

Archcliffe Fort, Dover, 2021, New workshop construction, Archaeological watching brief

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Watching brief during the construction of the new workshop, Archcliffe Fort, 2021

1. Summary

1.1 Following evaluation work conducted during 2020, in January 2021 Canterbury Archaeological Trust was engaged to carry out a watching brief during the construction of a new workshop at Archcliffe Fort, Dover. NGR 631529 140259, centred.

1.2 The new building lay entirely within the footprint of a previous building that had stood in this area (Building 9). Recent research now suggests that Building 9, itself, post-dated the Second World War. Trenching for the new building allowed the recording of a number of deposits and structures of archaeological interest, adding to information previously recorded in this area during the evaluation work.

1.3 The deposits and structures exposed during the 2021 excavations were broadly comparable to the sequences previously established during the evaluation, with lower, pre-fort clays giving way to remains connected with the occupation of the fort. This included pits, drains, walking/yard surfaces and traces of a substantial (?basement) wall that lay largely outside the excavation area to the south-east.

2. Introduction

2.1 Archcliffe Fort at Dover is today occupied by the Emmaus Dover community, a charity offering a home and work to formerly homeless people. The community has plans to undertake new building work at the site and to carry-out certain other groundworks to improve access to its busy second-hand furniture shop and the general amenities available on the site. Canterbury Archaeological Trust has been engaged to advise on this new project and to undertake any fieldwork required. A study considering the archaeological implications of the new proposals was prepared in 2016 (Parfitt 2016, revised 2019).

2.2 In connection with the construction of a new workshop within the fort (DDC Planning Ref: DOV/19/00324), the Trust was engaged to conduct a watching brief during the groundworks. This work was undertaken between 4 and 19 January 2021.

2.3 The site of the new workshop building (NGR 631529 140259, centred) lies to the south-west of Karen's Block (Building 4) on the site of an existing concrete building platform (designated Building 9; Parfitt 2016: Fig. 2) and an adjacent earthen mound (evaluated in 2020 and shown to be of no archaeological significance; Parfitt 2020b).

3. General archaeological and historical background to the fort

(based on Parfitt 2016)

3.1 Although damaged, Archcliffe Fort on the western outskirts of Dover (Fig. 1) constitutes a multi-period defence work of considerable archaeological/historical interest. It forms an important element within the surviving sequence of artillery defences represented at Dover. The bulk of the extant structures here date to between the seventeenth- and early twentieth-centuries. The walls and outer defences are the oldest parts and include the most significant elements of the fort, with the interior containing a series of nineteenth- and twentieth-century structures, reflecting the use

and habitation of the fort over the last two hundred years. The site is a Scheduled Monument (No. 26797).

3.2 The fort is situated on the western outskirts of Dover, adjacent to the old coast road to Folkestone. It stands at an elevation of around 17 metres OD, upon a low promontory overlooking Shakespeare Beach and Dover's historic Western Docks (Fig. 1). In topographical terms, although the site occupies a cliff-top position, it actually lies in the bottom of a dry chalk valley, truncated obliquely by the Strait of Dover. The marine truncation of this valley led to the creation of a slight embayment immediately to the north-east of the Archcliffe headland (Fig. 1). From the sixteenth century this bay formed Dover's principal harbour area (Biddle and Summerson 1982).

3.3 Although no in-depth study of the history of the fort has yet been carried out, the general story is now tolerably clear. Expanding on Doug Welby's booklet of 1991, Liv Gibbs has provided the most detailed account of the history of the fort so far (Gibbs 2004).

4. Previous investigations in the area of the new workshop (Fig. 2)

4.1 In 2020 three archaeological evaluation trenches (Trenches 1, 2 & 3) had been cut to investigate this part of the fort ahead of the construction of the proposed new workshop (Fig. 2; Parfitt 2020b; 2020c). Shallow Trench 1, on the south-west side of a concrete building platform (Building 9), revealed little of consequence and established that a visible mound here was nothing more than a dump of twentieth century soils. No attempt to examine the lower sequence of deposits in this area was then made (Parfitt 2020b).

4.2 Trench 2, cut on the site of a proposed new soakaway to the south-east of the building platform, somewhat unexpectedly revealed the remains of a cellared brick structure and no pre-fort deposits. Subsequent cartographic research identified a building occupying this area during the early nineteenth century (Parfitt 2020b). Given that this lost structure constituted an important new element in the Fort's structural history, yet to be fully researched, Historic England required that the proposed soakaway be repositioned, leaving this newly discovered structure undisturbed.

4.3 A new site, around 15 metres to the south-west of Trench 2 was identified as an alternative location for the soakaway and this was evaluated in July 2020 (Fig. 2; Trench 3). It partially overlapped with the position of Trench 1 previously excavated and provided a good opportunity to examine the full sequence of deposits present in this area (Parfitt 2020c).

5. Objectives of the watching brief

5.1 The primary objective of the archaeological watching brief on the new workshop site was to contribute to overall heritage knowledge of the fort through the recording of any archaeological remains exposed during the groundworks (Parfitt 2020a). More specifically, the watching brief was designed to:

- Record any archaeological features or deposits that might be exposed during the new works (including any additional structural details revealed during the removal of Building 9)
- Ensure that no unauthorised damaged occurred to extant structures
- Provide assistance and advice to the building contractor on site concerning matters of heritage significance and the likely views of Historic England
- Alert Historic England if any unexpectedly significant discoveries were made which may require additional mitigation measures to be implemented.

6. Methodology

6.1 The watching brief was initiated at the commencement of the demolition of the extant building remains (Building 9) and was maintained throughout the programme of intrusive ground excavation, with all excavations being monitored. A total of six visits was made to the site in January 2021, mostly during inclement winter weather that included strong winds and rain.

7. Information recorded during the watching brief

7.1 The watching brief allowed a number of useful archaeological observations to be made concerning the structure of the Building 9 and the structures and deposits underlying it. Details are set out below.

7.2 The fieldwork generated a small archive, comprising 54 recorded contexts, a general site plan, three measured sections and about 70 digital photographs. Only a few finds were recovered, mostly animal bone. All the field records have been checked and indexed. They are currently held by CAT (Dover Office), pending transfer to the English Heritage regional store at Dover Castle upon completion of the overall project.

Removal of Building 9

7.3 The new workshop was to be erected entirely within the footprint of an earlier building (designated Building 9; Parfitt 2016). The surviving concrete base of his earlier building had been previously described:

A raised rectangular concrete base lies immediately south-west of Building 4 [Karen's Block], very close to Building 5, parallel with Buildings 2 and 3 [Gipson's Block]. This clearly once supported another, presumably lightweight, building now removed (Figs 6–8).

The general construction of the platform suggests that it is twentieth century in date, although it is not shown on the Royal Engineers plan of 1934–1956. On the 1884 Royal Engineers' plan this area is marked as a 'kitchen garden'.

Built of concrete blocks and poured concrete, the platform is rectangular in shape, measuring 6.75m (NW–SE) by 10.48m (NE–SW). At the north-eastern end, the platform stands about 0.80m above present ground level but the structure is not built on horizontal ground so that the south-western end is level with the ground surface there (Fig. 7).

The surface of the platform stands at an elevation of 17.48m OD, with the traceable outlines of a former building visible. An area covered with black bitumen adhesive seems to suggest that this building once had a floor surfaced with linoleum tiles. This area is delimited by traces of the missing external walls. The lines of these lost walls are largely represented by sections of cement fillet. Set at intervals of 2.45m in the long sides are three pairs of vertical iron bolts indicating that the building must have been steel framed. Together, the available evidence suggests that the lost building measured about 6.00m (NW–SE) by 9.70m (NE–SW).

On the north-western side, towards the north corner, two concrete steps give access to the building platform (Fig. 8). The remains of a brick and concrete ramp occurs on the south-eastern side (damaged by roots). These suggest that doors into Building 9 lay on the north-west and south-east sides.

At the north-eastern end, a concrete pad at the foot of the platform suggests that the lost structure may also have been once physically linked to adjacent Building 4 by some sort of lean-to, but since there is no door here, the two structures must have been independent.

The difference in height between the north-east and south-western ends of the platform reflect a localised change in ground levels on this part of the site. About halfway along the length of the Building 9 platform, extending north-westwards up to Building 2, this change in level is marked by a 0.60m high retaining wall built of yellow stock brick. This wall would seem to be identifiable on the 1884 fort plan where it projects into the area marked 'kitchen garden' (Parfitt 2016).

7.4 Building 9; additional construction details recorded in 2021

7.4.1 Observation during the removal of the extant building platform (Building 9) provided further details of its construction. It was readily apparent that the concrete base of the platform (Fig. 9; Context 401) had been poured as one, over layers of loose soil and rubble with a slightly undulating surface. Traces of some sort of thin membrane with a bitumen coating was noted adhering to the base of this concrete, showing that it had not been poured directly onto the underlying deposits.

7.4.2 The thickness of the concrete itself varied. In the central area it was between 0.15 and 0.20m thick but around the margins this figure increased to between 0.30 and 0.40m, without any evidence to indicate that the platform had been cast in separate sections. No metal reinforcing bars had been included in the concrete.

7.4.3 The south-western half of the platform had been shallowly cut into the existing ground surface (see evaluation Trench 1; Parfitt 2020b) but due to a drop in ground level, the north-eastern half required the ground levels to be made up. Three courses of mortared concrete blocks (standing 0.45m high above ground, with one course buried), following the outline of the building were used to retain a levelling deposit of soil and rubble here. In detail, this levelling deposit (Fig. 4, Section 1, Context 402) consisted of a dark grey-brown loam with much red and yellow brick rubble with lesser amounts of Welsh slate, broken concrete, flints and fragments of late nineteenth- to early twentieth-century glazed wall tile and odd pieces of scrap iron.

7.4.4 A previously unknown aerial photograph of Archcliffe Fort has recently been located at Dover Museum (*ref.* d 43190; Fig. 6). Taken sometime during the second half of the twentieth century, but before 1973, this shows Building 9 as then standing, covered with a flat roof.

7.4.5 The available evidence now combines to suggest that Building 9 post-dated the Second World War. Accordingly, it would seem to be of minimal historical interest. The former position of the structure will be broadly marked by the new workshop building.

7.5 Retaining wall 403 (Fig. 2)

7.5.1 Removal of concrete slab 401 and the underlying levelling deposit (Context 402) established that an extant, low retaining wall (Fig. 2, Context 403) running eastwards from the platform also continued on the same alignment under the concrete base for a distance of 3.15m, before terminating in a roughly finished end. This structure had clearly been buried when the base for Building 9 was laid down.

7.5.2 Wall 403 stood to a height of 0.45m (5 courses; top course of bricks laid on edge) without any obvious foundation (Fig. 9). It was 0.24m wide and was constructed from frogged yellow stock bricks

set in a yellow-grey sandy mortar with frequent small chalk/lime specks. It appeared to be late nineteenth- or early twentieth-century in date and might be contemporary with the construction of the adjacent Karen's Block (Building 4).

7.5.3 To the south-west of retaining wall 403 at one point, a manhole covered with a concrete slab providing access to a drain about 0.50m deep, was noted by the workmen. This had clearly not been used for many years and further traces of the associated drainpipe (Context 415) were recorded when the foundation trenching began (Fig. 2; see below).

7.6 Retaining wall 421 (Fig. 2)

7.6.1 Removal of concrete slab 401 and the underlying levelling deposit (Context 402) on the north-western side showed that another extant low retaining wall (Context 421), running north-westwards from the platform also continued on the same alignment under the concrete base for at least another 1.35m. As with Wall 403, this wall had clearly been buried when the base for Building 9 was laid down (Fig. 2).

7.6.2 Wall 421 stood to a height of 0.60m. It was 0.35m wide, set on a slightly broader foundation 0.20m thick. The wall was constructed from red and yellow stock bricks set in a light grey gritty mortar containing moderate amounts of chalk/lime specks and coal specks. It appeared to be broadly datable to the nineteenth century but was not directly connected with Wall 403 (Fig. 2).

7.6.3 Much of Wall 421 was subsequently removed as part of the landscaping work around the new workshop building.

Foundation trenching for the new workshop building (Fig. 2)

7.7 Fieldwork observations

7.7.1 A small, tracked excavator was used to cut five foundation trenches for the new workshop building (Frontispiece; Figs 2 & 10). The four outer trenches covered a rectangular area measuring externally 6.20m (NW–SE) by 9.50m (NE–SW). These trenches were between 0.65 and 0.70m wide and 1.00–1.40m deep. An additional internal trench, 0.40m wide and 1.00–1.40m deep, aligned north-east by south-west, was subsequently dug along the central axis of the new structure (Fig. 2).

7.7.2 A height differential of between 0.50 and 0.70m occurred at the north-eastern end of the new building plot (Fig. 9; see above). This change in level was marked by two low brick retaining walls (Contexts 403 and 421).

7.7.3 The change in ground levels in this area had previously affected the construction method employed for Building 9 (see above) and revised arrangements were also needed during the present building work. Thus, the base of the outer north-eastern foundation trench for the new workshop, together with the north-eastern parts of its north-west, central and south-east trenches were taken some 0.60m lower than the bases of these trenches in the south-western half.

7.7.4 Careful inspection of the excavated foundation trenches allowed the recording of a number of deposits and structures of archaeological interest, adding to information previously recorded in this area during the evaluation trenching (Fig. 2).

7.7.5 The deposits and structures exposed during the 2021 excavations were broadly comparable to the sequences previously established during the evaluation, with lower, pre-fort clays giving way to

remains connected with the occupation of the fort. These included pits, drains, walking/yard surfaces and traces of a substantial (?basement) wall that lay largely outside the excavation area to the south-east.

7.8 Early clay deposits (Figs 4, 5, 13, 16 & 17)

7.8.1 Across the site of the new workshop, the deeper trenches in the north-eastern half of the plot provided the most complete sections through the deposits present, to a depth of about 1.40m under the concrete platform of Building 9 (Figs 4 (Section 1) & 13). Further to the south-west, another good section was provided by the new soakaway pit cut next to evaluation Trench 3 (Figs 5 & 17).

7.8.2 In the main foundation trenches, the lowest clay layer exposed (Context 420) was probably close to the natural clay head deposit. Its surface lay at between 15.90m and 16.11m above OD and it probably equates with layer 315/452 further to the south-west (see below).

7.8.3 In detail, layer 420 consisted of a brown silty clay containing moderate amounts of small and medium sized sub-rounded to sub-angular flints. No archaeological material was recovered from this layer.

7.8.4 Layer 420 was sealed by a similar deposit, consisting of a brown silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded to sub-angular flints and a few small chalk pieces (Context 419). Again, no archaeological material was recovered.

7.8.5 Context 419 was sealed by another clay deposit (Context 418). This consisted of a grey-brown clay with occasional flint pebbles and small chalk pieces. The only find from this layer, in the NE Trench, was a fragment of peg tile, the fabric of which suggests a post-medieval rather than medieval date. This deposit continued into the shallower south-western trench sections as Context 430 (Fig. 4, Section 2), where it produced a few prehistoric struck flints and a scatter of animal bone.

7.9 Pit F. 413 and brick culvert 428 (Figs 2, 4 & 13)

7.9.1 Two features cutting into the surface of clay layer 418/430 were identified. In the NE Trench, traces of a pit, F. 413, were revealed partially cut away by a later pipe trench (F. 416; Fig. 4, Section 1). From what was seen, the pit would appear to have been roughly circular in shape with a diameter of about 0.90m. It was 0.53m deep with steep sides and a dished base. The filling consisted of a single deposit of dark grey-brown gritty loam containing frequent small flint pebbles but no datable material (Section 1, Context 412).

7.9.2 Towards the south-western end of the NW Trench a brick-built culvert, 428, set within a narrow construction trench (F. 429; Fig. 4, Section 2; Fig. 13) was located. The culvert was aligned roughly east–west but any continuation into the Central Trench had been destroyed by a subsequent pit, F. 440 (Fig. 2). As recorded in the NW Trench, the culvert was constructed of red and occasional yellow bricks set in a light grey gritty mortar with moderate numbers of chalk/lime specks and coal grits. Although long disused the culvert was largely free of silt. On the base, internally, traces of a thin layer of brown waterproofing ‘roman’ cement were noted (Fig. 4, Section 2; Figs 15 & 16).

7.10 Wall 438 (Figs 2, 3, 11 & 12)

7.10.1 In the central sector of the SE Trench a length of brick walling (Context 438) was revealed in the south-eastern face of the excavation (Figs 11 & 12). This projected no more than 0.12m into the trench and was traced for an overall distance of some 4.80m. The upper part of the wall had clearly

been robbed and, as surviving, its top lay about 0.70m below the base of the concrete slab of Building 9.

7.10.2 Both ends of the wall appeared to represent original corners/terminals and the bulk of the related structure must remain buried under extant Building 5 and the adjacent open ground. Fairly certainly, the section of walling previously located in nearby evaluation Trench 2 (Parfitt 2020b) is also related to this buried structure (Fig. 3 and see further below).

7.10.3 Wall 438 was constructed of red (95%) and occasional yellow (5%) bricks set in a mid-grey gritty mortar with moderate quantities of chalk/lime specks and coal specks/grits. Most of the wall was more than 0.80m high (11 courses, foundation not exposed) and fairly certainly constituted a basement wall but, at the north-east the end, it was set back to the south-east by about 0.10m and was less deep, being only about 0.50m high in total (6 courses). Pit F.437 had been cut down the face of the wall at this point (Figs 2 & 12).

7.10.4 Excavation of the SE Trench and the various cut-features it exposed made it difficult to determine the exact relationship of Wall 438 to the adjacent stratification. The well-finished north-western face of the wall, however, must imply that it had been built free-standing within a broader construction trench cutting into the early clay deposits. Brick culvert 406 (see below) passed close-by, on the wall's north-western side (Figs 2 & 14), although this need not have been directly related.

7.10.5 It seems possible that laid walking surfaces revealed in the 2021 excavated trenches (see below) originally abutted Wall 438 as an external yard, but nowhere could this be clearly observed and if the evidence of the similar surfaces recorded in evaluation Trench 2 is taken into account, they could be somewhat later because they sealed the robbed nineteenth century cellar walls there.

7.11 *Yard surfaces* (Figs 2, 4, 5, 13, 15, 16 & 17)

7.11.1 Sealing pit F. 413 and culvert trench F. 429, resting on the surface of clay layer 418/430, several deliberately laid yard surfaces (408, 409, 411, 424 & 426), make-up layers (410) and occupation deposits (Context 425) could be traced in the sides of most of the excavated trenches (Fig. 4), somewhat cut about by later features. The relationship of these surfaces to Wall 438 could not be ascertained.

7.11.2 Traces of comparable yard surfacing had been previously noted in evaluation Trenches 2 and 3 (Parfitt 2020b; 2020c) and more was seen in the new soakaway pit (Figs 5 & 17), implying that most of the area had once been covered by a succession of surfaces. This conclusion, however, is not borne out by the evidence of the 1884 site plan, where the area is shown as being either kitchen garden or lawn, divided only by a narrow path. From this, it would seem that the recorded surfacings were earlier, possibly forming a metalled yard between Building 2 and the recently identified demolished building that lay to the south-east (Wall 438, etc.; see above).

7.11.3 The earliest surface identified in the main excavation was represented by a thin layer of dark grey loam containing very frequent small brown flint pebbles (pea shingle). This deposit (Fig. 4, Section 1, Context 411) was between 0.03 and 0.12m thick and was of a type frequently employed for yard and path surfacings during the nineteenth century. It was traced along most of the NE Trench and into the adjacent parts of the NW and SE Trenches.

7.11.4 Directly above Context 411 was a thin make-up layer between 0.05 and 0.08m thick (Section 1, Context 410). This was composed of crushed cream and grey mortar with frequent small pieces of nineteenth century yellow brick. It formed the base for a thin layer of coarse orange sand containing

moderate amounts of small flint pebble and small red brick fragments (Section 1, Context 409). This gravel layer was between 0.02 and 0.05m thick and clearly represented another yard surface, replacing 411. An overlying, 0.02m thick, layer of grey black gritty ash with moderate amounts of coal- fire cinder (Section 1, Context 408) must represent either a subsequent resurfacing or general occupational tread across this surface. The latest layers, Contexts 408 and 424 were sealed by modern soil deposits apparently representing levelling for the concrete platform, Building 9 (Section 1, Contexts 402 & 404; Section 2, Contexts 422 & 423).

7.11.5 A thin layer of crushed mortar with yellow brick, supporting a laid surface of orange gravel had been previously recorded in nearby evaluation Trench 2 (Parfitt 2020b, Contexts 211 & 207) and there seems little doubt that these previous layers represent a south-easterly continuation of present Contexts 410 and 409.

7.12 Culvert 406 and pipe trench, F. 416 (Figs 2, 4, 13 & 14)

7.12.1 In the NE and SE Trenches the recorded yard surfaces had been cut through by the construction trench for a second brick culvert (F. 407) and also a probably later drain trench, F. 416, containing a ceramic pipe (Context 415; Fig. 2) encased in dark brown gritty loam with pea-shingle (Context 414). These features are unlikely to be of the same date (Fig. 4, Section 1).

7.12.2 Towards the south-eastern end of the NE Trench a brick-built culvert, 406, set in a narrow construction trench (F. 407; Fig. 4, Section 1) was revealed. A second section of the same structure was revealed at the south-western end of SE Trench (Fig. 14), south of which it had been destroyed by a later, concrete filled intrusion. The two exposed sections allowed the culvert to be traced for a total distance of about 9.20m. It was aligned roughly north–south and passed close to Wall 438, but it is not clear if it was related in any way (Figs 2 & 14). The culvert was constructed from red and yellow bricks set in a grey gritty mortar with moderate amounts of chalk/lime grit and small coal fragments (Figs 13 & 14), and the trench then backfilled with brown clay (Context 405).

7.12.3 Pipe trench F. 416 was aligned roughly north–south with sections exposed with the NE Trench, Central Trench and the SE Trench, giving a combined total length of about 5.70m (Fig. 2). The relationship of this drain to Wall 438 was not ascertained).

7.13 Pits Fs 435, 437 and 440 (Figs 2 & 12)

7.13.1 Portions of three substantial pits (Fs 435, 437 & 440; Fig. 2) cutting through Context 430 and the overlying yard surfaces appeared to be relatively modern in date. Their generally loose brick rubble fillings (Contexts 434, 436 and 439; Fig. 12) might suggest that they had been intended as soakaway pits, although they could equally well have been dug to dispose of unwanted building debris.

F. No.	Trench	Shape	Size (m.)	Depth (m.)	Sides	Fill
413	NE	?Circ.	Dia., c. 1.00	0.53 (full)	Steep	Dk grey-br loam & pebbles
435	NW/SW	Circ. or oval	0.85 across (min.)	0.30 (min.)	V. steep	Brick & mortar rubble
437	SE	?Sub-square	c. 1.40 across	0.80 (min.)	V. steep	Brick & concrete rubble
440	Central	Circ. or oval	1.45 across	0.60 (min.)	V. steep	Ash, cinder & brick rubble

Table 1 Details of all recorded pits

7.13.2 These pits are probably late nineteenth- or early twentieth-century in date and could all have been dug around the same time; none produced any closely datable finds. Pit F. 437 had been dug down the north-eastern face of Wall 438 (Fig. 12).

7.13.3 The table above summarises the recorded details of each pit. None of was fully exposed and all continued below the base of the excavated trenches (Table 1).

New soakaway pit

7.14 Fieldwork observations (Figs 2 & 17)

7.14.1. A soakaway pit was dug some 5 metres to the south-west of the new workshop site, partially overlapping with the sites of evaluation Trenches 1 and 3 (Figs 2 & 17). This new pit was just over 1m square and was taken to a depth of about 1.60m. The recorded sequence of deposits was essentially the same as that seen in Trench 3 (Fig. 5), with layers of colluvial clay (Contexts 451 & 452) sealed by deposits connected with the occupation of the fort, including a series of walking surfaces (Fig. 5, Contexts 443, 445–442), that were covered by only modern disturbed material (Context 441).

7.14.2 One of the colluvial clay layers (Context 451) produced a single sherd of prehistoric pottery probably of Bronze Age date (see below).

7.14.3 Above the colluvium, a series of yard surfaces was recorded from a depth of about 0.25m. These were similar to those more extensively seen in the adjacent foundation trenches for the new workshop (Fig. 4). Context 443 clearly equates with surface 309 previous recorded in evaluation Trench 3 (Fig. 5).

8. Finds (Table 2; not illustrated)

8.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the watching brief. These may be added to the material recovered during the previous evaluation trenching in the area. The present finds are mostly animal bone, with some pottery and prehistoric struck flints (Table 2).

8.2 The 2021 finds have been processed according to standard Canterbury Archaeological Trust procedures. Along with the material from the evaluation trenches, these finds currently remain in the possession of the Trust (Dover Office) but upon completion of the overall project, they will be transferred to the English Heritage regional store at Dover Castle, together with a complete copy of the field archive. Brief notes on the watching brief material are provided below.

Context	Pottery	Peg tile	Struck flint	Animal bone
418	0	1 (32g)	0	0
422	1 (16g)	0	0	0
430	0	0	3 (33g)	10 (284g)
448	1 (2g)	0	0	0
451	1 (20g)	0	0	0
Total	3 (38g)	1 (32g)	3 (33g)	10 (284g)

Table 2 Distribution of finds recovered from watching brief on the new workshop site

8.3 Pottery

Of the three pot sherds recovered, two are of post-medieval red earthenware. The smaller piece has an internal orange-brown glaze, whilst the larger one is part of a handle. The remaining sherd is prehistoric. Recovered from pre-fort colluvial clay (Fig. 5, Section 3, Context 451), this consists of a plain sherd (20g) from a thick-walled vessel heavily tempered with coarse burnt flint. It has pale

orange-brown surfaces and a black core; its general appearance would seem to be more consistent with a Bronze Age, rather than Iron Age, date.

In the same area, colluvial deposits examined in evaluation Trench 3 had previously produced two fragments of early pottery (Parfitt 2020c; Fig 5, Tr. 3 previous section). A single plain flint-and-grog tempered wall-sherd in a fabric that would be consistent with a later Iron Age date came from Context 315, whilst a small, plain black wall-sherd of flint-tempered ware, also probably of Iron Age date, came from Context 311.

8.4 Peg tile

A single fragment of ceramic roofing tile, similar to pieces previously found in the evaluation, was recovered from Context 418. This is local peg tile in a hard orange-red fabric, most probably of post-medieval rather than medieval in date. There are no surviving peg/nail holes in the present fragment.

8.5 Prehistoric flintwork

Three prehistoric struck flints (33g) were recovered during the watching brief, contained within clay layer 430 in the NW and SW Trenches. All three pieces are unworked secondary flakes, produced from the immediately available local downland flint. They have a mottled pale blue–white patina. Quantities of prehistoric flintwork have been previously recovered from Archcliffe Fort, with a total of 59 pieces from evaluation Trench 3 (Parfitt 2020c).

8.6 Animal bone

The watching brief produced a total of ten pieces of animal bone (284g,) all contained within clay layer 430 in the NW trench. This material is reasonably well preserved and most probably represents scattered kitchen waste. The identifiable pieces include leg bones and rib fragments, one of which exhibits a sawn end.

9. Conclusions

9.1 The observations undertaken in 2021 have served to add further useful details concerning the below-ground sequence of deposits and structures preserved within Archcliffe Fort. Further traces of a lost early nineteenth century building were apparently revealed (see below, Wall 438) together pre-fort colluvial clay deposits associated with prehistoric flintwork and pottery.

9.2 Wall 438 and its interpretation

9.2.1 Evaluation Trench 2 had previously located part of an infilled cellar relating to a nineteenth century brick building situated immediately to the south-east of the area trenched in 2021 (Parfitt 2020b). Research undertaken in 2020 indicated that this structure was part of a larger building that had been demolished sometime before the detailed 1884 plan of the fort was produced. The lost building may be identified on three general plans of the Western Heights defences drawn during the earlier nineteenth century.

9.2.2 The oldest plan is dated 1804. This shows a parallel but shorter rectangular block lying just to the south-east of what is now Gipson's accommodation block (Building 2; Fig. 3). The same building, complete with a small projecting room on the north-western side is also shown on plans dating to 1811 (TNA: MPH/1/506; Fig. 16) and 1814 (TNA: MR 1346). On a subsequent plan, dated 1858 (TNA: WORK/43/1598), however, the structure is absent, implying that it had been demolished by this date.

9.2.3 Fairly certainly, Wall 438 revealed in 2021 represents a section of the north-western wall of the main range of this lost building. Figure 3 attempts to scale-up the 1804 plan and plot the location of this building onto the current site plan. This would seem to confirm that the walling located in evaluation Trench 2 relates to the north-eastern end wall of the lost building, whilst the section located in 2021 appears to be part of its main north-western wall, close to the projecting room.

9.3 Brick culverts, 406 & 428

9.3.1 The two, small brick-built culverts located clearly relate to early drainage arrangements within the fort. Their similarity of construction initially indicated that they were of the same date, but the stratigraphic evidence suggests otherwise (Fig. 4, Sections 1 and 2). Culvert 428 was clearly sealed by two successive yard surfaces of chalk (Section 2, Contexts 424 & 426; Fig. 16), whilst Culvert 406 was cut through the recorded yard sequence on the north-eastern side (Section 1; Fig. 13). The implication would thus seem to be that culvert 428 is the earlier of the two, although it perhaps seems unlikely that there was much of a time gap between these two structures.

9.3.2 The use in Wall 438 and culverts 406 & 428 of grey mortar with chalk/lime and coal fragments suggests early nineteenth century work, as seen in better dated structures on the adjacent Western Heights. The use of brick, rather than glazed ceramic pipes (as Context 415) also implies a relatively early date. Henry Doulton first started making impervious, salt glazed ceramic pipes at Lambeth in 1846 and such pipes soon came to supersede earlier forms of drain.

9.4 Pre-fort clay deposits

The pre-fort clay deposits revealed in the deeper parts of the excavated trenches represent colluvium accumulated in the bottom of a dry chalkland valley meeting the sea immediately to the north-east of the fort. As found in the previous evaluation trenching these deposits contain prehistoric flintwork and pottery, some, if not all, derived from further upslope (see Parfitt 2020c).

9.5 Further work

No further analysis of the information recorded is warranted at this stage but the information will be correlated with any future discoveries made during the present development project to produce a final assessment report at the conclusion of all the fieldwork on site. Copies of the present report will be provided to Historic England, English Heritage, KCC Heritage Conservation Group and CAT's on-line library. A copy will also be placed on the OASIS database.

10. Bibliography

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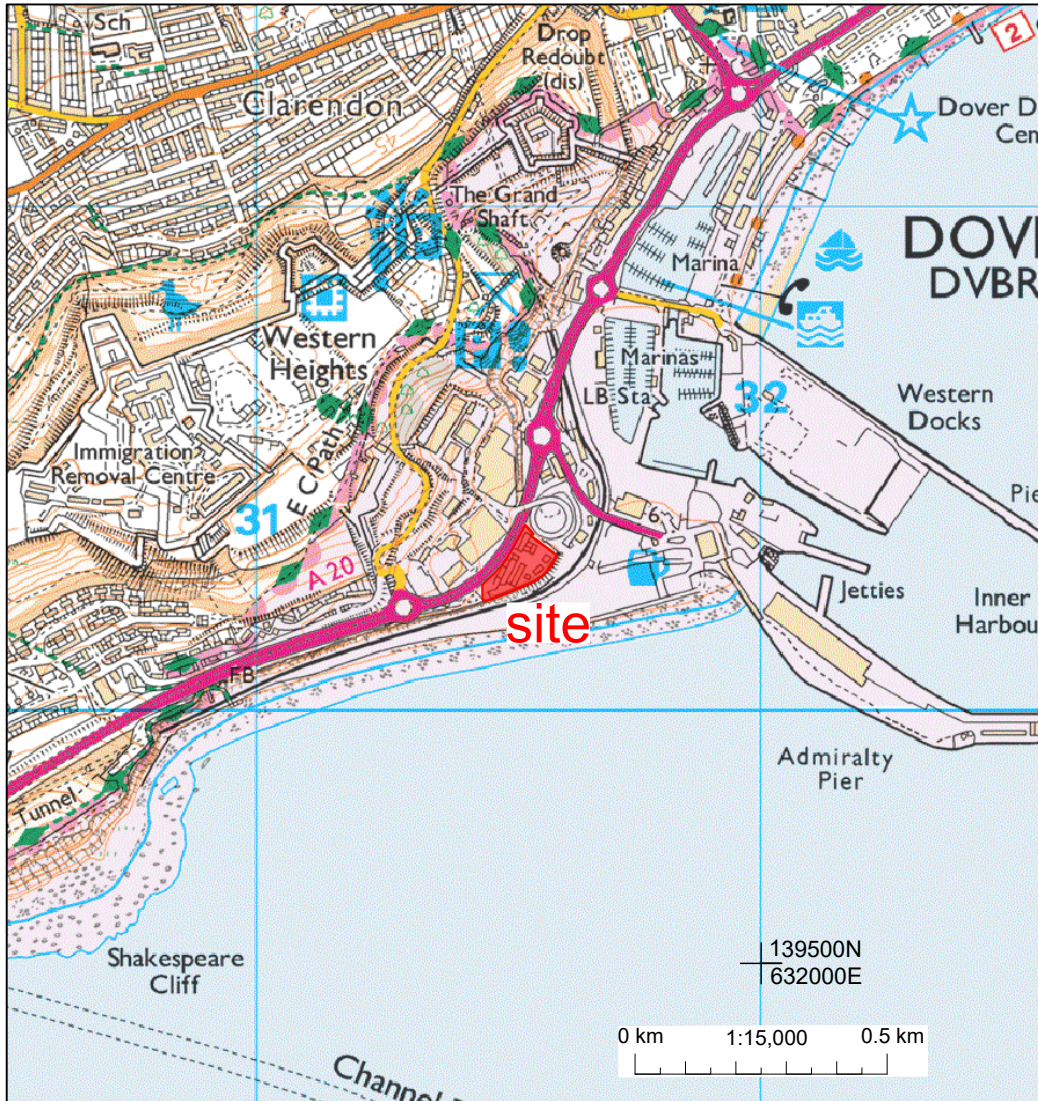
Parfitt, K., 2016 *Archcliffe Fort, Dover: Heritage assessment of the buildings inside the fort* (Unpublished C.A.T. report submitted to Dover Emmaus, September 2016; **revised** February 2019).

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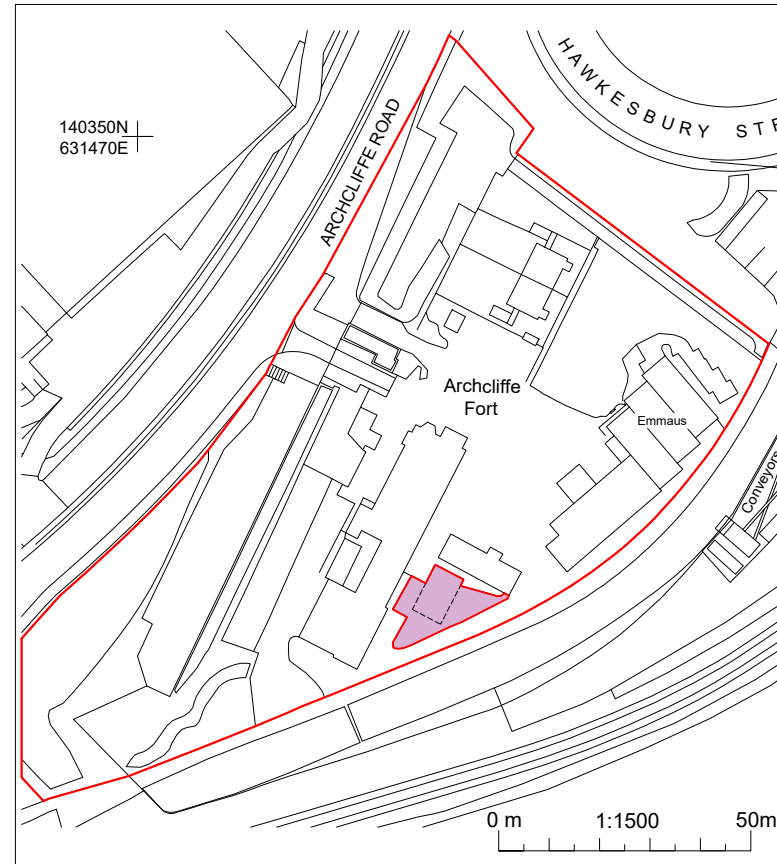
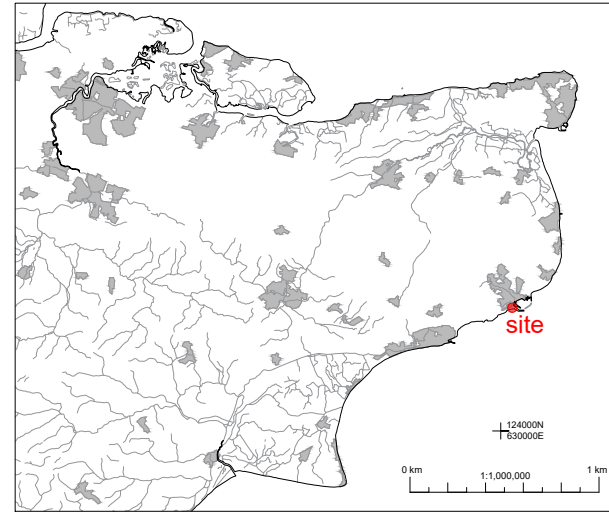
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Welby, D., 1991 *The History of Archcliffe Fort, Dover, Kent* (Dover).



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FIG. 1



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PROJECT NAME
Archcliffe Fort, Dover

PROJECT CODE
AFDL-WB-2021

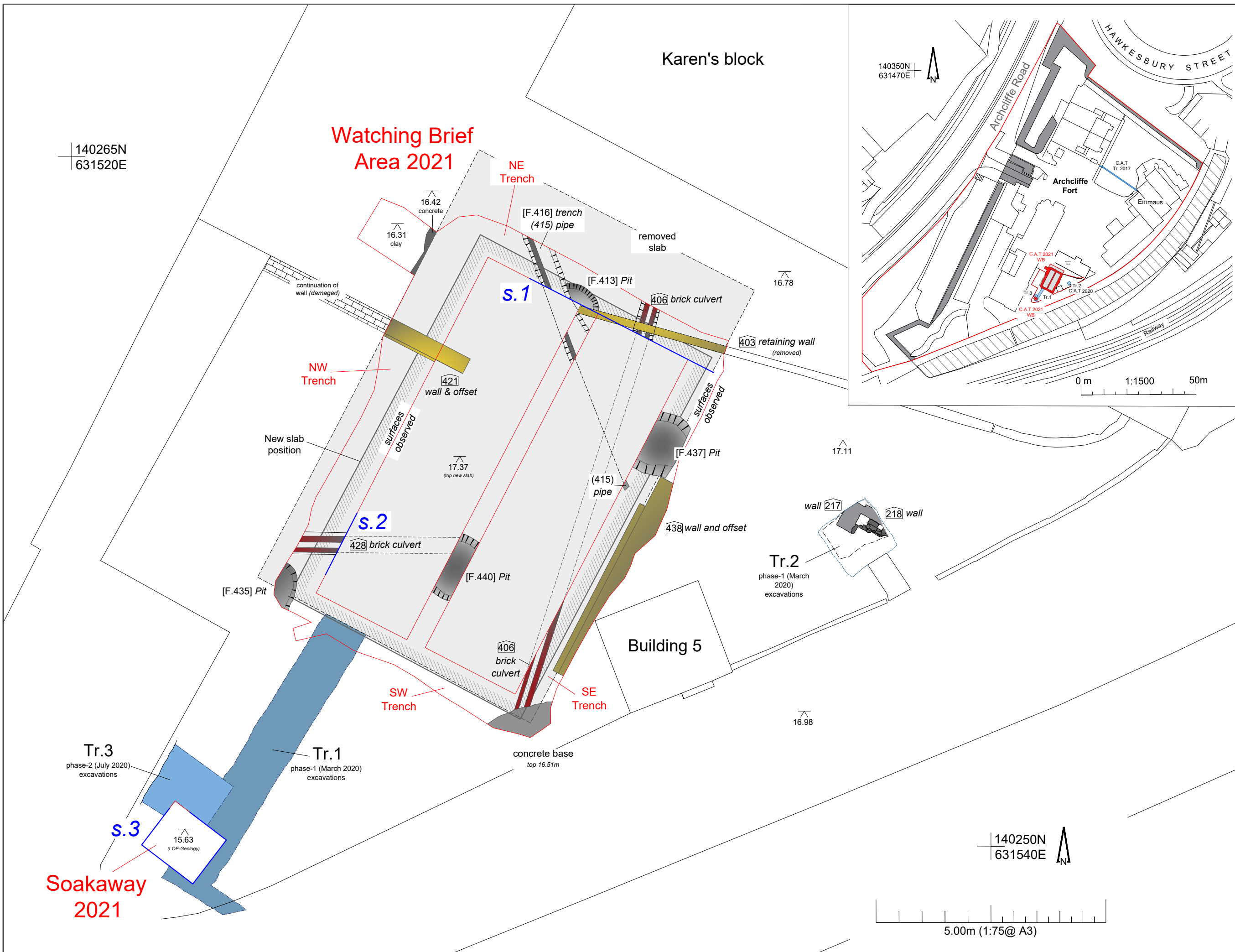
SITE ADDRESS
Archcliffe Fort
Archcliffe Road A20
Dover
Kent

DRAWN BY P-S.A	SCALE(S) see maps
DATE 22/01/2021	LAST REVISION 01/03/2021

REF/DRG NO.	CHECKED KP
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Fig. 1 General location maps of investigated site

Figure. 2



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SITE ADDRESS Archcliffe Fort Archcliffe Road A20 Dover	
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DATE 22/01/2021	LAST REVISION 10/03/21
REF/DRG NO.	CHECKED KP
AFDL_FIG-2_Finalv2_100321.dwg	

Fig. 2 General site plan showing recorded features

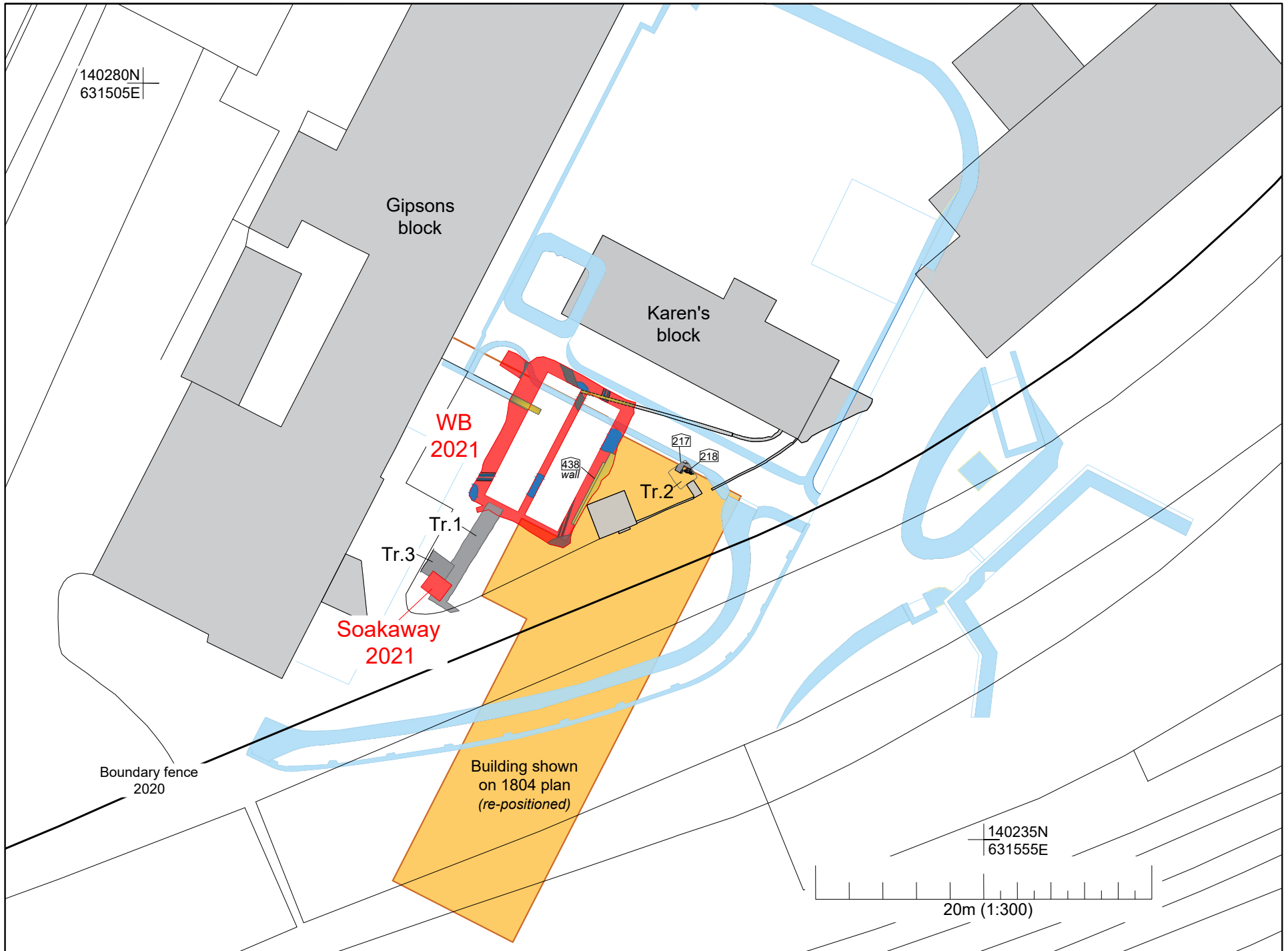





Fig. 3

 structures from 1884 plan
 structures from 1804 plan

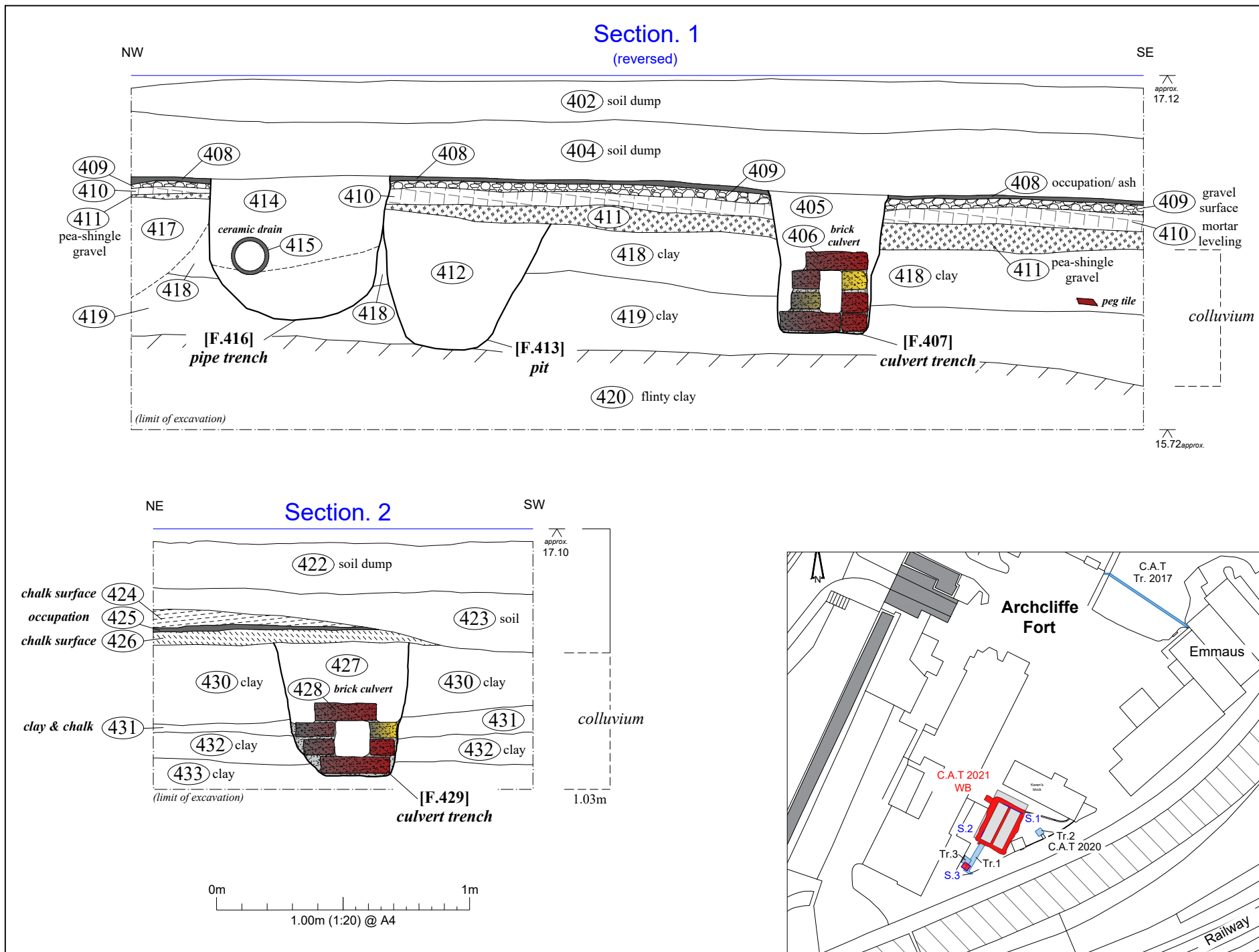


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Archcliffe Fort Archcliffe Road A20 Dover	
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Fig. 3 Plan of excavated trenches in relation to the 1804 and 1884 plans with location of excavated walls

Fig. 4



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PROJECT CODE AFDL-WB-2021	
SITE ADDRESS Archcliffe Fort Archcliffe Road A20 Dover	
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DATE 22/01/2021	LAST REVISION 01/03/2021
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Fig.4 Sections through recorded deposits with inset location plan

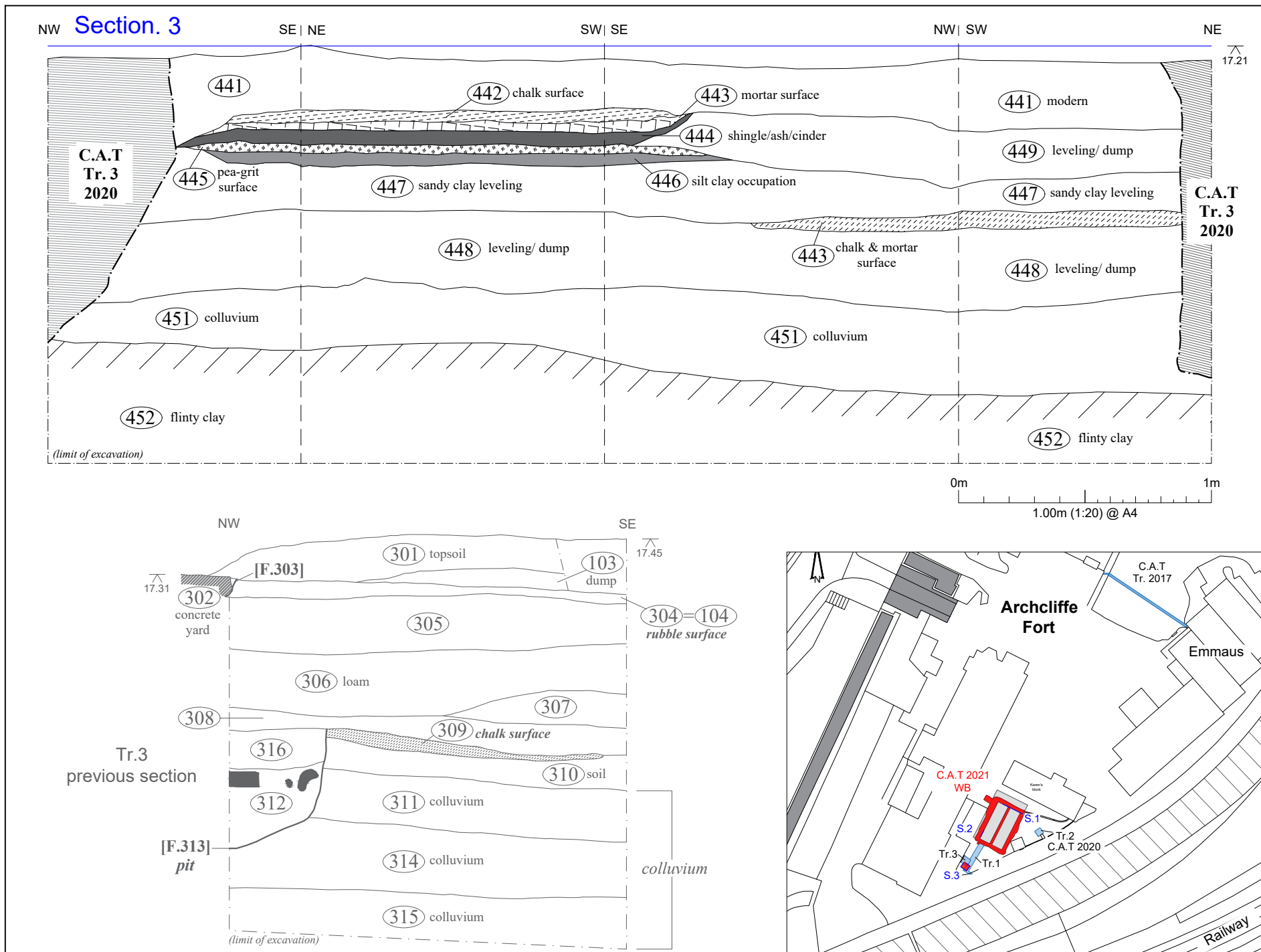


Fig. 5

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Fig.5 Sections through recorded deposits in soak-away pit 2021 with inset location plan and previous section from trench-3

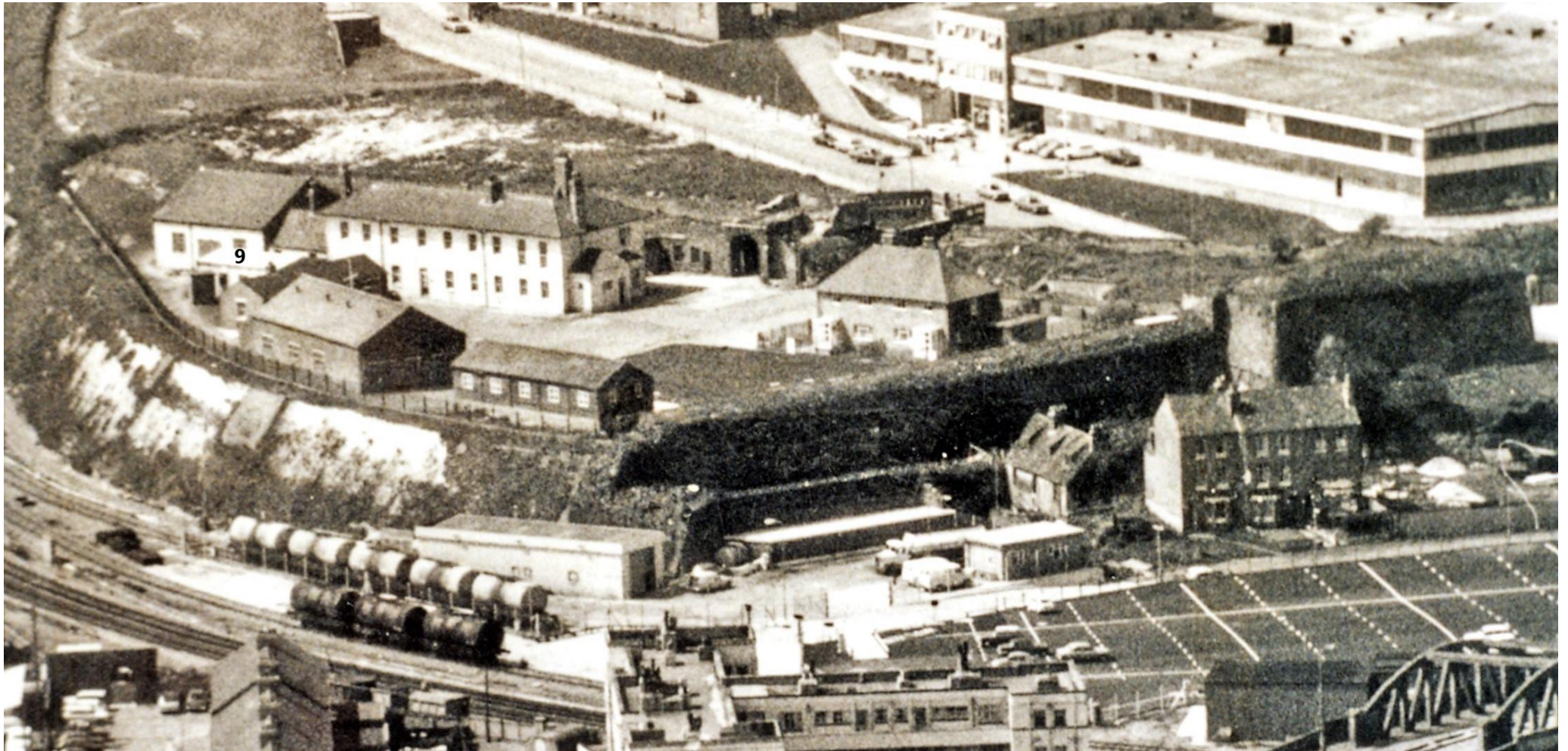


Fig. 6 Twentieth century aerial photograph (pre 1973) of Archcliffe Fort showing Building 9 standing with a flat roof (*courtesy of Dover Museum, ref. d 43190*)



Fig. 7 General view of Building 9 (platform) looking north-east in 2019



Fig. 8 Detail of steps leading up to Building 9 (platform) looking south-east in 2019. Scale, 1m



Fig. 9 Breaking out the concrete platform of Building 9, looking west (note brick retaining wall 403)



Fig. 10 General view of excavated foundation trenches, looking east with Buildings 4 and 5 in background



Fig. 11 Detail view of brick wall 438 exposed in face of SE Trench, looking south-east



Fig. 12 Collapsing fill (436) of pit F. 437 adjacent to wall 438 in SE Trench, looking south-east



Fig. 13 Brick culvert 406 and adjacent deposits exposed in NE Trench, looking south-west (see drawn Section 1)



Fig. 14 Brick culvert 406 and Wall 438 exposed in SE Trench, looking north-east



Fig. 15 Brick culvert 428 as first exposed in NW Trench, looking south



Fig. 16 Brick culvert 428 sectioned by NW Trench, looking south-east (see drawn Section 2)



Fig. 17 The excavated soakaway pit looking SE, showing early clays overlain by subsequent yard surfaces. Scale, 1m (see drawn Section 3)



Fig. 18 The completed foundation for the new workshop, looking south

Kent County Council HER summary form

Site Name: Archcliffe Fort, Dover		
Site Address: Archcliffe Fort, Archcliffe Road, Dover, Kent, CT17 9EL		
<p>Summary: A watching brief was conducted during the construction of a new workshop at the fort. The new building lay entirely within the footprint of a previous building that had stood in this area (Building 9). Recent research suggests that Building 9, itself, post-dated the Second World War. Trenching for the new building allowed the recording of a number of deposits and structures of archaeological interest, adding to information previously recorded in this area during evaluation work.</p> <p>The deposits and structures exposed in the excavations were broadly comparable to the sequences previously established during the evaluation, with lower, pre-fort clays giving way to remains connected with the occupation of the fort. This included pits, drains, walking/yard surfaces and traces of a substantial (?basement) wall that lay largely outside the excavation area to the south-east.</p>		
District/Unitary: Dover	Parish: Dover	
Period(s): Prehistoric struck flints and pottery. Nineteenth century wall foundation, drains and yard surfaces.		
NGR (centre of site: 8 figures): 631529 140259, centred (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs)		
Type of Archaeological work (delete):		
Evaluation	Watching Brief	Field Walking
Documentary study	Building recording	Earthwork survey
Excavation	Geophysical survey	Field survey
Geoarchaeological investigation		
Date of recording:	January 2021	
Unit undertaking recording: Canterbury Archaeological Trust		
Geology: Clay Head		
Title and Author of accompanying report: <i>Archcliffe Fort, Dover, 2021, New Workshop, Watching brief report</i> by Keith Parfitt		
Summary of fieldwork results: (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate) Pre-fort clays were followed by deposits and structures connected with the occupation of the fort. This included pits, drains, walking/yard surfaces and traces of a substantial (?basement) wall.		
Location of archive/finds: Canterbury Archaeological Trust (Dover office)		
Contact at Unit: Keith Parfitt	Date: 8th March, 2021	