

# Archaeological Monitoring of Development of Land to the rear of Wheeler's Oyster Bar, 8 High Street, Whitstable, Kent

Site Code OYST/WB/16



Report for Danant de Moubray  
Date of report 08/04/2016

**SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY**

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# Archaeological Monitoring of Land to the rear of Wheelers Oyster Bar, 8 High Street, Whitstable, Kent

Site Code OYST/WB/16

Date of report: 08/04/2016



**Plate 1. Aerial view of site (red circle) showing the site prior to development.**

**(Google Earth 07/09/2013: Eye altitude 198m).**

## **1.0 Summary**

1.1. From Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016 to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2016 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on ground works involved in the build of a new single storey extension to the rear of 8 High Street, Whitstable in Kent (Figs. 1, 2 & Plates 2-6).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of Danant de Moubray.

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the machine and hand digging of foundations (Plates 3-5).

The archaeological work was undertaken in one phase.

Phase 1: Foundation trenches (Plates 2-6)

1.4. The Archaeological Watching Brief was to watch for any signs of archaeological activity. In particular, any evidence of archaeological activity associated with the associated medieval and post-medieval fishing and maritime activities of which Whitstable is famous.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is CA/15/01608/FUL.

1.6. Although the archaeological potential has been highlighted by the Archaeological Officer, Canterbury City Council (CCC), the Archaeological Watching Brief revealed no buried archaeological features, and archaeological finds retrieved were in dumped strata's (102) of oyster shells (Plate 6).

## **2.0 Introduction**

### **2.1 Planning Background**

Planning application CA/15/01608/FUL was submitted to the Local Planning Authority, Canterbury City Council (CCC). The Canterbury City Council Archaeological Officer requested that an Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken in order to record any archaeological remains uncovered during the development work. The following condition (3) was attached to the planning consent:

*Prior to the commencement of development, the implementation of a scheme for the archaeological monitoring and recording of the site, to be undertaken for the purpose of identifying and recording any buried archaeological features and deposits and to assess the importance of the same; the following components shall each be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority:*

- a) *A written scheme of investigation, to be submitted a minimum of fourteen days in advance of the commencement of fieldwork.*
- b) *A report summarising the results of the investigations to be submitted within 28 days of completion of the archaeological watching brief (unless otherwise agreed), to be produced in accordance with the requirements set out in the written scheme of investigation.*
- c) *Any further mitigation measures considered necessary as a result of the archaeological investigations.*
- d) *Where relevant, a programme of post-excavation assessment, analysis, publication and conservation.*

*Fieldwork, including further mitigation measures and post excavation works shall be completed in accordance with approved details and programme timings unless otherwise agreed in writing with the local authority, and the local authority shall be notified in writing a minimum of fourteen days in advance of the commencement of any fieldwork.*

### **3.0 Schedule of Visits**

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Dr Paul Wilkinson SWAT Archaeology) and monitored the excavation works from 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

### **4.0 Aims and Objectives**

4.1. The reason for the monitoring and recording, were:

*REASON: Pursuant to Articles 35 (1) and (2) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure)(England) Order 2015, the local planning authority is satisfied that the requirements of this condition (including the timing of compliance) are so fundamental to the development permitted that, if not imposed, it would have been necessary to refuse permission for the development. This is because, at the time of granting permission, full archaeological details were not yet available but this information is necessary to ensure the development complies with Canterbury District Local Plan 2006 Policy BE15 and Draft Canterbury District Local Plan 2014 Policy HE11 and otherwise to protect the environment of the site and its locality.*

4.2. The ground works were to excavate the foundations for a single storey extension (Plates 2-5).

4.3. A full programme of proposed works by the contractor were made available to SWAT Archaeology before the on-site monitoring took place.

#### 4.4. Confidence Rating

No factors hindered the recognition of archaeological and deposits during the monitoring and recording exercise.

## 5.0 Archaeological and Geological Background

5.1. The underlying geology at the site according to the British Geological Survey map is Alluvial Gravels. The geology revealed on site was Alluvial Gravels at 4.10m OD topped by 63-75cm of mid grey brown sandy silt topped by 20-21cm of dumped oyster shells and capped by concrete 8cm thick giving a OD height of the site at 5.01-5.14m OD (Plate 6)

5.2. The application site consisted of an backyard area set to the west of the present building. The site itself is generally level at a height of about 5m OD (Plate 3).

5.3. The site lies within an area of known archaeological potential associated with the fishing, oyster and salt industry highlighted in the Archaeological Site Specific Requirements (SWAT 15/02/2016).

## 6.0 Methodology

6.1. The primary objectives of the archaeological investigation and watching brief were set out in the Site Specific Requirements (SWAT 15/02/2016) and were to establish or otherwise the presence of any potential archaeological features which may have been impacted on by the present development.

Also to find out the depths of features below the surface, how much overburden and the extent of the depth of deposits themselves. In addition the dates and quality of any archaeological remains which may have been revealed (see also CCC Evaluation Specification Part B: 4. Objectives).

The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Site Specific Requirements compiled by SWAT Archaeology and Part B by CCC and it also complied with the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (CIfA: 2014).

6.2. The works comprised the observation of all ground works, including the inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and finds.

6.3. The Watching Brief was carried out in one phase according to the needs of the building contractors from 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

6.4. Excavation of the area was carried out by contractors using a 360 degree machine equipped with a toothed bucket necessary to remove the concrete and cut the foundation trenches (Plates 2-5).

6.5. All excavation was carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist (Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA).

6.6. Where possible the areas of excavation were subsequently hand-cleaned with the intention of revealing any observed features in plan and section.

6.7. If found archaeological features under threat were to be excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to more extensive investigations, should these prove to be necessary.

6.8. The archaeological watching brief was carried out in accordance with current IfA Standards and Guidance, (CIfA: 2014), and methodology discussed with the Archaeological Officer CCC who also attended site.

## 7.0 Results

### 7.1 General

No archaeological features were revealed. The subsoil encountered across the site was dumped oyster shells overlaying lenses of dumped soil which produced finds dating to the c.1750-1800AD. This dumped soil overlaid the natural geology of Alluvial Gravels (Plate 6).

## 8.0 Finds

Finds from context (102) the dumped material under the oyster shell dumps were processed by Nigel Macpherson-Grant and are:

1 PM clay pipe (stem, narrow bore)	c.1700-1910AD range
1 fragment LPM ridge tile (weight : 67gms)	c. late 17 <sup>th</sup> AD
1 PM –LPM clay pipe (bowl, medium bore)	c.1770-1820AD range
1 PM-LPM Wealden type earthenware lid seated storage jar sherd (weight: 51gms)	c. 1700-1750AD

## 9.0 Discussion

The development site is in an area of archaeological potential. However, no archaeology features were revealed on the development site.

## **10.0 Conclusion**

The Archaeological Monitoring has fulfilled the primary aims and objectives of the SWAT and CCC Archaeological Specifications. As far as it is known no buried archaeological features have been affected as a result of the development.

## **11.0 Acknowledgments**

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank Danant de Moubray for commissioning the project. Fieldwork was undertaken and report written by Paul Wilkinson.

Paul Wilkinson, BA (Hons), PhD., FRSA., MCIfA.

## **References**

CCC (B) Archaeological Watching Brief (2015)

HER data (<http://www.kent.gov.uk/ExploringKentsPast>)

IFA (2014) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

Site Specific Requirements: Wheelers Oyster Bar, 8 High Street, Whitstable, Kent (SWAT Archaeology 2016)



## **Appendix 1**

### **Kent County Council HER Summary Form**

**Site Name:** Development of land to the rear of 8 High Street, Whitstable, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** OYST/WB/16

**Site Address:** As above

#### **Summary:**

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Monitoring on the development site above. The site has planning permission for a new single storey extension whereby Canterbury City Council requested that Archaeological Monitoring be undertaken to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

The Archaeological Monitoring consisted of site constant attendance on the excavation of the footings which encountered no buried archaeological features or artefacts.

**District/Unitary:** Canterbury City Council

**Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 610622 166671

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Monitoring

**Date of recording:** March 2016

**Unit undertaking recording:** Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT. Archaeology)

**Geology:** Underlying geology is Alluvial Gravels

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2016) Archaeological Monitoring at Land to the rear of Wheelers Oyster Bar, 8 High Street, Whitstable, Kent

**Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)**

See above

**Location of archive/finds:** SWAT. Archaeology. Graveney Rd, Faversham, Kent. ME13 8UP

**Contact at Unit:** Paul Wilkinson

**Date:** 08/04/2016

## Plates



Plate 2. View of site excavation of footings



Plate 3. View showing digging of foundations



Plate 4. The site showing cutting of foundation trenches

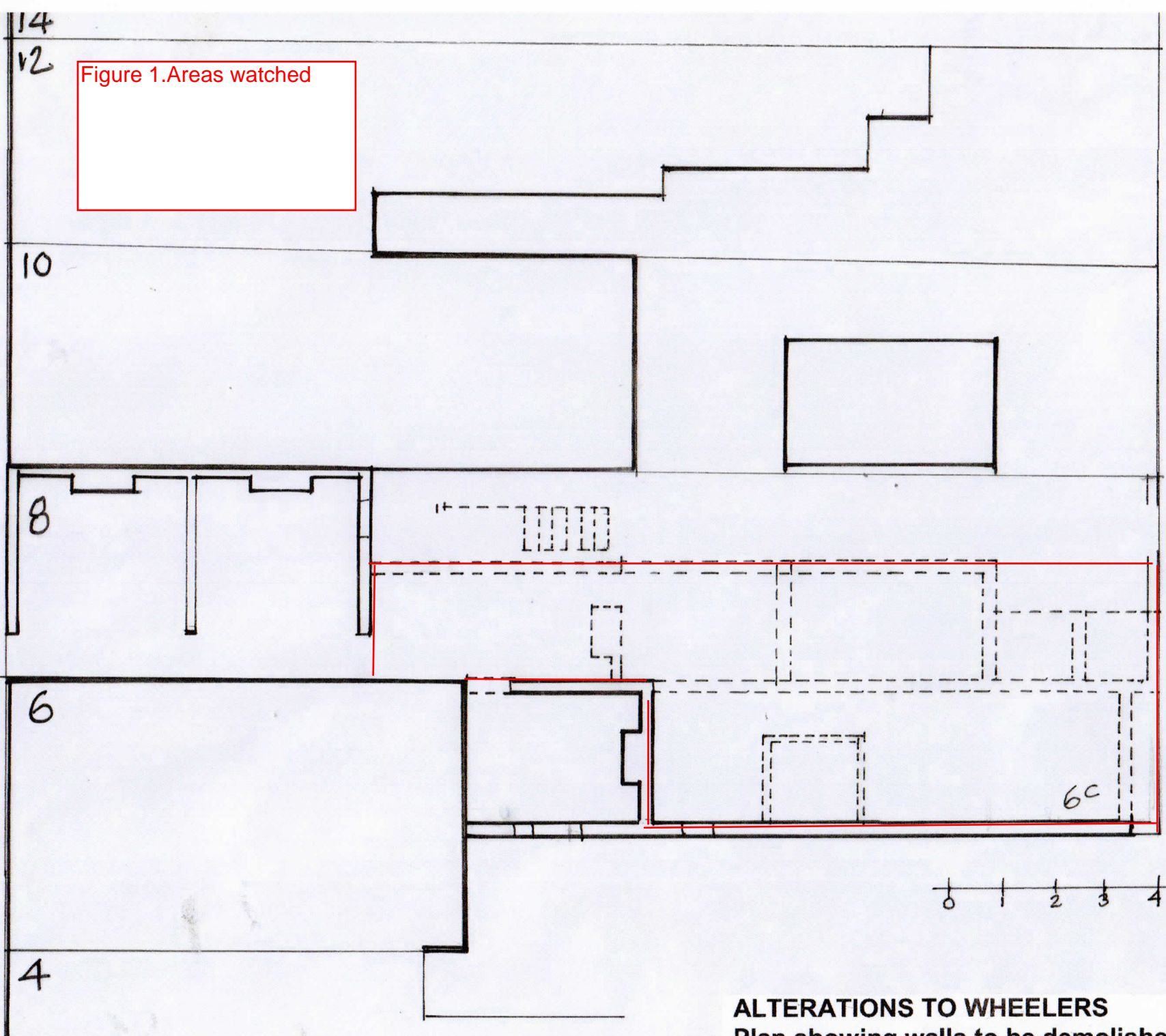


Plate 5. The site showing demolition of walls



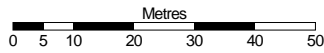
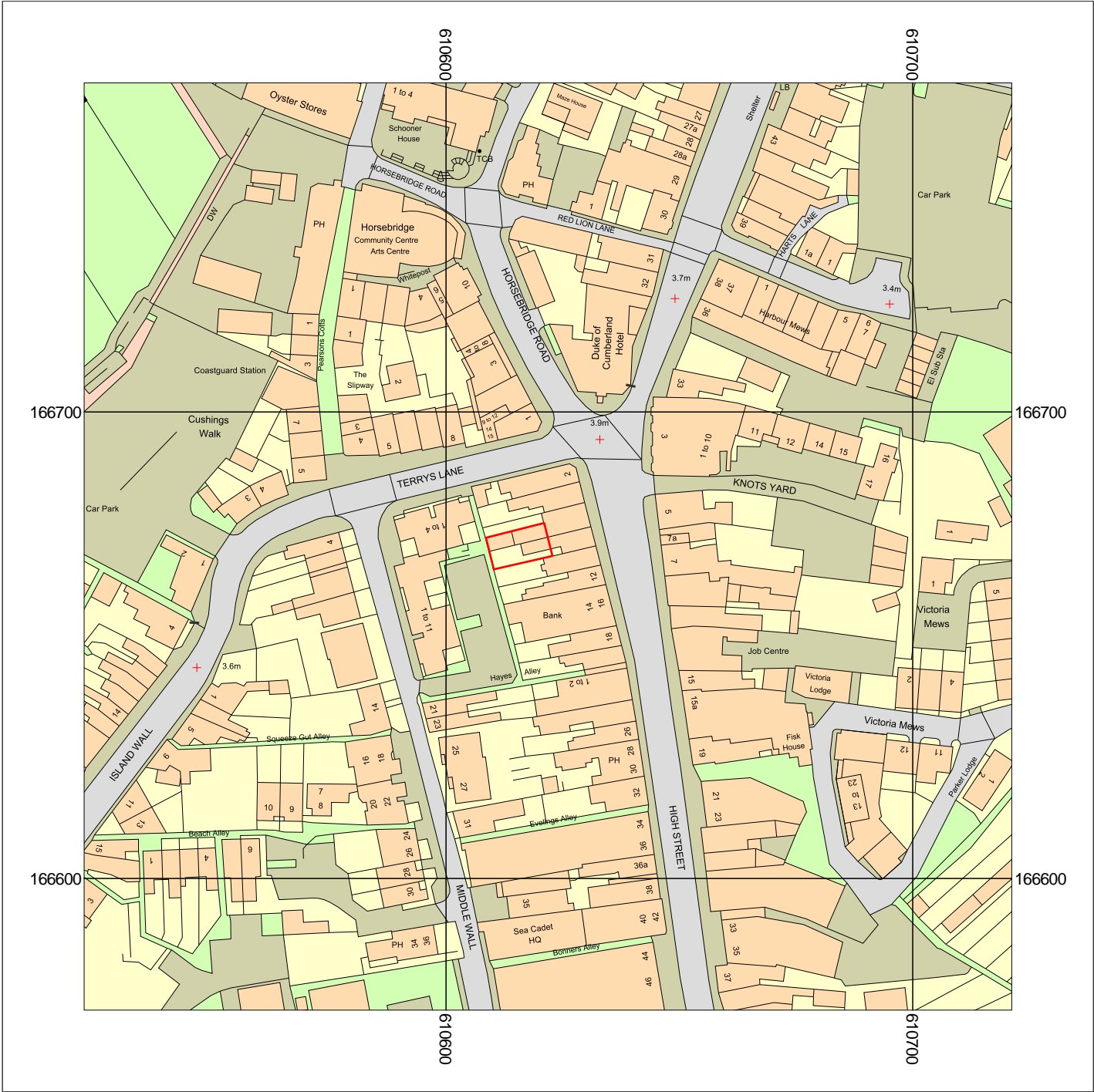
WW/29

Figure 1. Areas watched



**ALTERATIONS TO WHEELERS**  
Plan showing walls to be demolished scale 1/100

Figure 2  
Site location



Scale: 1:1250

**Wheeler's Oyster Bar**

**8 High Street  
Whitstable  
CT5 1BQ**



Supplied by: National Map Centre  
License number: 100031961  
Produced: 18/03/2016  
Serial number: 1649948

Plot centre co-ordinates: 610622,166671  
Download file: swat.zip  
Project name: wheelers