

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
at Marine Workshop, Railway Quay, Newhaven,
West Sussex.**

NGR: TQ 44830 01382

Planning Ref: LW/14/0310

**ASE Project No: 6956
Site Code: NUT 14**

**ASE Report No: 2015159
OASIS id: archaeol6-210527**

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East have undertaken an archaeological watching brief on the proposed site for Newhaven University Technical College, formerly the Marine Workshops, Railway Quay.

Because of restrictions on access to the site due to contamination only limited watching brief was able to be undertaken. This comprised the observation of a single pit excavation,

No finds or features of archaeological interest were identified.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London, has been commissioned by Kier Construction to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks in the site of the proposed Newhaven University Technical College (Newhaven UTC), formerly the Marine Workshops, Railway Quay and hereafter referred to as 'the site'. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 544830 101382 and its location is shown in Figure 1.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 According to the latest data from the British Geological Survey (BGS 2014) the underlying solid geology of the site comprises Newhaven Chalk formation, overlain by alluvium associated with the River Ouse. Additional data from Envirocheck and a geotechnical Desk Study (Mott MacDonald 2013b) also indicates the presence of head deposits overlying the Newhaven Chalk Formation at depths of between 7.7m and 8m below ground level. Finally, analysis of historic mapping of Newhaven shows the course of the River Ouse to run directly through the site throughout much of the post-medieval period, prior to canalisation into its present course.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning permission has been granted for the redevelopment of the site (Figure 2), comprising the demolition of the existing locomotive workshops and two storey buildings adjoining marine workshops, partial demolition of timber seasoning shed and carpenters workshop and conversion, extensions and alterations to the existing Grade II Listed marine workshops and carpenters workshop (Planning Ref. LW/14/0310). As part of this work, a programme of remediation works is also required, which will involve the bulk removal of contaminated soils across the site.

1.3.2 Due to the archaeological potential of the site, as outlined in a prior Desk Based Assessment (Mott MacDonald 2013a), a programme of archaeological works is required as a condition of planning consent. Conditions 8 and 9 of the decision notice therefore state that:

8. No development shall take place (unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority) until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The Scheme of Investigation shall include archaeological recording and analysis of the historic structures to be demolished or significantly changed.

Reason: To ensure that the archaeological and historical interest of the site is safeguarded and recorded to comply with the National Planning Policy Framework.

9. The development hereby permitted shall not be brought into use until the archaeological site investigation and post investigation assessment (including provision for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition) has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition 13, to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority, in consultation with the County Planning Authority. APFULZ (Jun14)

Reason: To ensure that the archaeological and historical interest of the site is safeguarded and recorded to comply with the National Planning Policy Framework.

- 1.3.3 ASE were subsequently commissioned to write a Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2014) for and undertake an archaeological watching brief of the remediation works and redevelopment of the site.

1.4 Research Aims and Objectives

- 1.4.1 The overall aim of the archaeological watching brief was to record any archaeological features, deposits and artefacts that may be impacted by the development.
- 1.4.2 The site lies within Historic Urban Character Area (HUCA) 05 – East Quay, as defined in the Newhaven Extensive Urban Survey and as such, is only deemed to have a moderate archaeological potential (Harris 2004), with only broad research questions applicable to the area. Nonetheless, the following specific research aims can be proposed, with reference to the Newhaven Extensive Urban Survey.

Pre-urban origins

- RQ1: What was the nature of the palaeoenvironment and the prehistoric, Roman, and Anglo-Saxon human activity in the area?

The medieval village

- RQ9: What evidence is there for any medieval quay or wharf, and what was the nature of the river and seaborne trade?

The Post-medieval town

- RQ13: What evidence is there for 16th and 17th century quays or wharves, and what was the nature of the river and seaborne trade?
- RQ14: To what degree did Newhaven function as an outport of Lewes and how much as a port in its own right, and how did this change during the period?

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 This report details the results the watching brief carried out during October

2014 by Steve Price. The fieldwork was managed by Diccon Hart and Neil Griffin and the post-excavation work by Jim Stevenson.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Overview

- 2.1.1 The following is drawn from the Desk Based Assessment (Mott MacDonald 2013a), of the site, which considered known heritage assets within a 500m radius of the site, and is summarised with due acknowledgement.

2.2 Period Summaries

Prehistoric

- 2.2.1 Findspots of prehistoric date within 500m of the site include three Lower Palaeolithic hand axes, from an unknown location, and 156 pieces of struck flint, also of Palaeolithic date found during archaeological excavations at South Way.
- 2.2.2 Further afield, prehistoric finds and monuments include finds of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic material and a Bronze Age cremation, while Castle Hill is widely recognised as the site of a now destroyed Late Bronze Age or Iron Age hillfort.

Roman

- 2.2.3 Roman activity within 500m of the site includes the 1st-2nd century villa site excavated at South Way and a hoard of 28 Roman coins found on The Island in 1928. Further afield there are records of an additional villa site in the Rose walk area and Iron Age and Roman coins, Roman pottery and fragments of a bronze armlet have been found near Castle Hill. A further hoard of Roman coins is recorded to the west of St Michaels Church.

Early medieval and medieval

- 2.2.4 No early medieval finds are recorded within 500m of the site, although occasional sherds of early medieval pottery have been recovered from South Way and Castle Hill, in the wider landscape.
- 2.2.5 Documentary sources indicate that a settlement existed in the vicinity of Newhaven in the 11th century. By c. 1090 the settlement here was referred to as 'Mechinges', when the church, mill and four acres of land was granted to the Clunia Priory of St Pancras at Lewes. A ferry crossing at Newhaven is first recorded in 1253-62 and it seems probable that this remained in the same location until the late 18th century. Reconstructions of the historic topography of Newhaven undertaken as part of the Newhaven Extensive Urban Survey show the site to lie on the south bank of the River Ouse during the late medieval period.

Post-medieval

- 2.2.6 The name of Newhaven itself relates to post-medieval reworking of the river channel and harbour mouth. As with most of the Sussex rivers, longshore drift, scouring and silting caused the mouth of the River Ouse to migrate

gradually eastwards throughout the post-Roman period, although the first attempts to redirect the course of the river further to the west appear to date to the 16th century, at which time the river appears to have run directly through the site. The river appears to have run through the site until canalisation into its present course at some point during the 19th century.

- 2.2.7 The buildings which stand on the site today date to the later 19th century and relate to the use of the site by the London Brighton and South Coast Railway (LBSCR), as part of an infrastructure for the transfer of materials between ship and rail. These include the Grade II Listed Carpenters shop at the south end of the site and the Marine Workshops to the north, the latter of which served as engineering workshops for the LBSCR cross channel ships. Between these two buildings stood a derrick (no longer surviving), used for the ship-to-shore transfer of cargoes. To the north, beyond the site boundary, are the locomotive workshops for the maintenance of LBSCR's rolling stock, with associated sidings and a turntable.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 The groundworks were monitored in one location (Figure 3).
- 3.1.2 Machine removal of the concrete capping was observed from a distance at this location, along with the hand and machine reduction of the modern overburden to a depth of c. 0.80m.
- 3.1.3 With regard to excavations associated with the remediation of the site, Health and Safety concerns and protocols took precedence at all times. To this end, it was appreciated that some groundworks would not be able to be undertaken with the due regard for the potential to encounter archaeological remains that is usually the case (see 3.2, below). The monitoring archaeologist adhered to the Risk Assessments and Health and Safety Plans of the remediation contractors at all times and did not enter any excavations without the prior approval of the remediation contractors.
- 3.1.4 The ESCC Archaeologist was kept informed of progress and findings so that they may monitor the archaeological work and advise of any areas within the site where further archaeological monitoring may be curtailed as development progresses.
- 3.1.5 A survey of the extant railway tracks and turning circle was created as a part of these works (Figure 4).

3.2 Fieldwork Constraints

- 3.2.1 Severe limitations were imposed upon the methodology, precluding effective archaeological monitoring. Health and safety requirements associated with the remediation of the site meant that strict controls on access to the areas under observation, via a decontamination unit, were in place. These requirements also prevented the movement of archaeological recording equipment in to and out of the monitoring areas.
- 3.2.2 Access was also forbidden to the interiors of the standing buildings meaning that no observation or recording could take place there.
- 3.2.3 Because of the above constraints, the only monitoring that could take place was from a distance away from the remediation works and from the opposite side of fencing.

3.3 The Site Archive

- 3.3.1 Lewes Museum were informed that the fieldwork was taking place and that an archive would be created. The museum has yet to respond. The archive is currently held at ASE's Offices in Portslade. The contents of the archive are tabulated below.
- 3.3.2 A county wide policy of selection and retention of archaeological finds is currently under review by the Sussex Archaeological Museum Group working

party. Once the policy is agreed and in place, it will be implemented by Archaeology South East. The finds archive will be revised in accordance with this policy in the event that it is implemented before deposition of the archive occurs.

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Number of Contexts | 3 |
| No. of files/paper record | 1 |
| Photographs | 13 Digital |

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Pit for new plumbing monitored 3/10/2014 (Figure 3)

4.1.1 The machine and hand excavation of a c. 2x2m pit was observed. It reached a depth of around 0.80m and comprised a stratigraphy of 0.20m concrete which overlay up to 0.50m made ground. Underlying this was a layer of possible Greensand.

4.1.2 No archaeological finds or features were observed within this excavation.

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length m | Max. Width m | Deposit Thickness m |
|----------------|-------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| 001 | Layer | Concrete | Trench | Trench | 0.15-0.20 |
| 002 | Layer | Made ground | Trench | Trench | 0.50 |
| 003 | Layer | Greensand | Trench | Trench | - |

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

5.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1** Restrictions placed on access to the site, due to Health and Safety considerations restricted the scope of the watching brief.
- 5.2** A depth of up to 0.70m of modern overburden was noted in the single monitored area.
- 5.3** A survey of the extant railway tracks and turning circle was created (Fig 3) to allow preservation by record of the remaining features of its past use.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ASE 2014. Newhaven UTC: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief

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Harris R. B. 2004 *Newhaven Historic Character Assessment Report. Sussex Extensive Urban Survey (EUS)*

Mott MacDonald 2013a *Newhaven UTC: Archaeological Desk Based Assessment*. Unpublished Report.

Mott MacDonald 2013b *Newhaven UTC: Phase 1 Geotechnical and Geo-environmental Desk Study*. Unpublished Report.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Kier Construction for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Greg Chuter County Archaeologist for East Sussex County Council for his guidance and monitoring.

HER Summary Form

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|--|--|
| Site Code | NUT 14 | | | | |
| Identification Name and Address | Marine Workshop, Railway Quay, Newhaven | | | | |
| County, District &/or Borough | East Sussex, Lewes | | | | |
| OS Grid Refs. | TQ 44830 01382 | | | | |
| Geology | Newhaven Chalk | | | | |
| Arch. South-East Project Number | 6956 | | | | |
| Type of Fieldwork | | | Watching Brief | | |
| Type of Site | | Shallow Urban | | | |
| Dates of Fieldwork | | | WB. October 2014 | | |
| Sponsor/Client | Kier Construction | | | | |
| Project Manager | Diccon Hart | | | | |
| Project Supervisor | Steve Price | | | | |
| Period Summary | | | | | |
| Summary | | | | | |
| <p><i>Archaeology South-East have undertaken an archaeological watching brief on the proposed site for Newhaven University Technical College, formerly the Marine Workshops, Railway Quay.</i></p> <p><i>Because of restrictions on access to the site due to contamination only limited watching brief was able to be undertaken. This comprised the observation of a single pit excavation,</i></p> <p><i>No finds or features of archaeological interest were identified.</i></p> | | | | | |

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-210527

Project details

| | |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Project name | Marine Workshop, Railway Quay, Newhaven: Watching Brief |
| Short description of the project | <p>Archaeology South-East have undertaken an archaeological watching brief on the proposed site for Newhaven University Technical College, formerly the Marine Workshops, Railway Quay.</p> <p>Because of restrictions on access to the site due to contamination only limited watching brief was able to be undertaken. This comprised the observation of a single pit excavation,</p> <p>No finds or features of archaeological interest were identified.</p> |
| Project dates | Start: 02-10-2014 End: 06-10-2014 |
| Previous/future work | Not known / Not known |
| Any associated project reference codes | 6956 - Contracting Unit No. |
| Type of project | Recording project |
| Site status | None |
| Current Land use | Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial |
| Monument type | NONE None |
| Significant Finds | NONE None |
| Investigation type | "Watching Brief" |
| Prompt | Planning condition |

Project location

| | |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Country | England |
| Site location | EAST SUSSEX LEWES NEWHAVEN Marine Workshop, Railway Quay, Newhaven |
| Postcode | BN9 0DF |
| Study area | 0 Square metres |
| Site coordinates | TQ 44830 01382 50.7932995114 0.0551693419062 50 47 35 N 000 03 18 E Point |

Project creators

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Name of Organisation | Archaeology South-East |
|----------------------|------------------------|

Project brief originator Kier Construction

Project design originator ASE

Project director/manager Diccon Hart

Project supervisor Steve Price

Type of sponsor/funding body Client

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient TBC

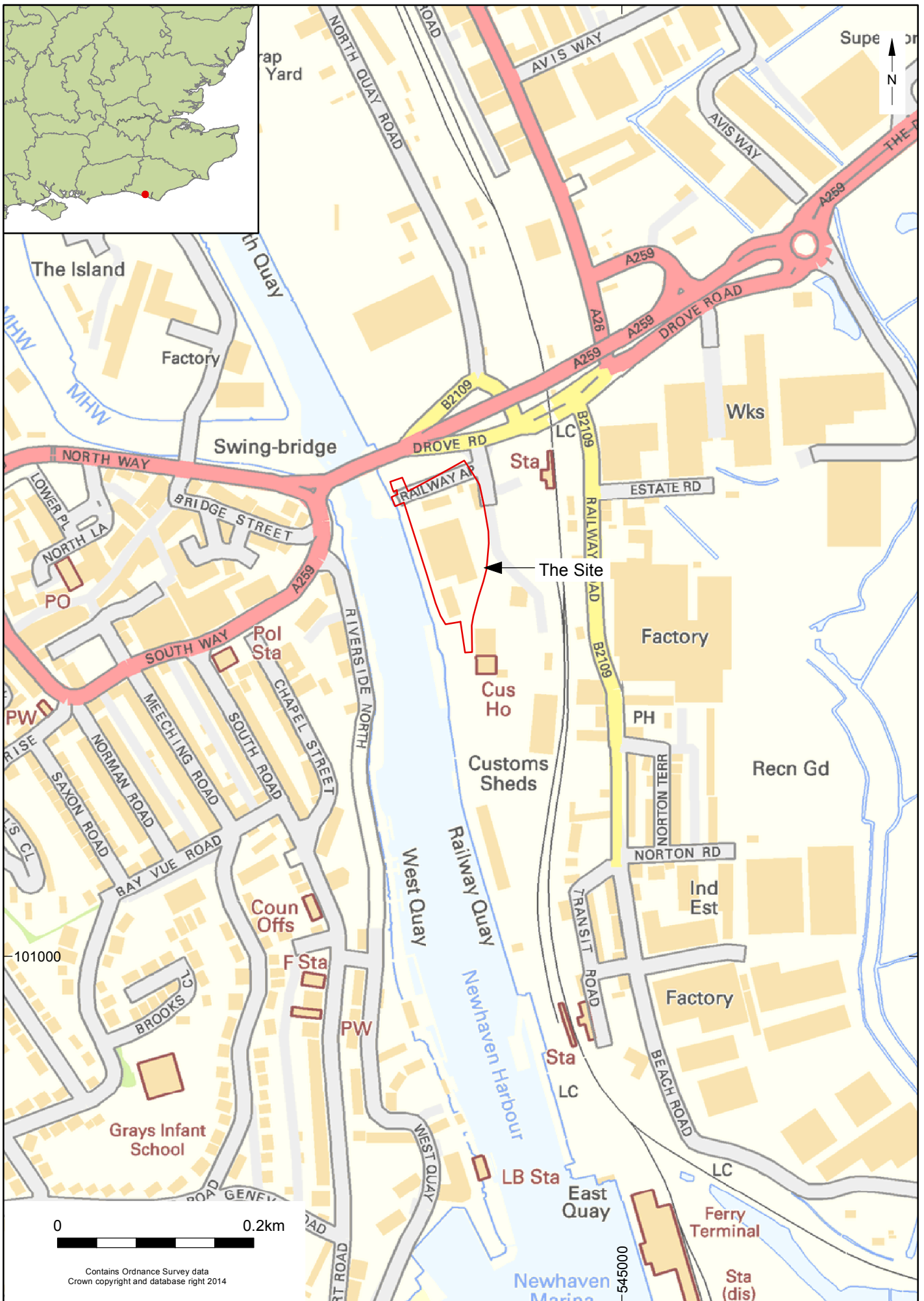
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography"

Paper Archive recipient TBC

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Diary"

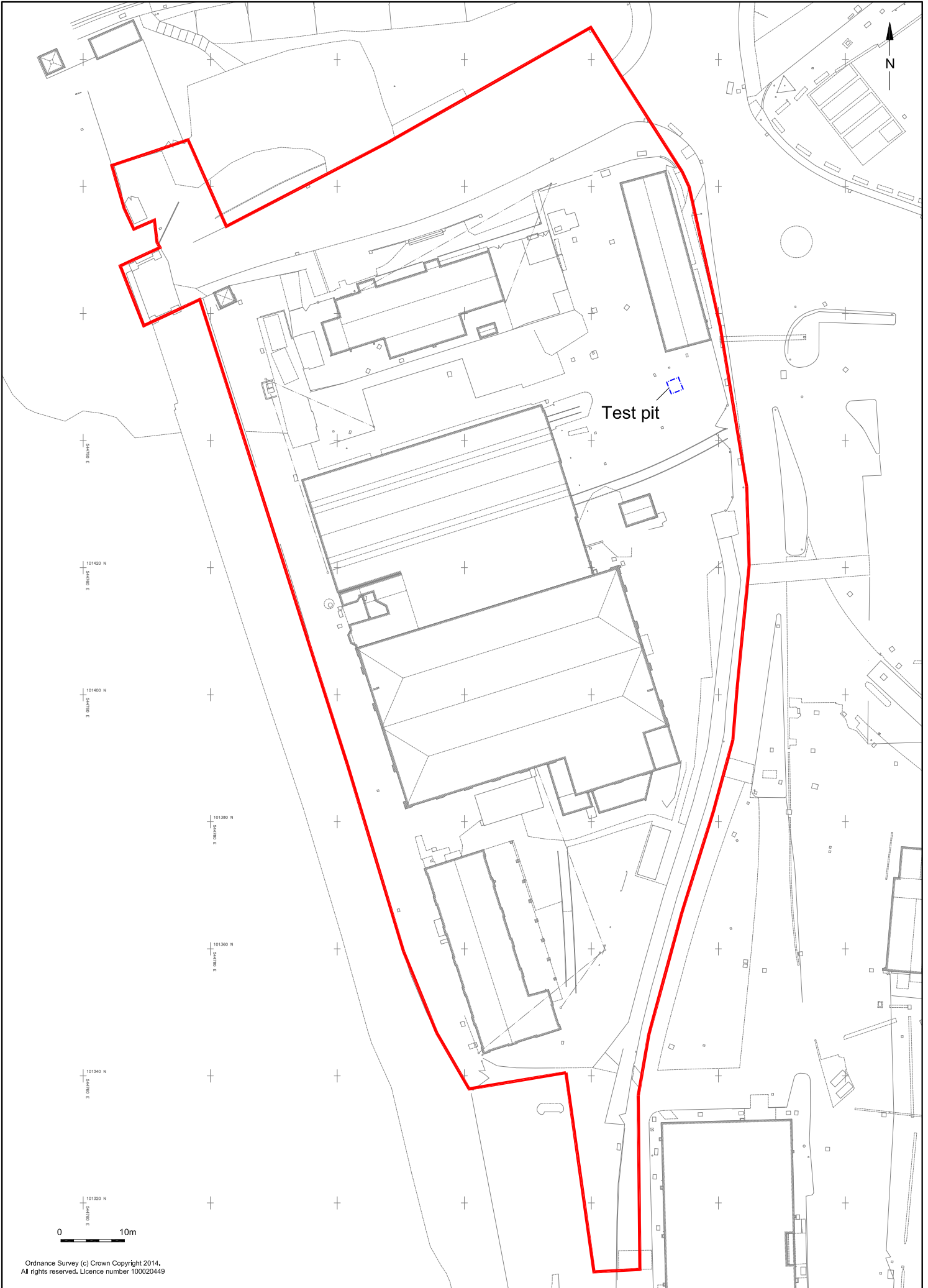
Entered by Tom Munnery (t.munnery@ucl.ac.uk)

Entered on 6 May 2015

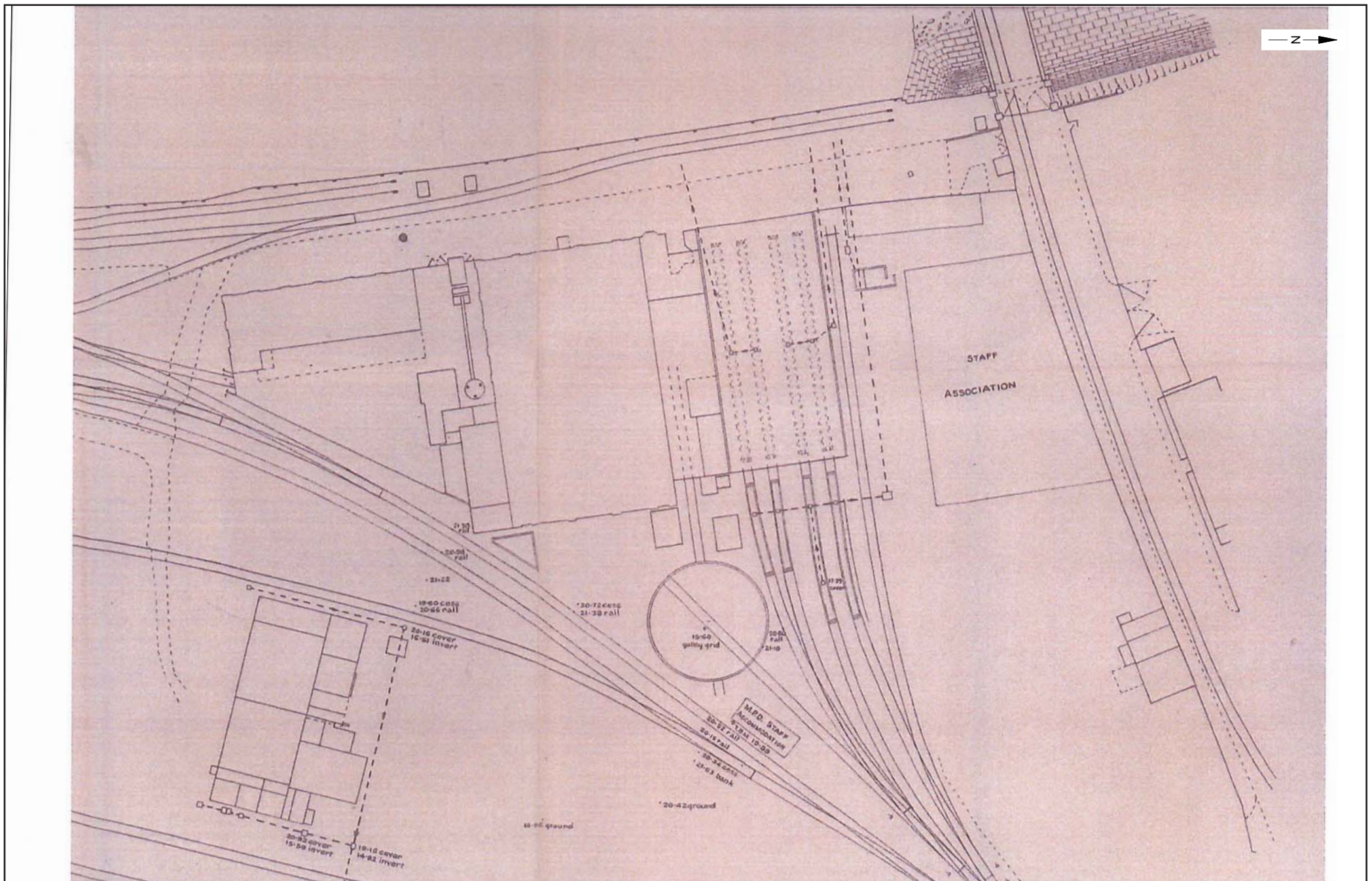


| | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East | | Marine Workshop, Railway Quay, Newhaven | Fig. 1 |
| Project Ref: 6956 | May 2015 | Site location | |
| Report Ref: 2015159 | Drawn by: RHC | | |





| | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East | | Marine Workshop, Railway Quay, Newhaven | Fig. 3 |
| Project Ref: 6956 | May 2015 | Monitored test pit | |
| Report Ref: 2015159 | Drawn by: RHC | | |



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Marine Workshop, Railway Quay, Newhaven

Project Ref: 6956

May 2015

Report Ref: 2015159

Drawn by: RHC

Survey of railway tracks and turning circle

Fig. 4

Sussex Office

Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex BN41 1DR
tel: +44(0)1273 426830
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web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk

Essex Office

The Old Magistrates Court
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tel: +44(0)1376 331470
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk

London Office

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