



Cowstead Land off Queensborough Road Sheerness, Kent

Archaeological Watching Brief

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Cowstead Land off Queenborough Road Sheerness, Kent

Statement for an Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Sembcorp Energy UK to undertake an archaeological watching brief on groundworks associated with a new substation on land off Queenborough Road, Sheerness, Kent, centred on NGR 592615, 171404. The watching brief was conducted on the 17th December 2019 and 14th January 2020.
- 1.1.2 The site comprised an irregularly shaped former agricultural field approximately 1.1 ha in size. Until at least 2015 the field was part of a larger agricultural field to the west of the site. The site is bounded to the north by Queenborough Road, to the south by the A249 and to the east and west by agricultural fields. Two small cottages are located adjacent to the site on either side of Queenborough Road and a large industrial unit is located on the far side of the A249.
- 1.1.3 The archaeological watching was required to identify whether prehistoric funerary remains existed on the site and formed the second stage of archaeological works. In late 2019, Wessex Archaeology had completed an archaeological evaluation of the site for UK Power Reserve Limited, comprising nine evaluation trenches. While no archaeological features were uncovered during the evaluation, previous archaeological investigations directly south of the site had identified evidence of Bronze Age activity, including a funerary mound which contained fourteen cremation graves and inhumation burials (WA 2019). The watching brief was maintained in the event that undiscovered funerary remains were present between the previous evaluation trenches.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The watching brief monitored the excavation of footings for the new substation, a cable duct and transformer pits (**Figure 1**).
- 2.1.2 Excavation was undertaken by a 360⁰ mechanical excavator using different buckets, dependant on the task being undertaken. The footings and cable duct were excavated using a tooth bucket, while the transformer pits were excavated using a flat bladed ditching bucket.
- 2.1.3 Stratigraphic deposits recorded on site comprised a 0.5m thick layer of light yellow brown silty clay subsoil directly overlying natural deposits of mid yellow brown silty clay. As mentioned above, it is possible that the subsoil layer comprised a combination of disturbed topsoil and subsoil deposits, but this could not be determined.
- 2.1.4 No archaeological finds or features were recorded during the watching brief, and no evidence relating to the previously identified cremation deposits neighbouring the site were identified.

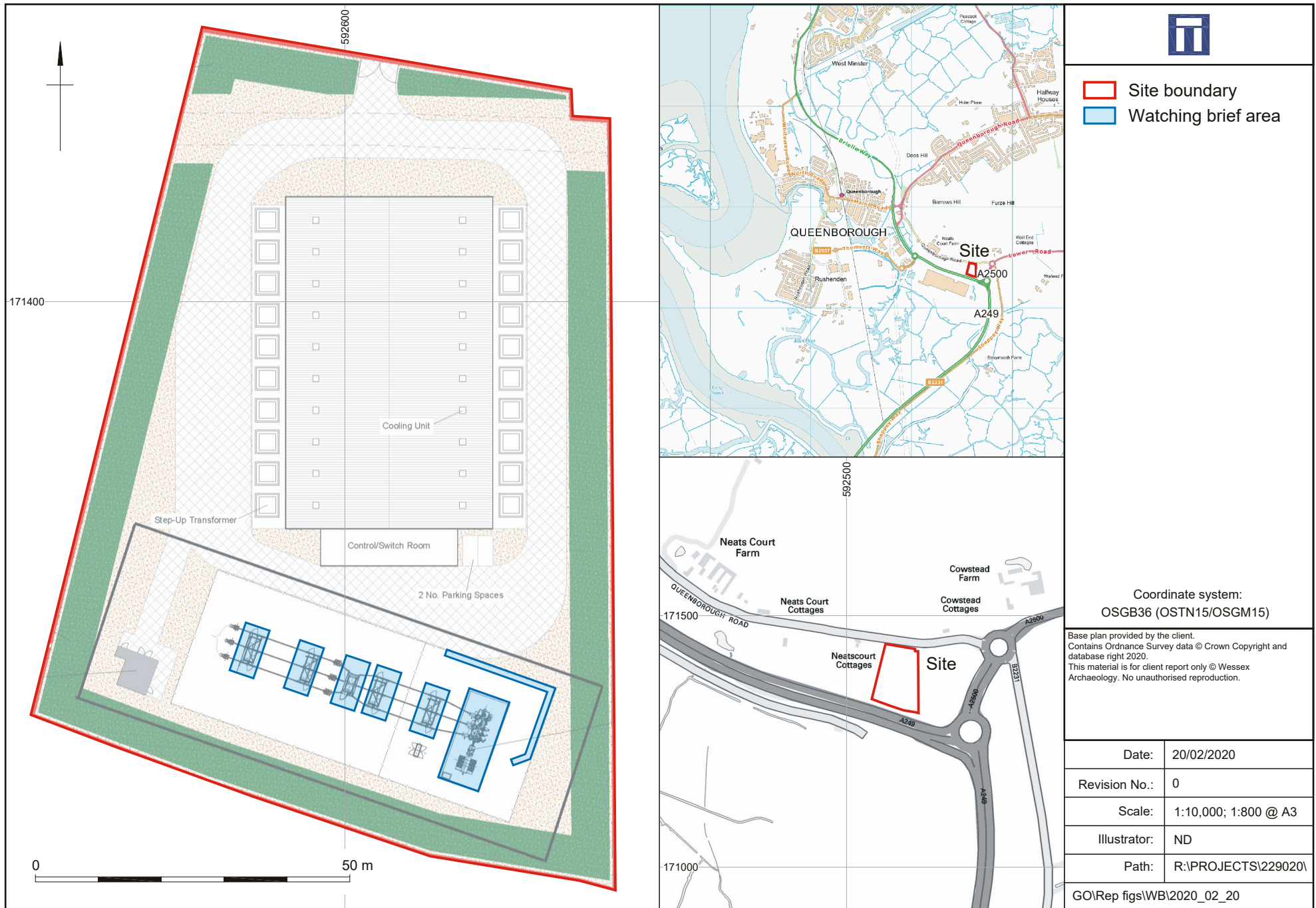


2.2 Conclusion

- 2.2.1 The aims and objectives of the watching brief, as set out in the KCC Specification have been achieved, and a lack of any archaeological evidence within the monitored areas has been confirmed. It has been agreed with Simon Mason (County Archaeologist at KCC), that a summary statement (as represented by this document), with a plan of monitored works, will be a sufficient level of reporting for this phase of work.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Wessex Archaeology 2019. *Land Adjacent to 9 Neatscourt Cottages, Queenborough, Isle of Sheppey: Archaeological Evaluation Report*. Unpub rep 222230.03



Site location plan

Figure 1



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