

**20 WEST STREET, &
THE REAR OF NOS. 14-28 WEST STREET,
ERITH
LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY**

An Archaeological Evaluation



March 2017



20 West Street, & the rear of nos. 14-28 West
Street, Erith
London Borough of Bexley

An
Archaeological Evaluation

NGR: TQ 5117 7826 (centre)

Planning reference: 12/01205/FUL

Site code: WRT17

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Abstract

On the 24th of February Compass Archaeology conducted an archaeological evaluation at 20 West Street, & the rear of nos. 14-28 West Street, Erith London Borough of Bexley. The works were undertaken in accordance with the planning condition attached to the development of the site as a stage 1 preliminary archaeological investigation.

Two trial trenches were dug, trench 1 measured 8.35m in length and 1.85m in width at its greatest extent and trench 2 measuring 8.25m in length and 1.8m in width at its greatest extent.

Though there is extensive evidence for post-medieval activity on the site, this is not related in any way to the documented naval use of Erith in the mid-to-later-17th century, and it also appears that the post-medieval finds all relate to the mid-19th century or later. The stratigraphy in trench 1 can be summarised as made ground deposited over natural, and trench 2 had made ground sealing a buried soil overlying natural.

The buried soil (206), which produced mid-19th century pottery, may reflect the utilisation of the site as an orchard at this time. Pit (208)/[209], which was cut into the natural in trench 2, cannot be dated but can at least be said to be earlier than the 19th century buried soil (206) which sealed the natural. The dating of the pottery in the made ground deposit (205) to the early 20th century is likely indicative of the later terracing of the site potentially in tandem with the development of a British Legion Club and dancehall on the site, first erected in 1926/7.

The underlying natural geology of the site varies slightly between the two trenches. The mid orange-brown sandy silt (103) in trench 1 was less firm than the natural geology seen in trench 2, which was the light orange-brown sandy silt (207). The natural in trench 1 was first encountered at approximately 730mm below ground level (8.10mOD), whilst that in trench 2 was much lower at 1.3m below ground level (7.04mOD). This can at least be partly accounted for by the fact that the existing topography of site slopes down towards the SW where trench 2 was located, but is also a result of the extent to which the ground has been raised through the deposition of made ground in this area.

No significant archaeological remains were found during the course of the evaluation and there was no indication of prehistoric, Roman, Saxon or medieval activity in the area. This is at least in part likely to be a result of the extensive terracing the site has been subjected to which may have truncated earlier remains. As these stage 1 works have demonstrated the negligible potential for archaeological remains at the site, it is proposed that a further stage 2 archaeological investigation is not required and that the archaeological condition be discharged.

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1 Introduction

1.1 This report forms the summary of the results of an archaeological field evaluation conducted at 20 West Street, & the rear of nos. 14-28 West Street, Erith London Borough of Bexley. The evaluation took place on the 24th of February 2017. This entailed the excavation and recording of two trial trenches.

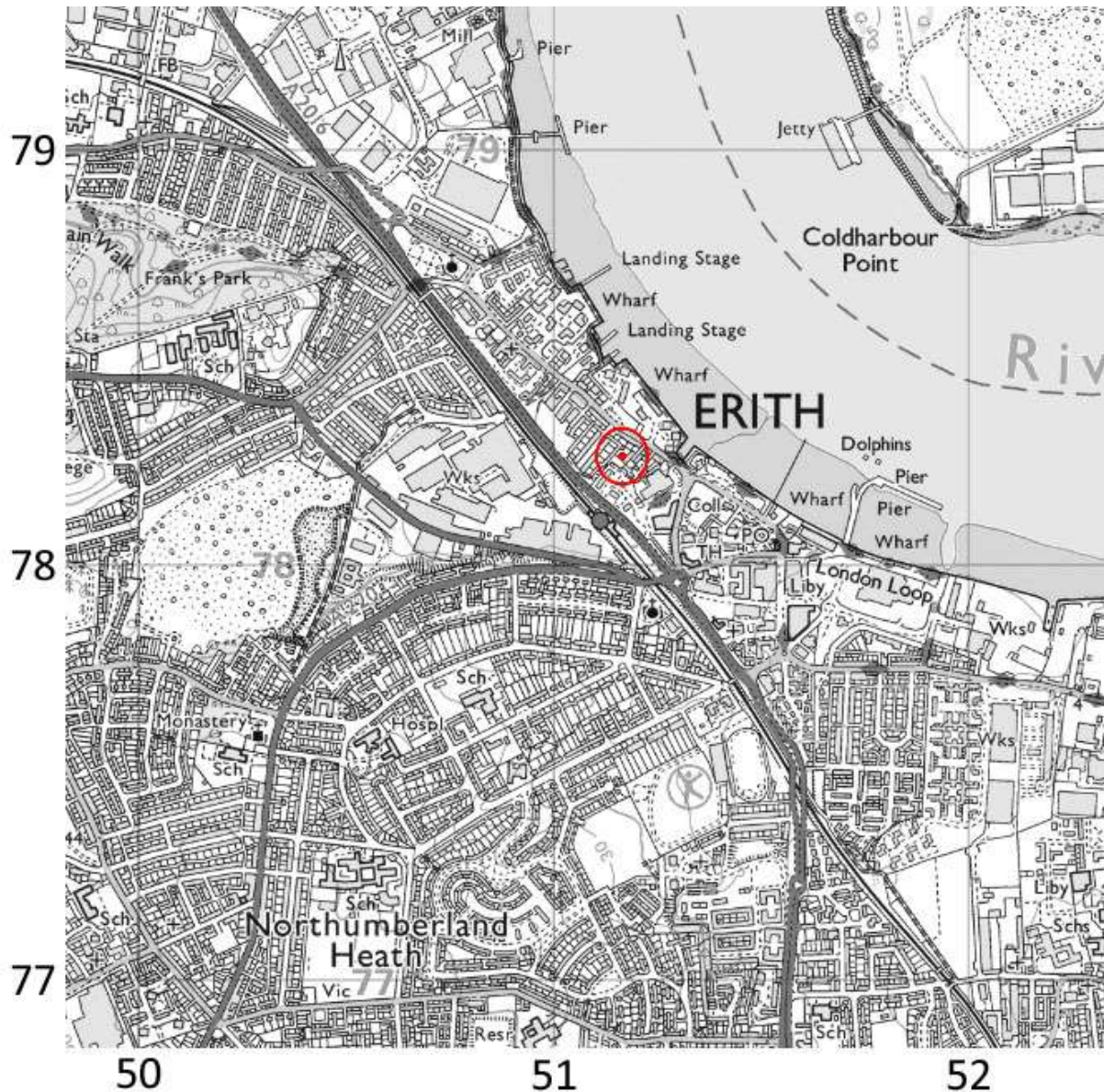


Figure 1: Site location (ringed in red)

1.2 The evaluation was commissioned by Cherstone Ltd, and has been attached as a condition to approved planning application 12/01205/FUL for the demolition of the existing on-site structures and No.20 West Street to provide access and the erection of a new block of 8 x 4-bedroom terraced houses and associated parking and amenity space. The wording of the condition is reproduced below:

28 No development shall take place at the site until the applicant has undertaken an Archaeological desk based assessment and secured the implementation of a programme of work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority

Reason: *To ensure that adequate archaeological records can be made in respect of the site and in the interests of the heritage of the area.*

- 1.3** As well as conforming to the above framework, the London Borough of Bexley has its own policies in place which relate to archaeology and planning. These can be found within their Core Strategy, (CS), adopted in February 2012, which contains policies relating to archaeological remains and sites with archaeological potential, (Section 4, Policy CS19: Heritage and Archaeology).
- 1.4** The site falls within two Areas of High Archaeological Potential, (AHAPs), as defined by Bexley Borough Council. These include Thamesmead and Erith Marshes which focus on the Prehistoric and Roman occupation and exploitation of the local resources and areas of higher ground; and Erith itself based upon the medieval settlement and development of the Royal Dockyards in the 16th century.¹

¹ Stabler, K, (2014)

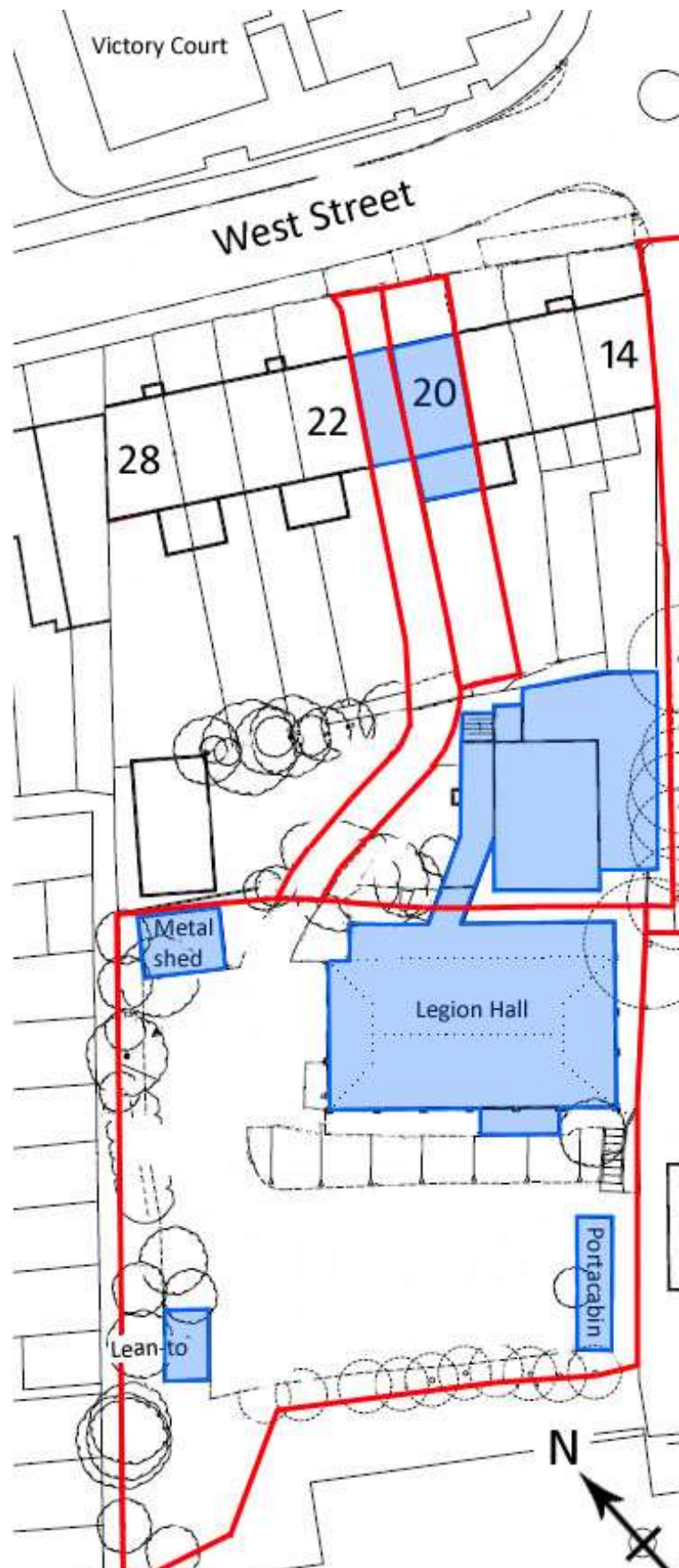


Figure 2: OS plan of the site (outline in red)



Figure 3: Cross section through the proposed development facing NW. Produced by Building Design Consultancy UK Ltd

2 SITE LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Site location

2.1.1 Nos.14-28 are situated on the south side of West Street approximately 115m southwest of the River Thames. The grounds to the rear of the properties are bounded by the gardens of properties on Maximfeldt Road to the west, and Pleasant View / Tranquil Rise to the east. The land backs onto the car parking facilities and gardens of Cricketers Close to the south (fig.2).

2.1.2 At present the study area consists of No.20; a single dwelling house fronting onto the south side of West Street; and land to the rear of properties No.14-28, containing several dilapidated buildings including the site of a former British Legion Club-turned-scrap metal-yard, two small lean-tos and a portacabin.

2.2 Site geology

2.2.1 The British Geological Survey Sheet 271: Dartford (fig.3), indicates that the study area is situated over an outcrop of the Thanet sands formation, with a large area of worked and made ground relating to wholly or partly backfilled pits to the immediate south, east and west. This relates to the area's former use as a ballast and chalk pit in the early-late 19th century. To the southeast is a small pocket of Upper Chalk, whilst the alluvium and gravels of the Thames flood plain give way to the north.

Two site investigations conducted by Your Environment in October and November 2016 encountered made ground above clay, overlying natural chalk, recorded at a depth

of between 1.80m and 3.10m below ground, suggesting a level of truncation / excavation in places (Your Environment 2016b; 2016c).

2.3 Site topography

2.3.1 At the entrance to the site on West Street, the modern ground-level is just above 4.00mOD. The site itself lies on a considerable slope; rising approximately 5.00m from the frontage of West Street in the north-east towards the rear of the property boundary in the south-west. The site is on several levels each slightly higher up the slope, reached by ramped access paths and defined by a levelled platform. This topography suggests deliberate terracing of the slope to provide a series of level construction surfaces from which to construct the existing buildings and hard standings. The site also stands approximately 1.00m higher than the housing estate to the east and south.

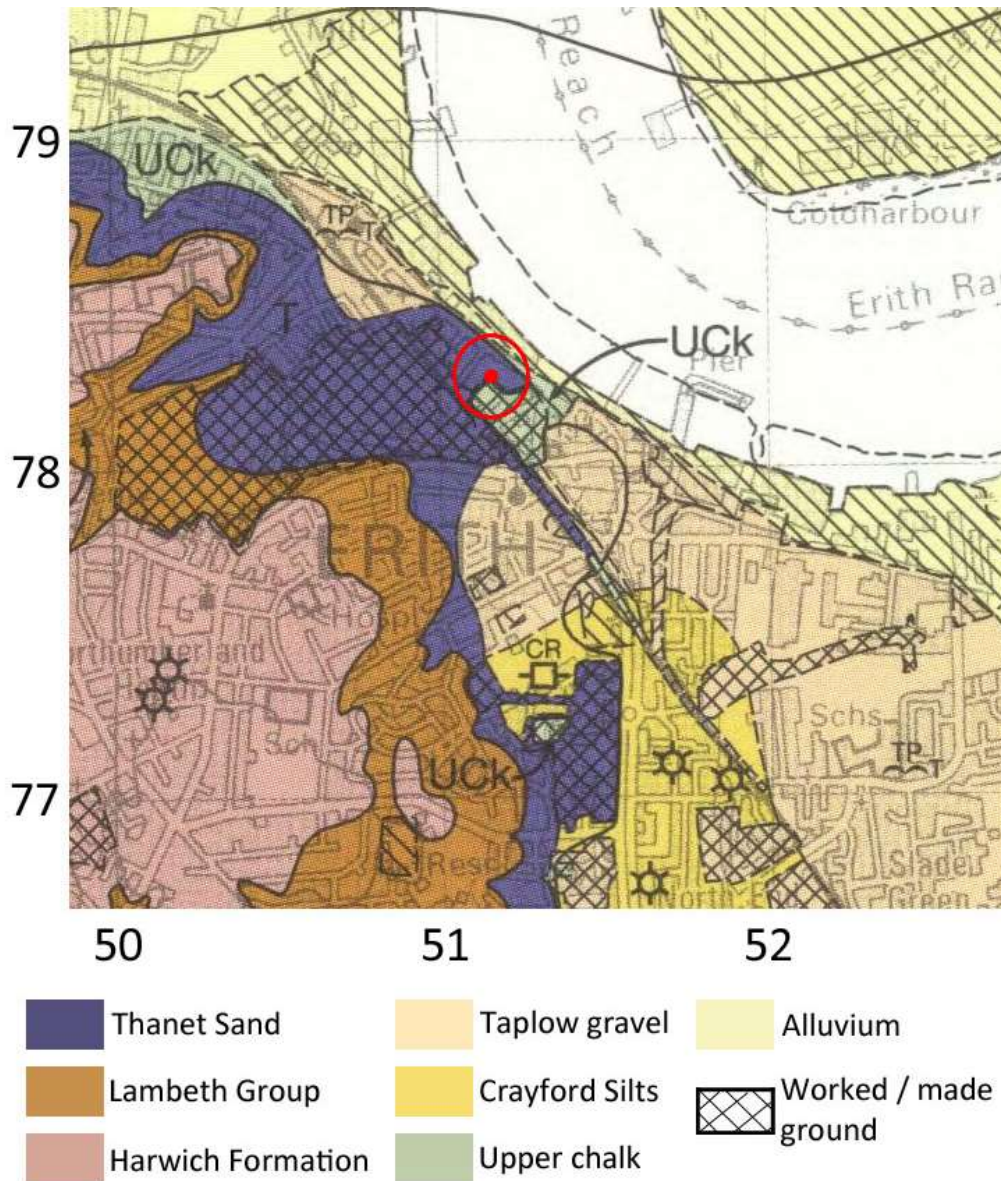


Figure 4: Plan showing the site in relation to underlying geology according to BGS Sheet 271: Dartford

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC BACKGROUND

3.1 The archaeological and historic background to the site has been discussed at length in the WSI produced to accompany the present planning application (Compass 2017), so will not be reproduced at length. Only the most pertinent points will be repeated below.

3.2 Prehistoric

3.2.1 Significant deposits of prehistoric floodplain gravels, fluvial sands and peats have been unearthed during numerous geotechnical investigations suggesting a rich and fertile landscape existed from the palaeolithic to the Bronze Age around Erith, with seasonal and habitual exploitation of the resultant woodland and wetlands throughout this period. Bronze Age wattle trackways crossed the marshier ground and the area was subjected to votive offerings such as daggers, swords, and axes during this period.

3.2.2 During the Iron Age a marine transgression, (a rise in sea levels relative to the land surface), led to a period of inundation of the areas closest the Thames, and settlements moved further upslope onto the gravel terraces to the southwest.

3.3 Roman

3.3.1 Little evidence of Roman occupation has been recorded in the immediate vicinity, other than residual findspots such as stray coins, pots dredged from the Thames and a fragment of box-flue tile. The nearest occupation site is approximately 1.5km to the southwest on the site of the former Erith School, and was interpreted as a farmstead. This emphasises the rural nature of Erith during this period.

3.4 Saxon/medieval

3.4.1 Erith is believed to have Saxon origins and is first documented in 695 in a transfer of lands in Earhyth; or 'Old Haven / Muddy Haven'. By the time of the Conquest in 1066 the settlement fell within the Manor of Litelai / Lesnes, which was owned by the Abbey of St Peter of Westminster. Erith remained a riverside fishing village up until the 16th century. The majority of the parish consisted of marsh, woodland and heath, but a large assemblage of 13th and 14th century pottery was discovered on West Street in the early 1990s, suggesting the site lay close enough to the medieval heart of Erith.

3.5 Post-Medieval

3.5.1 During the early-16th century Erith became the focus for shipbuilding when Henry VIII established a naval dockyard on the Thames foreshore. Between 1512 and 1513 no fewer than 12 ships were built at Erith and Henry's flagship the 'Great Harry' in 1514/1515. However the focus for occupation and development remained the immediate riverside, with West Street remaining largely unoccupied with large open fields occupying the ground to the south and west of the River, (see figures 5 and 6).

- 3.5.2** The study site was recorded over the 18th and early-19th century as open field, garden and fruit orchard. It was not until the late 1880s that the surrounding area was redeveloped as part of the Maxim Nordenfeldt Gun and Carriage Works, with the creation of various roads, terraced properties, coal yards, and industrial buildings occupying the land to the south, east and west, (figure 7). It was at this time that the properties fronting West Street were also built as 'Orchard Terrace'. The plot of land to be evaluated remained unscathed until the 1920s.
- 3.5.3** The study site was partially built upon to house a British Legion Hall in 1926/27 formed of army huts, (figure 8). These buildings were replaced by the current structure in 1934, (figure 9). The creation of the British Legion Halls led to the terracing that can be seen on site today, and which limits the positioning of the proposed trenchworks.



Figure 5: Extract from reproduction of Andrew, Drury and Herbert map, used in Hasted's History of Kent, c1797. Approximate location of site circled in red

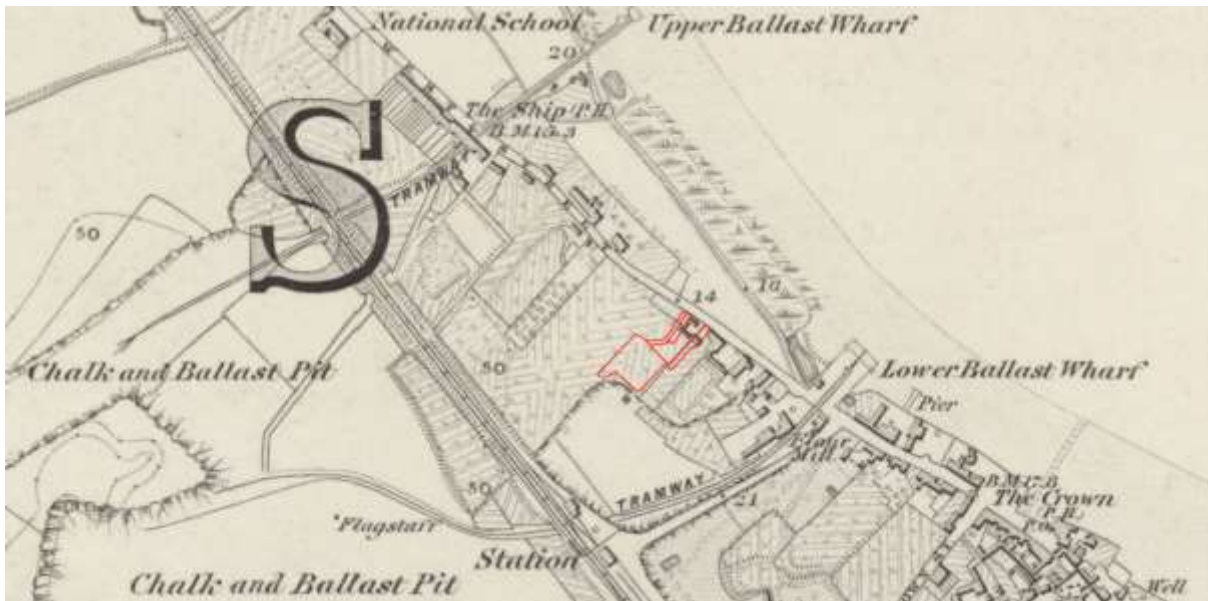


Figure 6: Extract from the First Edition Ordnance Survey map, (surveyed 1863)

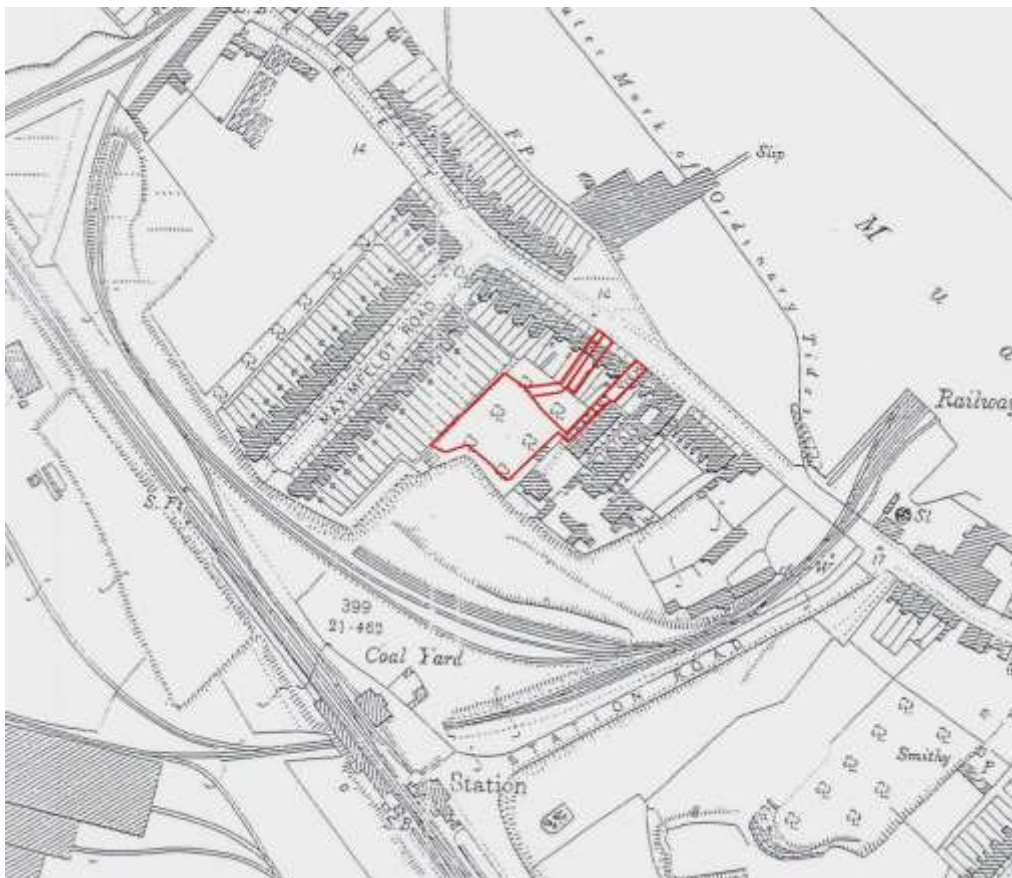


Figure 7: Detailed extract from 1897 OS map

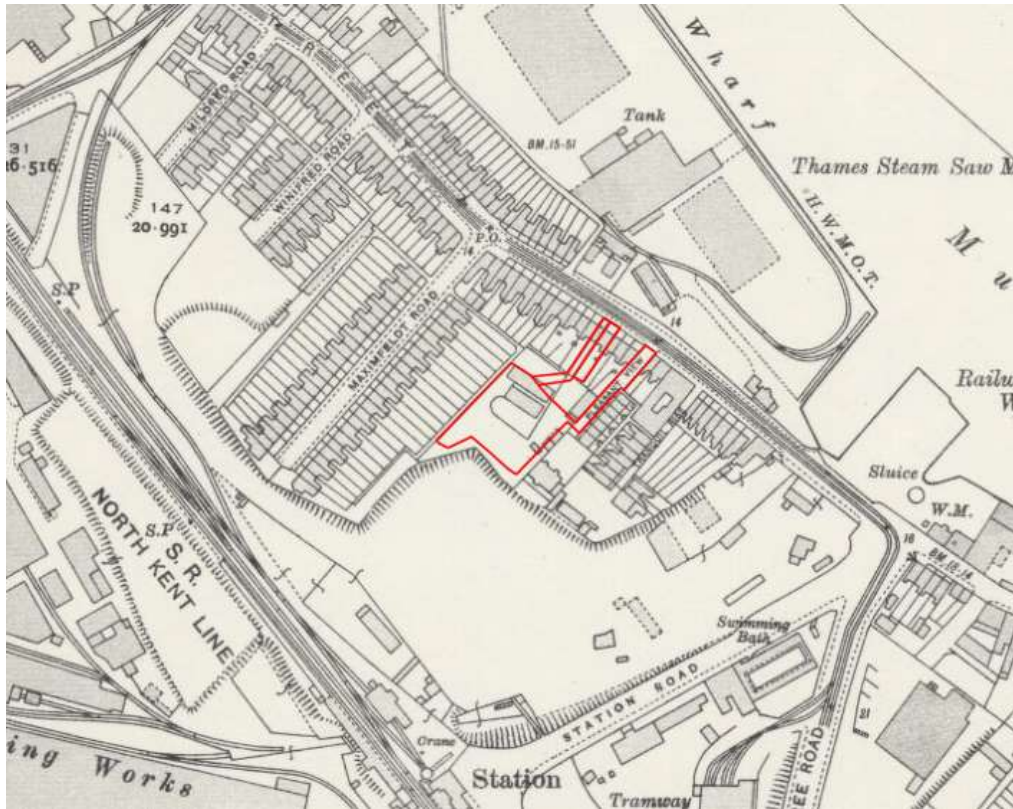


Figure 8: Extract from the 1933 OS map

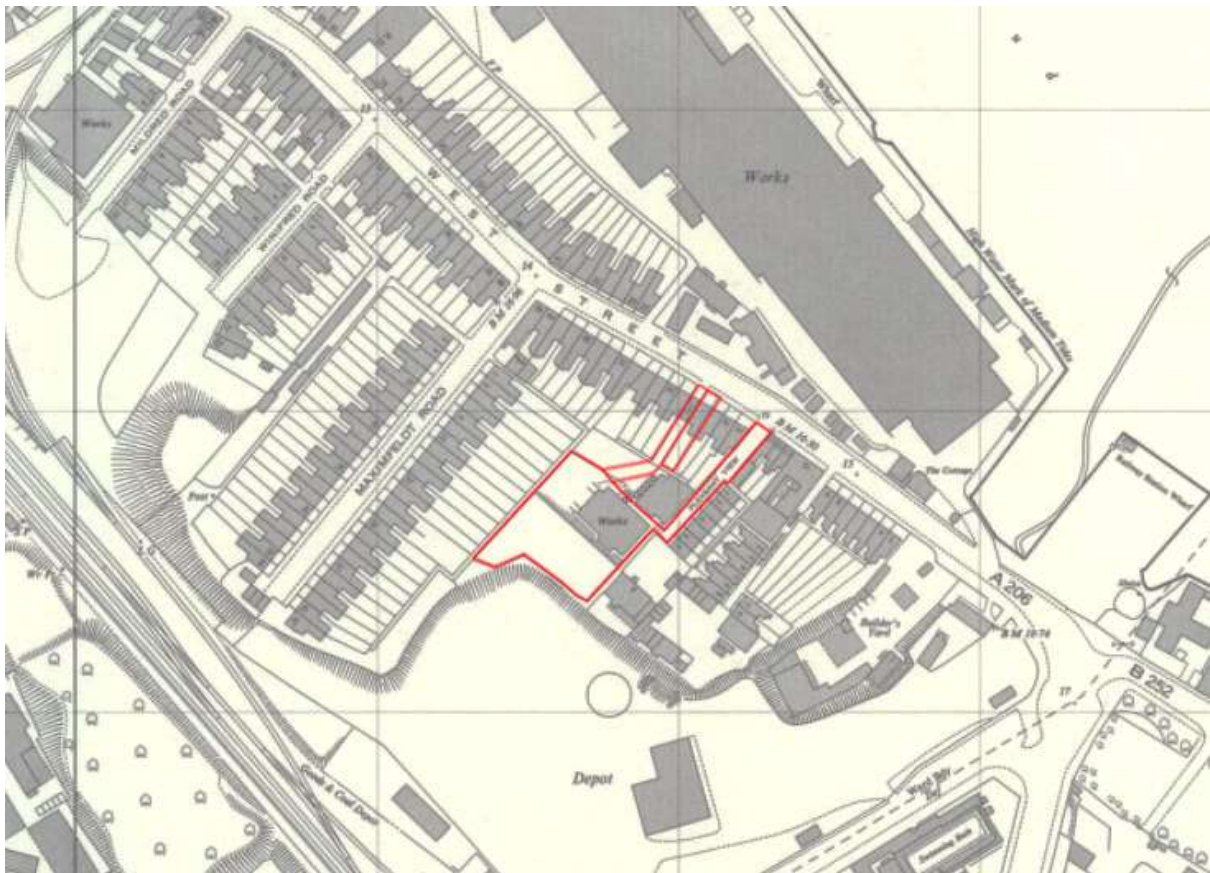


Figure 9: Extract from the 1963 OS plan, 1:2500 scale

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH QUESTIONS

4.1 The fieldwork presented the opportunity to answer the following general and more specific questions:

- Is there any evidence for prehistoric (particularly Bronze Age) activity? Does this give any indication of how the area was exploited during this period?
- Is there any evidence for Roman or medieval activity? What form does this take; domestic, agricultural, industrial?
- Is there any evidence for any post-medieval activity on the site, prior to the later-19th century development? In particular, can this related in any way to the documented naval use of Erith in the mid-to-later-17th century?
- Is there any evidence relating to the former topography of the site before its occupation in the 1920s and 1930s?
- At what level and in what condition do archaeological deposits survive across the site?
- What is the nature of the underlying geology of the site and at what level does it survive?

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Standards

5.1.1 The field and post-excavation work was carried out in accordance with Historic England guidelines (Historic England 2015). Works conformed to the standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2015). Overall management of the project was undertaken by a full Member of the Institute.

5.1.2 Fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the Construction (Health, Safety & Welfare) Regulations. All members of the fieldwork team had valid CSCS Cards (Construction Skills Certificate Scheme), and wore hi-vis jackets, hard hats, steel-toe-capped boots, *etc.*, as required. Members of the fieldwork team followed the contractors' health and safety guidelines.

5.1.3 The Client and the Greater London Archaeological Advisor for the London Borough of Bexley were kept informed of the progress of fieldwork and any finds.

5.2 Fieldwork

5.2.1 The fieldwork involved the excavation of two trenches, trench 1 measuring roughly 8.35m in length and 1.85m in width at its greatest extent and trench 2 measuring 8.25m in length and 1.8m in width at its greatest extent, across the footprint of the proposed development, situated to provide a suitable coverage of the development footprint, areas of perceived archaeological potential and existing constraints such as the presence of extant buildings, service runs and accessibility.

- 5.2.2** The trenches were initially opened using a mechanical excavator fitted with a concrete breaker and a toothless grading bucket. Initial ground reduction commenced using the mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision in shallow spits down to the latest significant archaeological horizon, or in absence of remains to natural subsoil. Steps were cut into the north east end of trench 2 to provide safe access.
- 5.2.3** Following initial clearance an on-site decision was made as to the extent and likely significance of archaeological deposits and features within the trenches, dictating the extent of hand-excavation required. Sufficient work was undertaken to establish the nature of deposits and features, with adequate recovery of finds dating and other evidence.
- 5.2.4** Archaeological contexts were recorded as appropriate on *pro-forma* sheets by written and measured description, and/or drawn in plan or section, generally at scales of 1:10 or 1:20. The investigations were recorded on a general site plan and related to the Ordnance Survey grid. Levels were taken on the top and bottom of any archaeological features or deposits, transferred from the nearest Ordnance Datum Benchmark. The fieldwork record is supplemented by digital photography, in .jpeg and RAW formats.
- 5.2.5** The recording system followed the procedures set out in the Museum of London recording manual. By agreement the recording and drawing sheets used will be directly compatible with those developed by the Museum.
- 5.2.6** Additional techniques, for example metal detecting and environmental sampling, were not required.
- 5.2.7** No finds identified as treasure under the Treasure Act (1996) and the Treasure (Designation) Order (2002) were recorded.

5.3 Post-excavation

The fieldwork has been followed by off-site assessment and compilation of a report, and by ordering and deposition of the site archive.

- 5.3.1** Assessment of finds has been undertaken by appropriately qualified staff (see Appendix I). Finds and samples will be treated in accordance with the appropriate CIfA guidelines, (CIfA 2014a).
- 5.3.2** Archaeological finds and samples were retained and bagged with unique numbers related to the context record, although certain classes of material were discarded once an appropriate record was made.

5.4 Report and Archive

- 5.4.1** Copies of the report will be supplied to the client, and Historic England.

- 5.4.2** This report contains a description of the fieldwork plus details of any archaeological remains or finds, and an interpretation of the associated deposits. Illustrations have been included as appropriate, including at a minimum a site plan located to the OS grid. A short summary of the project has been appended using the OASIS Data Collection Form.
- 5.4.3** Further analysis or publication of the evaluation results are not considered necessary.
- 5.4.4** Once the project is completed an ordered indexed and internally consistent archive will be compiled in line with CIfA standards and guidance, (CIfA 2014b), and will be deposited in a local archive. The integrity of the site archive should be maintained, and the landowner(s) will be urged to donate any archaeological finds to the appropriate local museum.

6 THE RESULTS

- 6.1** What follows is a written description of observations made during the course of the fieldwork augmented by illustrative photographs. The following description should be read in conjunction with figure 10 for trench locations and figs. 17-20 for plans and sample section drawings of the trenches, (see appendix II). Fills and layers are shown in (rounded brackets), whilst cuts and structures are shown in [square brackets]. A context list for individual trenches has also been appended to the report; (see Appendix I).



Figure 10: Site plan showing location of evaluation trenches (green) and the footprint of the proposed development (dark blue). Produced by Russell Associates and amended

6.2 Trench 1

6.2.1 Trench 1 was situated towards the SE, to the SW of the existing dilapidated workshop and north west of the existing dilapidated portacabin. It measured 8.35m NW-SE and 1.85m NE-SW at its greatest width. The trench was dug to a maximum of c.1.16m below ground level at its NW end (7.45mOD) and c.920mm below ground level at its SE end (7.94mOD). A natural deposit, a mid orange-brown sandy silt (103) was first encountered approximately 730mm below ground level (8.10mOD).



Figure 11: View of trench 1, facing NW

6.2.2 The latest context in trench 1 was a dark greyish brown clayey-sandy-silt made ground (101) (overlaid by the existing hardstanding used for car parking on the site previously) which measured 360mm at its greatest thickness in the section recording. Below this was (102), a light beige-brown sandy silt which was a maximum thickness of 450mm in the section recording, which may have been a reworked natural. This deposit sealed the natural (103).



Figure 12: View of trench 1 NE facing section, facing SW

- 6.2.3** Deposited up against the natural light beige-orange silty sand (103) was the mid beige clayey-sandy-silt natural (104). This had a thickness of 20-200mm in section and was roughly wedge-shaped in plan, at least 3.80m long NW-SE and a maximum of 1.85m wide.
No finds were recovered from this trench.



Figure 13: Oblique view of trench 1, facing S



Figure 14: View of trench 1, facing SE



Figure 15: View of trench 2, facing NE

6.3 Trench 2

6.3.1 Trench 2 was situated to the NW of trench 1, on the NW side of the former car park. It measured 8.25m NE-SW and a maximum of 1.80m NW-SE. The trench was dug to a

maximum of c.1.53m below ground level at its NE end (6.20mOD) and 1.65m below ground level at its SE end (6.79mOD). A natural deposit, a light orange-brown sandy silt (207) was first encountered at approximately 1.3m below ground level (7.04mOD).



Figure 16: Oblique view of NW facing section of trench 2, facing E



Figure 17: Oblique of NW facing section of trench 2, facing S

- 6.3.2** The latest context in trench 2 was a greyish-brown silty sand made ground (201) with frequent CBM and pebble inclusions. This was roughly 600-910mm thick as recorded in section. This was cut into by (202)/[203] which appears to have been created to facilitate the installation of now defunct metal piping; this contained a dark orange-brown sandy silt fill and was approximately 30-250mm thick in the section drawing. Below both (201) and (202)/[203] was a thin ribbon of light orange-yellow clay-silty-sand made ground (204) which consistently measured approximately 100mm in section. Below (204) was (205), a dark grey-brown clay-sandy silt made ground deposit which produced glass and pottery assemblages dated roughly to the early 20th century (see Appendices III and V). This measured 30-90mm thick in the section drawing.
- 6.3.3** Below (205) was a dark brown-beige buried soil (206), with a compacted horizon compressed by the made ground deposits above. From this horizon an assemblage of fragmentary CBM and two small pieces of pottery were recovered; the pottery has been dated to the mid-19th century (see Appendix III). Overall, the buried soil measured approximately 300-400mm thick in section.
- 6.3.4** Cut into the natural in the northern corner of the trench was a charcoal flecked pit (208)/[209], sub-circular in plan, which was reduced by machine to approximately a level of 6.20mOD and then excavated by hand to the base which was at a further depth of c.150mm. It was approximately 1.5m NW-SE at its absolute greatest extent

and c.700m at its greatest width NE-SW. The only find recovered from the feature was a single piece of CBM.

7 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 The evaluation exercise has proved successful in several ways; helping inform us as to the levels of natural ground across the site and demonstrating the existence of extensive made ground deposits utilised in the levelling of the site. The research questions set out in the original WSI will now be considered in terms of the results of the evaluation.

7.2 *Is there any evidence for prehistoric (particularly Bronze Age) activity? Does this give any indication of how the area was exploited during this period?*

No evidence for prehistoric activity was found during the course of the evaluation.

7.3 *Is there any evidence for Roman or medieval activity? What form does this take; domestic, agricultural, industrial?*

There was no evidence for any kind of Roman or medieval activity found during the course of the evaluation.

7.4 *Is there any evidence for any post-medieval activity on the site, prior to the later-19th century development? In particular, can this related in any way to the documented naval use of Erith in the mid-to-later-17th century?*

Though there is extensive evidence for post-medieval activity on the site, this is not related in any way to the documented naval use of Erith in the mid-to-later-17th century, and it also appears that the post-medieval finds all relate to the mid-19th century or later. The buried soil (206), which produced mid-19th century pottery, may reflect the utilisation of the site as an orchard at this time. Pit (208)/[209], which was cut into the natural in trench 2, cannot be dated but can at least be said to be earlier than the 19th century buried soil (206) which sealed the natural.

7.5 *Is there any evidence relating to the former topography of the site before its occupation in the 1920s and 1930s?*

The buried soil (206) in trench 2, which produced two small pieces of pottery roughly dated to the mid-19th century, may indicate that the former topography of the site prior to its occupation in the 1920s and 1930s. The dating of the pottery in the made ground deposit (205) to the early 20th century is likely indicative of the later terracing of the site potentially in tandem with the development of a British Legion Club and dancehall on the site, first erected in 1926/7.

7.6 *At what level and in what condition do archaeological deposits survive across the site?*

Limited archaeological remains were found during the course of the evaluation. Trench 1 produced no archaeological finds. In trench 2, a sub-circular charcoal-flecked pit seen

in the northern corner of the trench which was hand excavated from a level of 6.20mOD down to 6.05mOD.

The terracing of the site may have potentially truncated any earlier archaeological remains, if they existed at all.

7.7 *What is the nature of the underlying geology of the site and at what level does it survive?*

The underlying natural geology of the site varies slightly between the two trenches. The mid orange-brown sandy silt (103) in trench 1 was less firm than the natural geology seen in trench 2, which was the light orange-brown sandy silt (207). The natural in trench 1 was first encountered at approximately 730mm below ground level (8.10mOD), whilst that in trench 2 was much lower at 1.3m below ground level (7.04mOD). This can at least be partly accounted for by the fact that the existing topography of site slopes down towards the SW where trench 2 was located, but is also a result of the extent to which the ground has been raised through the deposition of made ground in this area.

7.8 No significant archaeological remains were found during the course of the evaluation and there was no indication of prehistoric, Roman, Saxon or medieval activity in the area. This is at least in part likely to be a result of the extensive terracing the site has been subjected to which may have truncated earlier remains. As these stage 1 works have demonstrated the negligible potential for archaeological remains at the site, it is proposed that a further stage 2 archaeological investigation is not required and that the archaeological condition be discharged.

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APPENDIX I Context list

Context No.	Trench No.	Description
(101)	1	Dark greyish brown clayey-sandy-silt made ground
(102)	1	Light beige-brown sandy silt
(103)	1	Mid orange-brown sandy silt natural
(104)	1	Mid beige clayey-sandy-silt natural
(201)	2	Mid greyish-brown silty sand made ground
(202)	2	Dark orange silty sand fill of cut for metallic piping
[203]	2	Cut for (202) installation of defunct services
(204)	2	Light orange-yellow clay-silty-sand made ground
(205)	2	Dark grey-brown clay-sandy silt made ground
(206)	2	Dark brown-beige buried soil
(207)	2	Light orange-brown sandy silt natural
(208)	2	Charcoal flecked dark brown silty sand fill of sub circular pit
[209]	2	Cut of sub-circular pit

APPENDIX II Trench plans, levels and sections

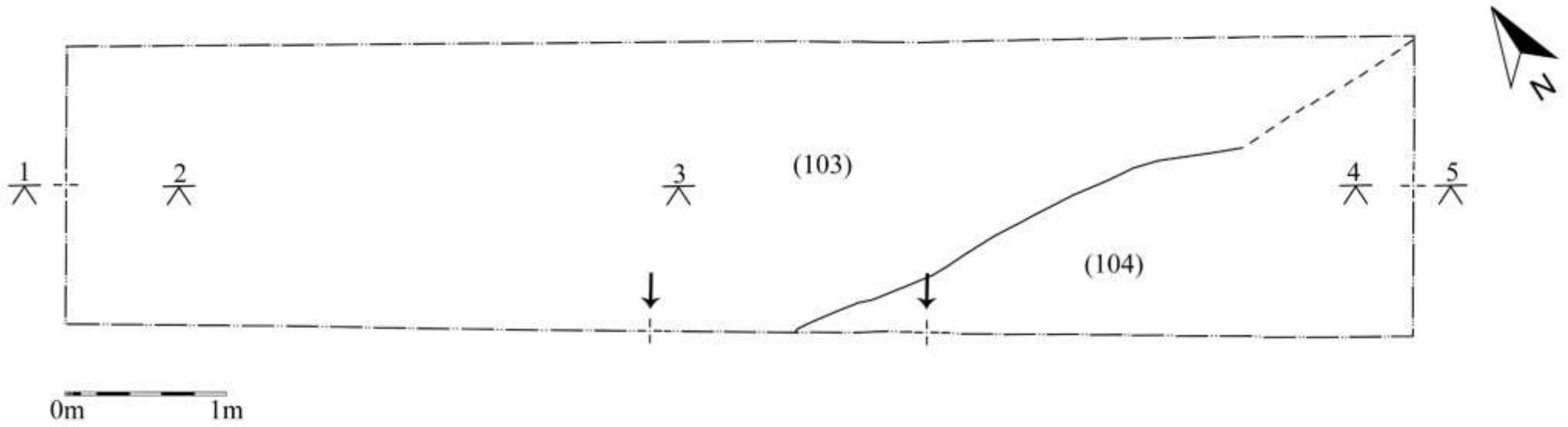


Figure 18: Plan of trench 1 (original drawn at 1:20)

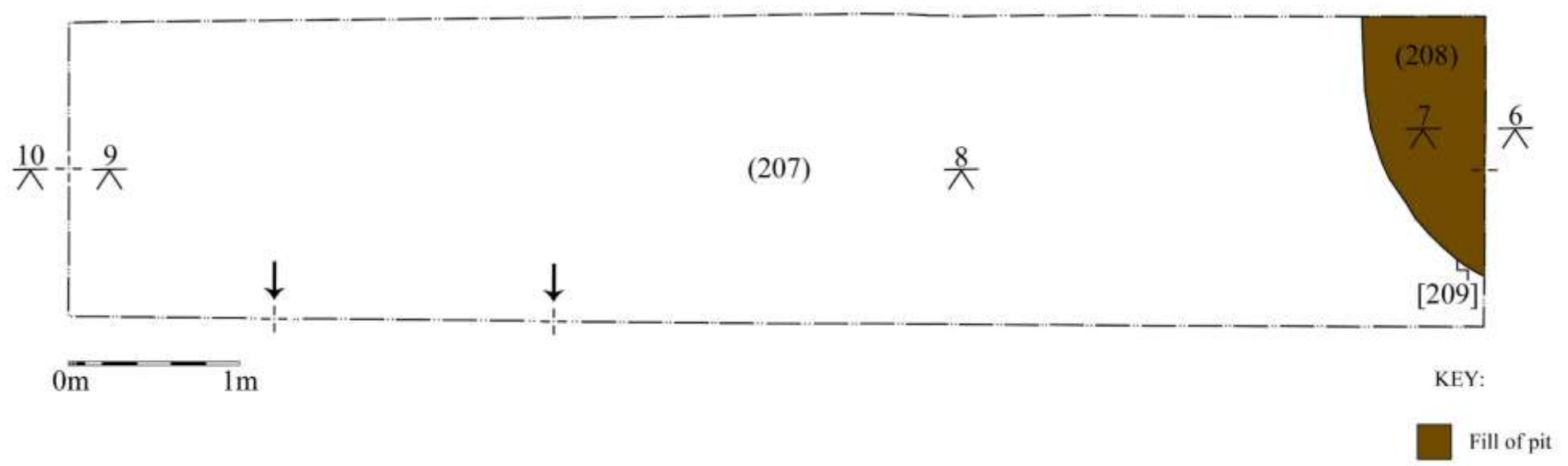


Figure 19: Plan of trench 2 (original drawn at 1:20)

<i>Trench 1</i>		<i>Trench 2</i>	
No.	mAOD	No.	mAOD
1	8.61	6	7.73
2	7.45	7	6.20
3	7.69	8	6.63
4	7.94	9	6.79
5	8.86	10	8.44

Site levels by trench. All values given in metres above ordnance datum, (mAOD)

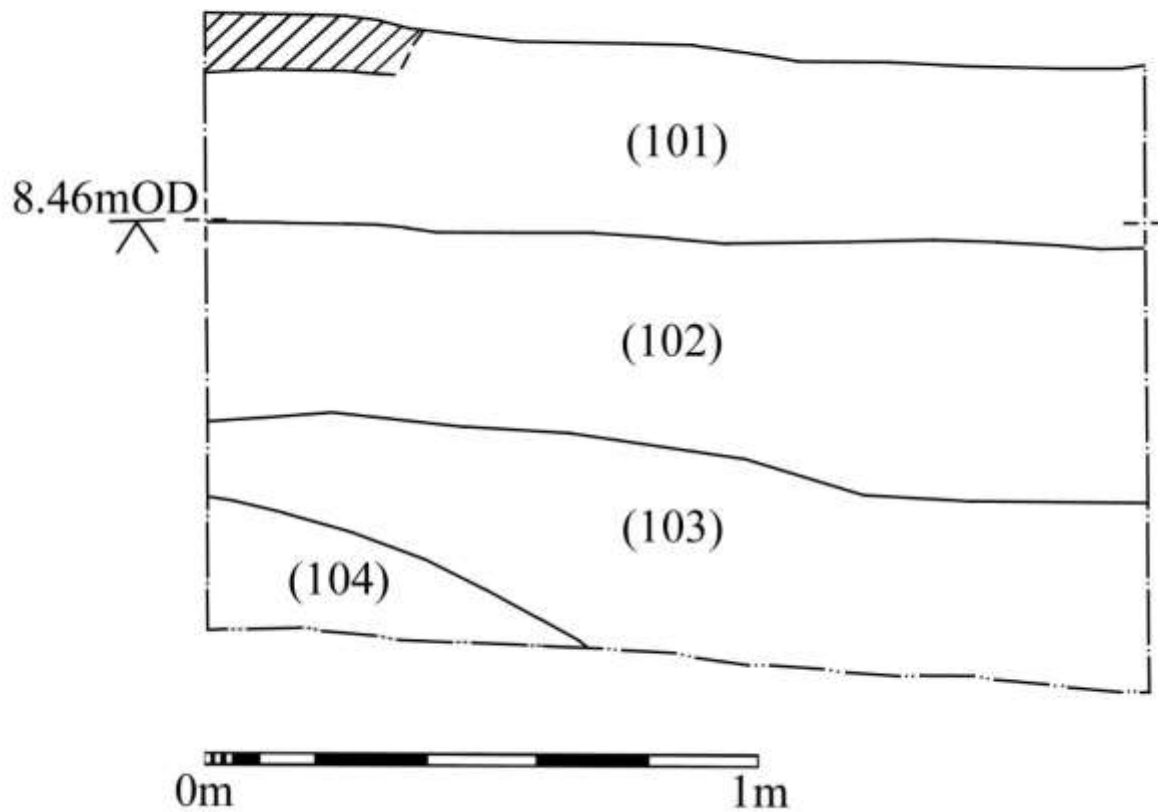


Figure 20: Trench 1 section (original drawn at 1:10), striped area is concrete

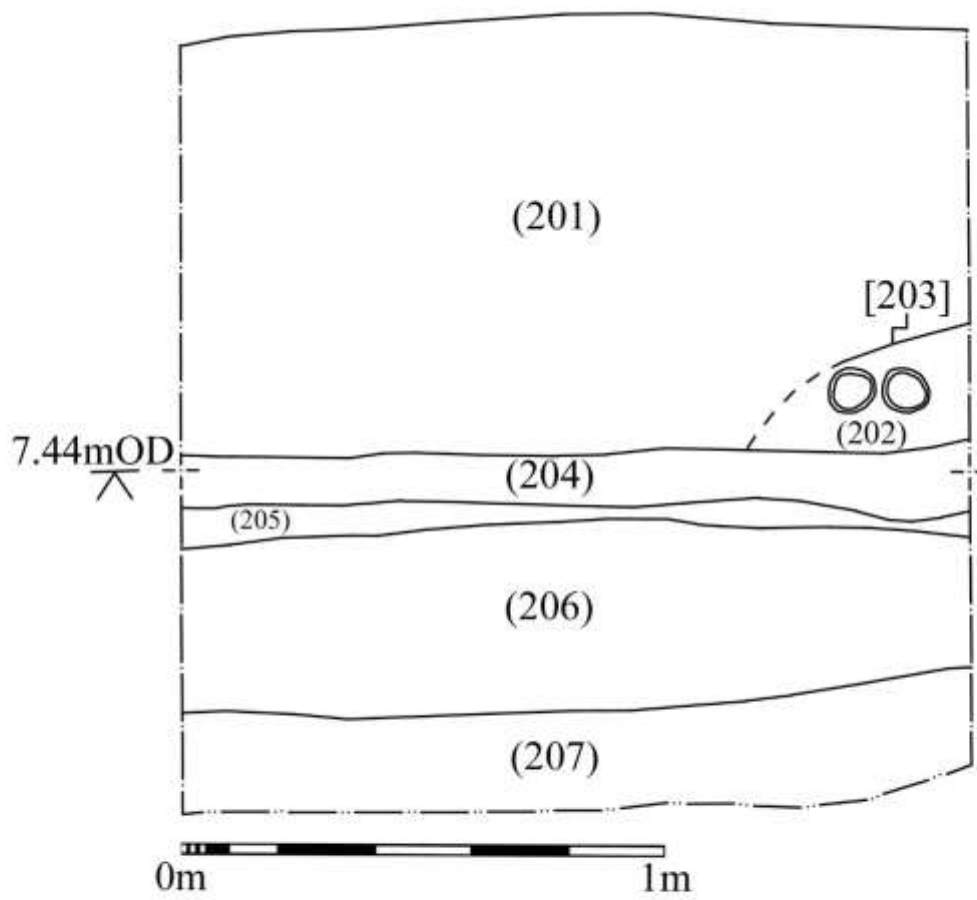


Figure 21: Trench 2 section (original drawn at 1:10)

APPENDIX III Pottery report

Paul Blinkhorn

Pottery from 14-28 West Street, Erith (Site WRT17)

The pottery assemblage comprised 16 sherds with a total weight of 215g. It was all post-medieval, and mostly modern. It was recorded using the conventions of the Museum of London Type-Series (eg. Vince 1985), as follows:

DERBS: Derby Stoneware, 1700-1900. 1 sherd, 24g.
ENGS: English Stoneware, 1700-1900. 4 sherds, 106g.
ENPO: English Porcelain, 1745-1900. 2 sherd, 7g.
PMR: Post-medieval Redware, 1580 – 1900. 1 sherds, 1g.
REFW: Refined Whiteware, 1800-1900. 7 sherds, 76g.
YELL: Yellow Ware, 1840-1900. 1 sherd, 1g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types is typical of sites in the region, and the assemblage consists of a typical mix of tablewares and more utilitarian vessels.

One of the sherds of REFW from context 205 has the maker's mark of Société Céramique, which produced pottery at Maastricht in Holland between 1863 and 1958. The mark is one which was registered on 14th November 1900.

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

Cntxt	PMR		ENPO		ENGS		DERBS		YELL		REFW		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
206	1	1							1	1			M19thC
205			2	7	4	106	1	24			7	76	20thC
Total	1	1	2	7	4	106	1	24	1	1	7	76	

Bibliography

Vince, AG, 1985 The Saxon and Medieval Pottery of London: A review
93

Medieval Archaeology **29**, 25-



Figure 22: Refined whiteware sherd with maker's mark from context (205)



Figure 23: English stoneware sherds from context (205)

APPENDIX IV CBM report

Florence Smith Nicholls

Context	Number	Weight
(206)	8	162g
(208)	1	16g

The CBM recovered from the evaluation was very fragmentary; eight tile fragments were found within context (206) however none of these were diagnostic. One piece of very eroded CBM was found in the pit fill (208) but this was also undiagnostic.

APPENDIX V Glass report

Florence Smith Nicholls

Context (205)

A small assemblage of 8 glass vessels was collected from context (205), a dark grey-brown clay-sandy silt made ground which sealed the buried soil (206). This included the remains of at least 7 separate vessels; most very fragmentary and only those which had any diagnostic features will be discussed.

One small vessel was complete. This was colourless with moulded decoration around the base and the just below the lip, and a vertical side mould seam which indicates that it is machine made and can at least be dated to the 20th century. The base is 480mm wide and has an unidentified manufacturer's mark as well as the number '101.' It is assumed to be a condiment jar.

At least two pale aqua medicine bottles formed part of the assemblage. One of these consisted of a base and part of the body of a bottle with '...SPOONS' clearly embossed on the side. The other fragment consisted of part of a bottle base as well as the body of a bottle, also with '...SPOONS' embossed on the side. Originally, these were medicine bottles, the full embossed word being 'TABLESPOONS' along with parallel sets of measures seen along both sides of the bottle. They can be dated to roughly 1900.² An additional body shard from one of these vessels was also found in the assemblage.

A light aqua bottle with a circular base was found also found in (205) which has 'R. WHITE REG D' embossed on it. This is thought to indicate that the bottle was made by 'R. Whites,' which originally began in 1845 with Robert and Mary White selling ginger beer from a barrel.³ In 1880 the sons of R. White joined the business and by 1894 the company was incorporated as R. White & Sons Ltd. This would suggest that the bottle must date to before 1894 as only 'R. White' is embossed.

A colourless bottle shard with '...GLASGOW' embossed down the side could have been a Camp Coffee and Chicory bottle, as early 20th century bottles produced for this company were marked with its location 'GLASGOW' in large embossed letters on one side of the bottle in what appears to be the same typographical style. Camp Coffee was a brown liquid used as a coffee substitute. There was a British Legion Club and dance hall on the site by 1926/7 and the product has military associations as something which could be used to brew coffee quickly, however without a more complete vessel this identification can only be tentative.

Overall, the assemblage indicates an early 20th century date for the context (205).

² The Old Operating Theatre Museum & Herb Garret n.d. 'Bottles and Shop Rounds.' [Online] Available at: <http://www.thegarret.org.uk/collectionbottles.htm#2002139> Accessed: 03.03.2017

³ Bridge to Nowhere. N.d. 'R. White's Mineral Water.' [Online] Available at: <http://www.bridgetonowhere.friendsofburgesspark.org.uk/the-story-of-burgess-park-heritage-trail/heritage-trail-m-w-r-whites-mineral-water/> Accessed: 06.03.17



Figure 24: Condiment jar from context (205)



Figure 25: Medicine bottles from context (205)



Figure 26: R. White bottle shard from context (205)



Figure 27: Base of R. White bottle from context (205)



Figure 28: Potential Camp Coffee bottle shard from context (205)

Appendix VI Oasis data collection form

OASIS ID: compassa1-278299

Project details

Project name	20 West Street, and the rear of nos. 14-28 West Street, Erith: An Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	On the 24th of February Compass Archaeology conducted an archaeological evaluation at 20 West Street, and the rear of nos. 14-28 West Street, Erith London Borough of Bexley. The works were undertaken in accordance with the planning condition attached to the development of the site as a stage 1 preliminary archaeological investigation. Two trial trenches were dug, trench 1 measured 8.35m in length and 1.85m in width at its greatest extent and trench 2 measuring 8.25m in length and 1.8m in width at its greatest extent. The stratigraphy in trench 1 can be summarised as made ground deposited over natural, and trench 2 had made ground sealing a buried soil overlying natural. The buried soil (206), which produced mid-19th century pottery, may reflect the utilisation of the site as an orchard at this time. The dating of the pottery in the made ground deposit (205) to the early 20th century is likely indicative of the later terracing of the site potentially in tandem with the development of a British Legion Club and dancehall on the site, first erected in 1926/7. The natural in trench 1 was first encountered at approximately 730mm below ground level (8.10mOD), whilst that in trench 2 was much lower at 1.3m below ground level (7.04mOD). As these stage 1 works have demonstrated the negligible potential for archaeological remains at the site, it is proposed that a further stage 2 archaeological investigation is not required.
Project dates	Start: 24-02-2017 End: 24-02-2017
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	WRT17 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	12/01205/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BOTTLE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	TILE Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition

Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country England
Site location GREATER LONDON BEXLEY ERITH 20 West Street, and the rear of nos. 14-28 West Street
Postcode DA8 1AF
Study area 30.25 Square metres
Site coordinates TQ 551170 178260 50.938409725432 0.208005622274 50 56 18 N 000 12 28 E Point
Height OD / Depth Min: 0.73m Max: 1.3m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Compass Archaeology
Project brief originator Historic England
Project design originator Compass Archaeology
Project director/manager Geoff Potter
Project supervisor Geoff Potter
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body Cherstone Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Museum of London archaeological archive
Physical Archive ID WRT17
Physical Contents "Ceramics","Glass"
Digital Archive recipient Museum of London Archaeological Archive
Digital Archive ID WRT17
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient Museum of London Archaeological Archive
Paper Archive ID WRT17
Paper Media available "Context sheet","Drawing","Map","Plan","Section","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	20 West Street, and the rear of nos. 14-28 West Street, Erith London Borough of Bexley: An Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Smith Nicholls, F.
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	250 York Road, Battersea, London, SW11 3SJ
Description	A summary of the evaluation detailing site background, known history, research objectives, methodology, and description of archaeological deposits and features recorded supplemented by illustrations and photographs. Conclusions and recommendations for next phase of work given.
Entered by	Florence Smith Nicholls (florence@compassarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	6 March 2017