

Archaeological Watching Brief at  
THE CARAVAN STORAGE AREA, OTTERHAM QUAY INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, OTTERHAM QUAY  
LANE, UPCHURCH, KENT ME8 7UX



NGR: 583084 167181  
Site code: OTQ-WB-22  
Planning reference: 20/501183/FULL

Date of report: 22 March 2022  
Revision **1.0**

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## CONTENTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION	3
2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL	3
3.0 GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	3
4.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	3
5.0 MONITORED GROUNDWORKS	4
6.0 METHODOLOGY	4
7.0 RECORDING	4
8.0 PROJECT TIME-FRAME	4
9.0 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS	5
10.0 WATCHING BRIEF DIARY	5
11.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS	6
12.0 ARCHIVE	7
13.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	7
Appendix 1 HER Form	8
PLATES	9
FIGURES	22

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The site has planning permission for the change of use of land for the siting of up to 36 number specialist residential mobile homes for occupation by persons of over 55 years, with associated services, parking and turning area. The Local Planning Authority's (Swale Borough Council) planning reference for the proposal is 20/501183/FULL.

1.2 The following Condition (7) requiring a programme of archaeological monitoring was attached to the planning consent:

*No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has 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. This is a pre-commencement condition because its requirements need approval prior to any ground disturbance taking place.*

## 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

2.1 The proposed development area (PDA) is within an Area of Archaeological Potential and a search of the KCCHER highlights that the site has been identified by historical mapping as an Anglo-Saxon inhumation cemetery (TQ 86 NW 212) and the quay to the west has been identified on early OS maps (TQ 86 NW 1020). The 1865 OS map shows a Brickfield to the north and buildings located to the east of Otterham Quay (MAP 1). The 1895 OS map (MAP 2) shows large areas of brickearth removal and the addition of a Public House (P.H.), The 1906 OS map shows large rectangular brickearth removal pits on the PDA (MAP 3) and the public house is now named the "Anchor & Hope Inn". The aerial photograph of 1940 shows large areas of brickearth removal on the PDA (AP 1) as does the aerial of 1960 (AP 2).

## 3.0 GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The geology of the site according to the British Geological Survey is Thanet Formation-Sand, Silt, Clay. Superficial Deposits are not recorded. The OD height of the PDA is about 7m aOD.

## 4.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

4.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were to contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of any archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundworks. Particular attention was made to the character, height below ground level, condition, date and significance of the deposits.

## **5.0 MONITORED GROUNDWORKS**

5.1 The groundworks comprised hand excavation of 30 geological test pits and 10 boreholes of which five were drilled to the depth of 5 metres and further five to the depth of 10metres.

5.2 The archaeologist has clarified the extent of the works with the developer before work begins to ensure that they target their attendance in accordance with the development programme. The archaeologist was maintaining a diary and description of all works observed and these are included in this report.

## **6.0 METHODOLOGY**

6.1 The archaeological contractor was monitoring the excavations of all groundworks. Excavations were undertaken using a hand tools including spade and a cut bar. Boreholes were drilled using small mobile rig.

6.2 The archaeologist has inspected the surfaces revealed. Any archaeological structures or features revealed will be recorded in plan and section as appropriate according to the requirements stated within approved specification.

6.3 All excavations were watched, examined and subsequently photographed using hi-resolution digital SLR camera. Additionally monitored areas were surveyed using a GPS RTK surveying kit achieving centimetre accuracy in relation to National Grid.

## **7.0 RECORDING**

7.1 All archaeological contexts were recorded individually on context record sheets. A further more general record of the work comprising a description and discussion is included in this report.

7.2 A full colour (digital) photographic record of the work is kept and constitutes a part of project archive. The selection of photographic images which reflect the investigation and monitoring undertaken on this site is included in this report.

7.3 The site archive, include all project records and cultural material produced by the project and 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 Developer will arrange for the archive to be deposited in a suitable museum or similar repository to be agreed with the Local Planning Authority.

## **8.0 PROJECT TIME-FRAME**

8.1 Archaeological watching brief was carried out in January between 12<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. A total of 5.5 mandays were allocated to oversee trial pitting and boreholing.

## **9.0 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS**

9.1 Archaeological watching brief was carried out at the Caravan Storage Area, Otterham Quay Industrial Estate, Otterham Quay Lane, Upchurch, Kent ME8 7UX in January 2022. Proposed groundworks comprised excavation of 30 geological test-pits and 10 boreholes.

9.2 Watching brief has exposed natural geology comprising yellow-grey clay-sand-silt with infrequent pebbles capped by top soil and the most recent overburden.

9.3 Test pits excavated within north-western and central parts of the site to the depth of 1.4metres did not exposed natural geology but modern made-up ground.

9.4 Test pits excavated within eastern extent of the site did revealed natural geology at the depth varying from 0.4metres to 0.9metres below existing ground level.

9.5 No archaeological cuts, deposits or artefact were revealed during the course of archaeological watching brief.

9.6 A small quantity of modern dating evidence comprising glass shards, brick fragments and white glazed 'China' ware noted examined and discarded.

## **10.0 WATCHING BRIEF DIARY**

10.1 12 January 2022 Excavations of Test-Pits 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7

10.2 13 January 2022 Excavations of Test Pits 4, 5, 8, 9, 10 and 11 and boreholes within north-western part of the site.

10.3 14 January 2022 Further excavations of Test pits 12, 13, 17 and 18 and boreholes within central part of the site.

10.4 27 January 2022 Excavations of Test-pits 14, 15, 16, 19, 20 and 21

10.5 28 January 2022 Excavations of Test-pits 25, 26 and 27 and boreholes within southern part of the site.

10.6 31 January 2022 Excavations of last Test-pits 22, 23, 28, 29 and 30

## **11.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

11.1 Watching brief carried out at the Caravan Storage Area, Otterham Quay Industrial Estate, Otterham Quay Lane, Upchurch, Kent ME8 7UX successively fulfilled the aims and objectives of approved specification and reveal common stratigraphic sequence comprising top-soil with made-up ground concealing natural geology.

11.2 No archaeological cut, deposits or artefacts were revealed during the course of archaeological watching brief.

11.3 Archaeological investigation has concluded that majority of the site contains modern made-up deposits comprising hardcore crush, tarmac and refuse stone aggregates. Material was used to backfill large cavities and to level off the ground to constitute a tarmacked surface and internal access road for caravans.

11.4 Parent material (natural geology) was exposed within eastern extent of the site at the depth varying from 0.35metres to 0.87metres below existing ground level.

11.5 Prior to the establishment of Caravan Park surface and access road all top-soil appears to be stripped and deposited within southern end of the site. The test-pits excavated there did not exposed natural geology and top-soil is prevalent throughout entire one metre deep profile.

11.6 Lack of archaeological finding in all geological test-pits and in spoils derived from boreholes suggests that no significant archaeological remains are present within proposed development area and that further works won't be having any impact on archaeological resource therefore no further work is recommended from heritage point of interest.

## **12.0 ARCHIVE**

12.1 The Site archive, which will include; paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital data, will be prepared following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; CifA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

12.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises 1 file/document case of paper records & A4 graphics. The Site Archive will be retained at SWAT Archaeology offices until such time it can be transferred to a designated Kent Museum.

## **13.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

13.1 SWAT Archaeology would like to thank to the Developer for commissioning the project. The fieldwork was carried out changeably P Cichy and J Cantwell.

13.2 On completion of the project, the archaeological contractor is to arrange for the transfer, subject to the landowners consent, of the documentary, photographic and material archive to SWAT Archaeology, and to ensure that the appropriate level of resources for cataloguing, boxing and long term storage are provided for a set fee until such times that designated museum in Kent can accept the archive.

13.3 The archaeological contractor is to allow the site records to be inspected and examined at any reasonable time, during or after the evaluation, by the developer, and the Kent County Council Archaeological Officer.

13.4 Copies of all reports compiled as a result of the watching brief will be submitted to the developer as CD containing a .pdfA version. In addition a CD containing a .pdfA version of the report and a selection of site photos in jpeg format to be sent to the KCC Archaeological Officer and once approved sent to the KCC HER for inclusion in HER Records.

13.5 The work the archaeological contractor is to abide by the Code of conduct and the Codes of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in field archaeology of the Institute of Field Archaeologists. The report was written by: SWAT Archaeology (Peter Cichy) The Office, School Farm Oast, Faversham, Kent, ME13 8UP Date: 22/03/2022.

## APPENDIX 1 – HER FORM

**Site Name:** Archaeological Watching Brief at the Caravan Storage Area, Otterham Quay Industrial Estate, Otterham Quay Lane, Upchurch, Kent ME8 7UX

**SWAT Site Code:** OTQ-WB-22

**Site Address:** the Caravan Storage Area, Otterham Quay Industrial Estate, Otterham Quay Lane, Upchurch, Kent ME8 7UX

**Summary:** *Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned by The Client to undertake an archaeological watching brief at the Caravan Storage Area, Otterham Quay Industrial Estate, Otterham Quay Lane, Upchurch, Kent ME8 7UX. The archaeological programme was monitored by the Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council. The Archaeological Watching brief was negative throughout the entire course of investigation and recorded modern made up ground concealing natural geology.*

***No further mitigation is proposed***

**District/Unitary:** Maidstone Borough Council & Kent County Council

**Period(s):** Late Post Medieval

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** NGR 583084 167181

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Watching Brief

**Date of recording:** January 2022

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

**Geology:** Thanet Formation- Sand, Silt, Clay. Superficial Deposits are not recorded.

**Title and author of accompanying report:** SWAT Archaeology (P. Cichy 2022) Archaeological watching brief at the Caravan Storage Area, Otterham Quay Industrial Estate, Otterham Quay Lane, Upchurch, Kent ME8 7UX

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

**Contact at Unit:** Paul Wilkinson

## Plates



Plate 1: The site looking north.



Plate 2: The site looking east.



Plate 3: The site looking south.



Plate 4: Geological Test-Pit 1. One metre scale bar.



Plate 5: Geological Test-Pit 2. One metre scale bar.



Plate 6: Geological Test-Pit 3. One metre scale bar.



Plate 7: Geological Test-Pit 4.



Plate 8: Geological Test-Pit 8. One metre scale bar.



Plate 9: Geological Test-Pit 9. Looking north with one metre scale bar.



Plate 10: Geological Test-Pit 12. One metre scale bar.



Plate 11: Geological Test-Pit 14. One metre scale bar.



Plate 12: Geological Test-Pit 15. One metre scale bar.



Plate 13: Geological Test-Pit 18. One metre scale bar.



Plate 14: Geological Test-Pit 21. One metre scale bar.



Plate 15: Geological Test-Pit 13. Looking north with one metre scale bar.



Plate 16: Geological Test-Pit 11. Looking west with one metre scale bar.



Plate 17: Geological Test-Pit 28. One metre scale bar.



Plate 18: Geological Test-Pit 27. One metre scale bar.



Plate 19: Geological Test-Pit 20. One metre scale bar.



Plate 20: Geological Test-Pit 26. One metre measure tape.



Plate 21: Geological Test-Pit 30. One metre measure tape.



Plate 22: Geological Test-Pit 29. One metre measure tape.



Plate 23: Showing the souther part of the site, looking north-east with one-metre scale.



Plate 24: Showing the souther part of the site, Test-pit 25. Looking south-east with one-metre scale.



Plate 25: Showing the souther part of the site with fairly apparent top-soil accumulation. Test-pit 26. Looking south with one-metre scale.



Plate 26: Showing the examples of modern findings. Red and white segments on scale equals one centimetre.

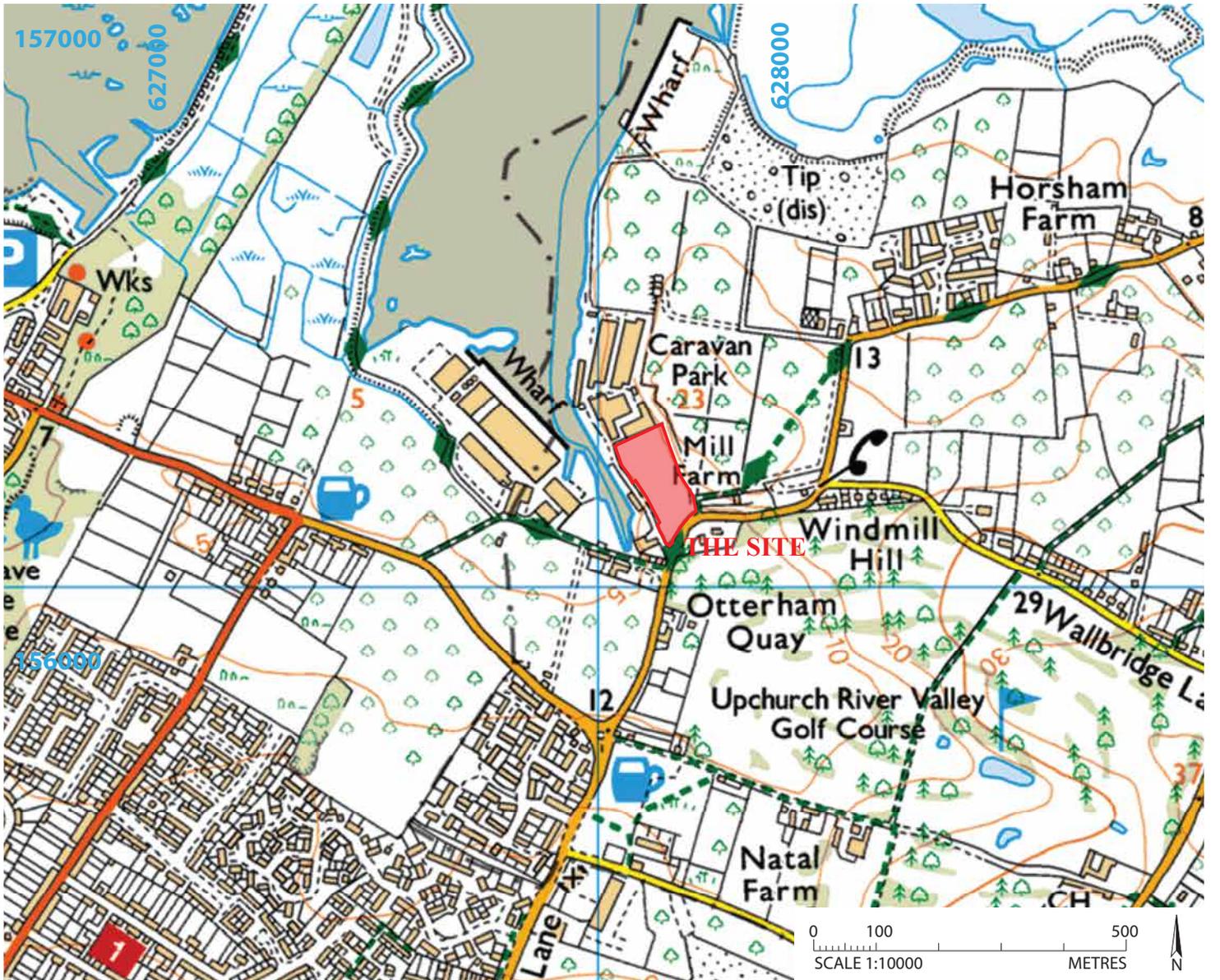


Figure 1: Site location map, scale 1:10000.



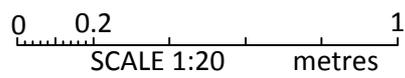
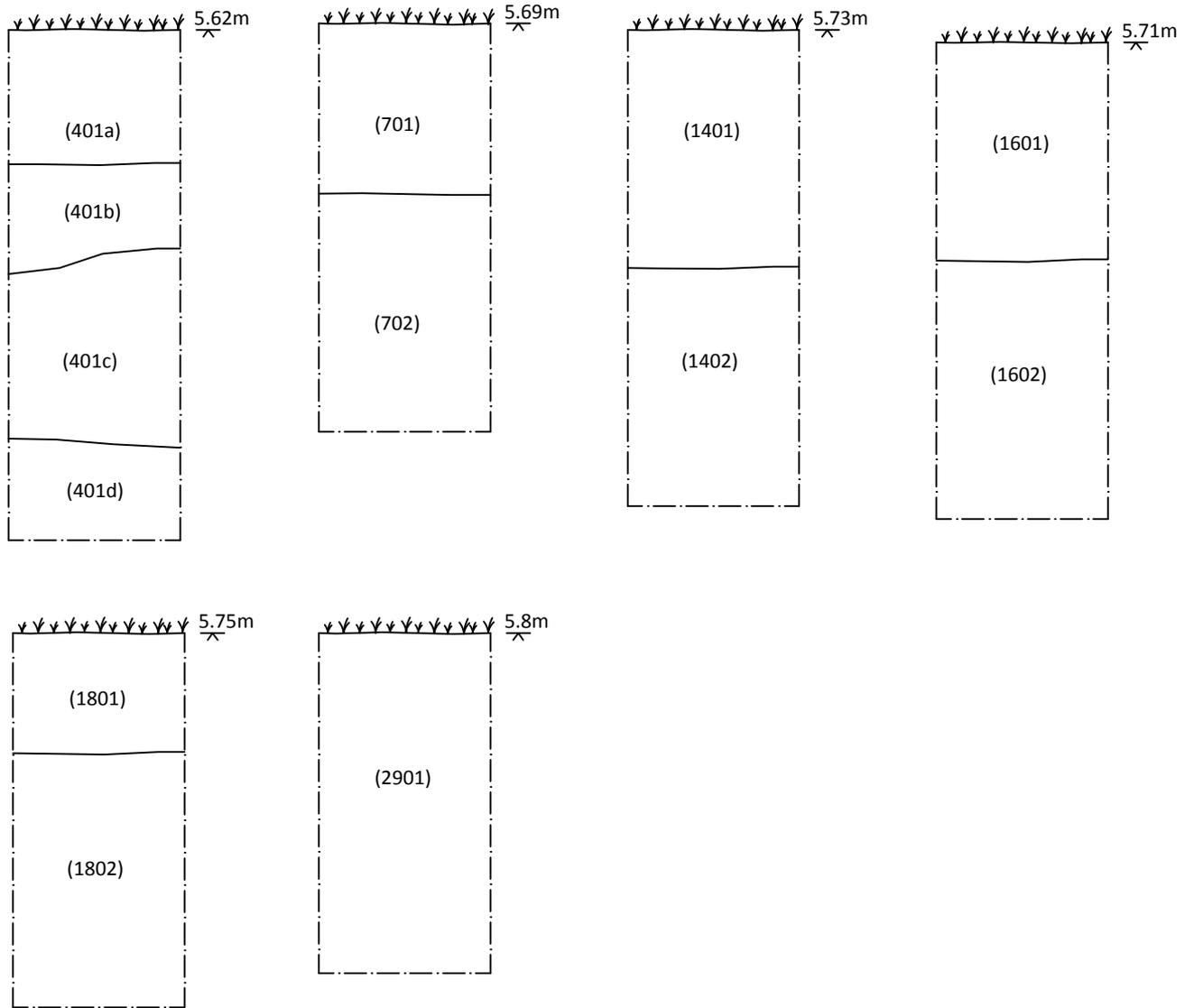


Figure 3: Representative sections