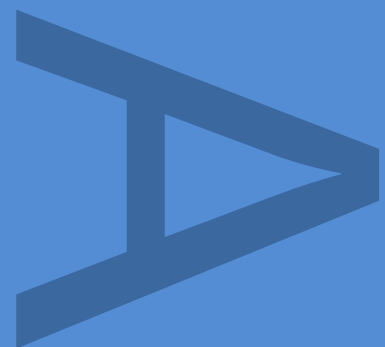


**CROSSNESS SEWAGE
TREATMENT WORKS,
THAMESMEAD,
LONDON BOROUGH OF
BEXLEY**

EXAMINATION OF TIMBERS

SITE CODE: CXS07

JULY 2010



Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Crossness Sewage Works: Examination of Timbers

Guy Seddon

24.06.10

During groundworks at the Crossness Sewage Works (STW), Thamesmead, London Borough of Bexley, associated with the construction of a new reed bed filtration system, a number of driven timber posts were uncovered. The pit was the most southerly of three that are to be excavated as part of this project. Upon discovery of the posts work in the immediate vicinity ceased and Pre-Construct Archaeology were called in to assess the situation.

Pre-Construct Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation at the site between September and October 2007. Evaluation trench 1, the smallest undertaken, was located in the general vicinity of the current groundworks. The results of that evaluation trench are appended below, but no similar posts were uncovered.

A total of nine posts had been unearthed, only one of which was still *in situ*. They were in good condition, with some recent damage primarily towards their bases and measured between 1.50m - 2.35m in length and had width of between 0.10m - 0.15m. The posts had evidently been squared off and tapered at the base to a sharp point. There was no evidence of prehistoric-type axe marks in the timber and the profile of the posts suggests a post-medieval date. In addition the wood appears to have been a soft wood, usually indicative of post-medieval timber.

The posts had been found cutting across the southeastern corner of the reed bed in a single line on a NNE-SSW alignment, indicative a fence line. The one remaining post that was viewed *in situ* was vertical. The top of the post was only c.0.60m below the current ground surface, surrounded by a light grey colluvial deposit, beneath which was a thick band of peat. The probability is that the row of posts extend beyond the current limits of the current pit.

These posts are not part of the buried prehistoric woodland as unearthed in Trench 3 of the evaluation.

Works are currently suspended at this location.

Plate to show area where the post were found and the approximate alignment on which they ran.
Note the thick band of peat overlain by alluvium.



Plate to show the longest surviving post. Note pointed end. (scale at 25cm intervals)



Plate to show squared off timber post (scale at 10cm intervals).



Figure 1: Location of Watching Brief Observation

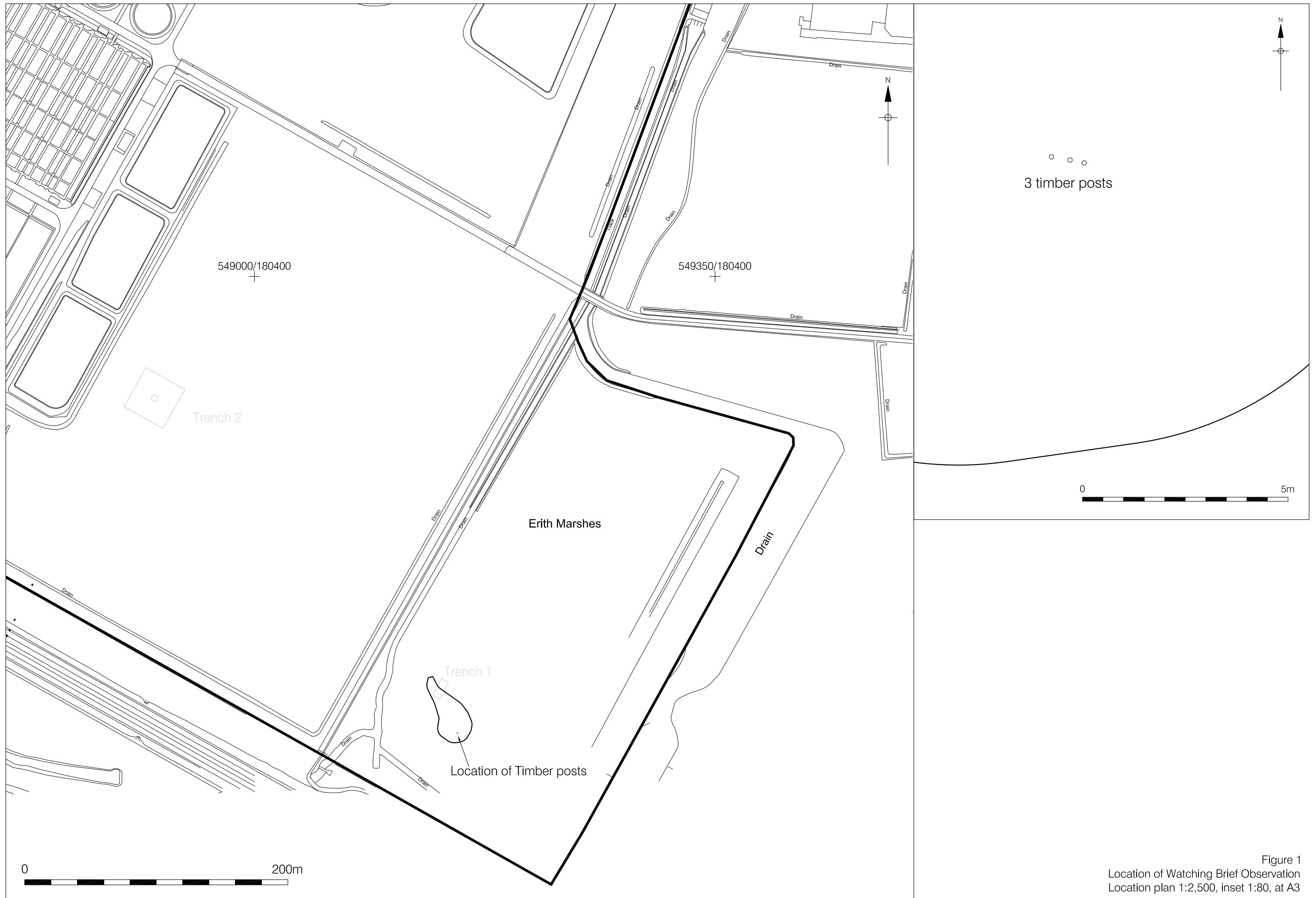


Figure 1
 Location of Watching Brief Observation
 Location plan 1:2,500, inset 1:80, at A3

APPENDIX 1 RESULTS AT EVALUATION TRENCH 1

The earliest deposit identified in Trench 1 was peat layer [20]. It had a thickness greater than 0.50m, a maximum height of -1.56m OD and a minimum of -2.08m OD . Within the peat, at a depth of between -1.70m and -1.82m OD , was a lens of clayey silt, [21]. Lens [21] may have been the remnant of a washed out flood deposit, perhaps representing a short period of marine transgression.

Peat deposit [20] was sealed by another, slightly darker layer of peat, [19]. Layer [19] was only visible to the south of the trench and contained frequent small pieces of wood. It was found at a depth of between -1.50m and -1.64m OD and had a thickness greater than 0.58m (not fully excavated).

Overlying the peat deposits was deposit [18]. It was a firmly compacted, mid yellowish brown deposit and had a thickness of between 0.76m and 1.22m. This deposit probably relates to the drainage and utilisation of the marshes during the medieval and post-medieval period.

Sealing deposit [18] at a height between 0.03m and -0.02m OD was a topsoil layer [17], which had a thickness of between 0.50m and 0.80m.

APPENDIX 2: OASIS REPORT FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-79453

Project details

Project name Crossness Sewage Works

Short description of the project During groundworks at the Crossness Sewage Works (STW), Thamesmead, London Borough of Bexley, associated with the construction of a new reed bed filtration system, a number of driven timber posts were uncovered. The pit was the most southerly of three that are to be excavated as part of this project. Upon discovery of the posts work in the immediate vicinity ceased and Pre-Construct Archaeology were called in to assess the situation. PCA undertook an archaeological evaluation at the site between September and October 2007. Evaluation trench 1, the smallest undertaken, was located in the general vicinity of the current groundworks; however no similar posts were uncovered. A total of nine posts had been unearthed, only one of which was still in situ. They were in good condition, with some recent damage primarily towards their bases and measured between 1.50m - 2.35m in length and had width of between 0.10m - 0.15m. The posts had evidently been squared off and tapered at the base to a sharp point. There was no evidence of prehistoric-type axe marks in the timber and the profile of the posts suggests a post-medieval date. In addition the wood appears to have been a soft wood, usually indicative of post-medieval timber. The posts had been found cutting across the southeastern corner of the reed bed in a single line on a NNE-SSW alignment, indicative a fence line. The one remaining post that was viewed in situ was vertical. The top of the post was only c.0.60m below the current ground surface, surrounded by a light grey colluvial deposit, beneath which was a thick band of peat. The probability is that the row of posts extend beyond the current limits of the current pit. These posts are not part of the buried prehistoric woodland as unearthed in Trench 3 of the evaluation.

Project dates Start: 23-06-2010 End: 23-06-2010

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Any associated project reference codes CXS07 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Other 15 - Other

Monument type POST Post Medieval

Significant Finds POST Post Medieval

Investigation type 'Salvage Record'

Prompt Planning condition

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON BEXLEY ERITH Crossness Sewage Works, Thamesmead

Postcode SE2 9AN

Study area 1600.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 4917 8007 51.4993486790 0.149319771369 51 29 57 N 000 08 57 E Point

Project creators

Name of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Organisation

Project originator brief Contractor (design and execute)

Project design Gary Brown
originator
Project Chris Mayo
director/manager
Project supervisor Guy Seddon
Type of Utility Company
sponsor/funding body
Name of Thames Water
sponsor/funding body

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?
Digital Archive LAARC
recipient
Digital Contents 'Stratigraphic'
Digital Media 'Images raster / digital photography','Images vector','Text'
available
Paper Archive LAARC
recipient
Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic'
Paper Media 'Context sheet','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General
available Notes','Plan','Section'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title Crossness Sewage Works: Examination of Timbers
Author(s)/Editor(s) Seddon, G.
Date 2010
Issuer or publisher Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Place of issue or London
publication
Description A4 Summary Report

Entered by Chris Mayo (cmayo@pre-construct.com)
Entered on 12 July 2010

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