

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at
Isle of Grain Power Station, Isle of Grain, Kent.**

Project No. 3078

**By
Andrew Margetts BA (Hons)**

November 2007

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Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks associated with drilling and the removal of contaminated soil at Isle of Grain Power Station, Isle of Grain, Kent. Groundworks included ground reduction of an area approximately 5 x 43 metres to a maximum depth of 1.7 metres below ground level. Site visits were made to monitor groundworks during August 2007. No archaeological evidence was encountered during the course of the groundworks.

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SMR Summary Sheet
Oasis Record Sheet

Fig. 1: Site Location Plan

Fig. 2: Site Plan

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeology South East (ASE), a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit (UCLFAU), was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd to undertake archaeological monitoring during groundworks at Isle of Grain Power Station, Isle of Grain, Kent (NGR TQ 872 754), (Fig 1).
- 1.2 Archaeology South East agreed to undertake a watching brief in line with the usual codes of practice and method statements issued by CgMs Consulting Ltd.
- 1.3 The purpose of the archaeological work was to monitor the excavation of new groundworks to ensure that any features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest exposed and affected by the groundworks were recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards.
- 1.4 The works examined included ground reduction of approximately 5 by 43 metres in area to a maximum depth of c.1.7 metres below ground level. This comprised excavation for drilling purposes and removal of contaminated soil.
- 1.5 The fieldwork was undertaken by Andrew Margetts at intermittent periods during August 2007. The project was managed by Diccon Hart (Project Manager) and Louise Rayner (Post-excavation Manager).

2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 According to the British Geological Survey (Sheet 272, 1:50,000 series, Solid and Drift Edition) the underlying geology at the site comprises London Clay.
- 2.2 The Isle of Grain is a rich archaeological and historical landscape. Frequent finds of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic material have been made in an area including areas of settlement remains. The Neolithic period is represented by finds of stone axes and flints as well as possible ceremonial and burial monuments on the chalk. Bronze Age ring ditches are also known from the chalk along with settlement enclosures identified from crop marks and excavation. Finds of pottery, flints and metalwork are also not uncommon in the area. Similarly, sites of the Iron Age and Roman periods are well represented, including on the foreshore; salt making sites of the later period are particularly common around the coastal areas. On the whole, medieval remains are characterised by religious and settlement sites, often associated with the modern settlement pattern. The post medieval and modern periods are dominated by wrecks and military monuments

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Groundworks mentioned in Section 1.4 above were monitored at all times by an archaeologist until/unless it becomes clear beyond reasonable doubt that no archaeological remains were present (e.g. once excavation reaches undisturbed natural subsoils, below which there will be no archaeological remains present - after the recording of any significant remains if present at higher levels). All excavations were carried out with a tracked machine (equipped with a toothless bucket where practicable).
- 3.2 Where new excavations revealed significant archaeological features, machine or hand excavation by contractor's staff ceased, and these were hand excavated and recorded to archaeological standards by the archaeologist in attendance. Exposures were hand cleaned by the archaeologist as necessary to clarify the presence/absence and nature of any features. Adequate time was made available for appropriate archaeological excavation by hand to identify and record the remains in order to extract archaeological and environmental information, as this proved necessary.
- 3.3 This enabled any archaeological deposits and features, disturbed during the proposed works, to be adequately recorded in line with the advice given in PPG16 (the Government's advice on *Archaeology and Planning*).
- 3.4 All archaeological features and deposits encountered were recorded according to accepted professional standards. A full photographic record was kept of the work as appropriate.
- 3.5 The spoil from the excavations was inspected to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest.
- 3.6 KCC's archaeologists were kept informed of progress so that they could monitor the archaeological work as necessary.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS (Fig. 2)

- 4.1 The groundworks excavated for drilling purposes and removal of contaminated soil comprised an area c. 5 x 43 metres dug to a depth of c.1.7m (see Fig. 2). The deposits revealed during the contractors excavations consisted firstly of c.800mm thick deposit of loose dark grey black sandy silt (Context **001**). This made ground deposit contained frequent inclusions of modern building materials and moderate amounts of sub rounded pebbles. Beneath Context **001** was encountered c.900mm of firm mid grey brown silty clay alluvium (Context **002**). Directly beneath Context **002** was encountered the firm mid orange brown river terrace gravels (Context **003**). No

archaeological features or finds were encountered during the course of the groundworks.

5 The Finds

- 5.1 No archaeological finds were recovered during the course of the watching brief.

7 DISCUSSION

- 7.1 The underlying geology encountered during the course of the groundworks comprised alluvium overlying river terrace gravels.
- 7.2 The results of the watching brief did not produce any evidence of an archaeological nature and must therefore be classed as negative evidence.

Archaeology South-East
Isle of Grain Power Station, Kent.

APPENDIX 1: SMR Summary Form

Site Code	IGP07					
Identification Name and Address	Isle of Grain Power Station, Kent					
County, District &/or Borough	Rochester Upon Medway, Kent					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR TQ 872 754					
Geology	London Clay					
Arch. South-East Project Number	3078					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief ✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other Power Station		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. August 2007	Other		
Sponsor/Client	CgMs Consulting Ltd					
Project Manager	Diccon Hart and Louise Rayner					
Project Supervisor	Andrew Margetts					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern		
100 Word Summary.						
<p><i>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks associated with drilling and the removal of contaminated soil at Isle of Grain Power Station, Isle of Grain, Kent. Groundworks included ground reduction of an area approximately 5 x 43 metres to a maximum depth of 1.7 metres below ground level. Site visits were made to monitor groundworks on during August 2007. No archaeological evidence was encountered during the course of the groundworks.</i></p>						

APPENDIX 2: OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

OASIS ID: archaeol6-34054

Project details

Project name	Isle of Grain Power Station WB
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks associated with drilling and the removal of contaminated soil at Isle of Grain Power Station, Isle of Grain, Kent. Groundworks included ground reduction of an area approximately 5 x 43 metres to a maximum depth of 1.7 metres below ground level. Site visits were made to monitor groundworks on during August 2007. No archaeological evidence was encountered during the course of the groundworks.
Project dates	Start: 03-08-2007 End: 04-08-2007
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	IGP07 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT MEDWAY ISLE OF GRAIN Isle of Grain Power Station
Postcode	ME3 OXX
Study area	215.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 872 754 51.4460484425 0.694216650454 51 26 45 N 000 41
39 E Point

Height OD Min: 4.00m Max: 5.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South East

Project brief originator CgMs Consulting

Project design originator Archaeology South-East

Project director/manager Diccon Hart

Project supervisor Andrew Margetts

Type of sponsor/funding body CgMs Consulting

Name of sponsor/funding body CgMs Consulting

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive Exists? No

Paper Archive Exists? No

Project bibliography 1

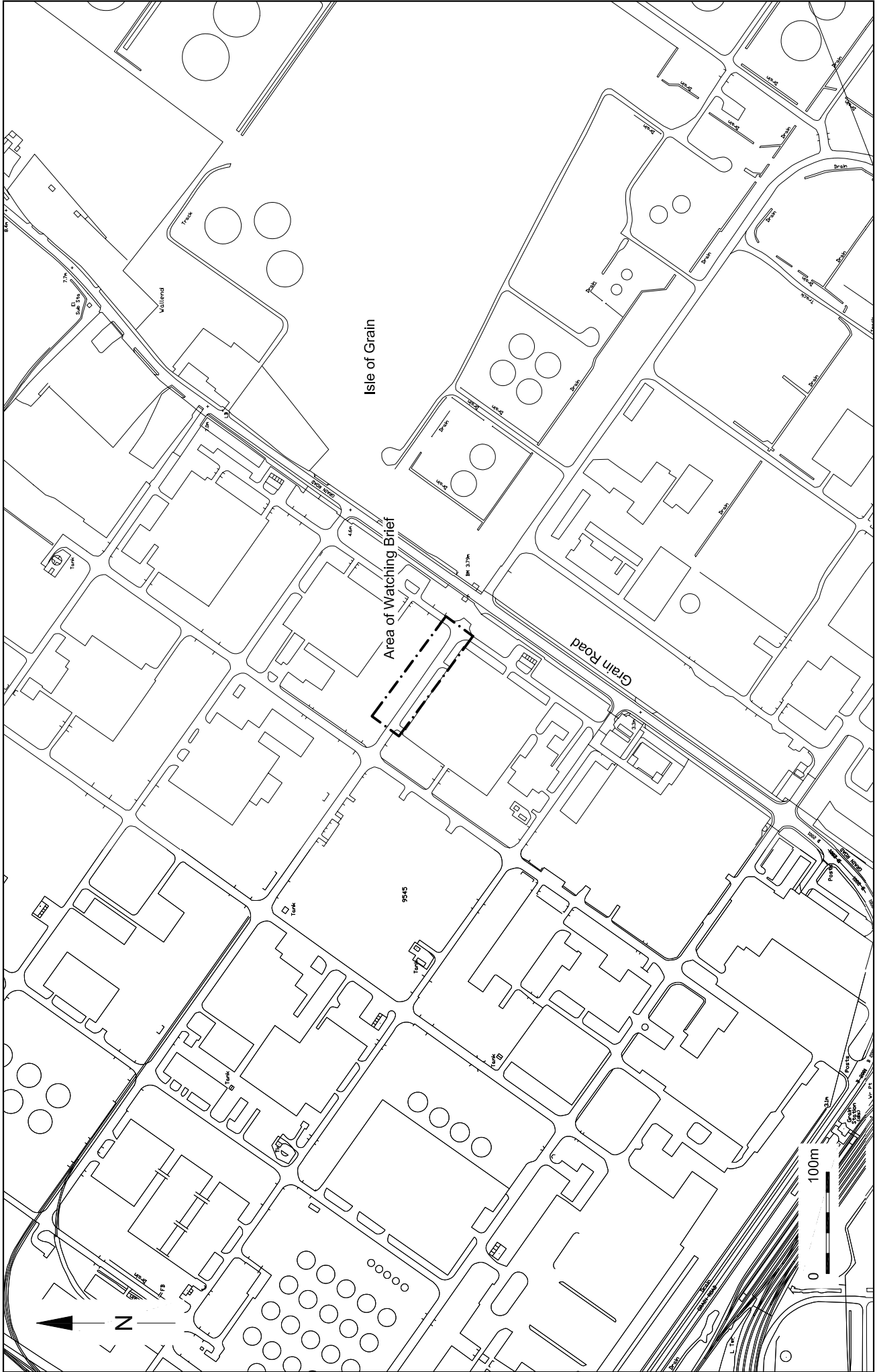
Archaeology South-East
Isle of Grain Power Station, Kent.

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Isle of Grain power Station WB Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Margetts, A
Other bibliographic details	3078 project number
Date	2007
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade
Description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks associated with drilling and the removal of contaminated soil at Isle of Grain Power Station, Isle of Grain, Kent. Groundworks included ground reduction of an area approximately 5 x 43 metres to a maximum depth of 1.7 metres below ground level. Site visits were made to monitor groundworks on during August 2007. No archaeological evidence was encountered during the course of the groundworks.
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Entered by	andy margetts (andrew_margetts@tiscali.co.uk)
Entered on	13 November 2007



© Archaeology South-East			Isle of Grain Watching Brief		Fig. 1
Ref: 3078	Nov 2007	Drawn by: JLR	Site Location Plan		

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