



KENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECTS

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**Imperial Wharf, Gravesend, Kent
A Written Scheme of Investigation
for an Archaeological Watching Brief**

National Grid Reference: TQ 63959 74444 (centred)

Gravesham Borough Planning Reference: 20220733

Tim Allen for Kent Archaeological Projects

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Imperial Wharf, Gravesend, Kent: A Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief

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Part A. A site-specific written scheme of investigation for an archaeological watching brief during groundworks prior to a development on land at Imperial Wharf, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0DY (Gravesend Borough Council Planning Reference).

Part A

1) Introduction and planning background

A planning application (Reference 20220733) to install two additional bitumen tanks, a load-out gantry and a bitumen emulsion plant with alternative car parking was made to Gravesend Borough Council by FM Conway Limited (Imperial Wharf Clifton Marine Parade Gravesend Kent DA11 0DY).

The present Written Scheme of Investigation is based on a standard Kent County Council condition of planning for archaeological watching briefs, which requires that:

‘Prior to the commencement of development, the applicant shall, or their agents or successors in title, have secured the implementation of a watching brief to be undertaken by an archaeologist approved by the Local Planning Authority so that the excavation is observed and items of interest and finds are recorded. The watching brief shall be in accordance with a written programme and specification which has previously 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 policy ENV15 of the Local Plan.’

The present document comprises Part A (a site-specific archaeological, and historical appraisal of the development site) and Part B (a Kent County Council standard specification for archaeological watching briefs).

2) Site location and topographic description

The development site (Figures 1 & 2), which has an approximate area of 0.7 hectares centred on TQ 63959 74444, lies adjacent to the south bank of the River Thames, about one kilometre north of Gravesend town centre. The northern part of the site almost certainly lies in what

was the margin of the southern Thames intertidal zone before reclamation during the early nineteenth century.

3) Geology

The British Geological Survey shows the area of the site as Chalk, with sand, silt and silt deposits attributed variously to the Lambeth Group and the Harwich and Thanet formations shown to the south east and west, with an outcrop of London Clay indicated to the southwest.

4) Archaeological and historical background

The site of the proposed development is presently dominated by industrial structures, this being the culmination of at least 150 years of industrial development. The following provides a description of the site's present appearance and its previous industrial development.

A chalk quarry and lime and cement works occupied the site from the mid-nineteenth century, as shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 1st Edition (1872-1897). However, the site is recorded as having belonged to local cement-making firm Tolhurst & Sons Ltd from the mid-1860s or earlier and is likely to have been used for these purposes before that period. The site is shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 2nd edition (1893-1898) to be occupied by the London Portland Cement Company, which is stated in the Kent Historic Environment Record to have opened in 1825 and to have gone on to produce Portland cement. Alfred Tolhurst owned several quarries in the North Kent and was contracted on the 25th December 1897 by the Imperial Portland Cement Company to supply a minimum of 750 tons of chalk per week for the fifty years (Glasspool, D, *Kent Rail: Imperial Paper Mills*, Kent Rail Homepage, accessed 31/03/24). The Tolhurst works can be assumed to have been taken over by the London Portland Cement Works or the Imperial Portland Cement Company around that time as both were amalgamated into the Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers on 1st January 1900 and quarrying and cement manufacture ceased on the site eight years later.

Undoubtedly as part of a complex contractual arrangement, the site was taken over four years later by the Imperial Paper Mills Ltd following the formation in 1909 of the popular press publishing company Amalgamated Press Ltd, founded and owned by Alfred Harmsworth,

publisher of the *London Evening News* (1894) and the *Daily Mail* (1896), along other comics and magazines. As part of Harmsworth's burgeoning publishing empire, the site was then set up, in just fifteen months, for the mass production of paper, primarily for newsprint from pulp. By this period, following the invention by of pulp for paper making from wood by the Canadian Charles Fenerty in 1844, Kent was importing large quantities of Scandinavian wood pulp to supply several steam-powered paper mills situated on the Thames, of which the site at Gravesend was one of the biggest.

Apart from the mill itself (of which only two ancillary offices remain), the infrastructure for such a large-scale industrial operation required a 50m-long pier (still intact but now redundant), which was connected by railway to a complicated standard-gauge rail network next to the mill some fifty metres to the south. This in turn was connected to a now-demolished branch line to Gravesend West railway station. The railway network on the site was straddled by mobile cranes that ran on raised rails and were used to hoist bales of pulp and paper in order to load/unload the railway wagons. At its height the site occupied a length of some 400m along the Thames south bank and produced 1500 tons of paper for newsprint a week.

The following information is based primarily on *Proposed development at Imperial Wharf Gravesend: Cultural Heritage Assessment* compiled by Andrew Josephs of Andrew Josephs Ltd following a commission by PDE Consulting Limited on behalf of FM Conway Limited to present the cultural heritage context of a proposed development on land lying south of Clifton Marine Parade at Imperial Wharf, Gravesend DA11 0DY.

As part of the assessment a search of the Kent Historic Environment Record (KHER) was carried out for the area within 500m of the proposed development site in order to provide the archaeological and historical context of the site and its surrounding, the information being provided by Dr Rose Broadley, Historic Environment Record Officer of the Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council, to whom, as did the author of the assessment, the present writer extends his thanks.

The search identified no recorded sites in the KHER or recorded formal archaeological events within the proposed development site which, as described above, was used during the nineteenth and twentieth century as a chalk quarry and then to house a large paper mill, with

a wharf on the Thameside part of the site used to load chalk and paper on to boats, with an interconnected network of railways used to transport these materials on the site and to the wharf.

Investigations, Monuments and Finds within 500m of the development site

The earliest remains within the search area consist of an antiquarian collection of five Palaeolithic hand axes recovered from the Northfleet shore in the late 19th century (TQ67 SW1442), on the western limit of the study area. These axes now form part of the H Stopes collection of flints in the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff. No information is available about their recovery.

To the southeast of the development site a small assemblage of Mesolithic or early Neolithic flints were recovered during archaeological work at Stuart Road in 2004 (TQ67 SW423) and, to the southeast of the site, a middle-to-late Bronze Age assemblage of flints, including cores, blades and burnt flint, were recovered during a watching brief at the former Seeboard Depot (TQ67 SW291), also in 2004. It is suggested that some of the flints from this group may reflect earlier activity as well. Two undated post holes were also found in the vicinity and may be of similar prehistoric date (TQ67 SW291). Limited evidence of later Bronze Age and Early Iron Age activity in the form of a ditch and a couple of post holes was recorded on the above-mentioned Stuart Road (TQ67 SW423).

A total of ten later Iron Age coins have been recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme (MKE67319, 67324, 67326, 67327, 67328, 67330, 67342, 67346, 67370 and 67374) and have been ascribed a four-figure grid reference of TQ64 74. The coins consist of one silver unit, three copper-alloy cast potin issues and six gold staters and is probably indicative of high-status occupation and/or settlement activity in the area during this period (the Late Iron Age and Roman-period shrine of Springhead lies about 3km to the southwest of the development site).

The work at Stuart Road also produced a number of ditches, pits and post holes (TQ67 SW424) of Late Iron Age and Roman date. Elements of a ditched Roman field system dated to between AD 50 - 370 were present, as were two postholes, both sealed beneath colluvium and said to be of Saxon date. The only other evidence for the Roman period

consisted of a few copper alloy objects recovered from the foreshore near the Half Moon Inn, Northfleet, in the early-twentieth century (TQ67 SW44) and probably now in the Chantry Museum in Gravesend.

Immediately outside the eastern boundary of the PDA is the recorded location of a Second World War air raid siren and, on the south side of Clifton Marine Parade, a police telephone box (TQ 67 SW 1349). The siren was to give warning of an approaching air raid and give the all-clear once raiders had passed. The Police Telephone Box was part of the civil defense communication network for reporting incidents. No details of design and form are known. Both probably originated in 1939 and were decommissioned by 1945 and removed early post-war.

The overall paucity of records for archaeological remains may be a reflection of the rapid and extensive development of land within the study area in a period when only limited archaeological recording would have taken place.

Archaeological investigations within 500m of the PDA

A total of 45 events are listed by the KHER, of which half relate either to observations of geotechnical test pits (for example EKE17860) or to boreholes (for example EKE 17827-17830).

The majority of archaeological interventions and evaluations have been targeted on the area of the Rosherville Gardens on the western part of the study area (e.g. EKE18261 and 18257), and a further group (EKE9103 and 9831) relate to work undertaken on Stuart Road to the southeast of the development site.

A desk-based assessment work of the North Kent Coast was carried out as part of the Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey (EKE10278).

5) Methodology

The work will take place according to the terms of the Kent County Council Specifications for Watching Brief in Kent appended as Part B to this specification. The work will be carried out under the supervision of a suitably qualified archaeologist, supplied by KAP.

KAP will have carried out all health and safety requirements, such as risk assessments and has suitable insurance in place to cover the work being carried out, as per Cifa policy, 2014.

Upon completion of works, the archive, finds and all other relevant information will be collated and stored as per Cifa guidance, published December 2014, updated June 2020.

6) References

Josephs, A., May 2022, *Proposed development at Imperial Wharf Gravesend: Cultural Heritage Assessment*, unpublished Andrew Josephs Associates client report

Appendix I

Figures

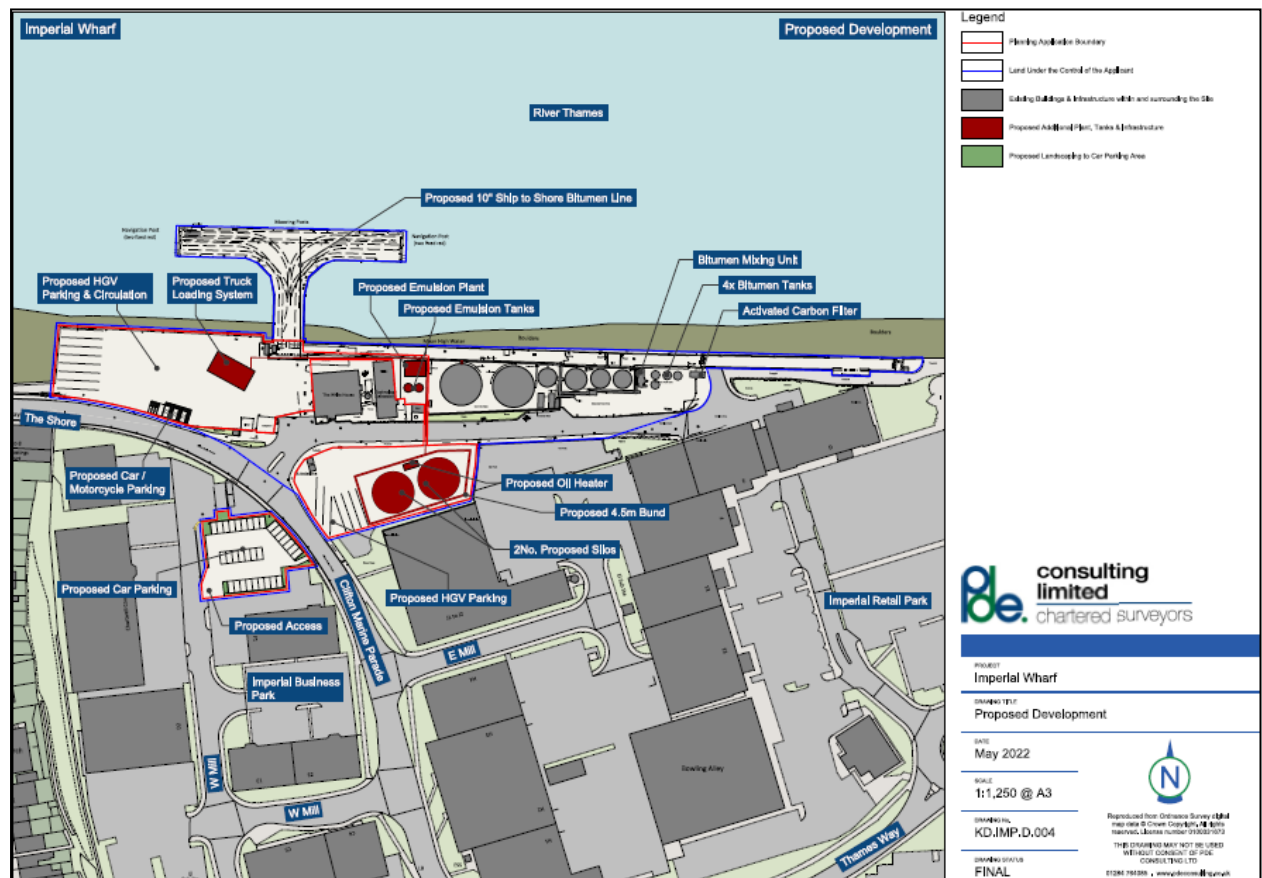


Figure 1. Plan of the proposed development

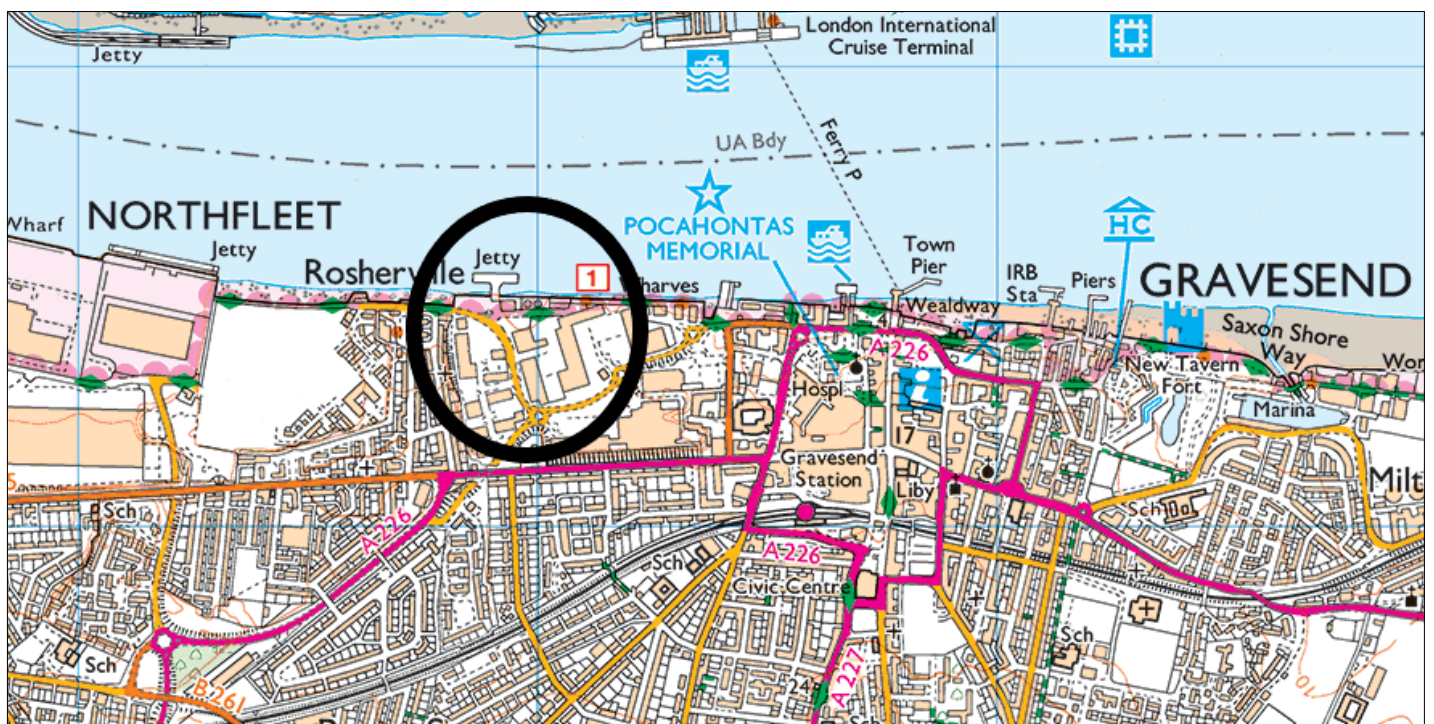
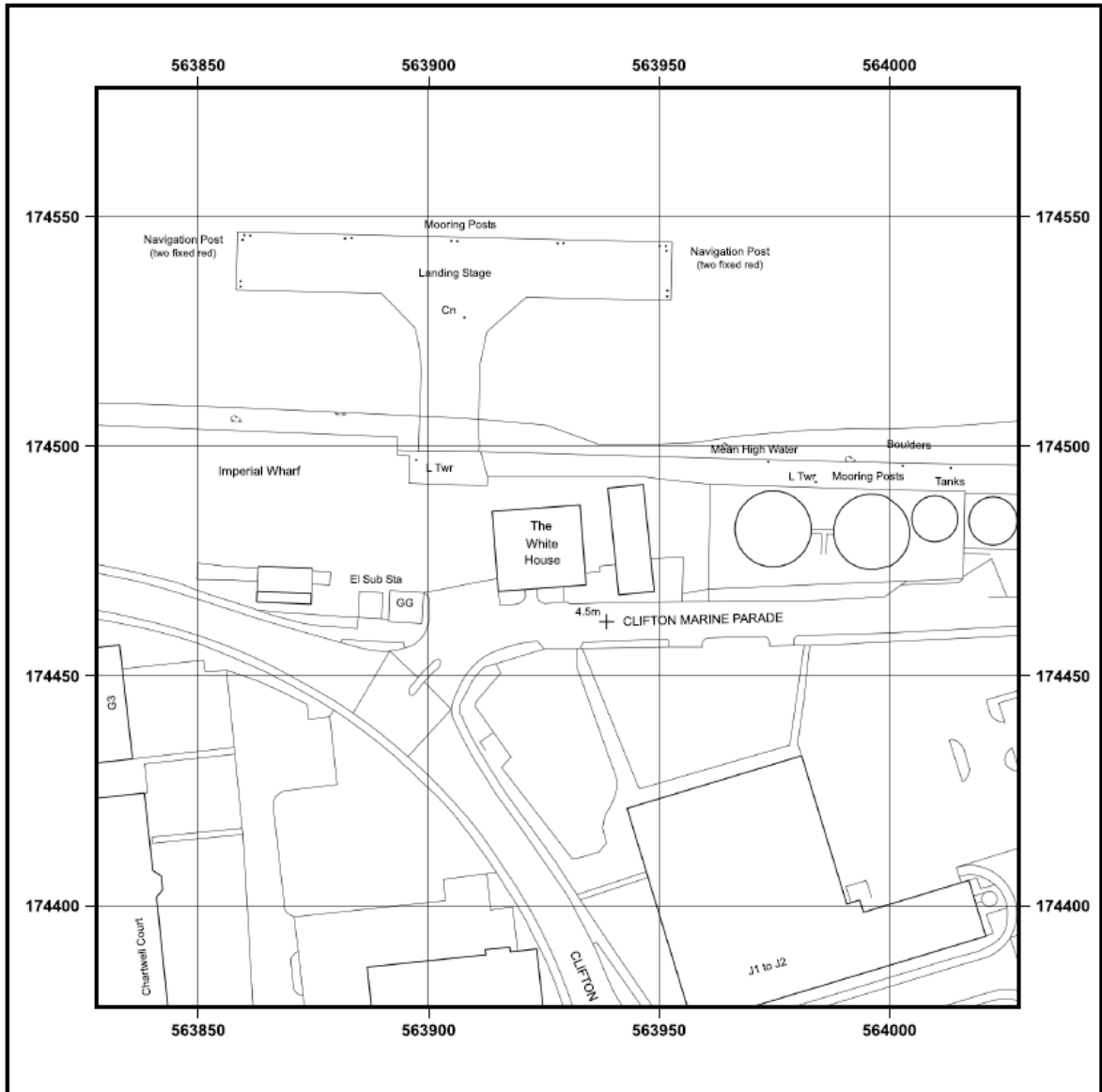


Figure 2. Location of the proposed development



© Crown copyright and database rights 2024 OS AC0000848283. Public rights of way shown on this map have been taken from Local Authority definitive maps. The representation on this map of any other road, track or path is no evidence of the existence of a right of way.

0 12.5 25 37.5 50 m
Scale 1:1250 - 1cm = 12.5m

Appendix II

Part B

GENERIC STANDARD SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Introduction

- 1.1 This specification is concerned with an archaeological watching brief to be maintained by a ClfA recognised archaeologist. It provides the supporting details for an archaeological contractor's Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI).
- 1.2 The site has planning permission for development subject to archaeological work. More details on the development can be found on the Local Planning Authority web site and the site-specific WSI.
- 1.3 The Local Planning Authority has placed planning condition(s) for archaeological work on the planning consent. The details of the relevant conditions can be found on the Local Planning Authority web site and the site-specific WSI. This will involve archaeological monitoring of the groundworks connected with the development and recording of any features revealed, by an archaeological contractor.
- 1.4 **The watching brief will be maintained throughout the programme of ground excavation. The archaeological contractor will confirm the extent of proposed ground excavations in advance with the site developer and inform the County Archaeological Officer that arrangements are in place for appropriate monitoring.**

2. The Archaeological Potential

- 2.1 The archaeological potential is based on the proximity of archaeological remains presently recorded in the HER.
- 2.2 Further information on the above is provided in the site-specific WSI and the County Historic Environment Record held in the Heritage, Environment and Planning, Enterprise and Environment, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XX (telephone 01622 221543).

3. Objectives

- 3.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief are to contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of any archaeological remains exposed by the development and where relevant to inform the need and extent for further archaeological mitigation work.

Proposed Groundworks

- 4.1 The development works subject of the watching brief will vary depending on the project. Details will be agreed with the developer and the County Archaeological Officer and set out in the WSI prepared by the Archaeological Contractor.

5. Method

- 5.1 The archaeological contractor will monitor the excavations for all groundworks and where appropriate any site demolition, remedial and site-preparation works. Any excavation should be undertaken using a flat bladed bucket and preferably in a single direction to enable archaeological remains to be recorded prior to disturbance from being driven over. **If possible archaeological remains are encountered, machine excavation will cease to allow the remains to be investigated further.**
- 5.2 The archaeologist will inspect the surfaces revealed. Any archaeological structures or features revealed will be recorded in plan and section as appropriate according to Section 6 below. **The main contractor will allow the archaeological contractor reasonable time and resources to undertake any inspection or recording required.**
- 5.3 Further limited excavation may be necessary to clarify the extent and nature of some archaeological deposits. In this case, the archaeological contractor will undertake the excavation by hand.
- 5.4 If significant remains are unexpectedly encountered the archaeological contractor will inform the County Archaeological Officer and the developer immediately and further mitigation measures will be agreed.

6. Recording

- 6.1 All structures, deposits and finds are to be recorded according to accepted professional standards.
- 6.2 All recording points used should be accurately tied into the National Grid and located for context to a 1:1250 map of the area.
- 6.3 Plans defining the location and extent of all archaeological features encountered are to be drawn at an appropriate scale, located on the site plan and levelled with respect to OD. An overall site plan is to be maintained at a scale of 1:100.
- 6.4 All plans are to be accurately located to a site grid/plan. Where relevant, plans and sections are to be drawn on polyester based drafting film and clearly labelled.
- 6.5 All archaeological contexts are to be recorded individually on context record sheets. A further, more general record of the work comprising a description and discussion of the archaeology is to be maintained as appropriate.

- 6.6 A photographic record is to be maintained and form part of the site archive. The archaeological contractor is to provide the County Archaeological Officer with a selection of photographic images which reflect the archaeological findings and investigations undertaken on this site if requested.
- 6.7 All artefacts recovered during the excavations on the site are the property of the Landowner. They are to be suitably bagged, boxed and marked in accordance with the relevant United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, Conservation Guidelines and on completion of the archaeological post-excavation programme the landowner will arrange for them to be deposited in a museum or similar repository agreed with the County Archaeological Officer and the Local Planning Authority.
- 6.8 The site archive, to include all project records and cultural material produced by the project, is to be prepared in accordance with *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990)*. On completion of the project the Applicant will arrange for the archive to be deposited in a suitable museum or similar repository to be agreed with the County Archaeological Officer and the Local Planning Authority.

7. Reporting

- 7.1 On completion of the archaeological watching brief the archaeological contractor will agree with the County Archaeologist a programme for the reporting of the results of the work. The reporting of the watching brief will be commensurate with the results but as a minimum must stand as a sufficiently detailed report on the archaeological monitoring to serve both future research and inform future planning decisions taken on the site.
- 7.2 Where the watching brief is being undertaken following an earlier evaluation, the results of the evaluation should be fully integrated within the report of the watching brief. Where the watching brief is being undertaken as part of site preparation, the results may be included into the WSI for subsequent mitigation works. Where the watching brief is on groundworks where there has been historic building recording, then any relevant information from either study will be incorporated into both final reports.

Report circulation

- 7.3 Copies of all reports are to be provided to:
- the Developer
 - the County Archaeologist
 - the Local Planning Authority
 - Local Historical Society
 - the project archive.

- 7.4 When submitting the report to the County Archaeologist the archaeological contractor should provide written confirmation that the report has been submitted to the above parties.
- 7.5 If the archaeological contractor is required, contractually, to only submit reports directly to the developer or their agent, the archaeological contractor must inform the County Archaeologist in writing that they have completed the report and to whom it has been forwarded to. The archaeological contractor must ensure that the developer is made aware of the need to circulate the report as in 7.3 above.

Reporting of watching briefs with limited remains

- 7.6 If the watching brief has resulted in limited archaeological remains being recorded then the archaeological contractor will complete the necessary post excavation works and produce a '**Watching Brief Report**' within 4 weeks of the completion of the watching brief (**see sections 7.8 to 7.12 below**).

Reporting of watching briefs with significant archaeological remains

- 7.7 If significant archaeological remains are recorded then within 3 months of completion of the watching brief the archaeological contractor will undertake an assessment of the results and produce a MAP2 '**Post-excavation Assessment Report**'. This report will set out a programme of post excavation works through to completion of a '**Full Report**' and '**Publication**' of the findings (**see sections 7.13 to 7.17 below**).

Contents of a 'Watching Brief Report'

- 7.8 The archaeological contractor may determine the general style and format of the Watching Brief Report but it must be completed in accordance with this specification. The report must provide sufficient information and assessment to enable the County Archaeologist and the Local Planning Authority to stand as a detailed report on the archaeological fieldwork for future research and to inform on any future planning decisions for the site.
- 7.9 Reports that do not provide sufficient information or that have not been compiled in accordance with the relevant sections of this specification will be returned to the archaeological contractor for revision and resubmission.
- 7.10 The report is to include as a minimum:
- 7.10.1 An **Abstract** summarising the scope and results of the archaeological watching brief.
- 7.10.2 An **Introduction** including:
- the location of the site including National Grid Reference;
 - an account of the background and circumstances of the work;
 - a description of the development proposals, planning history and planning reference together with the planning condition (where appropriate);

- the scope and date of the fieldwork, the personnel involved and who commissioned it;
- the nature of potential impacts arising from the proposals;

7.10.3 An account of the **Archaeological Background** of the development site including:

- geology, soils and topography;
- any known existing disturbances on the site;
- background archaeological potential of the site. This should include a summary of the known Sites and Monuments Record entries generally within a 500m radius of the boundaries of the site. The SMR entries should be quoted with their full KSMR identifier (e.g TR36NW 12);
- summary of any previous phases of archaeological investigation at the development site;
- any constraints on the archaeological monitoring.

7.10.4 The **Methodology** employed during the watching brief must be detailed in the report. Simply referring to the methodology outlined in the specification is not acceptable. Any aims and objectives specified in the specification should be included as should any further objectives identified during the course of the watching brief. The frequency of monitoring visits, ground works observed and any constraints experienced while carrying out the monitoring should be detailed.

7.10.5 The report should include a quantification of the archive contents, their state and future location.

7.10.6 A description of the **Results** of the archaeological monitoring. This description must include for each area observed:

- the dimensions of the area observed;
- the nature and depth of overburden soils encountered;
- description of all archaeological features and finds encountered in each area observed, their dimensions, states of preservation and interpretation;
- a description of the geological subsoil encountered across the site;
- heights related to Ordnance Datum should be provided for each feature and deposit.
- for complex remains a Harris Matrix diagram should be provided.

7.10.7 The **Finds** recovered during the course of the watching brief should be described, quantified and assessed by artefact type within the report. The report should also provide an indication of the potential of each category of artefact for further analysis and research. For each category of artefact the report should describe the method of processing, any sub-sampling, conservation and assessment undertaken. Where appropriate local reference collections will be referred to for descriptive and analytical consistency. Any implications for future archive, conservation or discard of the artefacts should also be detailed.

7.10.8 The report should include a table showing the contexts, classes and quantity of artefacts recovered, together with their date and interpretation.

- 7.10.9 The report must include an assessment of the **Environmental** potential of the site. Details should be provided of any environmental sampling undertaken in connection with the fieldwork and the results of any processing and assessment of the samples. The report should describe the method of processing, any sub-sampling and assessment. Any potential for future analysis of the samples or environmental remains recovered from the evaluation should be described. Implications for future archive, conservation or discard of environmental samples or remains should be detailed.
- 7.10.10 The report should include, as appropriate, tables summarising environmental samples taken, together with the results of processing and assessment.
- 7.10.11 Any results from the watching brief involving the application of archaeological scientific techniques e.g. specialist dating should be included in the watching brief report.
- 7.10.12 An **Interpretation** of the archaeology of the site, including its location, extent, date, condition, significance and importance. This should include, even if no archaeology is identified as present on the site, description of areas of disturbance, non-archaeological deposits and changes in geological subsoil where appropriate.
- 7.10.13 A **Conclusion** with a summary of the archaeological results and how any archaeology observed relates to the development site. The effects of the development works on the archaeological remains should also be described. The report should highlight any areas of significant archaeological deposits that remain preserved within the development site. Particular note should be made of any variations in the depth of overburden covering any archaeological deposits revealed.
- 7.10.14 The report should include comments on the effectiveness of the methodology employed and the confidence of the results and interpretation.
- 7.10.15 Figures / illustrations – The report should include sufficient illustrations to support descriptions and interpretations within the report text. Figures are to be fully cross-referenced within the document text. As a minimum the report should include the following figures:
- a site location plan tied into the Ordnance Survey at 1:1250 or in the case of larger sites at 1:2500. The plan should also include at least two National Grid points and show the site boundary;
 - a plan at 1:100 or 1:200 showing the layout of the development groundworks clearly indicating the areas observed. The plan should show significant archaeological features, coloured by phases or period as related to the development site. Where possible, projection of archaeological features outside of the areas observed should be included on the plan. This plan should also include two National grid points;

- plans of the features revealed in each of the excavation areas at a larger scale e.g. 1:20 or 1:50; such plans are to also illustrate areas of disturbance, change in subsoil and location of sections; The location of significant finds and samples taken should also be indicated;
- relevant section drawings and soil trench profiles as appropriate;
- illustrations and/or photographs of significant finds should be included where appropriate.

7.10.16 All report illustrations must be fully captioned and scale drawings must include a bar scale. Standard archaeological drawing conventions must be used. Plan and section illustrations must include the numbers of all contexts illustrated. North must be included on all plans and should be consistent. Sections must indicate the orientation of the section and the Ordnance Datum height of the section datum.

7.10.17 Black & White or Colour photographs should be included where appropriate to illustrate the archaeology of the site, the development operations or the range of soil profiles encountered. All photographs should be appropriately captioned.

7.11 The report will be submitted to the County Archaeologist in a bound hard-copy and in digital format. The digital copy will be supplied for preference in .pdf format or alternatively in .rtf format accompanied by digital copies of images, plans and maps in .bmp, .tif or .jpg format. Whichever software is used the digital files must be supplied in a PC readable format.

Contents of a 'Watching Brief Assessment Report'

7.13 The 'Archaeological Watching Brief Assessment Report' will follow the format and requirements detailed in 7.8 to 7.12 above.

7.14 In addition the report will include an assessment of the results of the archaeological monitoring and their potential to address both the original research aims and objectives of the project and any further research objectives identified during the course of the on-site and post excavation works.

7.15 The report will detail any further analysis necessary on the project records, artefact and environmental assemblages to achieve the research potential identified in the assessment. A justification should be included for each analysis proposed.

7.16 The report will set out a timetable for completion of analysis and reporting, detailing all individual tasks to be completed, resources required and the key personnel involved. The proposal should set out arrangements for monitoring of the post excavation process.

7.17 The report should include a synopsis of the proposed '**Full report**' and '**Publication**' and identify the likely destination of the publication.

8. General

- 8.1 The archaeological contractor is to allow the site records to be inspected and examined at any reasonable time, during or after the watching brief, by the developer, the County Archaeological Officer or any designated representative of the Local Planning Authority.
- 8.2 In undertaking the work the archaeological contractor is to abide by :
- all statutory provisions and by-laws relating to the work in question, especially the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974.
 - The Archaeological Contractor will also follow the guidance set out in “Health and Safety in Field Archaeology” Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers 1997;
 - the Institute of Field Archaeologist’s *Code of Conduct*;
 - the Institute of Field Archaeologist’s *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*.
- 8.3 On completion of the watching brief the archaeological contractor will prepare a consideration of the methodology used, including a confidence rating.
- 8.4 The archaeological contractor is to include with their report a completed copy of the Kent County Sites and Monuments Report Form (see appendix 1)
- 8.5 Where there are particularly significant discoveries, the archaeological contractor will provide the County Archaeological Officer with a representative selection of photographs illustrating the archaeology of the site and the operations of the investigation. These will be deposited with the County SMR and will be used for presentations on aspects of the archaeology of Kent.

Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council
Revised draft 2021

APPENDIX 1**Kent County Council HER summary form**

Site Name:		
Site Address:		
Summary:		
District/Unitary:		Parish:
Period(s):		
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs)		
Type of archaeological work (delete)		
Evaluation:	Watching Brief	Field Walking
Documentary study	Building recording	Earthwork survey
Excavation:	Geophysical Survey	Field Survey
Geoarchaeological investigation		
Date of Recording:		
Unit undertaking recording:		
Geology:		
Title and author of accompanying report:		
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)		
(cont. on attached sheet)		
Location of archive/finds:		
Contact at Unit:		Date: