

Spine Road & Legacy Park Howe Barracks, Littlebourne Road Canterbury, Kent

Archaeological Watching Brief

Planning Ref: CA/14/01230/FUL Ref: 240820.2 December 2020



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616400 157900 (TR 16400 57900)

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by RPS Consulting Services to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land at the former Howe Barracks at Spine Road & Legacy Park, Howe Barracks, Littlebourne Road, Canterbury, Kent, centred on NGR 616400 157900.

The proposed development comprises the demolition of all but three of the existing buildings within the site and the construction of 500 dwellings and the change of use of the remaining barracks buildings for community use, along with associated landscaping and infrastructure works.

The watching brief comprised the monitoring of a single pipeline trench within the North Western part of the development and recorded two archaeological features: a small waste pit and a single north/south aligned linear ditch.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken between the 13th and 15th October 2020 as part of a planning condition and followed a previous archaeological evaluation of the site in late 2016.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank RPS Consulting Services, for commissioning the archaeological watching brief, in particular Duncan Hawkins. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of the Archaeological Advisor for Canterbury City Council, who monitored the project for Canterbury City Council, and to Taylor Wimpey for their cooperation and help on site.



Spine Road & Legacy Park Howe Barracks, Littlebourne Road Canterbury, Kent

Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by RPS Consulting Services, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the excavation of a service trench within the wider development. The monitored works were undertaken in the former Howe Barracks at Spine Road & Legacy Park, Howe Barracks, Littlebourne Road, Canterbury, Kent, centred on NGR 616400 157900 (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 The proposed overall development comprised the demolition of all but three of the existing buildings within the site and the construction of 500 dwellings and the change of use of the remaining barracks buildings for community use, along with associated landscaping and infrastructure works.
- 1.1.3 The watching brief was carried out on the service trench as a condition of planning permission, granted by Canterbury City Council (CA/14/01230/FUL), as part of a programme of archaeological works, which had included a previous archaeological evaluation (CgMs 2017).
- 1.1.4 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed (CgMs 2018). Archaeological Advisor for Canterbury City Council (CCC) approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing. The watching brief was undertaken between 13th and 15th October 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 overall development was located to the east of Canterbury, 1.5km east of the city centre and adjacent to St Martin's Hospital to the south. The site is bounded to the south by Littlebourne Road, to the north and east by a rifle range and to the west by the city of Canterbury.
- 1.3.2 The underlying geology is mapped as sand, silt and clay of the Thanet Formation, with superficial deposits of Third River Terrace Gravels. In the east and extreme northwest of the development superficial deposits have been eroded away (British Geological Survey online viewer).



2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological background to the site was assed in WSI (CgMs 2018), based on a study of the Kent Historic Environment Record (HER) and other available resources within 500m of the development site. This assessment is briefly summarised below.

2.2 Previous investigations within the development

Howe Barracks Evaluation 2017

2.2.1 A 63 trench evaluation was conducted within the south east area of the former Howe Barracks in late 2016 (CgMs 2017). The evaluation identified archaeological features in 19 of the excavated trenches, comprising a series of pits and ditches dating to the Bronze Age/Beaker period and evidence for the sites use for agricultural purposes since Romano-British period, although not necessarily consistently.

2.3 Archaeological and historical context

- 2.3.1 A Palaeolithic handaxe was recovered at the base of a windmill approximately 680m west of the development site. The Third Terrace River Gravels present on the site have produced similar Palaeolithic material in the past, such as in Fordwich approximately 2.2km from the development area. A later prehistoric linear feature, possibly a hollow way or boundary ditch was recorded in an evaluation at St Martin's Hospital.
- 2.3.2 Littlebourne Road runs along the projected alignment of the Roman road from Canterbury to Richborough, which was recorded directly west of the development site. A substantial Romano-British cremation cemetery was recorded in 1926 approximately 500m southwest of the development area, although the extent of the cemetery is unknown.
- 2.3.3 No Anglo-Saxon archaeological remains are present within the study area, however Anglo-Saxon activity is widely recorded in the surrounding area. The scheduled monument of Conduit House (LE. 1014577) to the west of the development area dates to the mid-12th century. A former deer park, known as 'Old Park' was located beneath the location of St Martin's Hospital directly south-east of the development site. A buried soil layer was recorded 300m west of the development site containing pottery dating to the 12th-14th century, comprising the only recorded evidence of buried medieval archaeological material within the study area.
- 2.3.4 Post-medieval and modern use of the study area comprises a landscape of farmsteads, with a number of farmsteads recorded within the study area along with a number of mills and evidence of agricultural land management and use from archaeological evaluations prior to the construction of the Mount Zeehan building at St Martin's Hospital.
- 2.3.5 The site itself comprises part of the military heritage of the area, and lies within the wider WWII defensive landscape of East Kent, including numerous air-raid shelters, pillboxes, defensive trenches, etc.
- 2.3.6 Further details can be found on the Kent HER and in the archaeological and historical background potential section of the WSI (CgMs 2018).



3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

- 3.1.1 The aims of the watching brief, as stated in the WSI (CgMs 2018) 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 (CgMs 2018), 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 (CgMs 2018) 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 monitored groundworks comprised the excavation of a pipeline within the north western area of the development.
- 4.2.2 The attending archaeologist monitored all mechanical excavations related to the pipeline. Where necessary, the surfaces of uncovered archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand to aid visual definition. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the watching brief.



4.2.3 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

- 4.2.4 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were 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.
- 4.2.5 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 (CgMs 2018). 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 Archaeological Advisor for CCC 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 Archaeological Advisor for CCC.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The groundworks undertaken during the archaeological watching brief comprised the excavation of an approximately 150m long pipeline trench, with archaeological features recorded in the central section of the pipeline. The uncovered features comprised a small waste pit and a linear ditch.
- 5.1.2 The following section presents the results of the watching brief. Detailed descriptions of individual contexts are provided in the trench summary tables (**Appendix 1**).

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

- 5.2.1 Three distinct stratigraphical sequences were recorded within the pipeline. In the north-western end of the trench 0.15m of mid-red brown silt clay with black patches, likely disturbed subsoil, overlaid 0.25m of undisturbed mid-red brown silty clay with abundant subangular flint. In the central section of the pipeline the subsoil deposits were overlaid by 0.12m of dark brown silty clay topsoil.
- 5.2.2 In the south-eastern section of the pipeline a 0.2m thick layer of silty gravel overlaid 0.5m of disturbed or redeposited subsoil deposits. The natural geology of yellow brown silty clay with abundant sub-angular flint was recorded along the entire length of the pipeline.



5.3 Archaeological Results

- 5.3.1 Two archaeological features were recorded during the watching brief, a small pit and linear ditch. Pit 204 was located in the central section of the pipeline, with moderately sloped irregular sides and an undulating base. The pit measured 0.32m in diameter and 0.22m deep and contained a single deliberate backfill of waste material.
- 5.3.2 Ditch 206 was located to the southeast of pit 204 on a north-south alignment. The ditch measured at least 1.8m long, 1.15m wide and 0.6m deep, with moderately sloped concave sides and a concave base.
- 5.3.3 A significant amount of modern disturbance was also recorded within the pipeline.

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

6.1.1 No archaeological material was recovered during the watching brief

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1.1 No archaeological features or deposits suitable for sampling were recorded during the watching brief

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Summary

- 8.1.1 The watching brief successfully identified two isolated archaeological features within the monitored area, comprising a small waste pit and a linear ditch. Due to the limited nature of the excavated area these features cannot be placed into a wider context and their proximity alone does not indicate if the features are contemporaneous in any way.
- 8.1.2 A relatively limited amount of material was recovered it is possible that this comprises intrusive material and therefore cannot be used to solidly date the feature. Considering the wider recorded use of the area for agricultural purposes it is likely that the ditch formed part of an agricultural or land management system.

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 Meopham. The site falls with the collecting area of Canterbury Museum and Galleries, which is currently not accepting archaeological depositions.

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 the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Canterbury Museum and Galleries, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 9.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the **240820**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:
 - 01 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 Archaeological Advisor for CCC 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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- English Heritage 2011 Environmental Archaeology: a guide to theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation. Swindon, Centre for Archaeology Guidelines
- SMA 1993 Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Society of Museum Archaeologists
- SMA 1995 Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive. Society of Museum Archaeologists



APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Context Tables

Pipeline NW Section Le		Length 50 m	ength 50 m		Width 1.80 m		Depth Unknown	
Easting		Northing			m OD			
Context Fill Of/Filled Interpretative Descri		escription			Depth BGL			
Number	With	Category						
101		Made ground	М	Mid reddish brown with black		0.0-0.15		
			pa	patches. Common sub-angular flint.				
102		Subsoil	М	Mid reddish brown. Silty clay.		0.15-0.4		
			Al	Abundant sub-angular flint.				
103		Natural	Ye	Yellowish brown. Silty clay.		0.4+		
			Al	oundant sub-angu	ular flint.			

Pipeline Central Section		Length 50 m	Width 2 m	Depth (Depth 0.80 m	
Easting		Northing m OD		m OD		
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled	d Interpretative Category	Description		Depth BGL	
201		Topsoil	Darkish brown. Silty compaction.	clay. Loose	0.0-0.12	
202		Subsoil	Reddish brown. Silty Abundant small sub-	•	0.12-0.4	
203		Natural	Yellowish brown. Sil Abundant small sub-		0.4+	
204	205	Pit	Sub-circular pit with irregular sides and a undulating base. Dia Depth: 0.22 m.	an irregular /		
205	204	Deliberate backfill	Pale grey brown silty abundant small sub-inclusions	•		
206	207	Ditch	Linear ditch with moderate, concave sides and a flat base. Length: >1.80 m. Width: 1.15 m. Depth: 0.60 m.			
207	202	Secondary fill	Reddish grey brown gravel with 90% sma angular flint inclusion	all to large sub-		

Pipeline SI	Esection	Length 50 m	Width 1.80 m Dept	Depth 0.70 m	
Easting		Northing	m OD		
Context	Fill Of/Fille	d Interpretative	Description	Depth BGL	
Number	With	Category			
301		Made ground	Silty gravel.	0.0-0.2	
302		Made ground	Reddish brown with black patches Silty gravel. Abundant sub-angula flint. Common brick fragments.		
303		Natural	Yellowish brown. Silty clay. Abundant sub-angular flint.	0.7+	



Appendix 2 OASIS record

11 OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: ENGLAND

<u>List of Projects | Manage Projects | Search Projects | New project | Change your details | HER coverage | Change country | Log out</u>

Printable version

11.1 OASIS ID: wessexar1-409015

Project details

Project name Howe Barracks WB

Project dates Start: 13-10-2020 End: 15-10-2020

Type of project Field evaluation

Current Land use Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial

Project location

Country England

Site location KENT CANTERBURY CANTERBURY Howe Barracks

Postcode CT1 1SQ
Study area 3 Hectares

Lat/Long Datum (other) 616400 157900

Project creators

Name of Organisation Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator Taylor Wimpey (UK) Ltd

Project design originator RPS Group
Project director/manager Rob De'Athe
Project supervisor Lance Lewis

Type of sponsor/funding body Carter Lauren Construction Limited

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient BGS, Wessex Archaeology, ADS

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography"

Paper Archive recipient Wessex Archaeology
Paper Media available "Diary", "Drawing"

Project bibliography 1

A forthcoming report

Publication type

Title Howe Barracks WB



Author(s)/Editor(s) Andy Souter
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Date 2020

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Entered by Lance Lewis (I.lewis@wessexarch.co.uk)

Entered on 26 November 2020

12 OASIS:

Please e-mail <u>Historic England</u> for OASIS help and advice © ADS 1996-2012 Created by <u>Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham, email</u> Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012 Cite only: http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm for this page

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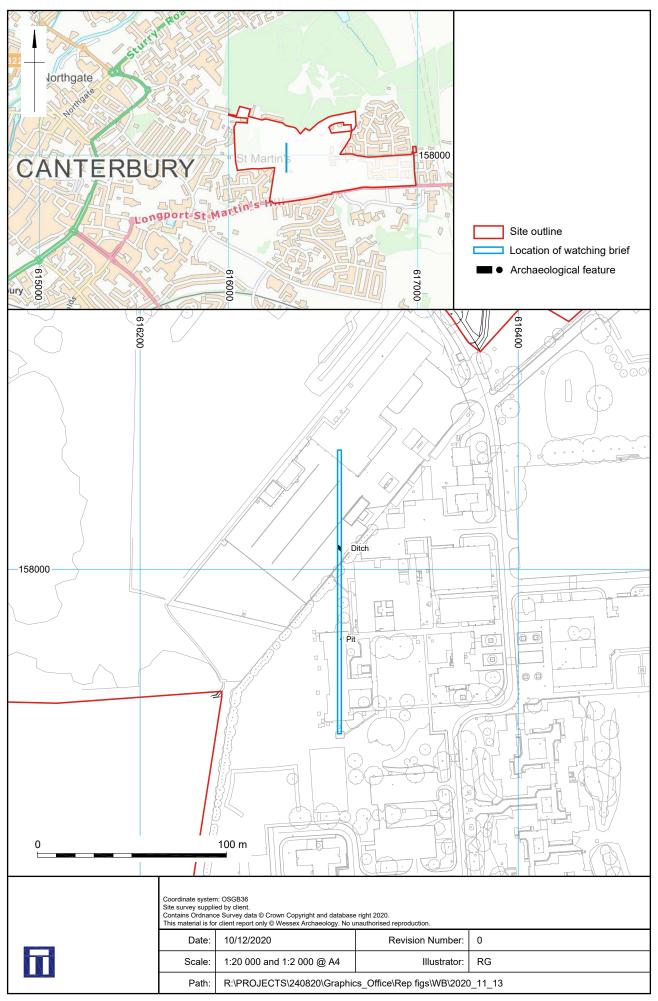




Plate 1: View of pipeline section from the southeast



Plate 2: View of pipeline section from the southeast

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Plate 3: View of pipeline section from the southeast



Plate 4: Representative section of pipeline section, viewed from the north

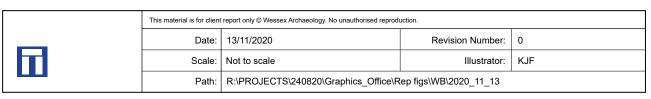




Plate 5: Pit 204, viewed from the southeast



Plate 6: Ditch 206, viewed from the north

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