

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report  
Test-Pits at South Street, Queenborough  
Isle of Sheppey, Kent**

**NGR 590826 172180**

**Project No: 5328  
Site Code: SQS 11**

**ASE Report No: 2012017  
OASIS ID: archaeol6-117850**

**By  
Simon Stevens BA MIFA**

**With contributions by Luke Barber  
Trista Clifford and Sarah Porteus**

**February 2012**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report  
Test-Pits at South Street, Queenborough  
Isle of Sheppey, Kent**

**NGR 590826 172180**

**Project No: 5328  
Site Code: SQS 11**

**ASE Report No: 2012017  
OASIS ID: archaeol6-117850**

**By  
Simon Stevens BA MIFA**

**With contributions by Luke Barber  
Trista Clifford and Sarah Porteus**

**January 2012**

**Archaeology South-East  
Units 1 & 2  
2 Chapel Place  
Portslade  
East Sussex  
BN41 1DR**

**Tel: 01273 426830  
Fax: 01273 420866  
Email: [fau@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:fau@ucl.ac.uk)**

**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Clancy Docwra to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the mechanical excavation of test-pits at South Street Queenborough, Isle of Sheppey, Kent in advance of the laying of a new pumping main.*

*No significant archaeological deposits or features were recorded. A small assemblage of post-medieval material was recovered.*

## CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Archaeological Background**
- 3.0 Archaeological Methodology**
- 4.0 Results**
- 5.0 The Finds**
- 6.0 Discussion**

**Bibliography**  
**Acknowledgements**

**HER Summary Sheet**  
**OASIS Form**

### **TABLES**

- Table 1: Quantification of site archive
- Table 2: Quantification of the finds assemblage

### **FIGURES**

- Figure 1: Site location
- Figure 2: Site plan: the monitored areas

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA) was commissioned by Clancy Docwra to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the mechanical excavation of test-pits at South Street Queenborough, Isle of Sheppey, Kent (NGR 590826, 172180; Figure 1).

### **1.2 Topography and Geology**

1.2.1 South Street lies to the south of Queenborough High Street and runs along the northern edge of *The Creek*, a channel running from the River Swale. There are houses on the northern side of the street for much of its length and some industrial buildings on the south side, clustered at the eastern end, located between the carriageway and *The Creek*.

1.2.2 According to current data from the British Geological Survey the underlying bedrock is the London Clay Formation of clays and silts. The superficial geology at the site is Beach and Tidal Flat Deposits (Undifferentiated) consisting of clays, silt and sand (BGS 2011).

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 The current work (the mechanical excavation of five test pits) forms the final stage of ground testing before the excavation of the pipe trench for the installation of a new pumping main along the length of South Street.

1.3.1 Although the work falls outside the usual planning regulation framework, Clancy Docwra and ASE consulted the Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council regarding the impact of the proposed works. Owing to the potential that archaeological deposits might be encountered during the excavation of the test-pits, the monitoring of the works by a suitably qualified archaeologist was considered appropriate.

### **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

1.4.1 The main aim of the monitoring was to identify and make a detailed record of any archaeological remains encountered in the test-pits. Information gained during this process could then be used in the formulation of a strategy for any archaeological work required prior to the commencement of trenching for the new pumping main below South Street.

1.4.2 Therefore the archaeological recording sought to establish the nature and extent of archaeological remains by characterising the date, nature and significance of any structures, features and deposits, artefacts and ecofacts encountered in the test-pits.

## **1.5 Scope of Report**

- 1.5.1 The current report provides results of the archaeological monitoring of the mechanical excavation of test-pits at the site carried out during early January 2012. The on-site work was undertaken by Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist). The project was managed by Andy Leonard (Project Manager) and by Jim Stevenson (Post-Excavation Manager).

## 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The Kent County Council Historical Environment Record (HER) was consulted. There are 92 entries within a 1km radius of the site; the majority are ship wrecks and the sites of derelict barges and post-medieval wharfs, and are not included here. Queenborough's numerous listed buildings, (mostly on the High Street) have also not been listed. The following are considered some of the more significant entries, or those in the immediate area of the current site:

HER Number	Description
TQ 97 SW 1	Queenborough Castle, built 1361-75, demolished 1650. Survives as an earthwork.
TQ 97 SW 2	?Moated site near castle. Excavation in 1970s revealed masonry
TQ 97 SW 17	Medieval borough of Queenborough. First mentioned in 1368 when borough status given by Edward III
TQ 97 SW 48	Harty Road Halt railway station added to Sheppey Light Railway in 1905. Closed 1950, Partly removed.
TQ 97 SW 50	Queenborough railway station, built in 1860. Still in use.
TQ 97 SW 45	Queenborough Old Pier opened in 1876. Used by the military in both World Wars, Demolished in 1955.
TQ 97 SW 46	Site of early Copperas Works in West Street. First mentioned in 1579. Fertilizer works in 1900. Now redeveloped.
TQ 97 SW 47	Site of tar distillation works in Hushenden Lane built in 1876, Now a scrapyard
TQ 97 SW 52	Queenborough cement works opened in 1882 in Rushenden Road. Demolished during WWI.
TQ 97 SW 89	Queenborough Glass Bottle Works built in 1909. In production until 1990s.
TQ 97 SW 90	Pottery works producing earthenware sanitary ware in bottle kilns founded in 1909.
TQ 97 SW 91	Copperworks built in 1904. Converted to glass production in 1919. Smelting furnace and other machinery
TQ 97 SW 1002	Oyster beds. Medieval origins and continued as important industry into C19th,
TQ 97 SW 1071	Queenborough & Leysdown Light Railway, opened 1901. Closed 1950.
TQ 97 SW 1162	Parish Church of The Holy Trinity. Possibly 11 <sup>th</sup> century tower, but may be later. Mostly C14th
TQ 97 NW 1165	Isle of Sheppey railway, opened in 1860. Extended in 1883, and electrified in 1959

Table 1: Summary of HER data

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 The mechanical excavation of five test-pits was monitored. All sections were examined for the presence of archaeological features, and all spoil was scanned for the presence of archaeological artefacts.
- 3.2 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded to accepted professional standards using standard Archaeology South-East context record forms. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.3 A full photographic record of the work was kept and will form part of the site archive. The site archive is currently held by Archaeology South-East at the offices in Portslade, and has been accepted for deposition in Minster Gatehouse Museum, Sheppey. The archive consists of the following material:

Number of Contexts	17
Test-Pit Record Sheets	5
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	-
Bulk Samples	-
Photograph	
Bulk finds	1 box
Registered finds	-
Environmental flots/residue	-

Table 1: Quantification of Site Archive



## 4.0 RESULTS (Figure 2)

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Five test-pits were mechanically excavated in the carriageway of South Street in advance of the replacement of a water main. The test-pits were numbered TP9 to TP13 to avoid confusion with eight test-pits previously excavated for the scheme (ASE 2007)

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
9/001	Deposit	Tarmac	100mm
9/002	Deposit	Make-Up/Levelling	210mm
9/003	Deposit	Made Ground	>1m
10/001	Deposit	Tarmac	90mm
10/002	Deposit	Make-Up/Levelling	200mm
10/003	Deposit	Made Ground	>1.1m
11/001	Deposit	Tarmac	100mm
11/002	Deposit	Make-Up/Levelling	190mm
11/003	Deposit	Made Ground	>1.2m
12/001	Deposit	Tarmac	100mm
12/002	Deposit	Make-Up/Levelling	220mm
12/003	Deposit	Made Ground	1.3m
12/004	Deposit	'Natural'	>200mm
13/001	Deposit	Tarmac	90mm
13/002	Deposit	Make-Up/Levelling	210mm
13/003	Deposit	Made Ground	>1.2m

### 4.2 Test-Pit 9

4.2.1 Test-Pit 9 was 2.5m long, 500mm wide and 1.4m deep and revealed a simple stratigraphic sequence. The uppermost layer was a 100mm thick deposit of tarmac, context [9/001], forming the current surface of the carriageway. It overlay context [9/002] a 210mm thick make/levelling deposit consisting of a mixture of mid-greyish brown silty clay and brick, crushed stone and sand. This in turn overlay context [9/003], a deposit of made ground consisting of dark brown silty clay containing brick rubble and crushed roadstone, which extended to the base of the test-pit.

4.2.2 A small assemblage of artefacts, all of late post-medieval date was recovered from context [9/003].

### 4.3 Test-Pit 10

4.3.1 Test-Pit 10 was 2.3m long, 500mm wide and 1.6m deep. The stratigraphic sequence and deposit characteristics were the same as those observed in Test-Pit 9. The layers were recorded as follows; tarmac [10/001] (90mm in thickness), make-up/levelling [10/002] (200mm in thickness) and made ground [10/003] (extended to the base of the test-pit).

4.3.2 A small assemblage of artefacts, all of late post-medieval date was recovered from context [10/003].

#### **4.4 Test-Pit 11**

- 4.4.1 Test-Pit 11 was 2m long, 500mm wide and 1.4m deep. The stratigraphic sequence and deposit characteristics were the same as those observed in Test-Pit 9. The layers were recorded as follows; tarmac [11/001] (100mm in thickness), make-up/levelling [11/002] (190mm in thickness) and made ground [11/003] (extended to the base of the test-pit).
- 4.4.2 A small assemblage of artefacts, all of late post-medieval date was recovered from context [11/003].

#### **4.5 Test-Pit 12**

- 4.5.1 Test-Pit 12 was 2m long, 500mm wide and 1,8m deep and was the only test-pit in which the 'natural' was encountered. The overlying stratigraphic sequence and deposit characteristics were the same as those observed in Test-Pit 9. The layers were recorded as follows; tarmac [12/001] (100mm in thickness), make-up/levelling [12/002] (220mm in thickness) and made ground [11/003] (1.3m in thickness and with a higher proportion of crushed roadstone than in the other test-pits). The 'natural' was a firm brownish grey clay, encountered at 1.6m below the current road surface and extending to the base of the test-pit.
- 4.5.2 No artefacts were recovered from the test-pit.

#### **4.6 Test-Pit 13**

- 4.6.1 Test-Pit 13 was 2m long, 500mm wide and 1.5m deep. The stratigraphic sequence and deposit characteristics were the same as those observed in Test-Pit 9. The layers were recorded as follows; tarmac [13/001] (90mm in thickness), make-up/levelling [13/002] (210mm in thickness) and made ground [13/003] (extended to the base of the test-pit).
- 4.6.2 A small assemblage of artefacts, all of late post-medieval date was recovered from context [13/003].

#### **4.7 The Pumping Main Trench**

- 4.7.1 Following a review of the results of the archaeological monitoring of the test-pits by the Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council, it was decided that monitoring of the excavation of the pipe trench for the new pumping main was not necessary.

## 5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 A small collection of finds was recovered during the watching brief at South Street Queenborough. An overview is presented in Table 2.

Context	Pottery	wt (g)	CBM	wt (g)	Shell	wt (g)	CTP	wt (g)
9/003	6	354	1	164	2	146	1	4
10/003	4	58	2	288			2	8
11/003			3	724	2	72	1	2
13/003	9	214	3	160	1	22		
<b>Total</b>	19	626	9	1336	5	240	4	14

Table 2: Quantification of the finds assemblage

## 5.2 The Post-Roman Pottery by Luke Barber

5.2.1 The archaeological work recovered a small assemblage of post-medieval pottery from the site. All was recovered from Trenches 9, 10 and 13. Despite the clearly mixed nature of the deposits the sherds are on the whole of a large average size (up to 160mm across) and do not show notable signs of abrasion. As such it would appear the material has not been subjected to repeated reworking.

5.2.2 The earliest pottery consist of a single residual sherd from a 17<sup>th</sup>- century yellow glazed Border ware bowl (1/38g: context [10/003]) and a chip from an early/mid-18<sup>th</sup> century cup rim in Staffordshire-type white salt-glazed stoneware (1/2g: context [9/003]).

5.2.3 The assemblage also contains a number of sherds that are likely to be from the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> or early- 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. These include the complete profile of a shallow bowl with club rim in glazed red earthenware and an early Sunderland-type slipware bowl with iron mottling (context [9/003]), creamware sherds (a plate from [10/003] and a bowl from [13/003]) and a number of pearlware sherds. The latter were all recovered from [13/003] and include a hand-painted saucer with polychrome floral design, a plain plate and transfer-printed vessels including a serving dish with willow pattern and plates with floral designs. This same context produced a Sunderland-type slipware bowl sherd with iron mottling and the 57mm diameter base from an English stoneware blacking bottle. Both could be of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

5.2.4 Mid- to later- 19<sup>th</sup>- century material was also recovered from the site. Context [9/003] produced part of an English porcelain fluted cup, a transfer-printed ware saucer with blue 'RAFFAELLE' pattern and a plain white refined white earthenware cup. Context [10/003] also produced a piece of English porcelain (a cup handle) and a transfer-printed dish with blue floral design. No definite pottery of this period was recovered from [13/003].

### **5.3 The Ceramic Building Material** by Sarah Porteus

- 5.3.1 A total of 10 fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) with a combined weight of 1328g were recovered from 4 contexts. The assemblage comprises brick and peg tile of post-medieval date.
- 5.3.2 The assemblage has been examined with the aid of a x10 magnifier and where appropriate samples have been compared with the Museum of London (MoL) fabric series, where this was not possible a provisional fabric series was created. The assemblage has been recorded on pro-forma record forms for archive. The bulk (75 % by weight) of the assemblage holds no potential for further research and has been discarded, a sample of the provisional fabric type has been retained for comparison during any further work.
- 5.3.3 Test Pit 9, context [9/003], contained a single fragment of brick in a soft orange sandy fabric similar to MoL3033, the brick was unfrogged and sooted on the stretcher face. The brick fragment is broadly of later 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century, though a slightly later date cannot be ruled out.
- 5.3.4 Test Pit 10, context [10/003], contained two fragments of peg tile in provisional fabric T1, a fine orange fabric with very sparse fine black iron rich and calcareous inclusions. The peg tile had a poorly formed square peg hole and an uneven surface and edges. The tile is broadly post-medieval, 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date.
- 5.3.5 Test Pit 11, context [11/003], contained fragments of brick in fabric MoL3035 and MoL3034 along with two fragments of peg tile in fabric T1. The MoL3035 brick fragment was unfrogged and of standard 65mm thickness, brick in this fabric is of Kentish origin and broadly of later 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date. The brick fragment in fabric MoL3034 is a reddish orange sandy fabric and also of probable late 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date. The peg tile is of 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date with a poorly formed square peg hole.
- 5.3.6 Test Pit 13, context [13/003], contained three abraded brick fragments one in soft fired orange sandy fabric MoL3033 broadly of later 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century date, but may be a poorly fired later brick. Also represented was a single fragment of MoL3032 type brick containing ash and clinker inclusions of mid-17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date.

**5.4 The Shell** by Trista Clifford

- 5.4.1 Five oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) valves weighing a total of 240g were recovered from three separate contexts, representing minimum number of three individuals. Single upper valves were recovered from [11/003] and [13/003]. The remainder are lower valves. All are mature with some evidence of parasitic infestation present.

**5.5 The Clay Tobacco Pipe** by Luke Barber

- 5.5.1 A single fresh mid- 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century stem fragment was recovered from [9/003], with a further stem of similar date coming from [10/003]. However, this deposit also produced a fresh stem fragment of mid- 17<sup>th</sup> to early 18<sup>th</sup> century date. The earliest fragment consists of a slightly abraded stem fragment of mid/late- 17<sup>th</sup> century date recovered from [11/003].

**6.0 DISCUSSION**

- 6.1 No significant archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded during the monitoring of the excavation of the test-pits at the site, as had been the case during the previous watching brief at the site (ASE 2007).
- 6.2 The finds assemblage recovered during the watching brief contained no artefacts of particular note or great antiquity, and consists of domestic refuse in material underlying the modern road surface.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

ASE 2007. *Interim Summary Report on Archaeological Watching Brief at Queenborough, Isle of Sheppey, Kent* Unpub. ASE Report No. 2933

BGS 2011. British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain Viewer, accessed 19.01.2012 [http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html)

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank Clancy Docwra for commissioning the work and the Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council for their guidance throughout the project. The co-operation and hospitality of the on-site contractors is gratefully acknowledged. Illustrations in this report are by Justin Russell.

### HER Summary Form

Site Code	SQS11					
Identification Name and Address	South Street, Queenborough, Isle of Sheppey					
County, District &/or Borough	Swale District, Kent					
OS Grid Refs.	590826 172180					
Geology	London Clay/Beach & Tidal Flat Deposits					
Arch. South-East Project Number	5328					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief ✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban ✓	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. Jan. 2012	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Clancy Docwra					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin/Jim Stevenson					
Project Supervisor	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM ✓	Other		
<p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Clancy Docwra to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the mechanical excavation of test-pits at South Street Queenborough, Isle of Sheppey, Kent in advance of the laying of a new pumping main.</p> <p>No significant archaeological deposits or features were recorded. A small assemblage of post-medieval material was recovered from the overburden.</p>						



## OASIS Form

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-117850**

### Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at South Street, Queenborough, Kent
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was maintained during the mechanical excavation of five test-pits in the carriageway of South Street, Queenborough, in advance of the laying of a new pumping main. No significant archaeological deposits or features were recorded. A small assemblage of post-medieval material was recovered from the overburden.
Project dates	Start: 10-01-2012 End: 12-01-2012
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	5328 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	SQS11 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 11 - Thoroughfare
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Water Act 1989 and subsequent code of practice

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT SWALE QUEENBOROUGH South Strret
Postcode	ME11 5AF
Study area	10.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 90826 72180 51.4159104962 0.744604132893 51 24 57 N 000 44 40 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 5.00m Max: 10.00m

---

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Archaeology South-East
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard/Jim Stevenson
Project supervisor	Simon Stevens
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Clancy Docwra

---

**Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient	Minster Gatehouse Museum, Sheppey
Physical Contents	'Ceramics'
Digital Archive recipient	Minster Gatehouse Museum, Sheppey
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Minster Gatehouse Museum, Sheppey
Paper Contents	'other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Miscellaneous Material','Report','Unpublished Text'

---

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Watching Bried Report - South Street, Queenborough, Isle of Sheppey, Kent
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Stevens, S.

Other bibliographic details ASE Report No. 2012017

Date 2012

Issuer or publisher Archaeology South-East

Place of issue or publication Portslade, East Sussex

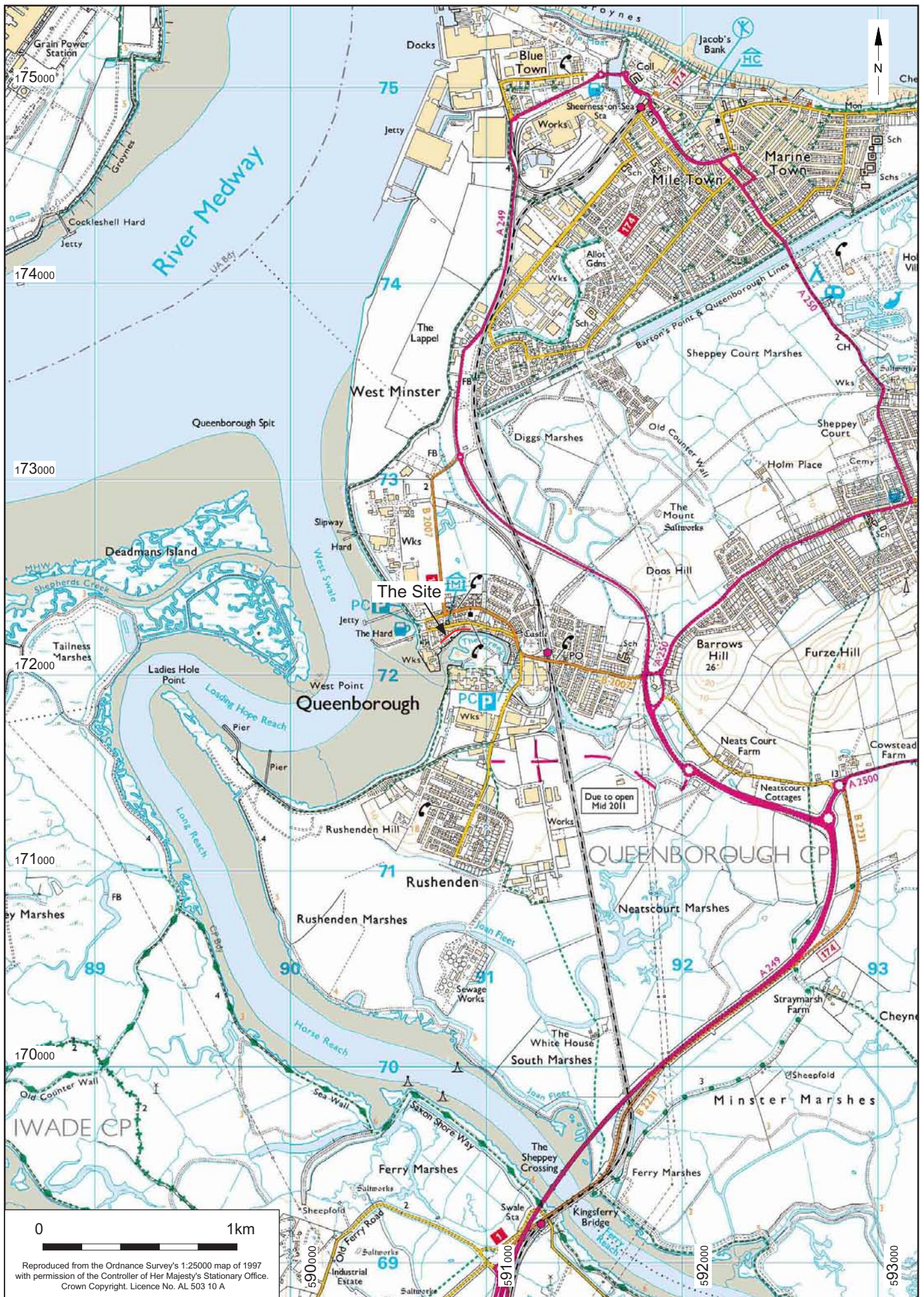
Description ASe Clinet report. A4 format with cover logos.

---

Entered by Simon Stevens (simon.stevens@ucl.ac.uk)

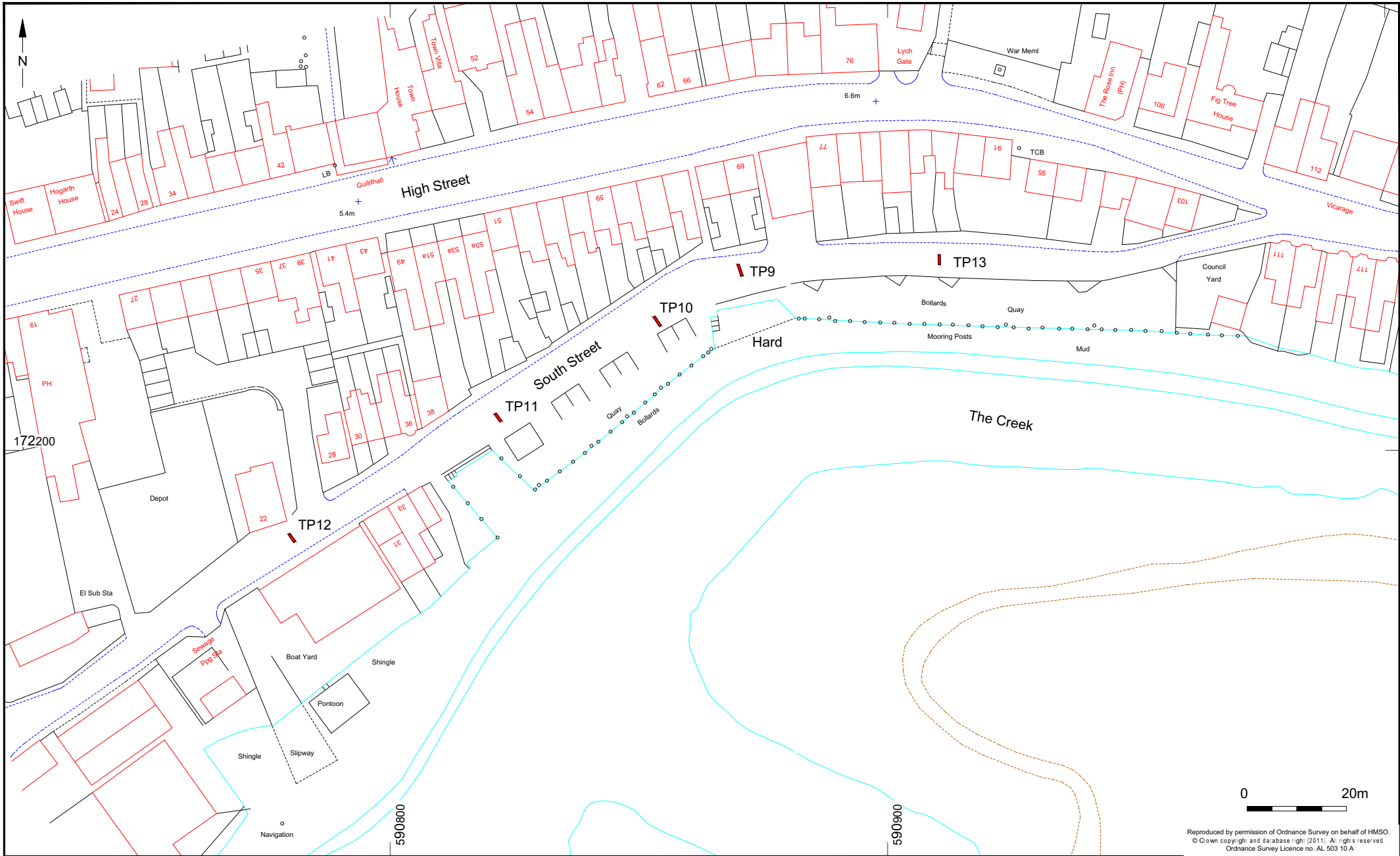
Entered on 24 January 2012





© Archaeology South-East		South Street, Queenborough		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 5328	Jan 2012	Site location		
Report Ref: 2012017	Drawn by: JLR			





© Archaeology South-East		South Street, Queenborough	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 5328	Jan 2012	Test pit location	
Report Ref: 2012017	Drawn by: JLR		

Head Office  
Units 1 & 2  
2 Chapel Place  
Portslade  
East Sussex BN41 1DR  
Tel: +44(0)1273 426830 Fax: +44(0)1273 420866  
email: [fau@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:fau@ucl.ac.uk)  
Web: [www.archaeologyse.co.uk](http://www.archaeologyse.co.uk)



London Office  
Centre for Applied Archaeology  
Institute of Archaeology  
University College London  
31-34 Gordon Square, London, WC1 0PY  
Tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778  
Fax: +44(0)20 7383 2572  
Web: [www.ucl.ac.uk/caa](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/caa)

The contracts division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London 

©Archaeology South-East