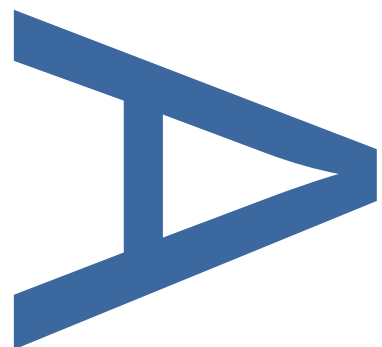
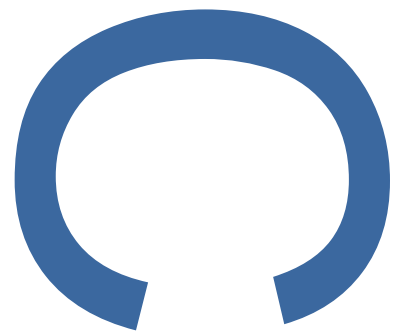


**204 SUMMERHOUSE DRIVE,  
WILLMINGTON, DARTFORD, KENT,  
DA5 2EU:  
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING  
BRIEF**

**SITE CODE: KSDB18**

**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:  
DARTFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**MAY 2018**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

**204 SUMMERHOUSE DRIVE, WILLMINGTON, DARTFORD, KENT, DA5 2EU:  
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

---

**Site Code:** KSD18

**Central NGR:** TQ 5065 7156

**Local Planning Authority:** Dartford

**Planning Reference:** DA/17/01788

**Other reference if any:**

**Commissioning Client:** Ms Debra Reeves

**Written/Researched by:** Jim Heathcote  
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

**Project Manager:** Helen Hawkins (MCIfA)

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**May 2018**

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**DOCUMENT VERIFICATION**

**Site Name**

**204 SUMMERHOUSE DRIVE, WILLMINGTON, DARTFORD, KENT, DA5  
2EU**

**Type of project**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
Quality Control**

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code			K5464
	Name	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	J Heathcote		16.5.18
Graphics Prepared by:	A Tonelli		16.5.18
Graphics Checked by:	J Brown	J Brown	17.4.18
Project Manager Sign-off:	H Hawkins	H Hawkins	17.4.18

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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## **1 ABSTRACT**

- 1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology was commissioned by Ms Debra Reeves to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the conversion and extension of a garage at 204 Summerhouse Drive, Wilmington, Dartford DA5 2EU, (central National Grid Reference TQ 5065 7156) (Figure 1). The watching brief was commissioned in order to fulfil an archaeological condition attached to the planning permission granted for the redevelopment of the site. This report details the working methods and findings of the archaeological watching brief.
- 1.2 The works required for the site's redevelopment entailed the demolition of part of the garage, and the excavation of an area consisting of a wedge shape plot of land measuring c. 374m<sup>2</sup>. This work was undertaken by a machine operated under continuous archaeological supervision and entailed the removal of topsoil, subsoil and natural geological layers to levels of between 1.00m and 1.25m below the current ground surface.
- 1.3 In the area excavated, no archaeological features were observed. The below ground sequence comprised natural sand overlain by a subsoil which was sealed by topsoil.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited undertook an archaeological watching brief on land at 204 Summerhouse Drive, Wilmington, Dartford DA5 2EU in the county of Kent (central National Grid Reference TQ 5065 7156) (Figure 1) between 30<sup>th</sup> April and 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018. The site is bounded on the east and west side by adjacent properties.
- 2.2 The site is situated within the jurisdiction of Dartford District Council.
- 2.3 The watching brief was commissioned by Ms Debra Reeves in order to satisfy an archaeological condition imposed on the planning permission granted by the Dartford District Council for the redevelopment of the site. The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2018) which was approved by Ms Wendy Rogers, Archaeological Officer to Dartford District Council. The approval was for an extension to the present property. The ground reduction went to a depth of 1.05m- 1.25m across the watching brief area.
- 2.4 The fieldwork was supervised by Jim Heathcote who also authored this report, while project management and report editing were carried out by Helen Hawkins of PCA. Wendy Rogers, Archaeological Officer for Kent County Council monitored the work on behalf of the Local Planning Authority. The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the Standards for Archaeological Work (Historic England 2016) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Codes, Standards and Guidelines Papers (CIfA 2017).
- 2.5 A unique-number site code, KSDB18, was devised by PCA and used to identify the site archive.

### **3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

3.1 This section is taken from the Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2018).

#### **3.2 Geology**

3.2.1 The geology on the site comprises Thanet Formation, a Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 56 to 59 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period. The local environment was previously dominated by shallow seas. These sedimentary rocks are shallow-marine in origin. They are detrital, ranging from coarse- to fine-grained (locally with carbonate content) forming interbedded sequences. No drift deposits are noted on the site.

3.2.2 The nearest major watercourses to the site are the River Cray, to the north west and the River Darent to the east.

#### **3.3 Topography**

3.3.1 The site is bounded by adjacent properties to the east and west and by Joydens Wood to the south.

### **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

4.1 The site lies in an area known for deneholes. These comprise an underground structure consisting of a number of small chalk caves entered by a vertical shaft. The name is given to a certain caves or excavations in England, which have been popularly supposed to be due to the anes or some other of the early northern invaders of the country. The word, however, is probably derived from the Saxon *den*, a hole or valley. The lack of evidence found in them has led to long arguments as to their function.

4.2 The general outline of the function of these caves is invariably the same. The entrance is a vertical shaft some 3 feet (1m) in diameter falling, on an average, to a depth of 60 feet (20m). The depth is regulated by the depth of the chalk layer from the surface, although chalk can be found within a few feet, or even inches, from the surface.

4.3 The site itself lies adjacent to Joydens Wood and dene holes are noted directly to the west of the site, within the wood.

4.4 Footholds were cut into the sides of the shaft to allow the miners to climb in and out. The shaft, when the chalk is reached, widens out into a domed chamber with a roof of chalk some 3 feet thick. The walls frequently contract somewhat as they near the floor. As a rule the main chamber is 16 to 18 feet in height, beneath each shaft. From this excessive height it has been inferred that the caves were not primarily intended for habitations or even hiding-places. In most cases, between two and four sub-chambers are present, excavated laterally from the floor level, the roof being supported by pillars of chalk left standing (Wikipedia, accessed 5.4.18).

4.5 Historic maps of the area also support the history of mining in the area. The 1885 Ordnance Survey map ([old-maps.co.uk](http://old-maps.co.uk)) indicates gravel and sand quarrying in the vicinity of the site.

Deneholes are marked throughout Joydens Wood. Interestingly, the map also marks 'Site of the City of Caswallon', located directly to the north of the site, and a 'British Road' located further north of the site. Caswallon may have been an Iron Age chieftain, but there seems to be no other evidence for a 'city' (presumably a hillfort) in this location. Deneholes are marked on the maps of 1897 and 1909, directly to the west of the site, although there is no longer a mention of the City of Caswallon. The 'British Road' is still marked to the north. By 1939, large detached houses have been constructed along Birchwood Road to the south, and construction of further houses has begun to extend towards the site. The site itself remains in woodland, with deneholes marked to the south-west. The map of 1961-1987 shows that Summerhouse Drive has been constructed, along with the current building. A nature reserve is marked to the south-west of the site.

- 4.6 A Scheduled Monument is noted located to the west and north-west of the site ([magic.gov.uk](http://magic.gov.uk)). The monument, which falls into two areas, includes an Anglo-Saxon frontier work known as Faesten Dic, or 'The Strong Dyke', which runs across a now wooded area of undulating sandy gravel situated on the south eastern slope of the Cray valley. The dyke, which survives as a roughly north-south aligned, linear earthwork, takes the form of a series of connected, zigzagging ditches and banks with a total length of c.1.67km. The most heavily defended sections lie on the higher ground towards the southern and northern ends of the monument and comprise a large, originally V-shaped ditch up to 8m wide. This has become partially infilled over the years, but remains visible to a depth of up to 2m in places. The ditch is flanked to the east by a low bank up to c.10.5m wide and c.0.5m high, and to the west by a slight counterscarp bank around 3.5m high and c.0.4m wide. Around 720m from its southern end, the dyke dips down into a steep narrow valley, across which the earthworks take the form of a low bank, interpreted as the original site of a fence or hedge, c.1.5m wide and 0.2m high. At a point around 270m from the northern end of the monument, the dyke zigzags sharply to the south east and north east, and the earthworks here survive as a large bank c.2.5m wide and up to 1.5m high, the form of which has been partially modified over the years by subsequent agricultural activity. No ditch is visible in this area. The dyke has also been partially disturbed in places by the construction of later tracks and woodland boundary banks. The earthworks originally continued to the north east beyond the present bounds of Joydens Wood, but this section has been destroyed by modern development and cultivation. Faesten Dic is thought to have been constructed between the fifth and sixth centuries AD during which time the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle records tribal warfare in the Bexley area. The dyke is also mentioned in an Anglo-Saxon boundary survey of AD 814. Partial excavation in 1941 revealed the existence of a narrow, buried layer of gravel immediately to the east of the bank, interpreted as an associated military walkway. The surfaces of all metalled tracks, and the modern fences which cross the features is included. A small number of substantial and defensible boundary features have been identified as frontier works marking territories in the early medieval period. Up to 50 examples are known with a fairly wide distribution across England, including examples in southern



England, East Anglia, Yorkshire, Derbyshire and along the Welsh border. Identified remains extend over distances from as little as 300m up to as much as 240km in the case of Offa's Dyke. They survive in the form of earthworks and as buried features visible as cropmarks or soilmarks on aerial photographs. They appear often to have been constructed across the natural grain of the landscape and, although many examples consisted of a single bank and flanking ditch, to vary considerably in their form and dimensions, even along different stretches of the same boundary, depending upon local topography. Evidence from contemporary documentary sources, excavation and survey suggests that they were constructed in the early medieval period between the fifth and eighth centuries AD. Some were relatively ephemeral, perhaps in use for only a few years during periods of local strife; others, such as Offa's Dyke, constructed between Wales and Mercia, have formed long-lived territorial and/or military boundaries in use for several centuries. As a rare monument type of considerable importance to the study of early medieval territorial patterns, all surviving examples are identified as nationally important. Although it has been partially disturbed by tree roots and subsequent agricultural and forestry activity, the medieval frontier work in Joydens Wood survives well as a substantial, visually impressive landscape feature. Partial excavation has confirmed the survival of archaeological remains and environmental evidence relating to the monument and the landscape in which it was constructed ([magic.gov.uk](http://magic.gov.uk)).

- 4.7 The Faesten Dic runs in a similar location to that of the 'British Road', but on a more north-south alignment.

## **5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 5.1 The fieldwork was designed to assess the presence or absence of significant archaeological remains, which may have required further investigation.
- 5.2 All works were undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out by Historic England and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA 2017).
- 5.3 Spot heights were taken from survey drawings of the existing development. These were used to indicate the surface elevations across the site
- 5.4 All invasive construction ground works at the site which threatened potential archaeological deposits were monitored under archaeological watching brief conditions. T
- 5.5 All layers encountered were inspected and recorded in section at 1:10 using standard single context recording methods. The recording systems adopted during the investigations were fully compatible with those widely used elsewhere in Kent, that is, those developed out of the Department of Urban Archaeology Site Manual and presented in PCA's Operations Manual 1 (Taylor 2009).
- 5.6 A full photographic record was made during the archaeological investigation, comprising digital photographs.
- 5.7 The complete archive produced during the watching brief, comprising of written, drawn, photographic records will be deposited at PCA's office in London until a suitable repository in Kent is available, and identified by site code KSDB18.

## **6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE**

### 6.1 Phase 1: Natural Geological Deposits

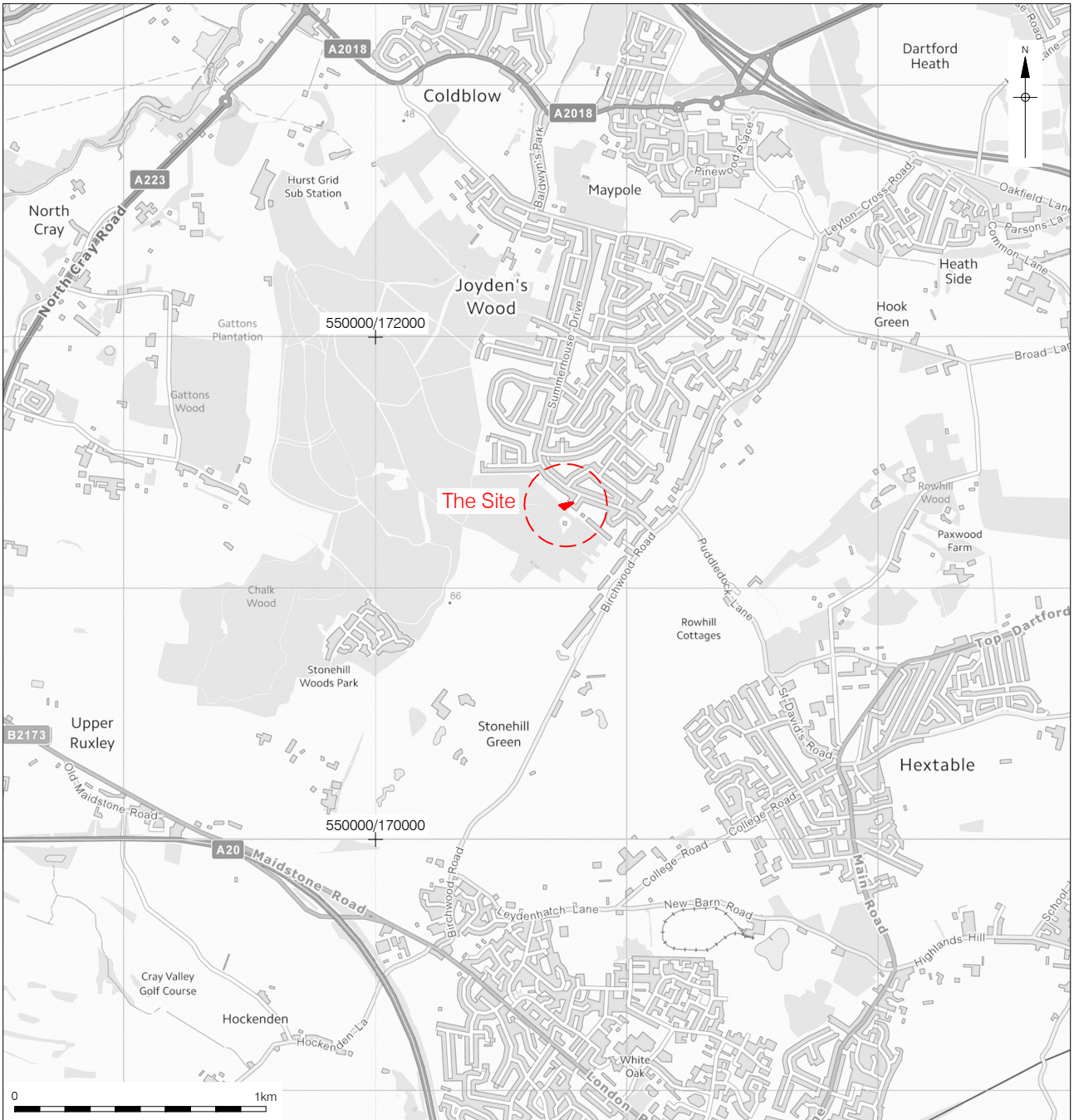
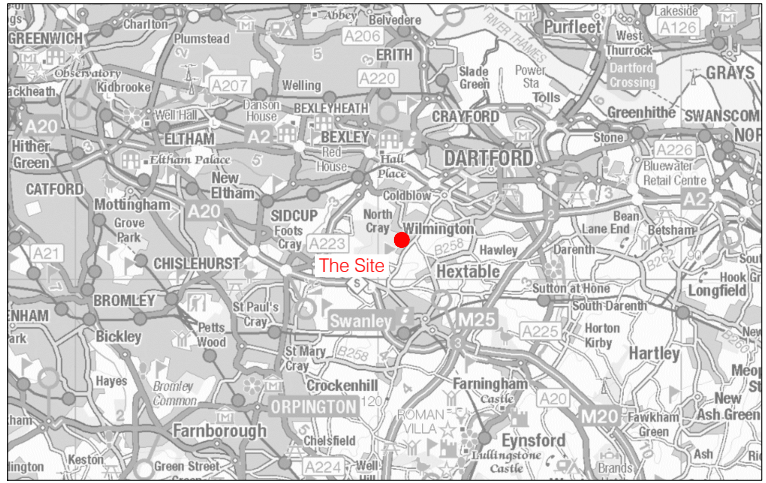
- 6.1.1 The earliest deposits encountered during the watching brief consisted of Thanet Sand. Deposit [2] was a laminated deposit of water lain sands. The top of the deposit was located at c. 67.7m OD.
- 6.1.2 Deposit [1] consisted of a subsoil horizon overlying the natural sands [2]. The top of the layer was at 67.9m OD and it was 0.20m thick
- 6.1.3 Deposit [1] was sealed by topsoil and turf [+] which was c. 0.30m thick. Ground level was at 68.2m OD.



Plate 1: Watching brief area under excavation facing south-west



Plate 2: Section 1 facing east

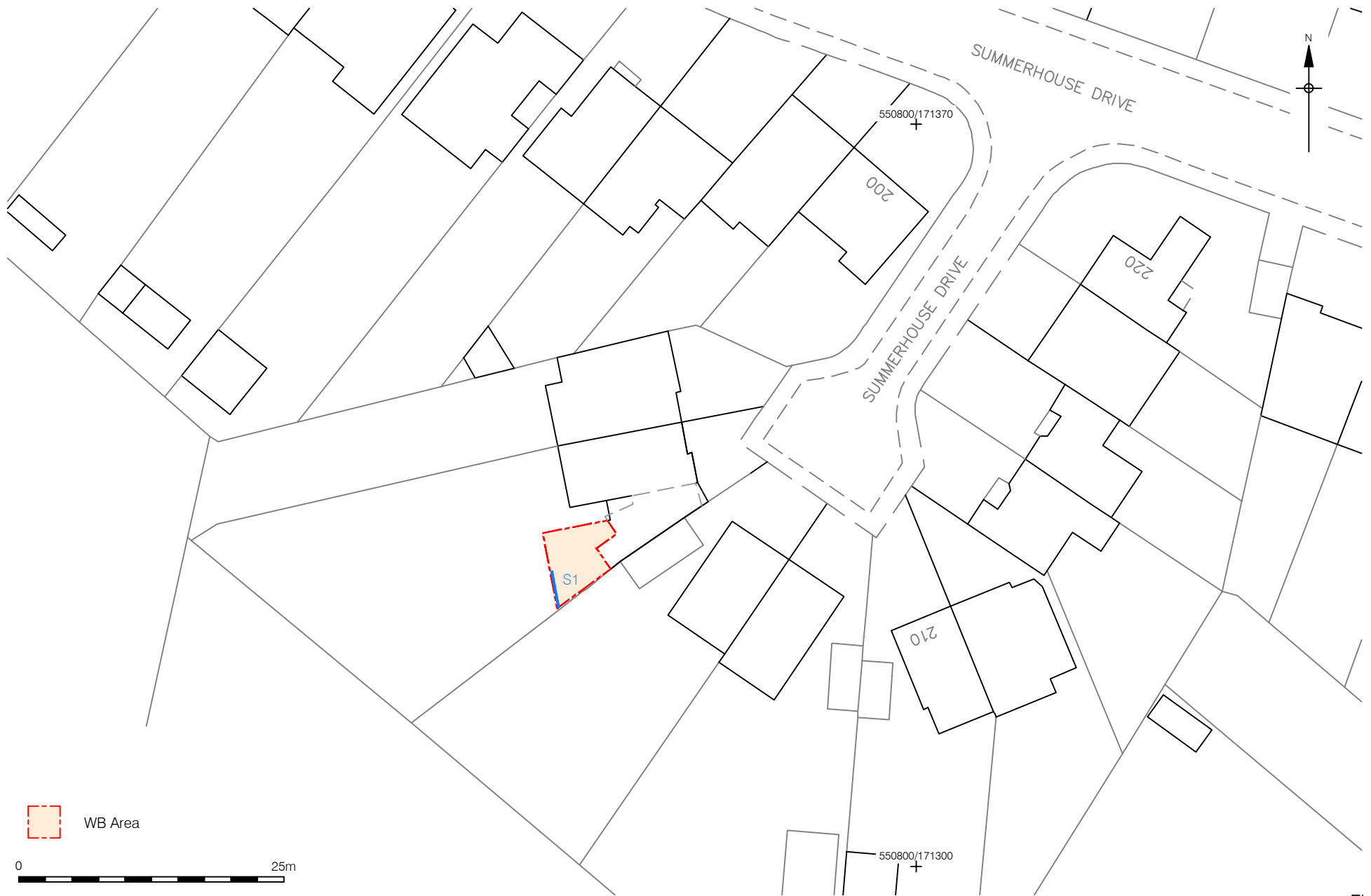


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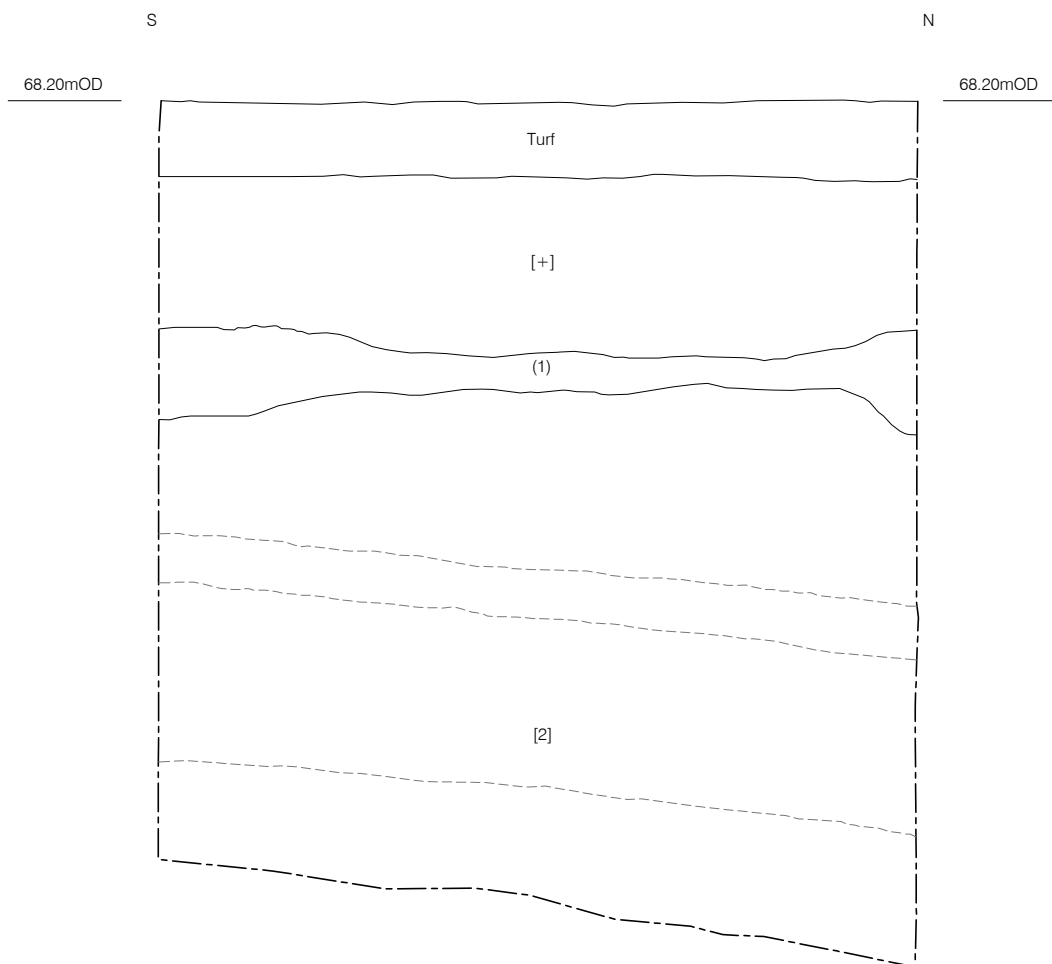
Figure 1  
Site Location  
1:2,000,000; 1:250,000; 1:25,000 at A4



 WB Area



Figure 2  
Watching Brief Location  
1:500 at A4



Section 1  
 East facing  
 South West Corner Watching Brief Area



## **7 CONCLUSIONS**

### 7.1 Archaeological conclusions

7.1.1 The archaeological watching brief demonstrated that the natural sand horizons survived across the entirety of site immediately below a subsoil and topsoil horizon. The top of the sand appeared untruncated and was located c. 0.50m below ground level.

### 7.2 Response to the Original Research Design

7.2.1 The investigation aimed to address the following primary objectives:

- To determine the significance of any surviving archaeological features and deposits within the site.
- To establish the extent of all past post-depositional impacts on the archaeological resource.

7.2.2 No archaeological activity was present over the machined area of the site, and there was no evidence for the dene holes marked nearby to extend into the site. The top of the sand appeared to be untruncated by any post-depositional activity.



## **8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Ms Debra Reeves for commissioning the work and Moltishore, the on site contractor for their help during the work. Thanks also to Wendy Rogers, Archaeological Officer for Kent County Council, for monitoring the work on behalf of Dartford District Council.
- 8.2 The author would like to thank Helen Hawkins for project managing the work and editing this report.

## **9 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Hawkins H 2018 *WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT 204 SUMMERHOUSE DRIVE, BEXLEY, KENT DA5 2EU* PCA unpublished planning document

## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context Number	Type	Top of Context (m OD)	Comment
1	Layer	67.9	Subsoil
2	Layer	67.7	Natural sand

## APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-317571

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### Project details

Project name	204 SUMMERHOUSE DRIVE, WILLMINGTON, DARTFORD, KENT, DA5 2EU: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
Short description of the project	Pre-Construct Archaeology was commissioned by Ms Debra Reeves to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the conversion and extension of a garage at 204 Summerhouse Drive, Willmington, Dartford DA5 2EU, (central National Grid Reference TQ 5065 7156) . The watching brief was commissioned in order to fulfil an archaeological condition attached to the planning permission granted for the redevelopment of the site. The works required for the site's redevelopment entailed the excavation of an area consisting of a wedge shape plot of land measuring c. 374m <sup>2</sup> . In the area excavated, no archaeological features were observed. The below ground sequence comprised natural sand overlain by a subsoil which was sealed by topsoil.
Project dates	Start: 30-04-2018 End: 03-05-2018
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	KSDB18 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

---

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT DARTFORD WILMINGTON 204 Summerhouse Drive, Dartford
Postcode	DA5 2EU
Study area	374 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 506500 715600 51.422483436392 0.167001729179 51 25 20 N 000 10 01 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 67.7m Max: 67.7m

---

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	Wendy Rogers

Project design originator	Helen Hawkins
Project director/manager	Helen Hawkins
Project supervisor	Jin Heathcote
Type of sponsor/funding body	Householder
Name of sponsor/funding body	Ms Debra Reeves

---

#### **Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	PCA
Digital Archive ID	KSDB18
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	PCA
Paper Archive ID	KSDB18
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Section"

---

#### **Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	204 SUMMERHOUSE DRIVE, WILLMINGTON, DARTFORD, KENT, DA5 2EU: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Heathcote, J
Date	2018
Issuer or publisher	PCA
Place of issue or publication	London

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