



# The Old Sorting Office Charlton Green Dover, Kent

Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief Report



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## **Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Heritage (Part of RPS) to initially undertake a 6 trench archaeological evaluation of a parcel of land located in The Old Sorting Office, Charlton Green, Dover, Kent CT16 2PS ('the site'). The evaluation area was centred on NGR 631467 142186.

The archaeological evaluation was to excavate, investigate and record 6 trenches each measuring 30m x 1.80m with a geoarchaeological test pit at one end of each trench, however due to onsite constraints and previous watching brief results a new strategy was agreed and implemented consisting of the excavation of 17 test pits measuring c.2m by 2m and located within the original trench layout.

The presence of a small area of buried soil in the far south eastern part of the site suggests that a small area of original surface may survive in this location, the remainder of the site has been severely truncated and any archaeological deposits have been removed by previous construction and landscaping related activities.

Natural geology was seen in the test pits although no features or artefacts of Palaeolithic / prehistoric date were identified during this course of archaeological investigation.

The archaeological assessment of land at The Old Sorting Office, Charlton Green shown that a former construction and development had a substantial negative impact on the majority of the site and confirmed that there is a low potential for remains of any period across the site.

## **Acknowledgements**

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank CgMs Heritage (Part of RPS) ('the client'), for commissioning the archaeological evaluation, in particular Duncan Hawkins. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of Ben Found, the County Archaeologist for Kent County Council (KCC), who monitored the project for Local Planning Authority and to Dan Pettman of DDS Demolition for their cooperation and help on site.

The fieldwork was directed by Jon Sanigar (watching brief) and Emilia Seredynska (evaluation), with the assistance of Finlay Wood. This report was written by Emilia Seredynska and edited by Rob De'Athe. The project was managed by Rob De'Athe on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.



# The Old Sorting Office, Charlton Green Dover, Kent

## Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief Report

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Heritage (Part of RPS) to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a parcel of land located in The Old Sorting Office, Charlton Green, Dover, Kent CT16 2PS. The evaluation area was centred on NGR 631467 142186. (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 The proposed development comprises the demolition of the existing building and the construction of a residential development.
- 1.1.3 All works were undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed in order to undertake the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2018). Ben Found, the County Archaeologist for KCC approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing.
- 1.1.4 A total of 6 trenches (each measuring 30m by 1.80m) with a geoarchaeological test pit at one end of each trench were planned to be excavated. However, due to onsite conditions 17 test pits each measuring c.2m x 2m were excavated in lieu of the trenches.
- 1.1.5 This evaluation is part of staged approach in determining the archaeological potential of the site, and follows other non-intrusive archaeological work, including an Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (CgMs 2017).
- 1.1.6 The archaeological monitoring was undertaken between 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019 and test pit evaluation on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

#### 1.2 Scope of the report

- 1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a detailed description of the results of the evaluation, to interpret the results within a local, regional or wider archaeological context and assess whether the aims of the evaluation have been met.
- 1.2.2 The presented results will provide further information on the archaeological resource that may be impacted by the proposed development and facilitate an informed decision with regard to the requirement for, and methods of, any further archaeological mitigation.

#### 1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The proposed evaluation area is located within the District of Dover. The site is bounded to the north by Salisbury Road, by residential properties to the east, a Public House and residential properties to the southeast, Charlton Green to the southwest, and Frith Road to the west. Overall the site measures approximately 0.60ha in size.
- 1.3.2 Historically the study site lay on a gradual slope above the floodplain of the River Dour.



- 1.3.3 The surrounding topography slopes down from c. 9.50m AOD on Salisbury Road in the east, down to c. 8.50m AOD at the junction of Frith Road and Salisbury Road at the north of the study site, and down to 7m AOD on Charlton Green at the south of the study site.
- 1.3.4 Terracing and land forming have created the current levelled platform within the study site. The site is terraced into the slope with increasing depth from c. 1m deep at the junction of Salisbury and Frith Roads to c. 3m deep along the northern boundary of the site. The study site lies c. 20m east of the River Dour.
- 1.3.5 The River Dour lies in a deeply incised valley cut into Middle and Upper Chalk. Sediments infilling the valley have been mapped by the British Geological Survey (BGS) as Alluvium, Estuarine Alluvium, Dry Valley and Nailbourne deposits, Head and Head Brickearth.
- 1.3.6 The British Geological Survey (2016) shows that the study site lies on Head deposits overlying New Pit Chalk Formation. Recent geotechnical investigation at the site (Crossfield Consulting 2017) has recorded made ground at a depth of 0.80m below ground level (BGL) in the north of the site extending to 1.60m to 2.0m bgl in the central and southern parts of the site. Made ground comprises clayey sandy gravels underlain by reworked clayey strata with rubble inclusions. Made ground was noted to be ashy locally and a slight hydrocarbon odour was noted at one location in the south of the site.
- 1.3.7 Angular flint gravel (Head) is present below the made ground to a depth of 5m. The Head deposits generally comprise medium dense becoming very dense clayey sandy gravels and firm becoming stiff consistency, medium to high strength slightly sandy gravelly clays.

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed in a prior desk-based assessment (CgMs 2017), which considered the recorded historic environment resource within a 600 m study area of the proposed development. A summary of the results is presented below, with relevant entry numbers from the Kent Historic Environment Record (KHER) included. Additional sources of information are referenced, as appropriate.
- 2.1.2 An Area of Archaeological Potential, as designated by Dover District Council, is located immediately to the southwest of the site.

### **2.2 Archaeological and historical context**

#### *Prehistoric (450,000 – 12,000 BC)*

- 2.2.1 There are no Palaeolithic or Mesolithic findspots recorded on the KHER within a 600m radius of the study site.
- 2.2.2 The Pleistocene and early Holocene deposits of the River Dower have recently been reviewed by Bates. Head gravels, such as those at the study site, are found throughout the lower and middle Dour Valley. A mammoth tooth (*Mammuthus primigenius*) was discovered in these gravels during excavations in Dover at Market Square, and further mammoth teeth were recovered from them during the extension works to the Admiralty Pier in 1890 and 1898. These teeth are fresh and unrolled and are unlikely to have been extensively reworked. This Head gravel is thought to have been laid down by fluvial processes under periglacial conditions during or following the Last Glacial Maximum.





- 2.2.3 These deposits are probably lateral equivalents of the chalk-rich gravels and silts (Head brickearth) found at the valley margins. Such sediments occur to the southwest of Dover Western Docks at Archcliffe Fort, where a buried soil and associated late Pleistocene mollusc fauna is present. At several localities within and around Dover these Head deposits are overlain by tufa, peats and fine-grained silts. These deposits associated with Mesolithic-Bronze Age archaeology and extensive palaeoenvironmental evidence.
- 2.2.4 From around 4000 BC the mobile hunter gathering economy of the Mesolithic gradually gave way to a more settled agriculture-based subsistence. The period saw episodes of forest clearance, initially probably 'slash and burn' to create rapid clearance (which resulted in erosion and a greater volume of silt load within rivers), succeeded by a phase of more gradual seasonal expansion of existing clearings.
- 2.2.5 A partially ground Neolithic axe was found in the vicinity of Prior Valley in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, although the exact location of the discovery is unknown (TR 34 SW 47, TR 31 41).
- 2.2.6 An archaeological evaluation, c. 125m to the west of the study site, revealed early Neolithic to late Iron Age finds of struck flints, pottery and marine shells, suggesting prehistoric activity in the Granville Road area on the west bank of the River Dour (TQ 34 SW 602, TR 3129 4218).
- 2.2.7 By the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium, i.e. 1000 BC, the landscape was probably a mix of extensive tracts of open farmland, punctuated by earthwork burial and ceremonial monuments from distant generations, with settlements, ritual areas and defended locations reflecting an increasingly hierarchical society.
- 2.2.8 Pottery sherds dating from the mid Bronze Age to the late Iron Age were recovered during an evaluation at Queen's Gardens, Dover, c. 600m south of the study site (TR 34 SW 640, TR 317 415). An early Bronze Age beaker was found in 1883 in Maison Dieu Fields, Connaught Park, Dover, c. 200m to the east of the site (TR 34 SW 25, TR 3168 4220).
- 2.2.9 A hoard of Iron Age coins was discovered near Dour Street c. 225m to the southeast of the site (MKE65646, MKE65647, MKE65840, MKE65854, MKE66016-8, MKE66080, MKE66125, MKE66247-57, MKE66259-61, MKE66382, MKE66394-7, TR 31600 41900).
- 2.2.10 Five un-stratified prehistoric struck flints were recovered during an archaeological watching brief in the grounds of Dover Grammar School for Girls, c. 150m to the east of the study site (TR 34 SW 688, TR 3162 4224). Further finds of prehistoric worked flint and pottery occurred during an archaeological evaluation at the Royal Victoria Hospital c. 300m to the south of the site (TR 34 SW 1463, TR 31529 41812).
- 2.2.11 There is a vague record of the historical recovery of a prehistoric gold bracelet and urn by workmen on land belonging to Dover College to the south of the site. The exact location of the discovery is unknown (TR 34 SW 1411, TR 315 416).
- 2.2.12 Evidence of prehistoric activity held by the KHER within the study area entirely consists of isolated and residual finds of prehistoric artefacts, primarily located within the floodplain of the River Dour. Despite this evidence, no features of prehistoric date have yet been identified in the area. On this basis, the potential for features dating to the prehistoric period within the study site can be defined as generally low, although the potential for the presence of isolated prehistoric artefacts cannot be precluded.

*Roman (AD 43 – 410)*

- 2.2.13 Dover is mentioned as a Roman port by Antoninus in his itinerary *A Londonio ad Portum Durbris*. The Romans built two watchtowers on the two hills either side of the mouth of the River Dour, and a fort known as a 'Saxon Shore' fort, c. 1km south of the study site (VCH 1926).
- 2.2.14 The Roman road from London to Dover known as Watling Street, follows the line of the High Street, c. 200m south of the study site (TR 34 SW 259, TR 3095 4235). Recent research indicates the presence a hypothetical second Roman road marked on the Kent HER following a north-east to south-west alignment following Frith Road/Bridge Street (TR 35 SW 357, TR 3050 5083) located immediately adjacent to the west of the study site, although no supporting archaeological evidence has yet been presented to support this interpretation. Typical archaeological features associated with Roman roads can include evidence for settlement and land/agricultural divisions, together with quarry pits, burials and stray finds.
- 2.2.15 There are several records held by the KHER relating to antiquarian discoveries of Roman burials within the study area. The closest record relates to the discovery of a small Roman cemetery in Charlton in 1864, thought to be located c. 75m to the north of the study site (TR 34 SW 135, TR 3147 4227), although details relating to the discovery are vague and the location uncertain. The details of record TR 34 SW 135 are similar to the more detailed record detailing the recovery of at least three cremations on Bridge Street, Charlton, also in 1864, located c. 200m south-west of the study site (TR 34 SW 9, TR 313 420), and it is possible that record TR 34 SW 135 is a duplicate entry on the KHER. A further Roman cremation cemetery was recorded on Priory Hill, c. 500m south of the study site, in 1883, which may also be associated with a further assemblage of Roman pottery recovered in the immediate area (TR 34 SW 40, TR34 SW 1266, TR 3136 4170).
- 2.2.16 An archaeological excavation at the former Post Office on Biggin Street, Dover revealed Roman boundary ditches, c. 500m south of the study site (TR 34 SW 624, TR 31720 41620), with remains of a Roman building also discovered on the site in 1913 (TR 34 SW 68, TR 3173 4162).
- 2.2.17 Archaeological investigations at Queen's Garden's, Dover revealed a Roman mortar floor surface and several Roman pottery sherds, c. 500m south of the study site (TR 34 SW 636, TR 3175 4152).
- 2.2.18 An evaluation at the Royal Victoria Hospital site, c. 450m south of the study site, revealed a dump deposit of Romano-British date (TR 34 SW 1461, TR 31561 41823), while a later watching brief on the site found a number of contemporary pits (TR34 SW 1519, TR 3154 4181). A red deer antler and Roman spoon have also been discovered in close proximity to the hospital site (TR 34 SW 111, TR 314 418).
- 2.2.19 Roman tile and pottery was recovered from No 15 High Street, c. 500m south-east of the study site, in 1921 (TR 34 SW 103, TR 3158 4173). A fragment of a Roman inscription was found in the 1970's on the Bacon Factory site, to the southwest of the study site, in a post-Roman context (TR 34 SW 127, TR 31 42).
- 2.2.20 Due to the record of a possible Roman road alignment and the presence of contemporary burials in proximity to the site, it is considered that there is a hypothetical potential for Roman activity to be present within the study site, where not impacted by later development.
-



*Anglo Saxon & medieval (AD 410-1485)*

- 2.2.21 An Anglo-Saxon burial ground, associated with the recovery of a number of contemporary brooches and decorative objects, was found during house building on Priory Hill in 1889, c. 400m south of the of the study site (TR 34 SW 6, TR 34 SW 148, TR 34 SW 165, TR 34 SW 224, TR 3145 4175). A single Anglo-Saxon inhumation was found at High Meadows in 1956, c. 450m to the southwest (TR 34 SW 76, TR 3101 4197).
- 2.2.22 During the excavation of building foundations on the High Street in 1808, c. 450m to the south of the site, a Anglo-Saxon scramasax and bead were recovered (TR 34 SW 4, TR 316 417).
- 2.2.23 Archaeological investigations at the Royal Victoria Hospital, c. 300m south of the study site, found several residual sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery and daub (TR 34 SW 451, TR 315 418).
- 2.2.24 Due to the paucity of evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity occurring within proximity to the site, it is considered that there is a generally low potential for this period at the study site itself.
- 2.2.25 The Domesday Survey of 1086 records the small settlement of Charlton as consisting of 7 households supported by a single plough team (Open Domesday 2017).
- 2.2.26 The study site lies at least 1km to the north of the medieval town and cinque port of Dover, and c. 1.25km north-west of the medieval Dover Castle.
- 2.2.27 The two Scheduled Monuments within the study area, located approximately 450m to the south of the site, are both Late Medieval religious establishments. Maison Dieu, the smaller of the two assets, was established in 1203 as a hospital for travelling pilgrims (1005192, TR 3162 4174), while the larger St. Martin's Priory was built at a similar time and still contains a number of original upstanding structures including the priory gatehouse, refectory and cloister (1002943, TR 3148 4159).
- 2.2.28 The KHER entry referring to the Late Medieval settlement of Charlton place its focus at the junction of Charlton Green and Frith Road, immediately to the west of the site. This record is supported by dumps of Medieval domestic refuse within the floodplain of the River Dour to the south (TR 34 SW 226, TR 3140 4220).
- 2.2.29 An archaeological evaluation on the High Street, c. 200m south of the site, found a number of 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century ditches and pits located parallel to the road frontage (TR 34 SW 659-60, TR 31384 41941).
- 2.2.30 A Late Medieval leper hospital is documented as being located approximately 300m to the west of the site (TR 34 SW 71, TR 3118 4214).
- 2.2.31 Archaeological investigations at the Royal Victoria Hospital, c. 300m south of the study site, have found a series of Medieval features consisting of a wooden revetment associated with the River Dour, dumps of domestic waste, and part of a masonry wall (TR 34 SW 443, TR 3166 4179; TR 34 SW 451, TR 31580 41847; TR 34 SW 1464, TR 31555 41831). Construction works on Priory Road, to the south of the Royal Victoria Hospital, has found multiple Late Medieval wall lines and structural features, indicating substantial occupation occurring in vicinity of the Medieval Priory (TR 34 SW 1252, TR 31629 41741; TR 34 SW 1250, TR 3162 4172; TR 34 SW 462, TR 3172 4167; TR 34 SW 1251, TR 3163 4169; TR 34 SW 1228, TR 31657 41661; TR 34 SW 1226, TR 31659 41663).



2.2.32 Based on the available evidence the study site is likely to be located within proximity to the Late Medieval settlement at Charlton. Accordingly, the study site is considered to have a moderate potential for occupation and backlands activity associated with this period, where not impacted by later activity.

*Post medieval & modern (AD 1486 – present)*

2.2.33 The Andrews and Drury map of 1769 shows the study site occupied by buildings fronting Frith Road and Charlton Green, with gardens to their rear. The study site lies to the east of the River Dour within the village of Charlton to the north of Dover. The general character of the site remains unaltered in 1797.

2.2.34 The Buckland Tithe map and Award of 1843 records the study site occupied by a terrace of houses and gardens along the south-west of the site. The houses front onto Charlton Green although they are set back from the road. Several smaller houses are located in the north of the site.

2.2.35 The Ordnance Survey map of 1865 shows a terrace of houses fronting directly onto Charlton Green in the south-west of the site, and adjacent to Firth Road to the northwest. A Public House is shown midway along Charlton Green with gardens to the rear. Apart from some minor building infill within the open spaces within the site, the layout of the site remains unchanged between 1898 and 1937.

2.2.36 The Dover Express published a map 'Dover's Shells and Bombs 1940-44' showing the location of where explosive ordnance landed during the Second World War. The map shows a direct hit on the study site close to the corner of Charlton Green and Frith Road.

2.2.37 By 1957 the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings on the site have been cleared, followed by the construction of a large industrial building and yard labelled as 'Electrical Valve Factory'. By 1972 the function of the building has been changed to 'Sorting Office' although the layout of the site remains unaltered up to the present day. The potential within the study site for the Post-Medieval period solely relates to the possible presence of structures and occupation activity pre-dating the 19<sup>th</sup> century, where not impacted by later activity.

### **2.3 Negative/natural evidence**

2.3.1 A review of the archaeological investigations held by the KHER located within the study area indicates that all the significant evidence for human activity has derived from those investigations located within the River Dour floodplain to the south of the site. The site itself is located on higher ground above the floodplain, in an area where modern archaeological investigations have only encountered a range of residual artefacts and late Post-Medieval domestic features.

2.3.2 Two archaeological evaluations have taken place approximately 100m of the site to the northeast and southeast which have produced small assemblages of residual prehistoric and Medieval artefacts, but no evidence of deposits or features of archaeological interest (EKE8832, TR 3161 4223; EKE15660, TR 3162 4203).

2.3.3 Four separate archaeological watching briefs have taken place adjacent to Firth Road and Old Charlton Road, leading north from the study site, none of which have identified any finds or features of archaeological significance (EKE10412, TR 31405 42236; EKE11088, TR 3145 4241; EKE8831, TR 3155 4262; EKE8886, TR 31524 42641).



### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 General aims**

3.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018) and in compliance with the ClfA's *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a), were:

- To provide information about the archaeological potential of the site; and
- To inform either the scope and nature of any further archaeological work that may be required; or the formation of a mitigation strategy (to offset the impact of the development on the archaeological resource); or a management strategy.

#### **3.2 General objectives**

3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives of the evaluation were:

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

#### **3.3 Site-specific objectives**

3.3.1 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site and the regional research framework, site-specific objectives defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018) were to:

- To examine evidence for remains of a Roman road that may exist to the west of the site and any surviving evidence of associated activity;
- To examine evidence for any remains of the Late medieval settlement of Charlton;
- To examine if any 18<sup>th</sup> century structural remains survive at the site; and
- To examine if any Pleistocene faunal remains, or Palaeolithic archaeology is present in the Head deposits at the site.

### **4 METHODS**

#### **4.1 Introduction**

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 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 test pit locations were set out using GPS, in the approximate positions as those proposed in the WSI. (**Figure 1**).
- 4.2.2 The archaeological evaluation was to comprise of the excavation, investigation and recording of 6 trenches (equating to a 5% sample of the proposed evaluation area) each measuring 30m x 1.80m (**Figure 2**), however due to onsite constraints and previous watching brief results a new strategy was agreed and implemented consisting of the excavation of a series of 2m by 2m test pits across the site.
- 4.2.3 A total of 17 test pits of varying lengths (2.20m – 4.40m) and measuring 2.20m wide, were excavated in level spits using a 360<sup>o</sup> excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist.
- 4.2.4 Due to a depth of excavation and instability of the ground no access to the test pits was possible.
- 4.2.5 Spoil derived from machine stripping was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Where found, artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained.
- 4.2.6 Prior to machine excavation, investigation locations were scanned by Wessex Archaeology using a cable avoidance tool (CAT). The position of all detected services was marked on the ground. The areas where services were located by the cable scan were avoided.
- 4.2.7 Test pits recorded and completed to the satisfaction of the client and the County Archaeologist were backfilled immediately using excavated materials in the order in which they were excavated, and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

### *Recording*

- 4.2.8 All exposed deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. Because of Health & Safety issue a complete drawn record of excavated deposits (including both plans and sections) drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections) was not possible. An archaeological monitoring was undertaken from the ground surface and safe distance.
- 4.2.9 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 OSGM15 and OSTN15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.
- 4.2.10 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 Artefactual and environmental strategies

- 4.3.1 Appropriate strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of artefacts and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 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 Ben Found County Archaeologist for KCC, monitored the archaeological evaluation. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with both the client and the County Archaeologist.

### 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

#### 5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The following section provides a summary description of the results of the archaeological mitigation. Details of individually excavated contexts are retained in the site archive and a detailed tabulated version of these is provided in **Appendix 1** of this report.
- 5.1.2 **Figure 1** presents the overall location and **Figure 2** shows the evaluated area and the test pit locations. Selected photographs are provided in **Plates 1-8**.
- 5.1.3 None of the 17 excavated test pits contained deposits indicating archaeological remains were presented within the site.

#### 5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

- 5.2.1 The archaeological investigation revealed a made ground at a depth of 0.40m - 0.70m (test pits 3 (**Plate 1**) and 8) below ground level (BGL) within the northern portion of the site. The made ground extended up to 1.40m - 2.20m BGL in the central and southern parts of the evaluated area (**Plate 2** and **3**). The made ground consisted of dark brownish grey sandy clay containing very common small chalk inclusions and demolition debris such bricks and crushed concrete.
- 5.2.2 A homogenous dark greyish brown silty clay buried soil approximately 1.10m in thickness was identified at the southeastern corner of the site, indicating that there may be a small area of the original surface surviving in this area (see below).
- 5.2.3 Natural geology consisting of a medium to light yellowish brown silty sand with flint gravel inclusions was present below the made ground.

#### 5.3 Archaeological evaluation result

##### 5.4 Introduction

- 5.4.1 The following is a brief description of test pits that yielded some dating evidence, the remaining test pits were devoid of finds or deposits of interest.

###### *Test pit 7*

- 5.4.2 Test pit 7 (**Plate 4**) was located within the north western part of the site. This revealed a 0.80m thick brick and concrete foundation wall of the recently demolished mid-20<sup>th</sup> century building together with an associated manhole and ceramic drain pipes.

###### *Test pit 15 & 16*

- 5.4.3 Test pits 15 (**Plate 5**) and 16 were situated to the south east of the evaluated area. A buried soil consisted of dark greyish brown silty clay measured 1.10m in thickness was identified

within those test pits below 0.30-0.60m thick made ground and overlying natural geology. A sherd of 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century pottery was recovered from this deposit (test pit 16).

- 5.4.4 This suggests that a small portion of undisturbed ground survives at the south eastern part of the site.

*Test pit 17*

- 5.4.5 Test pit 17 was located to the south of the evaluated area. This identified a 0.50m thick mid brownish grey sandy clay deposit containing a large amount of frogged yellow brick debris with some modern pottery, 18<sup>th</sup> century (or later) clay pipe and oyster shells (**Plate 6**).

## 5.5 Archaeological watching brief result

- 5.5.1 The watching brief comprised monitoring a demolition of the basement located within the central portion of the site. The basement measured 25m in length, 12m in width with a depth of 3m (**Plate 7**).
- 5.5.2 The archaeological monitoring determined the ground level had been reduced prior the basement construction and a made ground of approximately 3m thickness was deposited around it (**Plate 8**).

## 6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

### 6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 A small quantity of modern finds was recovered from three test pits. They have been cleaned and quantified by material type; this information is summarised in **Table 1**.

### 6.2 Pottery

- 6.2.1 The pottery assemblage derives from a layer of buried soil (1602) and two of made ground (1302 and 1702). It comprises refined whitewares (11 sherds), pearlware (three sherds), English stoneware (two sherds) and a white-slipped redware (one sherd), of 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century date. The refined whitewares and pearlwares include tea- and tablewares (plates, bowls and cups), and the base of a cylindrical preserve jar. The latter derives from the Maling industry of Liverpool. The stoneware sherds may derive from a single vessel, a flagon, stamped on the shoulder, with part legible - 'BINFIELD...WINE &...' The complete stamp is likely to read 'Binfield Bros, Wine and Spirit Merchants, Dover' and indicates a vessel of late 19<sup>th</sup> century date. A single sherd in a late white-slipped redware derives from a kitchenware, perhaps a mixing bowl.

### 6.3 Other finds

- 6.3.1 A single piece of modern vessel glass and a clay tobacco pipe stem fragment, of 18<sup>th</sup> century or later date, came from layer 1702. Two clam shells were also found in this layer.

### 6.4 Potential and recommendations

- 6.4.1 The finds assemblage comprises a typical mix of domestic refuse, including kitchenwares as well as tablewares. In this instance, given the very small quantity of artefacts recovered, their nature and date range (commonly occurring and well documented types of recent origin) and their provenance (topsoil), the assemblage is considered to have little or no further research potential, and does not warrant retention for long-term curation.





## 6.5 Quantification of finds

Context	Pottery		Clay pipe		Glass		Shell	
	No.	Wg (g)	No.	Wg (g)	No.	Wg (g)	No.	Wg (g)
1302	4	412						
1602	1	17						
1702	12	425	1	2	1	5	2	89
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>854</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>89</b>

## 7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1.1 No deposits suitable for environmental assessment were identified during the course of the evaluation.

## 8 CONCLUSIONS

### 8.1 Summary and Discussion

8.1.1 The evaluation has been successful in meeting its aims and objectives and tested the archaeological potential of the site. The evaluation has confirmed that there is low potential for remains of any period across the site.

8.1.2 No features, deposits or artefacts of Palaeolithic / prehistoric date were identified during this course of archaeological mitigation. Natural geology was seen in the base of test pits but no finds of any significance were recovered during the evaluation or watching brief.

8.1.3 The presence of a small area of buried soil within the south eastern portion of the site indicates that almost entire site had been previously stripped and any archaeological deposits had been either severely truncated or removed by previous construction and landscaping related activities.

8.1.4 The archaeological assessment of land at The Old Sorting Office, Charlton Green shown that the former construction activities at the site have had a substantial negative impact on the majority of the site.

## 9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

### 9.1 Museum

9.1.1 The archive resulting from the evaluation 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. 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 the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by appropriate, 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 **201350**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:
- 01 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type;
  - 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 record (<http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main>) has been initiated, with key fields and a .pdf version of the final report submitted. 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 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 Trench summaries

NGR coordinates and OD heights taken at centre of each trench; depth bgl = below ground level

Test Pit No 1		Length 4.20m	Width 2.20m	Depth 3.20m
Easting 631442.6989		Northing 142200.0823		MaOD 7.441
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
101		Made ground	Dark brownish grey. Sandy clay. Very common small chalk inclusions, common demolition debris such bricks and crushed concrete. Loose.	0.00-1.40
102		Natural	Medium to light yellowish brown. Silty sand. Abundant medium to large sized angular to sub-angular stone and flint gravel. Very loose.	1.40-3.20+

Test Pit No 2		Length 3.20m	Width 2.20m	Depth 3.00m
Easting 632447.9131		Northing 142206.0214		MaOD 7.942
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
201		Made ground	Dark brownish grey. Sandy clay. With some patches of yellow sand. Very common small chalk inclusions, common demolition debris such bricks and crushed concrete. Loose.	0.00-1.20
202		Natural	Medium to light yellowish brown. Silty sand. Abundant medium to large sized angular to sub-angular stone and flint gravel. Very loose.	1.20-3.00+

Test Pit No 3		Length 3.30m	Width 2.20m	Depth 2.70m
Easting 631454.7409		Northing 142213.5328		MaOD 7.913
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
301		Made ground	Dark brownish grey. Sandy clay. Very common small chalk inclusions, common demolition debris such bricks and crushed concrete. Loose.	0.00-0.40
302		Natural	Medium to light yellowish brown. Silty sand. Abundant medium to large sized angular to sub-angular stone and flint gravel. Very loose.	0.40-2.70+

Test Pit No 4		Length 4.40m	Width 2.20m	Depth 3.20m
Easting 631452.2888		Northing 142197.8091		MaOD 7.902
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
401		Made ground	Dark brownish grey. Sandy clay. Very common small chalk inclusions, common demolition debris such bricks, small concrete blocks, wood chunks. Loose.	0.00-1.10
402		Natural	Medium to light yellowish brown. Silty sand. Abundant medium to large sized angular to sub-angular stone and flint gravel. Very loose.	1.10-3.20+



Test Pit No 5		Length 3.80m	Width 2.20m	Depth 3.50m
Easting 631459.3743		Northing 142190.5683		MaOD 7.884
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
501		Made ground	Dark brownish grey. Sandy clay. Very common small chalk inclusions, common demolition debris such bricks, small concrete blocks, wood chunks. Loose.	0.00-1.40
502		Natural	Medium to light yellowish brown. Silty sand. Abundant medium to large sized angular to sub-angular stone and flint gravel. Very loose.	1.40-3.50+

Test Pit No 6		Length 3.70m	Width 2.20m	Depth 2.60m
Easting 631465.6391		Northing 142194.6491		MaOD 7.978
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
601		Made ground	Dark brownish grey. Sandy clay. Very common small chalk inclusions, common demolition debris such bricks, small concrete blocks, wood chunks. Loose.	0.00-1.30
602		Natural	Medium to light yellowish brown. Silty sand. Abundant medium to large sized angular to sub-angular stone and flint gravel. Very loose.	1.30-2.60+

Test Pit No 7		Length 3.50m	Width 2.20m	Depth 2.50m
Easting 631472.7206		Northing 142200.6768		MaOD 8.287
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
701		Structure	Remains of modern brick/ concrete wall and manhole including ceramic land drain pipes.	0.00-0.80
702		Made ground	Dark brownish grey. Sandy clay. Very common small chalk inclusions, common demolition debris such bricks, small concrete blocks, wood chunks. Loose.	0.80-1.35
703		Natural	Medium to light yellowish brown. Silty sand. Abundant medium to large sized angular to sub-angular stone and flint gravel. Very loose.	1.35-2.50+

Test Pit No 8		Length 3.00m	Width 2.20m	Depth 2.20m
Easting 631481.4351		Northing 142208.6339		MaOD 8.140
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
801		Made ground	Dark brownish grey. Sandy clay. Very common small chalk inclusions, common demolition debris such bricks, small concrete blocks, wood chunks. Loose.	0.00-0.70
802		Natural	Medium to light yellowish brown. Silty sand. Abundant medium to large sized angular to sub-angular stone and flint gravel. Very loose.	0.70-2.20+

Test Pit No 9		Length 2.90m	Width 2.20m	Depth 2.50m
Easting 631485.2050		Northing 142178.6051		MaOD 7.833
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
901		Made ground	Dark brownish grey. Sandy clay. Very common small chalk inclusions, common demolition debris such bricks, small concrete blocks, wood chunks. Loose.	0.00-2.30
902		Natural	Medium to light yellowish brown. Silty sand. Abundant medium to large sized angular to sub-angular stone and flint gravel. Very loose.	2.30-2.50+



Test Pit No 10		Length 3.40m	Width 2.20m	Depth 3.00m
Easting 631478.7245		Northing 142173.2413		MaOD 7.441
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1001		Made ground	Dark brownish grey. Sandy clay. Very common small chalk inclusions, common demolition debris such bricks, small concrete blocks, wood chunks. Loose.	0.00-1.65
1002		Natural	Medium to light yellowish brown. Silty sand. Abundant medium to large sized angular to sub-angular stone and flint gravel. Very loose.	1.65-3.00+

Test Pit No 11		Length 3.80m	Width 2.20m	Depth 2.70m
Easting 631469.2433		Northing 142164.9083		MaOD 7.467
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1101		Made ground	Dark brownish grey. Sandy clay. Very common small chalk inclusions, common demolition debris such bricks, small concrete blocks, wood chunks. Loose.	0.00-2.20
1102		Natural	Medium to light yellowish brown. Silty sand. Abundant medium to large sized angular to sub-angular stone and flint gravel. Very loose.	2.20-2.70+

Test Pit No 12		Length 2.70m	Width 2.20m	Depth 2.60m
Easting 631497.9679		Northing 142146.1387		MaOD 8.098
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1201		Made ground	Very recent demolition debris containing a large amount of crushed concrete.	0.00-0.30
1202		Made ground	Dark brownish grey. Sandy clay. Very common small chalk inclusions, common demolition debris such bricks, small concrete blocks, wood chunks. Loose.	0.30-1.40
1203		Natural	Medium to light yellowish brown. Silty sand. Abundant medium to large sized angular to sub-angular stone and flint gravel. Very loose.	1.40-2.60+

Test Pit No 13		Length 2.80m	Width 2.20m	Depth 2.85m
Easting 631488.3531		Northing 142158.6290		MaOD 8.116
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1301		Made ground	Concrete 0.25m thickness with brick lining.	0.00-0.45
1302		Made ground	Dark brownish grey. Sandy clay. Very common small chalk inclusions, common demolition debris such bricks, small concrete blocks, wood chunks, rare modern ceramic. Loose.	0.45-1.70
1303		Natural	Medium to light yellowish brown. Silty sand. Abundant medium to large sized angular to sub-angular stone and flint gravel. Very loose.	1.70-2.85+



Test Pit No 14		Length 3.20m	Width 2.20m	Depth 2.60m
Easting 631481.1378		Northing 142166.0618		MaOD 7.904
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1401		Made ground	Dark brownish grey. Sandy clay. Very common small chalk inclusions, common demolition debris such bricks, small concrete blocks, wood chunks. Loose.	0.00-1.70
1402		Natural	Medium to light yellowish brown. Silty sand. Abundant medium to large sized angular to sub-angular stone and flint gravel. Very loose.	1.70-2.60+

Test Pit No 15		Length 3.50m	Width 2.20m	Depth 2.40m
Easting 631519.3061		Northing 142150.1280		MaOD 8.090
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1501		Made ground	Dark brownish grey. Sandy clay. Common small chalk inclusions and demolition debris such bricks, small concrete blocks. Medium compaction. Including 0.15m thick concrete and tarmac layer.	0.00-0.30
1502		Buried soil	Dark greyish brown. Silty clay. Homogenous. Medium compaction.	0.30-1.40
1503		Natural	Light orangey yellow with greyish hue. Clayey silt. Abundant medium sized sub-angular flints, common medium to large sized chalk chunks. Loose.	1.40-2.40+

Test Pit No 16		Length 2.40m	Width 2.20m	Depth 2.35m
Easting 631511.7417		Northing 142138.8028		MaOD 7.964
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1601		Made ground	Dark brownish grey. Sandy clay. Common small chalk inclusions and demolition debris such bricks, small concrete blocks. Medium compaction. Including 0.15m thick concrete and tarmac layer.	0.00-0.60
1602		Buried soil	Dark greyish brown. Silty clay. Homogenous. Medium compaction. Containing occasional pieces of china.	0.60-1.70
1603		Natural	Light orangey yellow with greyish hue. Clayey silt. Abundant medium sized sub-angular flints, common medium to large sized chalk chunks. Loose.	1.70-2.35+

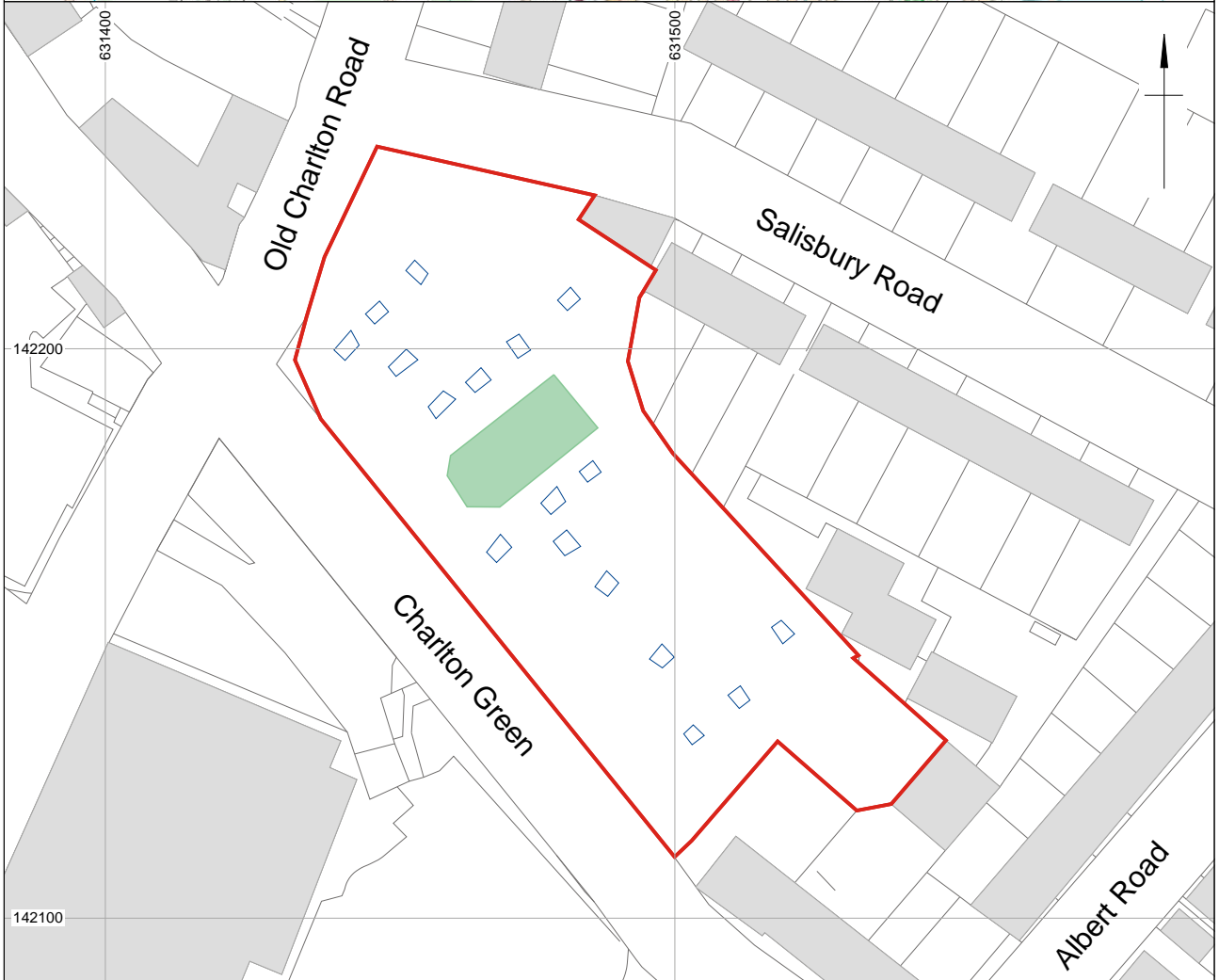
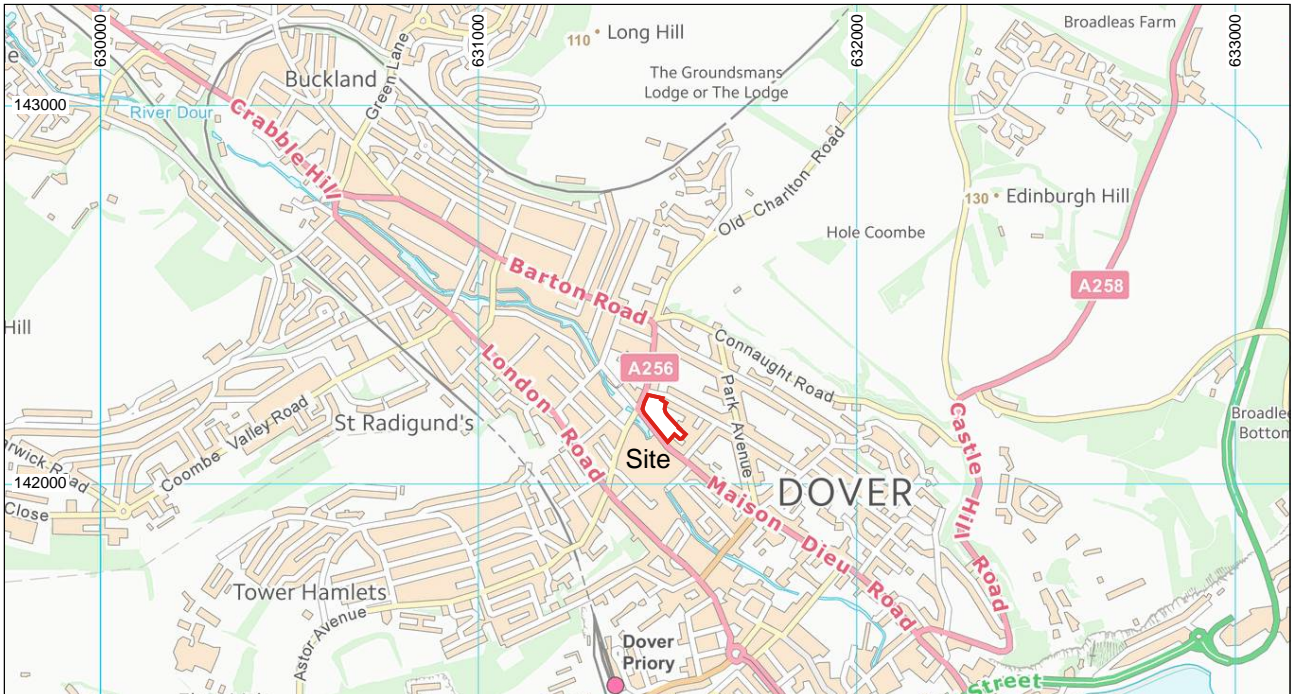
Test Pit No 17		Length 2.20m	Width 2.20m	Depth 2.10m
Easting 631503.3216		Northing 142132.3796		MaOD 7.753
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1701		Made ground	Dark brownish grey. Sandy clay. Common small chalk inclusions and demolition debris such bricks, small concrete blocks. Medium compaction. Including 0.15m thick concrete and tarmac layer.	0.00-0.60
1702		Made ground	Mid brownish grey. Sandy clay. Very common yellow frogged bricks and china, occasional glass, clay pipe and oyster shells. Rare small chalk inclusions. Common small charcoal flecks towards the base.	0.60-1.10
1703		Made ground	Light yellowish grey. Sand. With white patches of chalk.	1.10-1.40
1704		Natural	Light orangey yellow with greyish hue. Clayey silt. Abundant medium sized sub-angular flints, common medium to large sized chalk chunks. Loose.	1.40/-2.10+





## Appendix 2 Kent County Council HER Summary Form

<b>Site Name:</b> The Old Sorting Office, Charlton Green, Dover, Kent	
<b>Site Address:</b> Charlton Green, CT16 2PS	
<b>Summary of discoveries:</b> The archaeological investigation revealed a made ground at a depth of 0.40m - 0.70m BGL within the northern portion of the site which extended up to 1.40m - 2.20m BGL in the central and southern parts of the evaluated area. A 0.80m thick brick and concrete foundation wall of the recently demolished mid-20 <sup>th</sup> century building together with an associated manhole and land drains was identified in TP 7. A buried soil consisted of dark greyish brown silty clay measured 1.10m in thickness was identified within TP 15 and 16 below 0.30-0.60m thick made ground and overlying natural geology. TP 17 identified a 0.50m thick mid brownish grey sandy clay deposit containing a large amount of brick debris with some 19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> century artefacts.	
<b>District/Unitary:</b> Dover District Council	<b>Parish:</b>
<b>Period(s):</b> 19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> century	
<b>NGR (centre of site to nearest 1m):</b> 631467 142186 <b>(NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs)</b>	
<b>Type of archaeological work (delete)</b> Archaeological Watching Brief and Evaluation	
<b>Date of fieldwork (dd/mm/yy) From:</b> 11/02/2019 <b>To:</b> 28/02/2018	
<b>Unit/contractor undertaking recording:</b> Wessex Archaeology	
<b>Geology:</b> Head deposits overlying New Pit Chalk Formation	
<b>Title and author of accompanying report:</b> Title: The Old Sorting Office, Charlton Green, Dover, Kent. Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief Report Authors: Emilia Seredynska	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)</b> The evaluation has been successful in meeting its aims and objectives and tested the archaeological potential of the site. The evaluation has confirmed that there is low potential for remains of any period across the site. No features or artefacts of Palaeolithic / prehistoric date were identified during this course of archaeological mitigation. The presence of a buried soil within the south eastern portion of the site indicates that almost entire site had been previously stripped and any archaeological deposits had been either severely truncated or removed by previous construction and landscaping related activities. The archaeological assessment of land at The Old Sorting Office, Charlton Green shown that a former occupation had a substantial negative impact on the significant part of the site.	
<b>Location of archive/finds:</b> Wessex Archaeology Maidstone Office	
<b>Contact at Unit:</b> Rob De'Athe	<b>Date:</b> 06.03.2019



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Site location

Figure 1



- Site Boundary
- Watching Brief Area
- Test Pit

Coordinate system:  
OSGB36 (OSTN15/OSGM15)

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Test pit layout and watching brief area

Figure 2



Plate 1: Test Pit 3, viewed from the east



Plate 2: Test Pit 5, viewed from the east


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Plate 3: Test Pit 11, viewed from the north east



Plate 4: Test Pit 7, viewed from the north


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Plate 5: Test Pit 15, viewed from the north west



Plate 6: Test Pit 17, viewed from the north west



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Plate 7: Watching brief area, viewed from the south west



Plate 8: Basement partially demolished, viewed from the north west

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