

Deal Low Level Water Supply Site,
St Richard's Road, Deal, Kent

Archaeological Watching Brief Report





**DEAL LOW LEVEL WATER SUPPLY SITE,
ST RICHARDS ROAD, DEAL, KENT**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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QUALITY ASSURANCE

SITE CODE	78680	ACCESSION CODE		CLIENT CODE	
PLANNING APPLICATION REF.		NGR		636379 150896	

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*** I= Internal Draft E= External Draft F= Final**

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by 4Delivery Ltd to undertake an Archaeological Watching Brief at Deal Low Level Water Supply Site on St Richards Road, Deal, Kent (hereafter 'the Site'), centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 636379 150896.

The watching brief comprised archaeological monitoring of works associated with a programme of water monitoring improvements on the Site. The ground works undertaken were to involve the excavation of 2 test pits. However only one pit was dug as the second was to be within an existing manhole chamber.

The archaeological watching brief was conducted on the 20th July 2011.

The archaeological watching brief recorded no features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank 4Delivery Ltd, particularly Rory Swiderski for commissioning the report and Ben Found the Archaeological Advisor to Kent County Council for the specification for the fieldwork.

The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Mark Williams. The fieldwork was undertaken by Rob De'Athe. The report was compiled by Jo Condliffe and the illustrations were prepared by Liz James.

**DEAL LOW LEVEL WATER SUPPLY SITE,
ST RICHARDS ROAD, DEAL, KENT****Archaeological Watching Brief****1 INTRODUCTION****1.1 Project Background**

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by 4Delivery Ltd (hereafter 'the client') to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the land at the Deal Low Level Water Supply Site, St Richards Road, Deal, Kent (hereafter 'the Site'), centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 636379 150896.
- 1.1.2 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Deal Low Level Water Supply Site, St Richards Road, Deal, Kent*, (KCC 2011). This specified the strategy, techniques and methods to be employed by Wessex Archaeology during the fieldwork.
- 1.1.3 All works were carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2008).
- 1.1.4 The fieldwork was conducted on the 20th July 2011.

1.2 Site location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The Site is located in the Mill Hill area of Deal, to the north-east of St Richards Road, opposite the junction with Kennett Drive. The site is bounded by residential properties to the north-west and north-east, by St Richards Road to the south-west and by other buildings associated with the water works to the south-east.
- 1.2.2 According to the British Geological Survey map data (BGS 2011) the site lies on the Upper Chalk of the Margate Chalk Member at an elevation of some 34m aOD (KCC 2011).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 The local area around the Site is rich in prehistoric and Roman activity. A brief review of the archaeological records held at Kent County Council Historic Environment Record is presented below.
- 2.1.2 In 2008 Canterbury Archaeological Trust and the Dover Archaeological Group undertook an archaeological excavation on the land immediately adjacent to the north-east corner of the Site. This produced evidence of settlement ranging in date from Early Iron Age through to Roman (Kent HER Number **TR 35 SE 177**). Approximately 300 features were recorded including boundary ditches and gullies, along with a significant number of pits and postholes (**Plate 1**). Several four and six post structures were also

identified. A mixed assemblage of residual prehistoric flintwork was recovered indicating there had been earlier Neolithic to Early Bronze Age activity on the site. The remains of this excavation which had not been developed upon were noted during the watching brief by Wessex Archaeology.

- 2.1.3 A Late Bronze Age settlement was excavated just to the north of the site some 85m away on Mill Hill. The 1928 and 1934 excavations revealed a circular causewayed enclosure with a 170ft diameter. The V shaped ditch had a top width of 10ft and a depth of 6ft (Kent HER Number **TR 35 SE 11**).
- 2.1.4 Various Iron Age features have been located near the site including an Iron Age 'warrior' burial c. 120m to the south-west off St Richards Road in 1988 (Kent HER Number **TR 35 SE 51**). The male skeleton wore a crown and was accompanied by an iron sword and coral fittings, a bronze brooch and a shield. Graves and 'pre-Roman' pottery find spots are also located to the south of the Site (Kent HER Number **TR 35 SE 54**).
- 2.1.5 A second century Roman ditch with general domestic rubbish deposits was found during the construction of the water tower to the south-west of the site. Romano-British cremations accompanied by Samian ware and Upchurch Urns were discovered in 1912-15 some 125m to the south-west of the Site.
- 2.1.6 Romano-British pits, postholes, field systems and cremation burials were located during excavations by the Dover Archaeological Group some 145m to the south of the watching brief area in 1984. Nearby a Romano-British chalk cut shaft over 2m in depth with an oval side chamber (Kent HER Number **TR 35 SE 71**) was recorded. The side chamber contained a small niche in the north-west wall. The shaft was filled with layers of crushed chalk and loam which contained abundant Roman material dating to the late first and early second centuries AD. Within the chamber a small carved chalk figurine was recovered. The date of the construction of the shaft is unknown but has been suggested to be of Iron Age date constructed as a shrine to a local deity (KCC 2011).
- 2.1.7 A black pottery head was discovered by chance in the back-garden of a property some 185m to the north-west of the present site. The head has been identified as coming from a statuette of Hercules (KCC 2011).
- 2.1.8 An Anglo-Saxon cemetery was recorded on Mill Hill in 1908 in the section at the top of a chalk pit (Kent HER Number **TR 35 SE 67**). Many small finds were retrieved including beads, a circular jewelled brooch. One burial was noted of a woman's skeleton with the head to the north-east. Further Anglo-Saxon burials have been recorded to some 125m to the south of the site (KCC 2011).
- 2.1.9 Little medieval or post-medieval activity is known about within the Mill Hill area. A medieval rubbish pit was found at Betteshanger Sports Ground to the north-west with pottery dating to the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries (Kent HER Number **TR 35 SE 367**). Some 530m to the south-west lies the Old Walmer Court medieval manor house where features such as pits were recorded. A post-medieval lime kiln is recorded 105m south-west of the site (KCC 2011).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1.1 The aims of the watching brief, as specified in the Specification (KCC 2011), were:
- To provide information concerning the presence or absence, date, nature and extent of any buried archaeological remains;
 - To investigate and record all archaeological features revealed within the area of the ground works; and
 - To inform and provide information for any future mitigation that may be required.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1.1 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the Specification (KCC 2011) and carried out in compliance with the standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2008).

4.2 Fieldwork

4.2.1 The watching brief monitored the groundworks for the installation of new water monitoring infrastructure at the Deal Low Level Water Supply Site on St Richards Road (**Figure 1**).

4.2.2 A single test pit, measuring 2m x 1m x 2m, was excavated just to the north-east of the existing buildings. A second proposed test pit was to be located within an existing manhole chamber.

4.2.3 All excavation was carried out using a mechanical excavator with a flat bladed bucket.

4.3 Recording

4.3.1 All recording was undertaken using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system. A unique site code (**78680**) was issued for the investigation.

4.3.2 Photographs were taken as appropriate to provide a record of the excavated areas and the Site as a whole. The photographic record contains digital images.

4.4 Health and Safety

4.4.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, the Management of Health and Safety regulations 1992 and Health and Safety in Field Archaeology 1997, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.

- 4.4.2 A Health and Safety Risk Assessment was produced by Wessex Archaeology (2011), which was read and understood by all staff attending the Site before ground works commenced.

5 FIELDWORK RESULTS

- 5.1.1 The fieldwork monitoring consisted of the excavation of a single test pit measuring 2m x 1m x 2m. The deposits uncovered consisted of topsoil 0.2m deep over laying a significant depth of colluvial hill wash (0.70m) with natural chalk below (**Plate 2**).
- 5.1.2 No archaeological features or deposits were observed during the excavation.

6 ARTEFACTS

- 6.1.1 No artefacts were retrieved during the course of the fieldwork.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL

- 7.1.1 No contexts suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the course of the fieldwork.

8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1.1 It is clear that significant archaeological remains have been located in the immediate area surrounding the site and within the wider area in general. Directly adjacent to the site the remains of a previous small excavation could be seen with at least one ditch aligned towards the watching brief area.
- 8.1.2 However, no archaeological remains were identified within the small test pit excavated adjacent to existing water monitoring chambers and infrastructure. This is likely due to chance rather than the absence of remains in this area. The second proposed test pit was not required as it was located on an existing brick chamber.

9 ARCHIVE

9.1 Preparation and Deposition

- 9.1.1 The complete project archive will be prepared in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's Guidelines for Archive Preparation and in accordance with *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage* (Walker 1990) and following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995). On completion of the project, the archive will be deposited with a suitable local Museum in Kent.

9.2 The Archive

9.2.1 Following the fieldwork the archive was subsequently transported to the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Rochester where they were processed and assessed for this report. The accompanying documentary records from the excavation have been compiled into a stable fully cross-referenced and indexed archive in accordance with Appendix 6 of Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage 1991).

9.2.2 The contents of the project archive, consists of the following (as further detailed in Appendix 2):

- 1 x A4 file containing the paper records
- Digital data (site photographs, word and pdf files)

9.2.3 The project archive including plans, photographs and written records are currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology at Bridgewood House, 8 Laker Road, Rochester Airport Industrial Estate, Rochester, Kent, ME1 3QX under the site code **78680**. The project archive will be deposited with a suitable local Museum in Kent.

9.3 Discard Policy

9.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in Selection, Retention and Dispersal (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993) which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories, which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. There were no finds recovered during the fieldwork.

9.4 Copyright

9.4.1 The full copyright of the written and illustrative archive relating to the site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved. The recipient museum, however, will be granted an exclusive license for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profit making, and conforms to the Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003.

9.5 Security Copy

9.5.1 In line with current best practice, on completion of the project a security copy of the paper records will be prepared, in the form of microfilm. The master jackets and one diazo copy of the microfilm will be submitted to the National Monuments Record Centre (NMR) (English Heritage) in Swindon; a second diazo copy will be deposited with the paper records at the local Museum, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology.

10 REFERENCES

British Geological Survey 2011. *Geological map data*. [Online] Available at: http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html

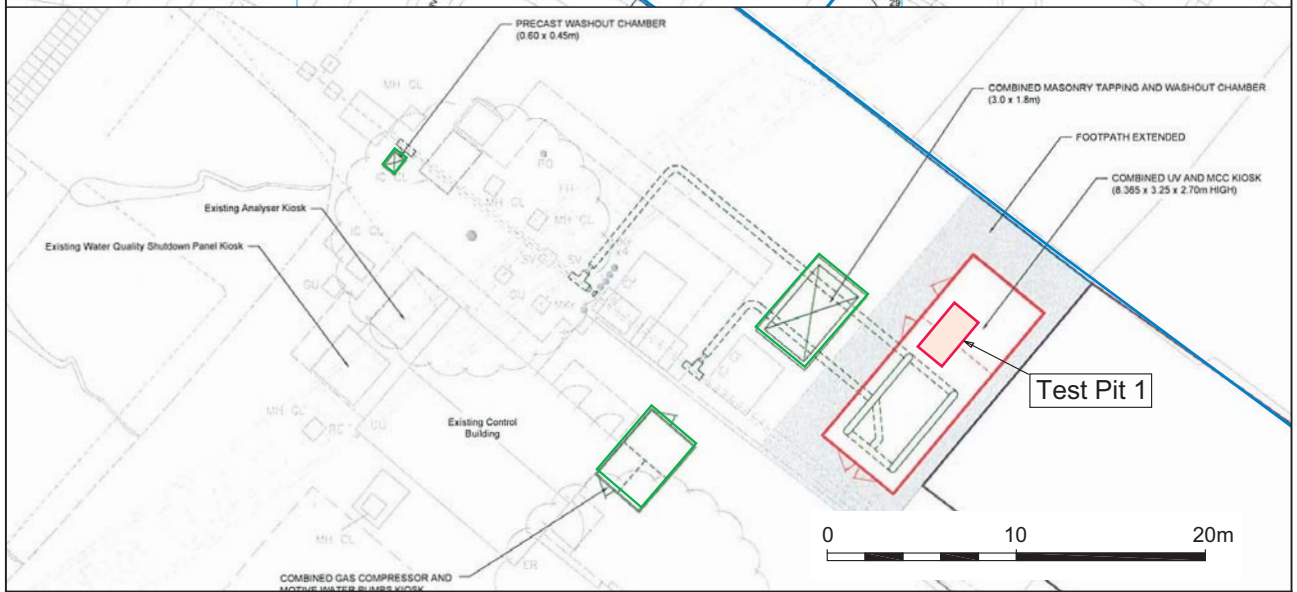
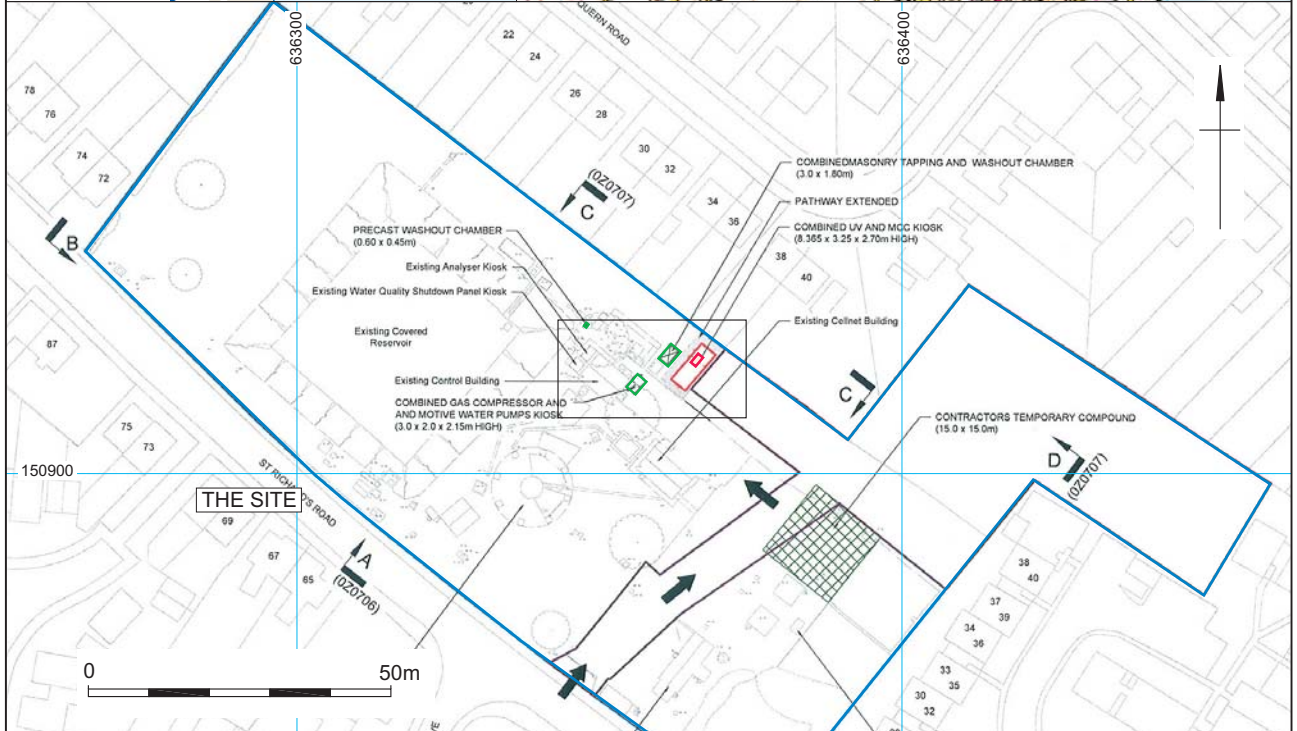
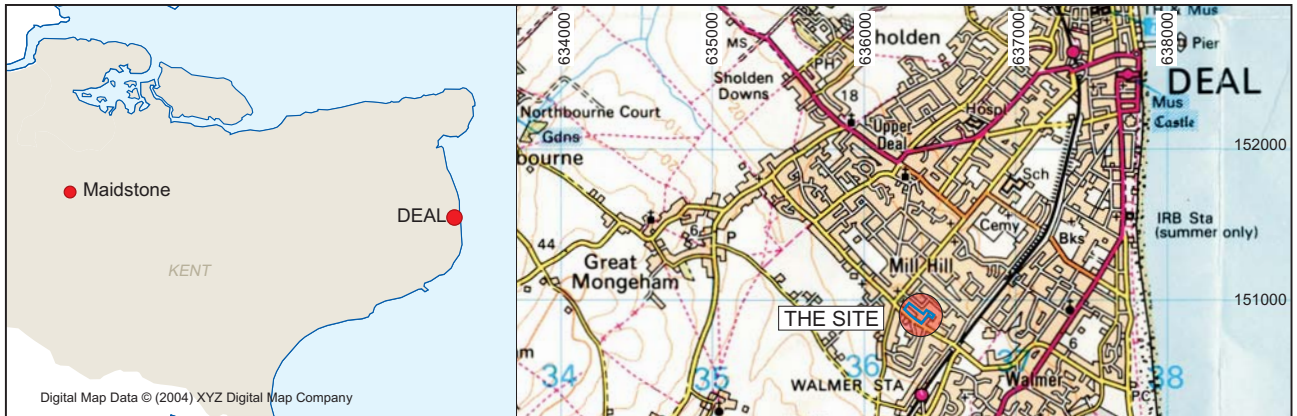
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10.1 Cartographic Sources

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT SUMMARY TABLE**Test Pit 1: 2m x 1m x 2m**

Context	Description	
101	Layer	Topsoil: Mid brown grey clay silt with occasional chalk fleck inclusions. Depth: 0.0m – 0.2m
102	Layer	Subsoil: Colluvial hill wash. Mid Yellowy brown, clay silt with frequent chalk flecks and flint nodule inclusions. Depth: 0.2m – 0.9m
103	Layer	Natural: White chalk. Depth: 0.9m (+)



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Site location and proposed groundworks Figure 1



Plate 1: Remains of previous excavation on adjacent site



Plate 2: South-east facing section of test pit

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