposit closely resembled periglacial tiger striping, and the deposit was therefore interpreted as such.

7.2 PHASE 2- 20TH CENTURY

- 7.2.1 A layer of twentieth century made ground, [2], covered the entire site, the top of the deposit being at an approximate level of 68m OD. This layer was highly mixed, consisting of thick lenses of redeposited natural sands and gravels, lenses of firm, dark bluish-grey sandy clay with frequent red and yellow fragments of brick, concrete and wood and mid greyish-brown sandy clay. The layer was 20m north south, 750m east west and approximately 0.50m thick. It was probably deposited during the construction of the CTRL to the south of the site.
- 7.2.2 A mound of twentieth century made-ground, [1], formed the earthworks that ran along the southern boundary of the site, forming the embankment of the CTRL. The earthworks were approximately 10.00m north south, 750m east west, and 3.5m thick, the top being at an approximate level of 71.5m OD. This deposit was also highly mixed,

consisting of thick lenses of redeposited natural sands and lenses of firm, dark bluish-grey sandy clay with frequent red and yellow fragments of brick, concrete and wood. The earthworks are late 20th century, having been constructed at the same time as the CTRL.

8 INTERPRETATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The watching brief was intended to identify and record archaeological material during the ground reduction phase of the remodeling of earthworks and excavation of a "box" for a new road. The principal objective was to determine the presence or otherwise of any archaeological activity on site.
- 8.2 The natural on site was found to consist of Thanet sands, which were observed in the far east of the site. A small patch of probable natural, consisting of soliflucted "tiger-striped" chalk and sandy silt was also observed towards the west. Natural deposits were not reached across the vast majority of the site.
- 8.3 Across the vast majority of the site a layer of 20th century made ground was observed. This deposit was probably laid down during the construction of the CTRL. Above this deposit was context [1], a deposit of 20th century made ground that formed the embankment of the CTRL.
- 8.5 In areas where geology was encountered, no archaeological remains survived.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. would like to thank Duncan Hawkins of CgMs Consulting Ltd. for commissioning the work on behalf of Jackson's Ltd.

- 9.2 The author would like to thank Peter Moore for his project management and editing and Hayley Baxter for the illustrations.

10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hawkins, D., (2005): *A Specification for an Archaeological Monitoring Exercise on Land at Singlewell Maintenance Depot (IMD), Singlewell, Kent.* CgMs Consulting Ltd. (unpublished report).

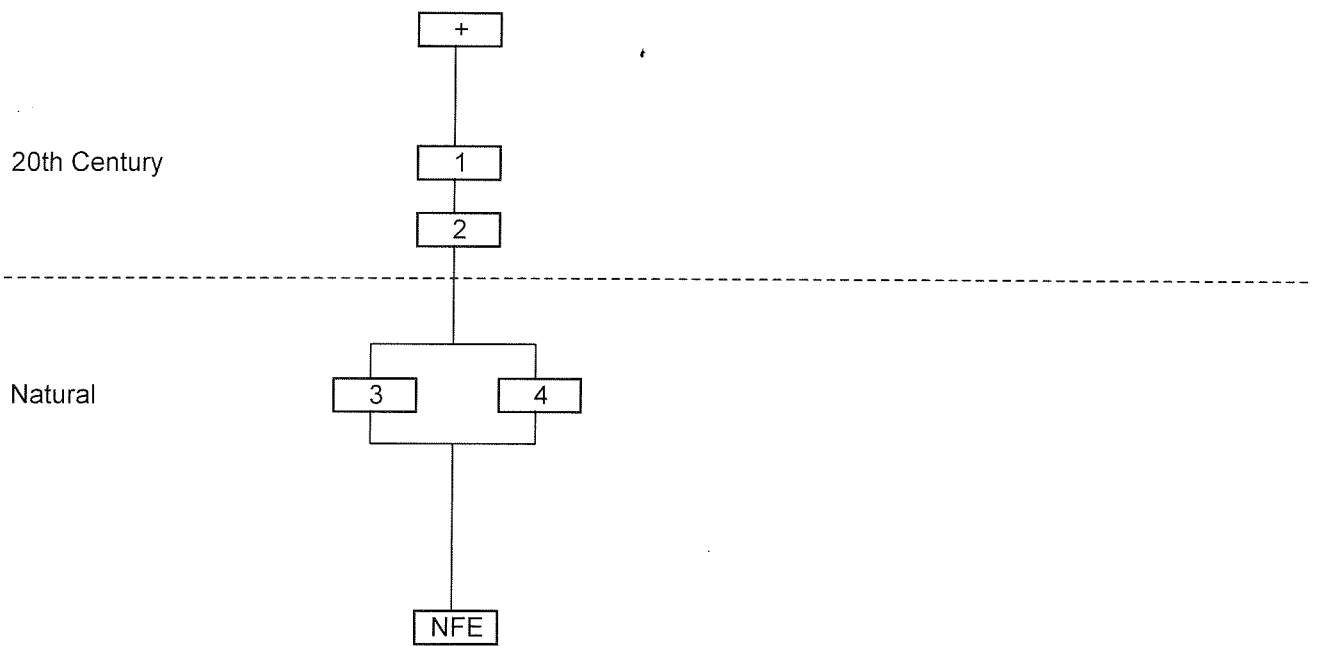
Appendix 1- Context Index

Appendix 1 Context Index

Context	Plan No.	Section No.	Sample No.	Photo	Phase	Trench No.	Type	Description
1	*	1	*	N	2	1	Layer	20th century made ground
2	*	1	*	N	2	1	Layer	20th century made ground
3	*	*	*	N	1	1	Layer	Natural silty sand
4	*	1	*	N	1	1	Layer	Natural chalk gravel and sandy silt

Appendix 2- Site Matrix

Appendix 2



APPENDIX 3- OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

[List of Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Log out](#)

1.1.1 Printable version

1.2 OASIS ID: preconst1-12601

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at Singlewell Maintenance Depot (IMD), Singlewell, Kent
Short description of the project	An archaeological monitoring exercise to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains on site during ground reduction for the construction of an infrastructure maintenance depot
Project dates	Start: 09-01-2006 End: 26-01-2006
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	KSMD 06 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	KENT DARTFORD SOUTHFLEET Singlewell Maintenance Depot, Singlewell, Kent
Postcode	DA12 3XX
Study area	14000.00 Square metres
National grid reference	TQ 6580 7030 Point
Height OD	Min: 67.00m Max: 71.50m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	CgMs Consultants Ltd
Project design	Duncan Hawkins

originator

Project director/manager Peter Moore

Project supervisor Rebecca Lythe

Sponsor or funding body Jackson's Ltd.

Project bibliography
1

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