



Land at Dartford International Ferry Terminal

Archaeological Watching Brief



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Document subtitle Archaeological Watching Brief
Document reference 229390.3

Client name RPS Consulting Services
Address 20 Farringdon Street
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EC4A 4AB

Site location Land at Dartford International Ferry Terminal, Dartford
County Kent
National grid reference (NGR) 557498 175072 (TQ 57498 75072)
Planning authority Dartford Borough Council
Planning reference 19/00991/FUL
Museum name Dartford Museum
OASIS Id wessexar1-414967

WA project name Former cement factory Dartford
WA project code 229390
Date of fieldwork 19/10/2020 to 13/11/2020
Fieldwork directed by Charlotte Porter and Matthew Fleming
Project management by Rob De'Athe
Document compiled by Jon Sanigar
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Document edited by Rob De'Athe

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Contents

Summary	iii
Acknowledgements.....	iii
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Project and planning background.....	1
1.2 Scope of the report	1
1.3 Location, topography and geology	1
2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....	1
2.1 Introduction.....	1
2.2 Archaeological and historical context.....	2
3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	3
3.1 Aims	3
3.2 Objectives.....	3
3.3 Site Specific Aims	3
4 METHODS.....	4
4.1 Introduction.....	4
4.2 Fieldwork methods.....	4
4.3 Finds and environmental strategies	4
4.4 Monitoring.....	4
5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE	5
5.1 Introduction.....	5
5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits	5
5.3 20th Century	5
6 FINDS EVIDENCE.....	5
7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE.....	5
8 CONCLUSIONS	5
8.1 Summary and Discussion	5
8.2 Museum.....	5
8.3 Preparation of the archive	6
8.4 Selection policy.....	6
8.5 Security copy	6
8.6 OASIS	6
9 COPYRIGHT	6
9.1 Archive and report copyright	6
9.2 Third party data copyright	7
REFERENCES	8
APPENDICES	9
Appendix 1 Kent HER Form.....	9
Appendix 2 OASIS record.....	10



List of Figures

Figure 1 Site location and archaeological results

List of Plates

Cover Excavation of Unit 1 viewed from the south
Plate 1 Unit 1 under excavation, viewed from the southwest
Plate 2 Unit under excavation, viewed from the west
Plate 3 Unit under excavation, viewed from the north
Plate 4 Attenuation area under excavation, viewed from the west
Plate 5 Wooden posts visible within the attenuation area, viewed from the west



Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by RPS Consulting Services, to undertake an archaeological watching during pile probing in advance of the redevelopment of the site. The works to be monitored covered an area of some 10 ha centred on NGR 557498 175072, at Dartford International Ferry Terminal, Clipper Boulevard, Dartford, Kent, DA2 6QN. The watching brief was undertaken on 19/10/2020 to 13/11/2020.

The watching brief was undertaken during works that comprised the demolition of existing buildings and redevelopment of the site to provide three Class B8 buildings with associated access, servicing, parking and landscaping.

The watching brief identified thick layers of modern made ground measuring 2.5m+ in thickness, overlaying yellowish/orange sandy silts. No archaeological features, remains or deposits were identified during the course of the watching brief.

A number of square wooden beams were identified in between the excavation areas of Units 1 and 2, which are likely remnants of the cement works which previously occupied the site from 1897 to 1970 or the subsequent freightliner terminal present to 1992.

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 Casper Johnson, County Archaeologist for Kent County Council, who monitored the project for Dartford Council.



Former Cement Factory Dartford, 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 during pile probing in advance of the redevelopment of the site. The works to be monitored cover an area of 10 ha centred on NGR 557498 175072, at Dartford International Ferry Terminal, Clipper Boulevard, Dartford, Kent, DA2 6QN (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 The proposed development comprises the demolition of existing buildings and redevelopment of the site to provide three Class B8 (storage and distribution) buildings with associated access, servicing, parking and landscaping.
- 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 County Archaeologist for Kent County Council (KCC) approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing.
- 1.1.4 The watching brief was undertaken 19/10/2020 to 13/11/2020.

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 proposed watching brief is located on the banks of the River Thames in Dartford, 850m southwest of the QEII Bridge (Dartford Crossing) and 220m north of Greenhithe Station. The site is currently occupied by a freightliner terminal, specifically the eastern half of a tarmacked vehicle storage area. The site is bounded to the north by an embankment, separating the site from the River Thames by approximately 50m, to the east and south by industrial estates and to the west by the rest of the freightliner terminal.
- 1.3.2 The underlying geology is mapped as undifferentiated Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk formation and Newhaven Chalk formation, chalk, with superficial deposits of alluvium, clay, silt, sand and peat. (British Geological Survey online viewer).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed in a prior desk-based assessment (DBA: CgMs 2019), which considered the recorded historic environment



resource within a 1 km study area of the development. A brief summary of the results is presented below, with the full DBA included as Appendix 1.

2.2 Archaeological and historical context

Prehistoric to medieval (900,000 BC – AD 1485)

- 2.2.1 No occupation sites of prehistoric origin were recorded within the study area, although an undated double ring ditch was identified 77m southwest of the site with another undated ring ditch 288m southwest. Both are believed to represent Bronze Age funerary monuments, but this cannot be determined based on existing evidence. Pockets of peat located in the northern and southern edges of the site (according to the British Geological Survey plans) are likely to date from the Bronze Age and were considered to have a high paleoenvironmental potential.
- 2.2.2 Despite the lack of occupation sites there are a number of prehistoric findspots through the study area, including coins, pottery and flint artefacts. None of these artefacts were recovered within 250m of the site and likely represent a transitory use of the area in the prehistoric.
- 2.2.3 Evidence of Romano-British occupation is similarly sparse, with the site likely to have formed estuarine mud flats within the intertidal zone of the River Thames for much of the time period. A single distinct occupation site is recorded on the KHER located 647m west of the study site and comprising a 2nd century cremation cemetery containing 30-35 funerary urns.
- 2.2.4 No material pertaining to the Anglo-Saxon period was recorded within the study area, with the site likely continuing as estuarine mud flats throughout the period.
- 2.2.5 In the medieval period the site would have been part of, or on the fringes of, the Stone Estate. Stone itself was first recorded in the Domesday book comprising a settlement of 20 villagers, 12 smallholders and 4 slaves, and a medieval manor house belonging to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Stone Castle, is located 373m south of the site.
- 2.2.6 The site was likely subject to a degree of reclamation as marsh pasture during this time period, although no extensive record of this exists.

Post-medieval and modern (AD 1485 - present)

- 2.2.7 Gradual reclamation of the land is likely to have taken place in the early post-medieval period, however the first distinct evidence of this we have is the 1769 Andrews and Drury Map of Kent, which shows the study site located in an area of probable marshland, but with an embankment running through the northern area of the site, with a path running along it.
- 2.2.8 The 1799 Ordnance Survey (OS) drawing which shows the site occupied by several plots of land. And subsequent maps show the site further subdivided into land plots, identified within the 1843 Stone Tithe Map as marsh land used for pastures and orchards.
- 2.2.9 The cement works first appear on the OS maps in 1897 where they occupy a small portion north of the site, with an associated tramway running through the western part of the site, identified as the 'Greenhithe Portland Cement Works'. The Kent Portland Cement Works were opened on the site in 1922, occupying the majority of the site and comprising a factory, including several large chimneys, four subterranean kilns and a large quarrying area to the southwest and west.



2.2.10 The factory was active until 1970, with several changes and quarrying within the site over the preceding 50 years. The buildings were demolished, and the majority of the infrastructure removed as demonstrated by the 1974 OS map. All evidence of the works was removed by the 1986 OS Map.

2.2.11 The site was redeveloped between 1986 and 1992 into a freightliner terminal with associated infrastructure and has remained unchanged ever since.

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.

3.3 Site Specific Aims

3.3.1 Site specific objectives were to map any subsurface structures relating to the historic cement factory during the pile probing programme.



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 will monitor pile probing works undertaken in advance of the development.

4.2.2 The watching archaeologist monitored all mechanical excavations within the specified area. 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.

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 Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.

4.2.6 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 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 County Archaeologist.



5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The watching brief monitored the reduction and landscaping of areas termed Unit 1, Unit 2 and attenuation area in between the two units. Wooden piles likely from the previous cement works and layers of made ground were observed during the course of the watching brief (**Figure 1**).

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

5.2.1 The soil sequences encountered were broadly similar across the whole of the site. There was a layer of made ground covering the site, measuring 2.5m in thickness comprised of a greyish brown sandy silt with an abundant amount of concrete, ceramic building material, plastic, wires and metal throughout (**Plates 1 to 3**)

5.2.2 The made ground layers overlaid more made ground comprised of blackish tarmac fragments, a yellowish-brown sandy clay loam and a very dark greyish sandy loam.

5.3 20th Century

5.3.1 The removal of reinforced concrete between Units 1 and 2 to form the attenuation area uncovered square shape wooden beams (**Plates 4 and 5**).

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

6.1.1 No artefacts were retrieved during the course of the watching brief.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1.1 No archaeological deposits or remains were identified in order environmentally sample.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Summary and Discussion

8.1.1 The archaeological watching brief was successful in investigating the site for archaeological remains as per the aims and objectives within the WSI (WA 2020). The watching brief identified thick layers of made ground measuring 2.5m+ in thickness, overlaying yellowish/orange sandy silts. No archaeological features, remains or deposits were identified during the course of the watching brief.

8.1.2 The thick layers of made ground are likely attributed to the site being continually altered in the 20th century when it was an active cement works.

8.1.3 A number of square wooden beams were identified in between the excavation areas of Units 1 and 2 within the Attenuation Area, which could be interpreted as remains of the previous cement works that were present on the site from 1897 to 1970.

8.2 Museum

8.2.1 The archive resulting from the watching brief is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Meopham. Dartford Museum has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project. 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.



8.3 Preparation of the archive

- 8.3.1 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 Dartford Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 8.3.2 All archive elements are marked with the **site code**, 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;

8.4 Selection policy

- 8.4.1 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.

8.5 Security copy

- 8.5.1 In line with current best practice (e.g., 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.

8.6 OASIS

- 8.6.1 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 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.

9 COPYRIGHT

9.1 Archive and report copyright

- 9.1.1 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.
- 9.1.2 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.



9.2 Third party data copyright

- 9.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g., 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 HER Form

Site Name: Former Cement Factory, Dartford, Kent	
Site Address: Dartford International Ferry Terminal, Clipper Boulevard, Dartford, Kent, DA2 6QN	
Summary of discoveries: Modern made ground Post-medieval or modern wood posts	
District/Unitary: Dartford	Parish:
Period(s): Modern	
NGR (centre of site to nearest 1m): NGR 557498 175072 (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs)	
Type of archaeological work (delete) Watching Brief	
Date of fieldwork (dd/mm/yy) From: 19/10/2020 To: 13/11/2020	
Unit/contractor undertaking recording: Wessex Archaeology	
Geology: Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk formation and Newhaven Chalk formation, chalk, with superficial deposits of alluvium, clay, silt, sand and peat. (BGS online viewer)	
Title and author of accompanying report: Title: Former Cement Factory, Dartford, Kent. Archaeological Watching Brief Report Authors: Jon Sanigar	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate) Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by RPS Consulting Services, to undertake an archaeological watching during pile probing in advance of the redevelopment of the site. The works to be monitored cover an area of 10 ha centred on NGR 557498 175072, at Dartford International Ferry Terminal, Clipper Boulevard, Dartford, Kent, DA2 6QN. The watching brief was undertaken on 19/10/2020 to 13/11/2020. The watching brief was undertaken during works that comprised the demolition of existing buildings and redevelopment of the site to provide three Class B8 buildings with associated access, servicing, parking and landscaping. The watching brief identified thick layers of modern made ground measuring 2.5m+ in thickness, overlaying yellowish/orange sandy silts. No archaeological features, remains or deposits were identified during the course of the watching brief. A number of square wooden beams were identified in between the excavation areas of Units 1 and 2, which could be interpreted as remains of the previous cement works that was present on the site from 1897 to 1970.	
Location of archive/finds: Wessex Archaeology Meopham Office	
Contact at Unit: Rob De'Athe	Date: 22/02/2021



Appendix 2 OASIS record

OASIS ID: wessexar1-414967

Project details

Project name	Former Cement Factory, Dartford, Kent
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by RPS Consulting Services, to undertake an archaeological watching during pile probing in advance of the redevelopment of the site. The works to be monitored cover an area of 10 ha centred on NGR 557498 175072, at Dartford International Ferry Terminal, Clipper Boulevard, Dartford, Kent, DA2 6QN. The watching brief was undertaken on 19/10/2020 to 13/11/2020. The watching brief was undertaken during works that comprised the demolition of existing buildings and redevelopment of the site to provide three Class B8 buildings with associated access, servicing, parking and landscaping. The watching brief identified thick layers of modern made ground measuring 2.5m+ in thickness, overlaying yellowish/orange sandy silts. No archaeological features, remains or deposits were identified during the course of the watching brief. A number of square wooden beams were identified in between the excavation areas of Units 1 and 2, which could be interpreted as remains of the previous cement works that was present on the site from 1897 to 1970.
Project dates	Start: 19-10-2020 End: 13-11-2020
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	19/00991/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	229390 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial
Monument type	MADE GROUND Modern
Monument type	WOODEN POSTS Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Visual Inspection"
Development type	Service infrastructure (e.g. sewage works, reservoir, pumping station, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT DARTFORD DARTFORD Former Cement Factory, Dartford, Kent
Postcode	DA2 6QN



Study area 10 Hectares
Site coordinates 557498 175072 557498 00 00 N 175072 00 00 E Point

Project creators

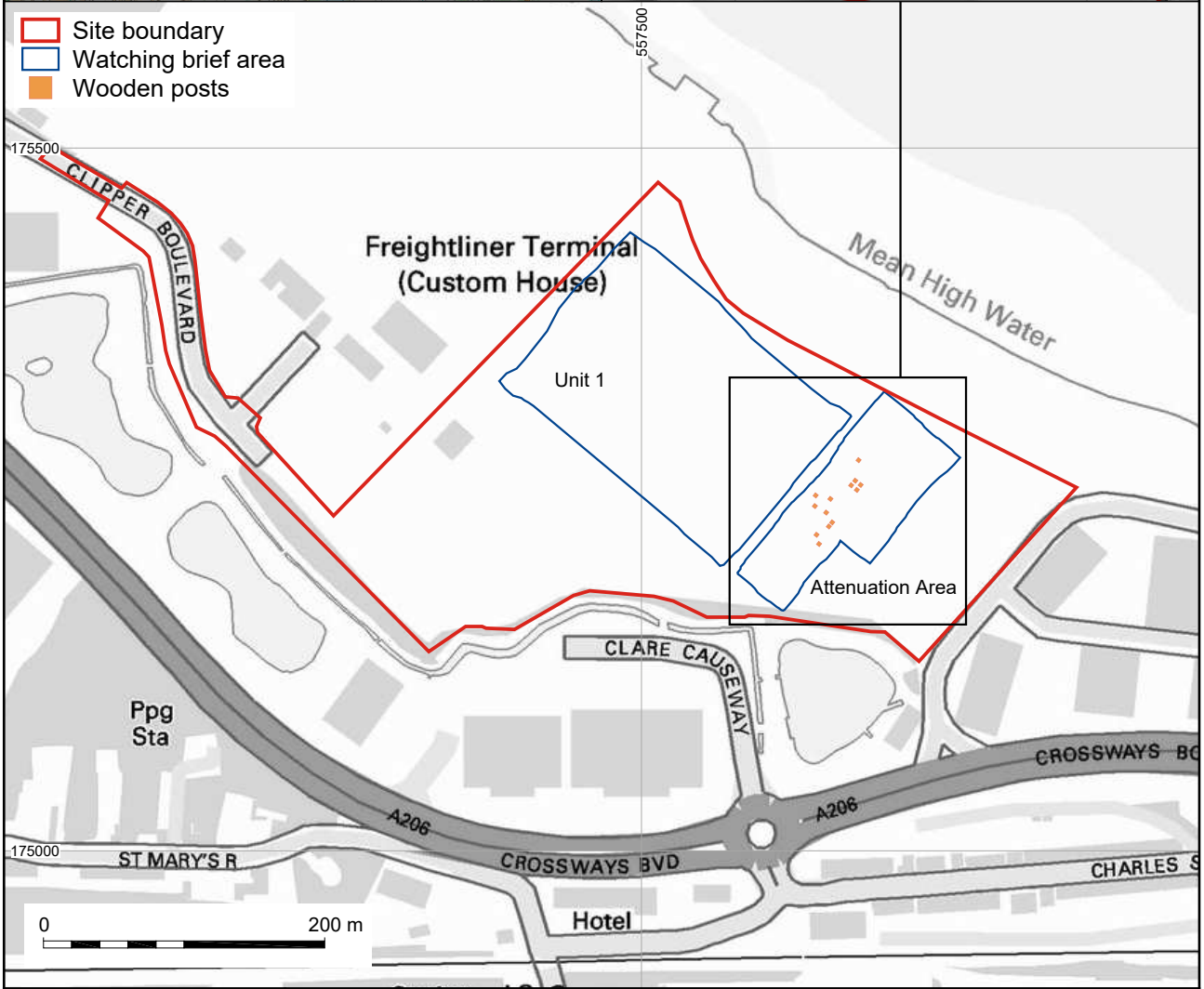
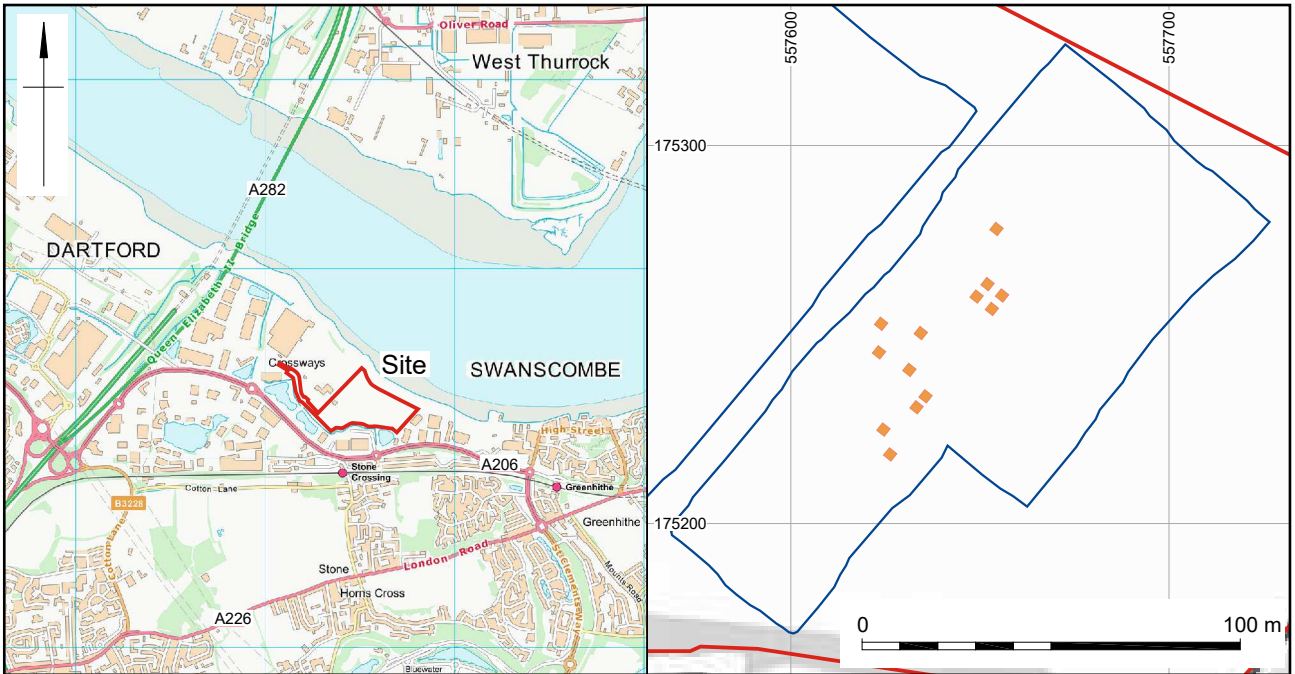
Name of Organisation Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator RPS Consulting Services
Project design originator Wessex archaeology
Project director/manager Rob De'Athe
Project supervisor Charlotte Porter


Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
Digital Archive recipient Dartford Museum
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient Dartford Museum
Paper Media available "Diary", "Drawing", "Notebook - Excavation", ' Research', ' General Notes', "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Unpublished Text", "Context sheet"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title Former Cement Factory, Dartford, Kent
Author(s)/Editor(s) Sanigar, J.
Other bibliographic details 229390.3
Date 2021
Issuer or publisher Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication Meopham, Kent
Description A4 grey literature client report
Entered by Jonathan Sanigar (j.sanigar@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on 9 February 2021



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Site location and archaeological results

Figure 1



Plate 1: Unit 1 under excavation, viewed from the southwest



Plate 2: Unit under excavation, viewed from the west


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Plate 3: Unit under excavation, viewed from the north



Plate 4: Attenuation area under excavation, viewed from the west



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Plate 5: Wooden posts visible within the attenuation area, viewed from the west

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