



Former Northfleet Cement Works Northfleet, Kent

Note on Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to undertake a watching brief on work at the former Northfleet Cement Works (Planning Ref: 20220078), hereafter referred to as the Greenhouse Area. The development comprises the erection of three dwelling along with associated infrastructure and landscaping.

1.1.2 The provision of this note has been discussed and agreed with Casper Johnson Senior Archaeological Officer KCC Archaeology as providing sufficient detail, on the assumption that the normal detailed level of reporting will be included in the final site-wide post excavation assessment reporting, to progress the discharge of Condition 3 attached to planning permission ref EDC/22/0015:

3. No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken by an archaeologist approved by the Local Planning Authority so that groundworks are observed and items of interest and finds are recorded. The watching brief shall be in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation, which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason - To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded, in accordance with adopted Gravesham Local Plan Core Strategy Policies CS09 and CS20.

1.2 Related Works

1.2.1 The watching brief was undertaken in conjunction with archaeological mitigation works Wessex Archaeology has been undertaking on the ongoing main ongoing development at the former Northfleet Cement Works to the north of the Greenhouse Area. These ongoing works have exposed extensive remains associated with the former cement works including tunnels, industrial buildings, intact kilns and a former dock.

2 RESULTS

2.1 Watching Brief Results

2.1.1 The works with the Greenhouse Area identified the remains of two parallel concrete walls, on a west-northwest/east-southeast alignment, extending from the west-northwest boundary of the Greenhouse Area. The walls survived to approximately 2m in height, with a relatively smooth 'outer' face and rough interior. After the two walls had been recorded as part of the watching brief they were demolished.

2.1.2 No clear purpose for the walls could be identified, although several possibilities can be proposed. The ground level is shown to drop significantly directly to the northeast so they may have functioned as retaining walls, although this is considered to be unlikely.



- 2.1.3 The far more probable origin of the structures is that they were associated with the existing properties directly west and northwest of the Greenhouse Area, as the location of the two walls is within land formerly associated with those properties, or with the previous industrial activity on the site seen on historic maps (Ordnance Survey 1898). Aerial photography from the 1960s shows some possible walls to the rear of one of the properties which extend into the Greenhouse Area and could correspond with the identified walls (Historic England Aerial Photo Collection – EPW060577). Unfortunately the images are not high enough quality to determine the specific structures in the area.

3 PHOTOS



Exposed walls from the southeast



Exposed walls from the northwest



Wall face, viewed from the north-northeast