

**An Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at the Former Texaco
Garage, Queen Street, Arundel, West Sussex**

Site Code: WTQS 07

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 0200 0690

Written by Stuart Watson

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, January 2008

Project Manager: Peter Moore

Commissioning Client: CgMs Consulting

Contractor:

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Unit 54

Brockley Cross Business Centre

96 Endwell Road

Brockley

London

SE4 2PD

Tel: 020 7732 3925

Fax: 020 7732 7896

E-mail: pmoore@pre-construct.com

Web: www.pre-construct.com

**© Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
January 2008**

© The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited and is not for publication to third parties without prior consent. Whilst every effort has been made to provide detailed and accurate information, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies herein contained.

CONTENTS

1	ABSTRACT	3
2	INTRODUCTION	4
3	PLANNING BACKGROUND AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES.....	7
4	ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	8
5	METHODOLOGY	9
6	GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY.....	10
7	ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE	11
8	CONCLUSIONS	13
9	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	14
10	BIBLIOGRAPHY	15

ILLUSTRATIONS

FIGURE 1: TRENCH LOCATION	
---------------------------------	--

APPENDICIES

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS.....	16
APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM	17

1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited on Land at the Former Texaco Garage, Queen Street, Arundel, West Sussex.
- 1.2 The archaeological work consisted of monitoring and recording the removal of decommissioned fuel storage tanks from a former filling station. These, and other ground works, are in advance of the redevelopment of the site as retirement flats.
- 1.3 One trench, measuring north-south 15.00m by east-west 15.00m, was excavated at the southern end of the site to a depth of c. 5.50m below ground level. This was undertaken for the removal of four large fuel storage tanks, the construction of which had removed all other deposits.
- 1.4 Natural alluvial clays were observed at c. -1.25mOD, but generally the watching brief revealed no archaeological finds or features.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An Archaeological Watching Brief was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology limited on Land at the Former Texaco Garage, Queen Street, Arundel, West Sussex. The archaeological work was undertaken during the removal of decommissioned petrol storage tanks from a former filling station prior to construction of 29 flats designated for new retirement homes.
- 2.2 The investigation was conducted between the 29th November and the 11th December 2007 and was commissioned by CgMs on behalf of McCarthy and Stone.
- 2.3 The site is located at Queen Street, Arundel, West Sussex and is bounded to the east by Queen Street; to the north by buildings fronting on to Queen Street, to the east by Fitzalan Road and to the south by Queens Lane.
- 2.4 All levels were calculated from an Ordnance Datum height shown on the developers plans, and is located at the north-eastern boundary of the site. This had a value of 3.05m OD.
- 2.5 The National Grid Reference of the site centre is TQ 0200 0690.
- 2.6 The site was allocated the site code WTQS 07.
- 2.7 The Watching Brief was supervised by Stuart Watson and the project was managed by Peter Moore for Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited.

3 BACKGROUND AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The primary objective of the watching brief was to clarify the archaeological potential of the site by establishing the impact on potential archaeological remains by the installation of fuel storage tanks in both the 1960s and the 1990s. The detailed scope of this study is set out in the desk based assessment for this site written in May 2007.¹

¹ Hawkins, D. 2007.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The background of the site is fully documented and discussed in the Desk Based Assessment for this site² and is summarised below.
- 4.2 The site is located on the flood plain of the River Arun, located c.20m to the north. The underlying drift geology of the site is estuarine tidal flats deposits. During the Prehistoric, Roman and Saxon periods the area would have been characterized as tidal mudflats either unsuitable for agricultural land or as marginal land; summer pasture for example. As such, the archaeological potential for all of the above periods is low.
- 4.3 During the medieval period a causeway was constructed across the mudflats, topped by a road that later became Queen Street. Limited ribbon development took place along the line of the street from the 13th century onwards extending back, it is presumed, approximately 30.00m from the street frontage³.
- 4.4 By the mid 19th century the site was occupied by the Swallow Brewery and into the modern era the site was occupied by two consecutive redevelopments of petrol filling stations with large underground fuel storage facilities, the latest being installed in the 1990s.

² Hawkins, D. 2007

³ Ibid. p.11.

5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The fieldwork was designed to establish the impact on potential archaeological remains that would have occurred during the installation of fuel storage tanks in the 1990s. The mixture of groundwater and made ground made some observations difficult, but the basics of the nature of the construction of the petrol tanks was clear.
- 5.2 The site itself measured 40.00m north-south by 40.00m east-west. One tank extraction trench (Trench 1) was excavated to the south of the site, and measured 15.00m north-south by 15.00m east-west by 5.50m deep, with an area of 225.0m².
- 5.3 The trench was excavated by 360° 30 ton mechanical excavator fitted with a toothed ditching bucket under archaeological supervision.
- 5.4 All features were recorded in plan at a scale of 1:200 and in section at a scale of 1:20. All written data was entered on *pro-forma* sheets following standard recording methods, and a photographic record using a digital camera was made as appropriate.
- 5.5 All levels were calculated from an Ordnance Survey datum height shown on the developers' plans, located on the eastern boundary of the site, which had a value of 3.05m OD.
- 5.6 The work was undertaken following English Heritage (GLAAS) guidelines.⁴

⁴ English Heritage, GLAAS. 1998

6 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 6.1 The underlying drift geology of the site is composed of alluvial clay and silt lain down as tidal river mud-flat deposits. The top of a layer of undisturbed natural alluvial clay was observed at c. -1.25mOD.
- 6.2 The site is located within the flood plain of the River Arun, and is generally level at an approximate height of 3.05mOD.

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

- 7.1 Trench 1 was located in the south-east part of the site and was excavated to remove four fuel storage tanks.
- 7.2 The lowest deposit observed [2] was a natural soft dark blueish clay layer encountered at c. 4.30m below ground level and at a height of c. -1.25mOD. This natural layer was only exposed at the base of the northern side of the trench and was otherwise covered by three fuel storage tanks.
- 7.3 The original cut for the installation of the fuel tanks was not observed as it extended beyond the boundaries of the trench, though its depth, at the base of the tanks, was established as being circa 5.5m.
- 7.4 Three fuel storage tanks and their concrete bases were observed, and while a fourth tank is known to be present, it was not excavated during the period of the watching brief. Below the concrete bases of the fuel tanks was a concrete slab (c.0.50m thick), presumable to support the weight of, and stabilise, the fuel tanks in soft waterlogged ground. The base of this slab was not observed, but taken together with the fuel tanks above; the area has been impacted upon to a depth of at least 5.50m below ground level. Overlying the tanks was layer [1]. This was composed of re-deposited natural clay and silt, the top of which was c. 1.00m below ground level and c. 2.50m thick. The highest level was c. 2.05mOD and the lowest c. -0.45mOD. As this layer was observed on all four sides of the trench, this would indicate that the construction cut was beyond the limits of excavation.
- 7.5 Overlying all preceding layers was a layer of modern made ground (compacted rubble) to a depth of 0.70m, which was capped by modern concrete and Tarmac that formed the modern ground level. This was at a height of c. 3.05mOD.

8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The depth (over 5.50m deep) and extent of the original excavation to accommodate the modern fuel storage tanks, installed in the 1990s, would have completely removed any archaeological deposits within trench 1. The original construction cut for the fuel tanks was not observed and the presence of the backfill, which was seen to continue beyond the trench limits, indicates a much larger area for the construction cut, and consequently the impact on the site would cover a larger area than that exposed by the trench.
- 8.2 In addition the installation in the 1960s of fuel tanks just to the north-west of trench 1 would have had an equally severe impact.
- 8.3 Two modern drain interceptors, both to the north of the trench would also have had a severe localised impact on any deposits.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Duncan Hawkins of CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work. The author would also like to thank of the contractors of Dorton Demolition Limited for their assistance, Haley Baxter for the drawings and Peter Moore for the project management and editing.

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hawkins, D. 2007. *An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment. Land at Former Texaco Garage, Queen Street, Arundel, West Sussex*. Unpublished report, CgMs Consulting.

English Heritage Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service 1998 *Archaeological Guidance Papers: 1 Written Schemes of Investigation; 2 Desk-Based Assessments; 3 Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork in London; Archaeological Reports; 5 Evaluations*.

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context	Type	Description
1	Layer	Re-deposited natural clayey silt
2	Layer	Natural Clay

APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

9 OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: ENGLAND

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

9.1.1 Printable version

9.2 OASIS ID: preconst1-36234

Project details

Project name An Archaeological Watching Brief on Land At Former Texaco Garage, Queen Street, Arundel, West Sussex

Short description of the project An Archaeological Watching Brief on the site of a former Texaco petrol station in Queen Street, Arundel.

Project dates Start: 29-11-2007 End: 11-12-2007

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes WTQS 07 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Industry and Commerce 3 - Retailing

Monument type STORAGE TANKS Modern

Significant Finds	STORAGE TANKS Modern
Methods & techniques	'Visual Inspection'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX ARUN ARUNDEL Former Texaco Garage, Queen Street, Arundel
Study area	400.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 020 069 50.8520488672 -0.550811948231 50 51 07 N 000 33 02 W Point
Height OD	Min: -1.25m Max: -1.20m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	CgMs Consultants Ltd

Project design originator Duncan Hawkins

Project director/manager Peter Moore

Project supervisor Stuart Watson

Type of sponsor/funding body McCarthy and Stone (Developments) Ltd.

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Local museum

Digital Contents 'Stratigraphic'

Digital Media available 'Text'

Paper Archive recipient Local Museum

Paper Archive ID WTSS 07

Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section'

Project bibliography 1

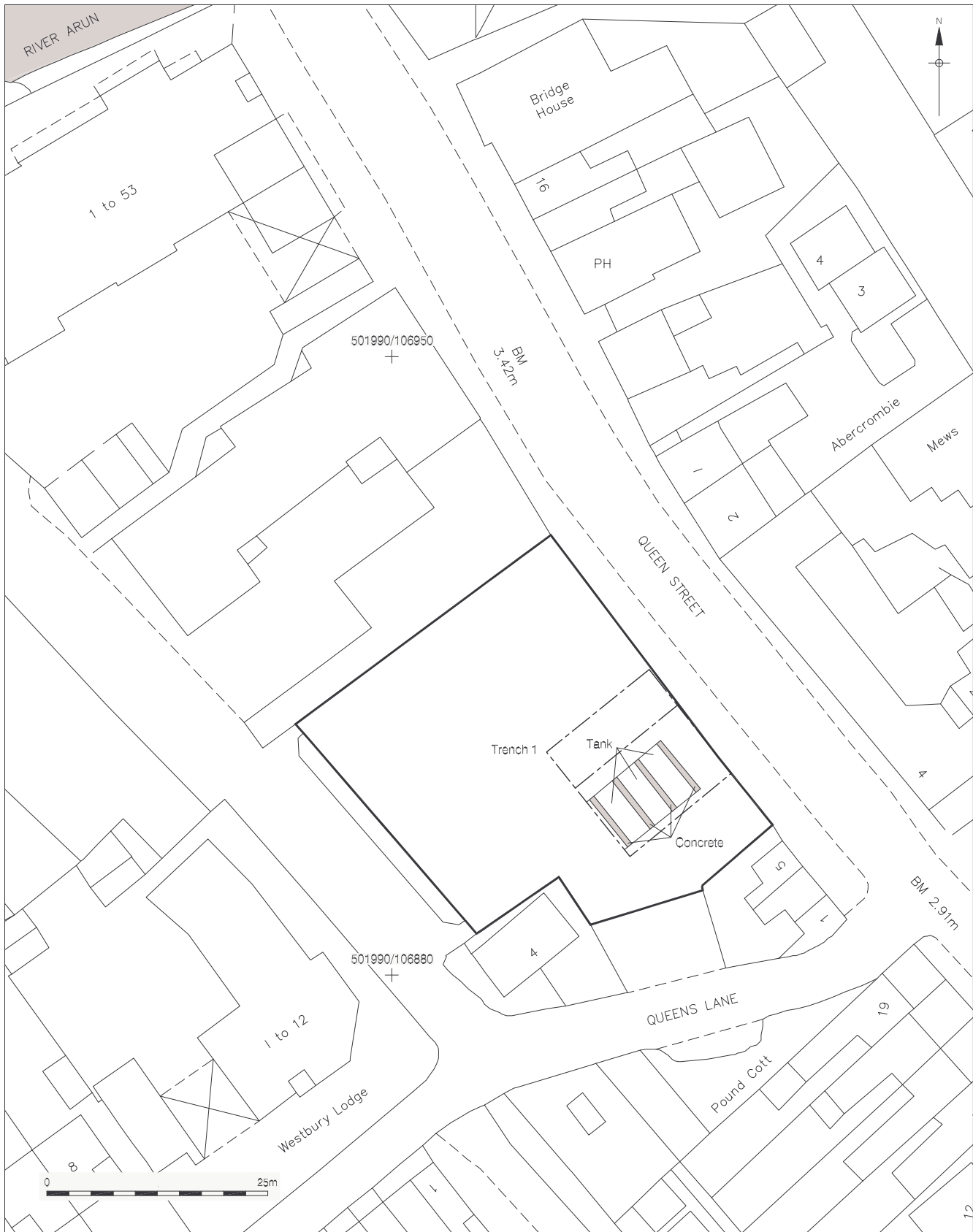
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at the Former Texaco Garage, Queen Street, Arundel, West Sussex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Watson, S.
Date	2009
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 unpublished report
Entered by	Peter Moore (pmoore@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	11 January 2008

10 OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

© ADS 1996-2006 Created by [Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham, email](#) Last modified Friday 3 February 2006

Cite only: <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/oasis/print.cfm> for this page



© Crown copyright 2007. All rights reserved. License number PMP36110309

© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2007

Figure 1
Trench Location
1:625 at A4