



Quarry Road Tunbridge Wells, Kent

Archaeological Watching Brief



Planning Ref: 20/00572/FULL
Ref: 236390.03
August 2020



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Plate 6 Metal supports within concrete post



Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by RPS Group to undertake an archaeological watching brief on groundworks associated with the redevelopment of the former Charbonnel Et Walker Chocolate Factory, Quarry Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2YB, centred on NGR 558930 140348.

The redevelopment comprised the demolition of the existing factory building and construction of a residential building containing 35 apartments and associated infrastructure and land management works. The watching brief was undertaken as part of an archaeological condition as part of the planning application.

The watching brief was undertaken over two days in June and July 2020, and identified significant disturbance across the entire site, with made ground deposits directly overlying natural geology. The only feature of archaeological interest identified on site was a steel and concrete block along the northern boundary of the site, which appears to correspond with a crane marked on the 1909 Ordnance Survey Map.

Several small fragments of structural remains were identified, believed to belong to the former chocolate factory.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank RPS Group, for commissioning the archaeological watching brief, in particular Duncan Hawkins. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of the Kent County Council County Archaeologist, who monitored the project for Tunbridge Wells Borough Council.



Quarry Road Tunbridge Wells, Kent

Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by RPS Group, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the redevelopment at Quarry Road. The monitored works covered 0.18 ha, centred on NGR 558930 140348, at Quarry Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2YB (**Fig. 1**).
- 1.1.2 The watching brief was carried out as a condition of planning permission, granted by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (20/00572/FULL), as part of a programme of archaeological works, which had included a previous Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (RPS 2019).

Prior to the commencement of the development, the applicant, or their agent, or successors in title will secure and implement: (i) Archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a specification and written timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority; and, (ii) Further archaeological investigation, recording and reporting, determined by the results of the evaluation, in accordance with a specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: This information is required prior to the commencement of development in order to ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.

- 1.1.3 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed (Wessex Archaeology 2020). The Kent County Council (KCC) County Archaeologist approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing. The watching brief was undertaken on the 22nd June and 22nd July 2020.

1.2 Scope of the report

- 1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the results of the watching brief, to interpret the results within their local or regional context (or otherwise), and to assess their potential to address the aims outlined in the WSI, thereby making available information about the archaeological resource (a preservation by record).

1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The site is located to the west of Quarry Road in Tunbridge Wells, 1.2km northeast of Tunbridge Wells West Station and 2km southeast of Southborough. Prior to the watching brief an existing building situated in the centre of the site, a smaller rectangular building to the north west, and a small shed on the eastern boundary of the site were demolished, leaving the site clear and unoccupied. The site is bounded to the east by Quarry Road, to the south by Medway Road, to the west by a car park and residential development and to the north by a small grassy area.



- 1.3.2 The site is shown as a quarry in 1841. Quarrying, depending on its extent, will have had a significant impact on any surviving archaeology. Subsequent construction and demolition since the nineteenth century will also have heavily truncated any archaeological deposits.
- 1.3.3 The solid geology of the site is recorded by the British Geological Survey (BGS Online 2019) as Lower Tunbridge Wells Sand (Sandstone, Siltstone and Mudstone). No superficial deposits are recorded onsite and no site-specific geotechnical data is available for the site.
- 1.3.4 The site was roughly level at c. 95m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site was assessed in a previous Desk Based Assessment undertaken by RPS Group (RPS 2019). The follow section comprises a review of all material within a 1km radius that was taken from the DBA

2.2 Previous investigations related to the development

- 2.2.1 No invasive archaeological investigations have taken place within the Study Area.

2.3 Archaeological and historical context

- 2.3.1 There are no superficial deposits on the site that might contain Palaeolithic material.
- 2.3.2 Kent Historic Environment Record suggests that a prehistoric trackway known as Cross In Hand may have run along the route of Saint John's Road, situated 600m west of the site on a north to south alignment (TQ 55 SE 100, Centred 57800 40600).
- 2.3.3 No other finds or features dating to the Prehistoric periods have been accurately identified within the Study Area. Furthermore, the map regression indicates that the site was quarried in the nineteenth century, which will have destroyed any archaeology which may be present on the site. Therefore, a negligible archaeological potential for evidence dating to these periods has been identified.
- 2.3.4 No finds or features dating to any of these periods has been identified within the Study Area. Furthermore, the map regression indicates that the site was quarried in the nineteenth century, which will have destroyed any archaeology which may be present on the site. Therefore, a negligible archaeological potential for evidence dating to the Roman, Anglo Saxon and medieval periods.
- 2.3.5 The history of Tunbridge Wells begins in 1606, when according to tradition Dudley, Lord North identified natural springs whilst travelling to London. In 1608 seven springs were found and enclosed. Settlement began to build up in the 1660s, but it remained a hamlet until the nineteenth century. In 1800 there were around 1,000 inhabitants, rising to about 6,000 in 1831. Once the railway arrived in 1845, settlement within the area increased rapidly, and the present population is around 60,000.
- 2.3.6 The HER records multiple finds and features which date to the Post medieval and Modern periods. Only those relevant to the site will be discussed in this report.
- 2.3.7 Grosvenor & Hilbert Recreation Ground, situated 60m north of the site, was laid out in 1889 as Grosvenor Recreation Ground. It was extended to the north and east with the addition of Hilbert Recreation Ground in 1931 and 1937. It is not a Registered Park and Garden (TQ



54 SE 177, Centred TQ 5930 4073). Woodbury Park Cemetery, consecrated in 1849, is a Registered Park and Garden and is situated 365m south west of the site. It is not visible from the site (RPG 1001665, TQ 54 SE 25, Centred TQ 58481 40143). Calverley Park and Calverley Grounds is also a Registered Park or Garden and is situated 840m south of the site. Work began on a landscape of villas in parkland in 1828 and was finished by 1839. Part of the park was developed as a public park in the 1920s. It is not visible from the site (RPG 1000266, TQ 53 NE 49, Centred TQ 5882 3928).

- 2.3.8 In the Post medieval period, cartographic sources are useful in illustrating the development of the site.
- 2.3.9 The 1769 Andrews and Dury Map of Kent shows the site situated within a wood. By 1797, some of the woodland appears to have been cleared for farmland, and the site now appears to be situated on the edge of the woodland.
- 2.3.10 The 1841 Tithe Map shows the site situated within Plot 3127. The apportionment describes this plot as a quarry, which was owned by John Ward. Plot 3120 to the north of the site is labelled as Quarry Field. It is not possible to be certain that the entire plot was quarried, but there is a high probability that the site will have been impacted by quarrying activity.
- 2.3.11 The quarry is not shown on the 1869 Ordnance Survey Map, suggesting that it might have been backfilled by this time or simply out of use. The map shows the Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells Railway for the first time, which was built in 1845 to 1846 by the South Eastern Railway and runs c. 60m west of the site on a north east to south west alignment (TQ 54 SE 176, Centred TQ 59112 42578).
- 2.3.12 By 1897, Corporation Yard has been built. Buildings associated with this development are present in the south western part of the site. The remainder of the site appears to be a courtyard at this time. A power station was built immediately south west of the site in 1895 and is visible on this map (TQ 54 SE 18, TQ 5885 4030). Some hachures of the former quarry are shown to the south west of the site.
- 2.3.13 By 1909 the building in the south western part of the site has been extended westward, and now occupies the entire southern half of the site. A crane is shown in the north west of the Study Site. The 1936 Ordnance Survey Map and 1940 aerial photograph show this extension in more detail. In the aerial photograph, more buildings or temporary structures are visible on the western and eastern boundaries of the site. These are also visible more clearly on the 1959 Ordnance Survey Map and 1960 aerial photograph which also show some rebuilding or alterations of the buildings in the southern part of the site. By 1975, the buildings on the western side and some of the buildings to the south east have been demolished.
- 2.3.14 By 1993 the site has been completely redeveloped with the demolition of all previous buildings and the construction of a single rectangular 'works' building in the centre of the site. The 2003 aerial photograph shows the site in more detail. As well as the building in the centre of the site, a structure can be seen in the north west corner of the site. A couple of smaller structures are also visible to the east, south and north of the main building. The southern part of the site is used as a car park, and landscaping is visible in the north eastern corner of the site, which appears to be covered by trees. More small structures are visible across the site on the 2007 aerial photograph. The 2018 aerial photograph shows the site at present. Many of the smaller buildings visible on earlier aerial photographs have been demolished. However, the main building in the centre of the site, the smaller rectangular building to the north west, and the small shed on the eastern boundary of the site have



remained. A car park is situated to the south of the main building, and landscaped grass verges planted with trees are visible in the south west, south east and north east parts of the site. Immediately to the west of the site, a new block of residential apartments has been constructed.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

3.1.1 The aims of the watching brief, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020) and as defined in the ClfA *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a), were to:

- allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of the development or other works;
- provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard; and
- guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

3.2 Objectives

3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the objectives of the watching brief, also defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020), were to:

- determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified works area;
- record and establish, within the constraints of the works, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains (a preservation by record);
- place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- make available information about the archaeological resource on the site by preparing a report on the results of the watching brief.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methodology set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.



4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

- 4.2.1 The watching brief was undertaken intermittently with excavated areas recorded by the monitoring archaeologist. Where necessary, the surfaces of uncovered deposits were cleaned by hand to aid visual definition. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was to be hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the watching brief.
- 4.2.2 Spoil from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, although those from features of modern date (19th century or later) were recorded on site and not retained.

Recording

- 4.2.3 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were to be recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete record of excavated features and deposits was made, including plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid.
- 4.2.4 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4.3 Finds and environmental strategies

- 4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b) and *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011).

4.4 Monitoring

- 4.4.1 The KCC County Archaeologist monitored the watching brief on behalf of the LPA. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with the client and the KCC County Archaeologist.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The watching brief identified significant truncation across the site.

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

- 5.2.1 The stratigraphic sequence present across the site comprised varying thicknesses of made ground deposits from multiple phases of construction directly overlying natural geological deposits of mid brownish yellow silty sand. No sign of any topsoil or subsoil deposits was recorded within the site.



5.3 Archaeological Results

- 5.3.1 The watching brief recorded no pre-modern archaeological evidence; however three modern features were revealed. In the north-western corner of the site a concrete post with reinforcement embedded within it was encountered during piling work for the new retaining posts. The post was over 2m deep, although its full scale was not visible as initial piles had been put through it either side of the metal reinforcement.
- 5.3.2 A small section of concrete foundation, with a single partially surviving layer of brick wall was recorded in the north-eastern part of the site. The concrete appeared to be modern in date, while the wall itself is laid to stretcher and comprised of two bricks laid with a slight recess between them.
- 5.3.3 Finally a small section of wall was present on the eastern boundary of the site. The wall bounded the edge of the site, with the top approximately level with Quarry Road. The wall appeared to be 20th century in date and appeared to have had an east/west aligned section at some point previously heading into the main site.

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

- 6.1.1 No archaeological finds or material was recovered during the watching brief

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

- 7.1.1 No archaeological features or deposits were recorded during the watching brief

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Summary

- 8.1.1 The watching brief has been successful in fulfilling the aims and objectives as set out in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020). The watching brief identified significant truncation across site. This is likely primarily associated with the post-medieval quarrying at the site, and the significant layers of made ground recorded are associated with subsequent development on the site since the quarry went out of use. The watching brief also recorded a concrete and metal reinforced post along the north-western boundary of the site, a small wall foundation in the north-eastern section of the site and several other remains of modern development, such as a retaining wall along the eastern boundary of the site.

8.2 Discussion

- 8.2.1 It is likely the significant truncation across the site, most likely the result of previous post-medieval quarrying, has removed any earlier archaeological remains that may have been present within the site.
- 8.2.2 The concrete and metal reinforced post on the north-western boundary of the site was recorded in the approximate location of the crane shown on the 1909 Ordnance Survey map and is believed to be one of the concrete pads and a support plate for the crane.
- 8.2.3 The small section of foundation is likely to represent part of the former chocolate factory or a small building first recorded on the 1959 Ordnance Survey map or possibly as early as the 1940 aerial photograph, but this photograph is not sharp enough in focus to be sure. It is likely that the foundation relates to the earlier small building, as despite its modern date, it is likely too small to have supported the former factory.



- 8.2.4 The wall along the eastern edge of the site is likely to form part of the former shed/hut on site prior to recent demolition works, but may also have been part of a retaining wall along Quarry Road.

9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

- 9.1.1 The archive resulting from the watching brief is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Maidstone. In the absence of any museum in the area actively collecting archaeological archives, no final repository for the project archive has yet been identified. The archive will continue to be stored at the offices of Wessex Archaeology until such time as the situation is resolved. However, ongoing storage charges may be levied after a set time after project completion. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

9.2 Preparation of the archive

- 9.2.1 The archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 9.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the **236390**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- 1 files/document cases of paper records and A3/A4 graphics;

9.3 Selection policy

- 9.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows national guidelines on selection and retention (SMA 1993; Brown 2011, section 4). In accordance with these, and any specific guidance prepared by the museum, a process of selection and retention will be followed so that only those artefacts or ecofacts that are considered to have potential for future study will be retained. The selection policy will be agreed with the museum, and is fully documented in the project archive.

9.4 Security copy

- 9.4.1 In line with current best practice (eg, Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

9.5 OASIS

- 9.5.1 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (<http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main>) has been initiated, with key fields completed (Appendix 2). A.pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the KCC County Archaeologist on behalf of the LPA. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue.



10 COPYRIGHT

10.1 Archive and report copyright

- 10.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*. In some instances, certain regional museums may require absolute transfer of copyright, rather than a licence; this should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.
- 10.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

10.2 Third party data copyright

- 10.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (eg, Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.



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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Kent Historic Environment Record Summary Form

Site Name: Quarry Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent	
Site Address: The Former Charbonnel Et Walker Chocolate Factory, Quarry Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2YB	
Summary of discoveries: Modern wall foundation, wall and crane pad	
District/Unitary: Tunbridge Wells	Parish: Royal Tunbridge Wells
Period(s): Modern	
NGR (centre of site to nearest 1m): NGR 558930 140348 (TQ 58930 40348) (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs)	
Type of archaeological work (delete) Watching Brief	
Date of fieldwork (dd/mm/yy) From: 22 nd June 2020 To: 22 nd July 2020	
Unit/contractor undertaking recording: Wessex Archaeology	
Geology: Lower Tunbridge Wells Sand (Sandstone, Siltstone and Mudstone), with no superficial deposits (BGS online viewer)	
Title and author of accompanying report: Title: Quarry Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent: Archaeological Watching Brief Authors: Andrew Souter	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate) <p>The redevelopment comprised the demolition of the existing factory building and and construction of a residential building containing 35 apartments and associated infrastructure and land management works. The watching brief was undertaken as part of an archaeological condition as part of the planning application.</p> <p>The watching brief was undertaken over two days in June and July 2020, and identified significant disturbance across the entire site, with made ground deposits directly overlying natural geology. The only feature of archaeological interest identified on site was a steel and concrete obstruction along the northern boundary of the site, which appears to correspond with a crane marked on the 1909 Ordnance Survey Map.</p> <p>Several small sections of structural remains were identified, believed to belong to the former chocolate factory.</p>	
Location of archive/finds: Wessex Archaeology Maidstone Office	
Contact at Unit: Rob De'Athe	Date: 12.08.2020



Appendix 2 OASIS record

OASIS ID: wessexar1-401136

Project details

Project name	Quarry Road, Tunbridge Wells
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology on ground reduction works associated with the redevelopment of the site for residential use. The watching brief identified significant truncation across the site, with only modern/late post-medieval remains recorded, comprising the pad for a late 19th/early 20th crane, a 20th century foundation and a 20th century wall.
Project dates	Start: 22-06-2020 End: 22-07-2020
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	236390 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	20/00572/FULL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	WALL Modern
Monument type	STRUCTURE Modern
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT TUNBRIDGE WELLS ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS Quarry Road, Tunbridge Wells
Postcode	TN1 2YB
Study area	0.18 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 58930 40348 51.139754282669 0.272119064205 51 08 23 N 000 16 19 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	RPS
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology



Project director/manager	Rob De'Athe
Project supervisor	Andrew Souter
Type of sponsor/funding body	Consultancy
Name of sponsor/funding body	RPS Group

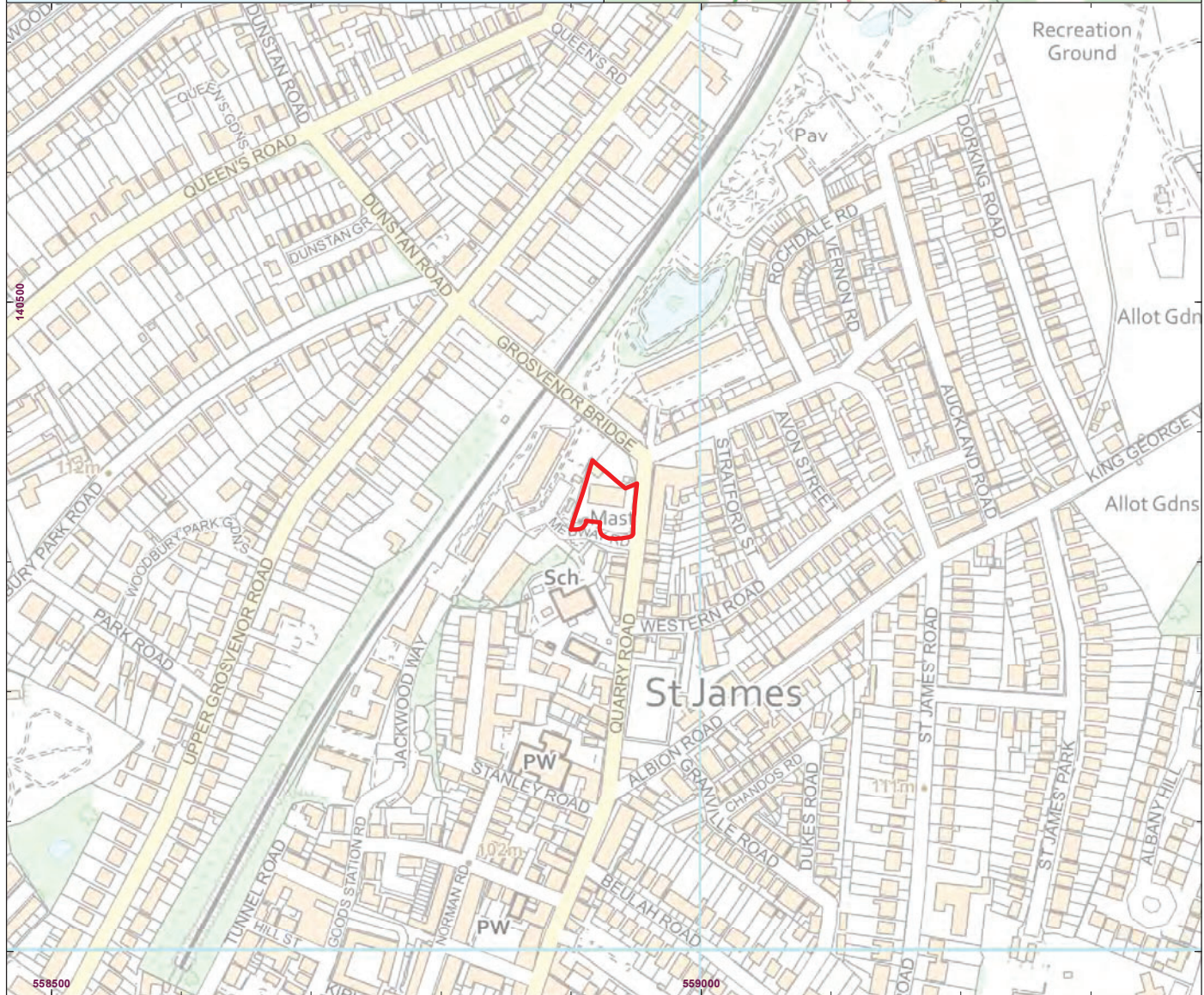
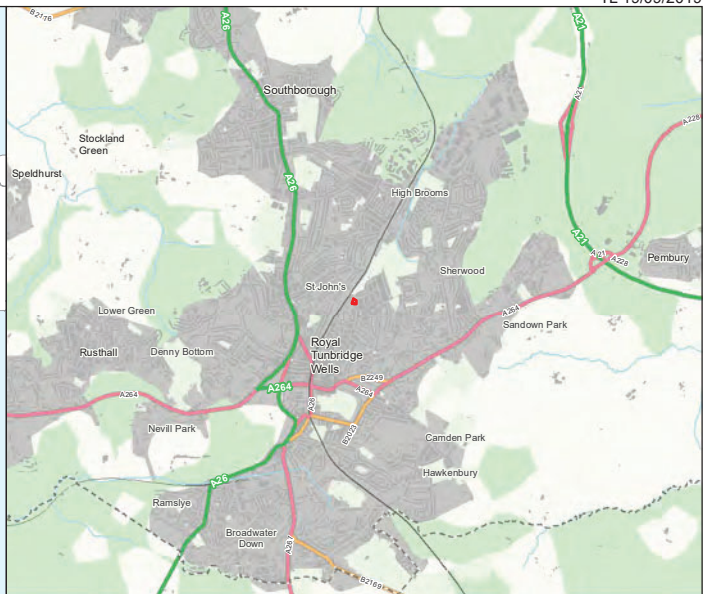
Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive ID	236390
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive ID	236390
Paper Media available	"Diary","Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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Author(s)/Editor(s)	Souter, A
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Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Maidstone
Description	A4, Comb bound, clear plastic covers, in colour

Entered by	Andrew Souter (a.souter@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on	12 August 2020



 Site Boundary



0 50 100 150m

Scale at A4: 1:5,000



Figure 1

Site Location



Plate 1: Excavated area, viewed from the southwest



Plate 2: Foundation section found in the north-eastern part of the site


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Plate 3: Wall at the eastern edge of the site, viewed from the south



Plate 4: Concrete post in the northwest corner of the site, pre-ex, viewed from the southwest



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Plate 5: Concrete post in the northwest corner of the site, post-ex, viewed from the southwest



Plate 6: Metal supports within concrete post

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