



Archaeological Investigation and Surface Remains Survey at Betteshanger Colliery Deal Kent

Archaeological Investigation Report



March 2008

Client: SEEDA

Issue N^o: Final Report (1)
OA Job N^o: 2258
NGR: TR 337 531

Client Name: SEEDA

Client Ref No: n/a

Document Title: Archaeological Investigation and Surface Remains Survey
at Betteshanger Colliery, Deal, Kent

Document Type: Archaeological Investigation Report

Issue Number: 1

National Grid Reference: TR 337 531
Planning Reference:

OA Job Number: 2258
Site Code: NOBC03
Invoice Code: NOBCPX
Receiving Museum: Dover Museum
Museum Accession No:

Prepared by: Rebecca Devaney/Jonathan
Gill/Alan Hardy
Position: Project Officer/ Project Manager/Senior Project Manager
Date: 20th February 2008

Checked by: Richard Brown
Position: Senior Project Manager
Date: 2nd March 2008

Approved by: Nick Shepherd Signed.....
Position: Director of Fieldwork
Date: 14th March 2008

Document File Location NOBCPX/Final report.doc
Graphics File Location NOBCPX/ Final Figs
Illustrated by Georgina Slater

Disclaimer:

This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees, and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.

Oxford Archaeology
© Oxford Archaeological Unit Ltd 2008

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES
t: (0044) 01865 263800
f: (0044) 01865 793496

e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk
w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk

Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627

SEEDA

Betteshanger Colliery, Deal, Kent

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION AND SURFACE REMAINS SURVEY

Table of contents

SUMMARY

1	PROJECT BACKGROUND.....	3
2	ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION	4
2.1	HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	4
2.2	HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE COLLIERY	4
2.3	ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY	5
2.4	DESCRIPTION OF EXCAVATED FEATURES	5
2.5	FINDS	7
2.6	PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS	7
2.7	DISCUSSION	7
2.8	CONCLUSIONS	8
3	SURFACE REMAINS SURVEY	9
3.1	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	9
3.2	METHODOLOGY	9
3.3	DESCRIPTION	9
3.4	CONCLUSION.....	11
4	BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES	13
5	LOCATION OF THE ARCHIVE.....	13
6	SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS.....	13

Appendix 1: Context Inventory

List of Figures

- Figure 1A Betteshanger Colliery: Pithead A and Spoilheap B
Figure 1B Location of site
Figure 2 Plan showing the main features of the three structures excavated in Area iii
Figure 3 Detailed plan of part of the structures
Figure 4 Schematic section showing timber anchor and cill beam
Figure 5 Section through the south-east wall of structure 1001
Figure 6 Surface Fire-fighting Plan

List of Plates

- Plate 1 Iron vent 1055 in the south-east wall of structure 1034
Plate 2 Betteshanger Colliery 1933, looking southwest
Plate 3 General view of the site from the south. Capped shaft in the foreground, main offices to the rear.
Plate 4 Main offices from the south
Plate 5 Tiled floor of the lamp room
Plate 6 Settling tanks in the sewerage works
Plate 7 Two interlinking sets of rail tracks
Plate 8 Coal wagon
Plate 9 Engine house at the end of training gallery
Plate 10 Hut for colliery angling club
Plate 11 Section of pipe
Plate 12 Concrete flower basket

BETTESHANGER COLLIERY, DEAL, KENT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION AND SURFACE REMAINS SURVEY

SUMMARY

In response to a proposed regeneration of the site of the former Betteshanger Colliery, located to the west of Deal in Kent, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a programme of archaeological recording. The first half of the report describes the results of the evaluation, watching brief and excavation, which partially revealed the foundations of three structures. It is suggested that these are the remains of Sinkers' cottages built in the early 1920's. The second half of the report covers the industrial recording. Almost all the surface structures were demolished prior to the current investigation. The few surviving structures were photographed and noted on a plan. Much information on the site was gained from on-site discussions with Jim Davies, a former employee at Betteshanger.

1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 Planning permission was granted by Dover District Council for the regeneration of Betteshanger Colliery by SEEDA (South-East England Development Agency). The outline of the colliery site - the Development Impact Area - is shown on Figure 1A). The Environmental Impact Assessment (OA 2002, on behalf of Chris Blanford Associates had concluded that the site did have some archaeological potential for prehistoric remains and therefore a programme of archaeological mitigation was requested by Simon Mason of Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Group. This included targeted archaeological evaluation and excavation, along with a photographic survey of remaining above ground structures associated with the colliery.
- 1.1.2 Oxford Archaeology was appointed by SEEDA to assess the impact of the proposed colliery regeneration on any earlier remains. Initially a five trench field evaluation (Fig. 1B) was carried out between 28th July and 5th August 2003. No significant remains were found pre-dating the colliery; however, the work revealed a number of structures associated with the former colliery, including the possible Sinkers' cottages, significant elements of the early years of the colliery (OA 2003).
- 1.1.3 As a result of the evaluation, a watching brief was undertaken in Areas i and ii (Fig. 1B), where there was the possibility of earthworks having an archaeological impact. This was carried out between 15th and 27th October 2003. Much of the area was covered with industrial waste associated with the colliery, including concrete, iron girders, cables and wire. No archaeological features were seen.
- 1.1.4 In Area iii (Fig. 1B), the possible Sinkers' cottages were subject to an intensive excavation. The results of this excavation are described below.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

2.1 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1.1 A comprehensive study of the archaeological and historical background of the site was included in the Cultural Heritage chapter of the EIA (OA 2002), a summary of which is included here. The EIA identified five known archaeological sites within the former colliery site (Area A of the planned development), including pits of an uncertain nature and date discovered during the building of the colliery, a possible road and park features associated with Northbourne Court, the remnants of a ring ditch and the site of the colliery itself. Within the former colliery spoil tip (Area B of the planned development) three known archaeological sites were identified, including the site of a sheepwash and sluice, the cropmark of a small enclosure of uncertain date and nature and the extant remains of the colliery railway sidings. Within the area of the proposed roundabout, a single archaeological site was identified, the cropmarks of two ring ditches and a curvilinear enclosure, visible on aerial photographs.

2.1.2 In addition to the possible impacts on identified sites, the whole of the development area lay within an area of high archaeological potential for prehistoric, Roman, later medieval and post-medieval archaeology. Therefore, any development at the colliery was considered to be high risk in terms of an affect on previously unrecorded archaeology. However, no indirect impacts were identified on any Cultural Heritage receptors within the area of proposed development or the surrounding study area, including a nearby Registered Park, Scheduled Monument, Conservation Area and a number of Listed Buildings.

2.2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE COLLIERY

2.2.1 Although detailed documentary research into the history of Betteshanger Colliery has not been undertaken as part of this investigation a short summary would be useful to provide some background to the recording. This background is largely taken from the history section of the Betteshanger regeneration website written by Mark Frost, Senior Assistant Curator at Dover Museum.

2.2.2 Betteshanger Colliery opened in 1924, c.1 mile west of the town of Deal in east Kent, and the first coal was raised in 1927. It was owned by the major industrial group Pearson & Dorman Long and was both the largest colliery in the Kent coalfield as well as the last to be opened. It had two brick-lined shafts of 24 ft (7.3 m) diameter, surrounded by the main pit-head structures, and a spoil heap to the north-east connected to the pit head by a thin strip of land. A set of concrete pit baths were added in 1934 and a clubhouse in c.1954 (pers. comm. J Davies). The large number of miners attracted to the area by the new colliery initially lived in Deal but a new estate was built on land purchased in 1929 close to the site. Betteshanger had attracted many blacklisted miners from other areas and it became such a centre of Trotskyist activity that it was the only mine to have a major strike during the Second World War.

2.2.3 Betteshanger was the last working colliery in the Kent coalfield before it closed in 1989. Many of the structures, including the winding gear and headstocks were rapidly demolished after closure but some buildings survived until at least 1999 and possibly until their clearance in 2001.

2.3 **ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY**

2.3.1 The overburden over the designated excavation area was removed by machine under archaeological supervision. All subsequent cleaning and excavation of archaeological deposits was by hand. A full photographic record was kept during the excavation.

2.3.2 The excavation methodology and all archaeological recording followed procedures detailed in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson 1992).

2.4 **DESCRIPTION OF EXCAVATED FEATURES**

2.4.1 The excavation trench was located to the north of the pit head site, just to the east of the main offices (Fig. 1B). Three structures (1001, 1034 and 1051) were partially uncovered, rectangular in shape and placed end-to-end with their long axis on a south-west to north-east alignment (Fig. 2). The central set of foundations (1034) was the most complete, with just the long north-west side being located beyond the edge of the trench. The building was 15.45 m in length and at least 5.67 m wide.

2.4.2 The foundations of all three structures were formed by concrete set within a construction trench (1000, 1033 and 1050) and overlain by wooden cill beams. At regular intervals (approximately every 1.6 m) rectangular slots were identified within the top surface of the concrete (Fig. 3). The slots were undercut so that the bases were larger than the tops. In some cases the slots were covered by remnants of the overlying wooden cill beams, and therefore cannot have been to hold vertical supports as first thought. Instead, it is suggested that wedge-shaped pieces of wood were inserted into the wet concrete, with the horizontal cill beams secured on top by the use of nails (Fig. 4). At the time of excavation, three of the slots still contained corroded nails and traces of timber. It is likely that the walls for the structures rested on top of the wooden cill beams and were supported by vertical posts, which may well have been inserted into the horizontal beams. Cast iron vents (for instance cxt 1055, Pl. 1) were identified in three places within the exposed footings (one in structure 1001 and two in structure 1034). One of the voids also had a rubber lining, presumably to protect the foundations from excess moisture. These vents would have ensured some degree of ventilation under the internal floor.

2.4.3 Within the structures was a layer of redeposited brickearth, used to create level platforms suitable for construction (1040 in structure 1001, 1061 in structure 1034 and 1059 in structure 1051). Cut into these deposits was a series of regularly spaced, roughly square features, ranging in size from 260 mm x 280 mm to 520 mm x 700 mm (Fig. 2). Half of the cuts in structure 1001 contained concrete blocks. In some cases there was just one block or two smaller blocks placed side by side and in other cases

there were two sets, one on top of the other and mortared together (Fig. 3). It is suggested that these were supports for floor joists. In the central building, the square cuts were empty and only just visible (1062). However, a row of concrete blocks (1037 and 1038) were placed against one of the associated wall footings and are likely to derive from the cuts. Some of the blocks had central holes, one of which still contained wood, and these may have held vertical posts to form internal room divisions. In all three structures, above the redeposited brickearth and around the suggested beam supports, was a patchy layer of dirty silt (1032). It is possible that this represents occupation material that has fallen through the floor boards.

- 2.4.4 In the spaces between the structures, the layer of made ground seen within the wall footings continues. Set into this were two sets of concrete steps (1002 and 1041) and two concrete slabs (1003 and 1042). The steps butt against the wall footings to the north-east sides of structures 1001 and 1034 and the slabs to the south-west sides of structures 1034 and 1051 (Fig. 2). It is suggested that these were the entrances to the buildings. The ground sloped to the north-east and therefore steps would be needed to enter the buildings from that side, however, from the south-west side of the building the ground would be level and steps would not be needed, hence the flat slab. Remnants of wood were present along the north-west edges of the two concrete slabs (Fig. 3). It is possible that these are the remains of some kind of porch. Because the structures could be accessed from either end, it is suggested that they were divided into two, to form semi-detached dwellings.
- 2.4.5 Between the suggested entrances to structures 1001 and 1034 (Fig. 3), and above the made ground, was a crushed red brick surface (1066). Overlying this, and stretching back towards the north-west, was a layer of trample (1004) and overlying this was another small area of crushed brick and concrete (1065). It is suggested that these layers were part of a sequence of deposits relating to a trackway or path. The deposits between the entrances to structures 1034 and 1051 were more complex (Fig. 2). Above the layer of made ground was a linear deposit of loose gravels which formed a pathway between the two structures (1045). The steps and concrete slab slightly overlay this deposit. Between the entrances and the road, and set into the gravel pathway, were some irregular stone slabs which may have formed part of another pathway (1044) and to the north-west of the entrance slab to structure 1051 was a surface made from brick and concrete fragments (1043).
- 2.4.6 Running the whole length of the structures was a roadway made of ragstone rubble and crushed concrete (1054) (Fig. 2). A deposit of coal derived material (1039) had accumulated within the gap between the road and the adjacent wall footings (Fig. 5).
- 2.4.7 Other identified features include three pits and a possible posthole. Between structures 1001 and 1034 (Fig. 3) was a square pit measuring 1.2 m x 1.25 m (1007). The feature was not excavated but seemed to contain concrete, wire and brick. Within structure 1034 and partly beneath the edge of the trench was a larger square pit, measuring 1.86m in width and at least 1 m in length (1035). The feature contained coal and coal by-products, but was not excavated. The pit cuts one of the floor

support cuts (1062) and is therefore later than the structure. It is assumed that both pits are modern features. The final pit (1063) was located alongside the brick surface next to structure 1051 (Fig. 2). It was oval in shape with almost vertical sides and a flat base. The pit measured 800 mm x 350 mm and was 160 mm deep. The fill contained dark grey silt and coal fragments. Towards the north-east end of structure 1051 was a small and shallow circular feature, 400mm in diameter. It contained a loose, dark grey, silty fill. There were no square beam support cuts visible at this end of the structure, however the circular feature is in the same alignment as the cuts at the south-west end.

2.5 FINDS

- 2.5.1 No finds pre-dating the colliery were identified during the excavation. Modern finds were noted, but not retained.

2.6 PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

- 2.6.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the excavation.

2.7 DISCUSSION

- 2.7.1 The foundations of three buildings were partially revealed. No full building footprint was uncovered, but their dimensions can be deduced with reasonable confidence, assuming they were each built to the same plan. Each building footprint was 15.4 m (c. 50 ft) in length (that of 1034) x c 6.0 m (c. 20ft) wide (assuming the gable entrances were centrally sited). Each footprint was defined by a shuttered concrete plinth. The superstructure would have been a frame timber anchored to the concrete plinth by fixing to wedge-shaped wooden anchors previously set into the wet concrete. The rows of concrete blocks surviving within each building indicate that the internal floors were suspended plank over timber joists. Cast metal vents were incorporated into the concrete plinths to provide some ventilation under the floor (see Pl. 1)
- 2.7.2 The presence of an entrance at each end of the building suggests that they would have been partitioned, resulting in each building comprising two semi-detached dwellings, each of approximately 500 sq ft floor area, and each presumably further partitioned to some degree into rooms. No evidence of built-in services (water supply, drainage, sewage) to the dwellings was evident.
- 2.7.3 Sinker cottages were built to house the workers who sunk the mine shafts during the construction of the colliery, hence the name. They were designed to be temporary, as once the shafts were finished the workers would move on. Contemporary photographic evidence from Betteshanger shows the sinking rig in place in October 1923, but it is not clear whether the cottages were also present at this time. However, a photograph taken in January 1924 undoubtedly shows their presence (Dover Museum Lad 22679). The style of building was generic; photographs of similar cottages taken at nearby Snowdon quarry show the cottages to be single-

storey with plank-built walls, wooden window and door frames (painted in a light colour) and shallow pitched roofs (probably made from corrugated iron).

- 2.7.4 From the aerial photographs taken at Betteshanger in 1924 it is clear that lanes run along the front and back of the properties and there are also gardens stretching between the north-east side of the back lane and the site boundary.
- 2.7.5 Three buildings - implying six dwellings - were exposed in the investigation. An aerial photograph taken in 1933 (Pl.2) and looking south-west shows three standing buildings in a row (the ones excavated), and three shrub-covered plots to the north-east. This suggests that there was originally accommodation for twelve families. It would appear that by 1933 the sinkers had moved on, and while three of the buildings were retained and reused, three were demolished. This contention is supported by the evidence of a concrete slab (1005) floor covering the south-west half of structure 1001 (Fig. 2). It is suggested that this relates to a second phase of use and may have been an attempt to strengthen the floor. Similar evidence can be seen in structure 1034 where floor supports were only seen in the south-west end of the structure. It is possible that those in the north-east end were destroyed during a later phase of use. The differential treatment within the structures also suggests that the buildings, although no longer serving as dwellings, were still sub-divided into two halves, with two different functions

2.8 CONCLUSIONS

- 2.8.1 The archaeological and photographic evidence from Betteshanger Colliery suggests the original presence of six Sinkers cottages, probably sub-divided into twelve semi-detached dwellings and accessed via doorways in the ends of each building. The buildings were initially used as dwellings for probably only a few years. By 1933, three of the structures had been demolished and the evidence suggests that the remaining three buildings were re-used, possibly as stores.

3 SURFACE REMAINS SURVEY

3.1 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1.1 The main aim of the surface remains survey was to make a record of any surviving surface features of the former colliery before they are lost in the redevelopment. The second principal aim was to make an assessment or interpretation of the structures and how they fitted into the overall colliery complex.

3.2 METHODOLOGY

- 3.2.1 The surface recording was undertaken on 12 and 23 August 2003. It comprised a walk over of the site by members of the OA Buildings Department identifying and recording any structures or features that related to the former colliery. The recording was principally undertaken using photographs (black and white prints and colour slides) and descriptive notes added to an existing fire-fighting plan of the site. The plan (Fig. 6) is not dated but it was revised in 1979 and almost certainly dates from that year (or shortly before). This shows all the main structures at the colliery with the function of each building identified in a key. In addition the site was visited and discussed with Jim Davies a former employee at the colliery to gain a greater understanding of the history and use of the site. The limited oral history information is incorporated into the current study in both the historical background section and the description section.
- 3.2.2 There is known to be a large body of documentary material relating to Betteshanger Colliery held at the East Kent Archives but this material is currently uncatalogued and has not been consulted in relation to the current project. This material is being studied in much greater detail as part of the *East Kent Coalfield Project* a major study of the coalfield with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. This project, which Jim Davies is also contributing to, will also utilise many photographs known to have been taken of former buildings at Betteshanger before their demolition but since the closure of the colliery. Many of these photographs are available on various internet web sites. A list of these sites is included in the bibliography at the rear of this study.

3.3 DESCRIPTION

- 3.3.1 Almost all the above ground colliery structures have been demolished since the closure of the pit in 1989. The only surviving building directly associated with the colliery is the Main Office towards the north-west edge of the site (Pls 3 & 4). The Main Office is a two storey tall brick building with tile-covered gabled roof. It is nine bays long with 6-light, square-headed windows beneath stone lintels. The existing offices are the surviving half of a larger building shown on the c.1979 plan which extended further to the west (No. 1 on Figure 6).

- 3.3.2 Immediately to the south-east of the offices was the lamp room (No. 3 on Figure 6) and although the building has been demolished the footings and ground floor slab survives (Pl. 5). The building was essentially a large single room with a quarry tile floor and brick walls.
- 3.3.3 To the south and south-east of the lamp room was an open area in which several sections of rail track survive which curve around towards the south towards the location of former head stocks and the main processing areas (Pl. 7). Although a number of tracks survive in several areas across the site the layout shown on the c.1979 plan has been largely lost. The network of tracks comprised two main types: a narrower gauge (31'; 79 cm) for wagons and a wider gauge (60'; 153 cm) for a mobile crane (J Davis pers. comm.).
- 3.3.4 The southern half of the colliery site contained the main workshops, power houses, stores and winding houses immediately to the south and west of the two shafts. The shafts are known to have been brick lined but they have now been capped with concrete pyramids (Pl. 3). Men and materials went down No. 1 shaft and coal came up No. 2 shaft (J Davies pers. comm.).
- 3.3.5 All the buildings from this part of the site have been demolished but hard-standing and concrete bases survive from those immediately around the shafts. The National Monuments Record holds a photograph of No 1 winding house taken in February 1993 which also partially includes adjacent structures and two sets of rail tracks passing between the buildings. No 1 winding house was a brick building with gabled roof (with corrugated panel covering) and recessed brick panels. It had raised gables with projecting kneelers and was typical of earlier 20th-century industrial architecture. Although the adjacent buildings are less clearly visible in the photograph, No 2 winding house appears to be of very similar design to No 1 winding house. Less rail tracks survive within this area but one section of the narrow gauge tracks for wagons is visible towards the southern edge of the site.
- 3.3.6 A large area to the western part of the site, beneath the car park on a raised bank, has been fully cleared of structures and the concrete hard-standing broken up for hard core.
- 3.3.7 To the east of the shafts is a large overgrown area with some hard-standing and building bases but the 1979 plan shows that this area was not much built over and had the explosives store (No 5 on plan) relatively isolated from the other buildings. The main colliery structures were set on a large embankment and on the lower level to the east was the large washery plant and a stockpile area for the coal.
- 3.3.8 Although the main colliery buildings are grouped together relatively close to the shafts the site extended in a thin strip of land some distance to the north east. Towards the end of this strip of land is a small lake with a hut which was used by a Betteshanger colliery angling club (Pl. 10 - not shown on Figure 6). Immediately to the south-west of this is a small concrete building with septic tank and a bridge adjacent to it passing over several pipes carrying slurry and water.

- 3.3.9 To the west of this, closer to the main colliery site are the surviving settling tanks, filter beds and other plant from a sewage plant established in c. 1934 (Pl. 5; J Davies pers. comm.).
- 3.3.10 The most significant mining artefacts which remain on site are 3 coal wagons which are adjacent to the offices and former lamp room (Pl. 8). These are 1.36 m tall by 2 m long x 1.02 m wide and they are to be salvaged for a local mining museum (J Davis pers comm). Very few other mining artefacts of interest remain on the site although some bits of conveyor belt with stitching survive together with various small items such as bolts, pipes (Pl. 11), and sections of wheel. Also surviving, although not in-situ, are two large concrete conical structures which were added to the site in the 1960s as flower baskets (Pl. 12; J Davies pers. comm.). These are now in the area immediately south of No 2 winding house.
- 3.3.11 Betteshanger also acted as the main training pit for Kent and several small features survive from this at the northern end of the site. The training facilities comprised a c.100 m long training gallery with a series of semi-circular arches to simulate conditions underground. The arches have been removed but the truncated ends of the arches remain within the northern boundary wall to show where they once were. At the west end of the training gallery was a small brick engine house (still intact in current recording) which once housed an engine (not in-situ) to pull wagons along the training gallery track (Pl. 9). There was formerly a series of buildings adjacent to the engine house which housed a training centre, but these have now been lost.
- 3.3.12 Other than the main offices the only other surviving building closely related to the site is the Betteshanger Colliery Working Men's Club. Although this is not directly part of the colliery or the forthcoming redevelopment it has been photographed externally as part of the current recording.

3.4 CONCLUSION

- 3.4.1 Although Betteshanger was neither a particularly old nor technologically pioneering colliery and neither was it either associated with any historical figures or significant architecture, recording its surviving structures is valuable nonetheless. Firstly because it was clearly of great social importance to the locality through much of the 20th century but also because there is a wider value for recording the relatively few surviving remains of the coal industry.
- 3.4.2 Coal mining was of immense historical importance in the industrialisation of Britain but the industry has shrunk with such rapidity in the last 10-15 years that relatively few pits survive and what does remain from former colliery is consequently of greater importance. Whereas new uses can be relatively easily found for the remains of many dying or contracting industries (eg converted mills, warehouses, breweries etc) the surviving structures from collieries are much less easily converted and their complete demolition is frequently inevitable.

- 3.4.3 Recording colliery complexes prior to demolition is clearly ideal but this has rarely been done and it has frequently been the case that all surface features from former collieries have been demolished soon after their closure and long before any new use is found for the site. Unfortunately Betteshanger Colliery followed this pattern with almost all the surface features cleared away soon after the closure of the mine. The current recording has been useful to document what little does survive but vastly more would have been gained if the recording had been undertaken immediately after the closure of the mine and before the demolition of the structures. Fortunately a number of photographs were taken of structures before their demolition by enthusiasts (and other bodies) and several of these are available online.
- 3.4.4 When investigating a 20th-century site such as this, which only closed relatively recently, much can be gained from interviewing former miners and oral history such as this is being collected at Betteshanger as part of the East Kent Coalfields Project. This will also make use of the large body of archive material believed to exist on Betteshanger and these areas of research are likely to prove more valuable in the investigation of Betteshanger than the current recording exercise.

4 **BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES**

- OA, 2002 Betteshanger Colliery, Deal, Kent, Environmental Impact Assessment (unpublished)
OA, 2003 Betteshanger Colliery, Deal, Kent. Archaeological Evaluation Report (unpublished)
D Wilkinson (ed.), 1992, *OAU Fieldwork Manual*

Relevant web sites

There are a number of relevant web sites with detail on the history of Betteshanger colliery and photographs before the demolition of the surface structures:

- <http://www.frazerweb.demon.co.uk/betteshanger.html>
- <http://.staff.ucsm.ac.uk/jporter/betteshanger/>
- http://www.beer-genealogy.freeserve.co.uk.mining/betteshanger_colliery.htm
- <http://viewfinder.english-heritage.org.uk>
- <http://www.betteshangerregeneration.org.uk>

5 **LOCATION OF THE ARCHIVE**

- 5.1.1 The archive will be deposited with Dover Museum.

6 **SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS**

Site name: Betteshanger Colliery, Deal, Kent

Site code: NOBCO 03

Type of evaluation: Industrial archaeology

Date and duration of project: Site work undertaken August 2003

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES.

Site name: Betteshanger Colliery, Deal, Kent

Site code: NOBC 04

Type of evaluation: Excavation

Date and duration of project: Site work undertaken March 2004

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES.

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Dimensions (m)</i>	<i>Thick (m)</i>	<i>Comments</i>
1000	Cut	0.28	0.08	Construction cut for wall 1001
1001	Structure	0.24	0.31	Wall
1002	Structure	0.92	0.41	Concrete steps
1003	Structure	1.15 x 0.95	0.31	Concrete slab
1004	Layer	3.0 x 1.9	0.02	Path deposit
1005	Structure	5.0 x 3.75		Large concrete slab
1006	Cut	1.25 x 1.25		Pit cut
1007	Fill	1.25 x 1.25		Pit fill
1008	Cut	0.4 x 0.3	0.05	Empty cut for floor support
1009	Fill			Evaluation trench backfill
1010	Cut	0.7 x 0.52	0.03	Empty cut for floor support
1011	Fill			Evaluation trench backfill
1012	Cut	0.33 x 0.3	0.6	Empty cut for floor support
1013	Fill			Evaluation trench backfill
1014	Cut	0.36 x 0.22		Cut for floor support
1015	Structure	0.36 x 0.22	0.13	Concrete block
1016	Cut	0.4 x 0.25		Cut for floor support
1017	Structure	0.4 x 0.23		Concrete block
1018	Cut	0.39 x 0.3	0.08	Empty cut for floor support
1019	Fill	0.39 x 0.3	0.08	Fill of empty cut
1020	Cut	0.47 x 0.41	0.09	Cut for floor support
1021	Structure	0.4 x 0.22	0.11	Concrete blocks
1022	Cut			Cut for floor support
1023	Structure	0.4 x 0.23	0.1	Concrete blocks
1024	Cut	0.46 x 0.45	0.8	Cut for floor support
1025	Structure	0.4 x 0.22	0.12	Concrete blocks
1026	Cut	0.48 x 0.48		Cut for floor support
1027	Structure	0.39 x 0.24		Concrete blocks
1028	Cut	0.28 x 0.26	0.08	Empty cut for floor support
1029	Fill	0.28 x 0.26	0.08	Fill of empty cut
1030	Cut	0.47 x 0.3	0.045	Empty cut for floor support
1031	Fill	0.47 x 0.3	0.045	Fill of empty cut
1032	Layer		0.1	Occupation debris
1033	Cut	0.38	0.12	Construction cut for wall 1034
1034	Structure		0.3	Wall
1035	Cut	1.86		Pit cut
1036	Fill	1.86		Unexcavated pit fill
1037	Structure	Varies	Varies	Concrete supports
1038	Structure	Varies	Varies	Concrete supports
1039	Fill	0.49	0.4	Between road and walls
1040	Layer			Made ground cut by walls
1041	Structure	1.15 x 0.92	0.44	Concrete steps
1042	Structure	1.2 x 0.97	0.165	Concrete slab
1043	Structure	1.4 x 1	0.7	Brick and concrete surface
1044	Structure			Concrete slab surface
1045	Layer		0.2	Make up for surface
1046	Cut	0.51 x .44	0.9	Empty cut for floor support
1047	Fill	0.51 x .44	0.9	Fill of empty cut
1048	Fill	0.27 x 0.27	0.4	Upper fill of 1046
1049	Structure			Modern building

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Dimensions (m)</i>	<i>Thick (m)</i>	<i>Comments</i>
1050	Cut			Construction cut for wall 1051
1051	Structure	0.21	0.16	Wall
1052	Cut			Service trench
1053	Fill			Modern electric cable
1054	Structure			Road
1055	Structure			Iron vents in wall
1056	Cut	0.14 x 0.9	0.12	Slots for wooden anchors
1057	Cut	0.14 x 0.9	0.12	Slots for wooden anchors
1058	Cut	0.14 x 0.9	0.12	Slots for wooden anchors
1059	Layer			Natural brickearth silts
1060	Layer			Modern overburden
1061	Layer			Made ground
1062	Cut	0.5 x 0.45	0.03	Empty cuts for floor supports
1063	Cut	0.8 x 0.35	0.16	Pit cut
1064	Fill	0.8 x 0.35	0.16	Pit fill
1065	Layer	0.8 x 0.75	0.005	Trample/surface
1066	Layer	1.25 x 1.25	0.02	Surface below 1004
1067	Layer		0.04	Possible primary road surface
1068	Fill	0.28	0.07	Backfill of construction cut 1001
1069	Fill	0.38	0.12	Backfill of construction cut 1033
1070	Cut	0.5 x 0.5		Empty cut for floor support
1071	Fill	0.5 x 0.5		Fill of empty cut
1072	Cut	0.4 x 0.4	0.04	Possible posthole cut
1073	Fill	0.4 x 0.4	0.04	Possible posthole fill

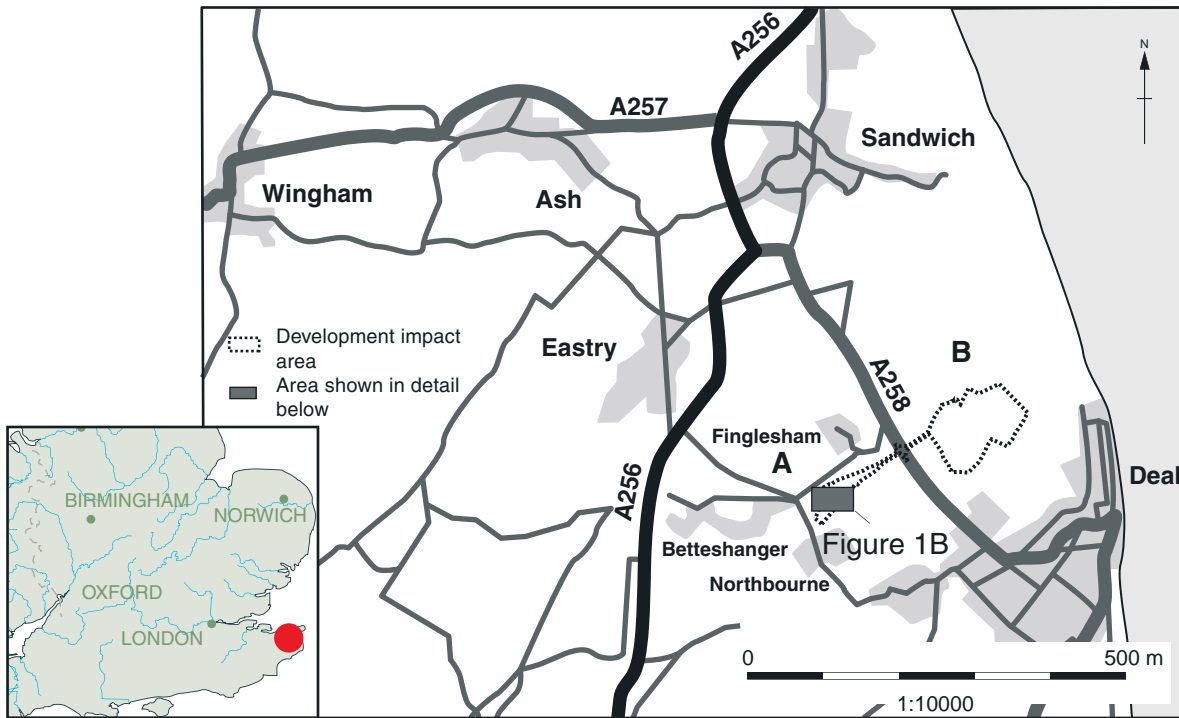
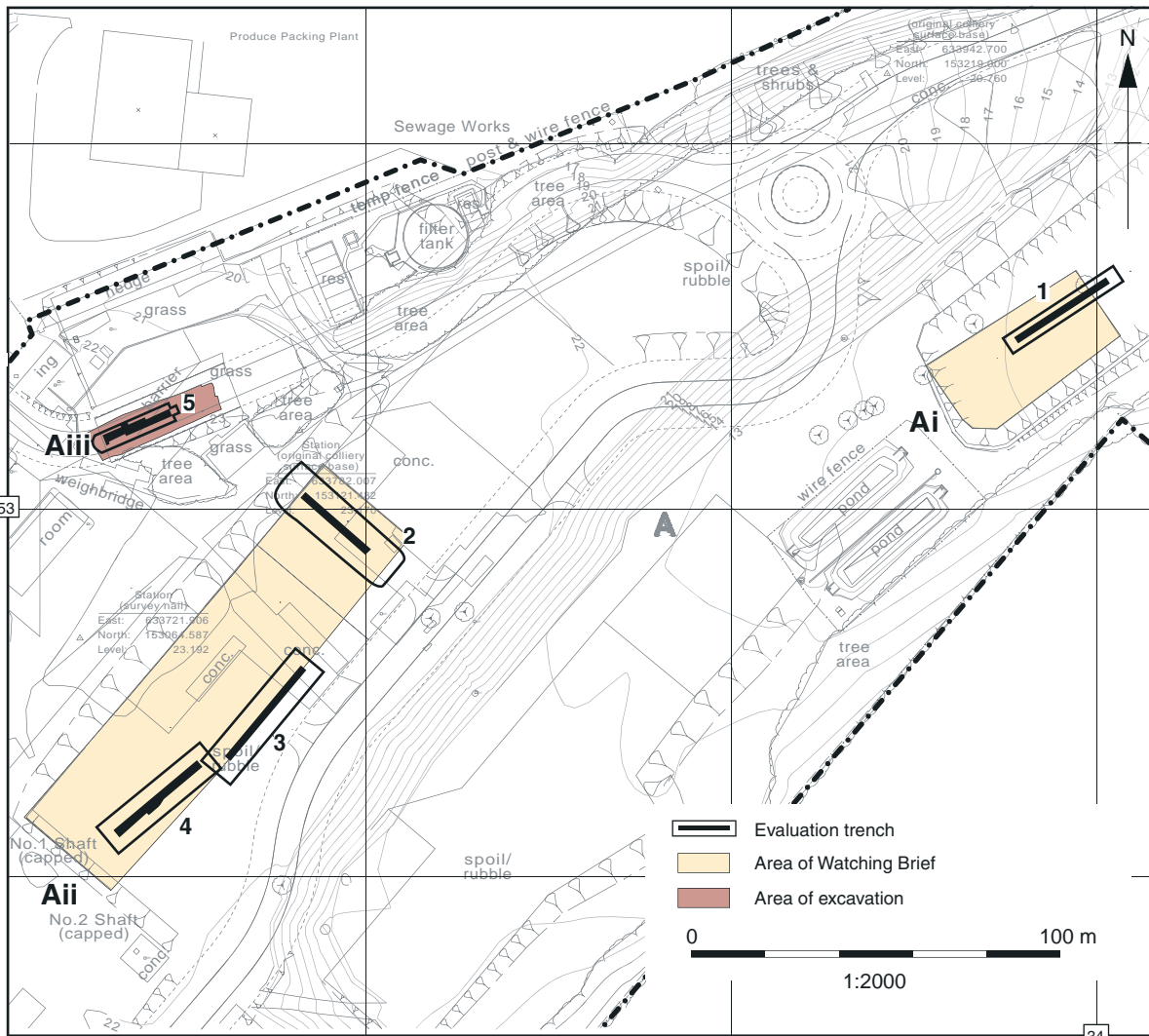


Figure 1A: Betteshanger colliery - Pithead A and Spoilheap B



Reproduced from the 1:1250 scale Digital Mapping by permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright 2003. All rights reserved. Licence No AL 100005569

Figure 1B: Location of site

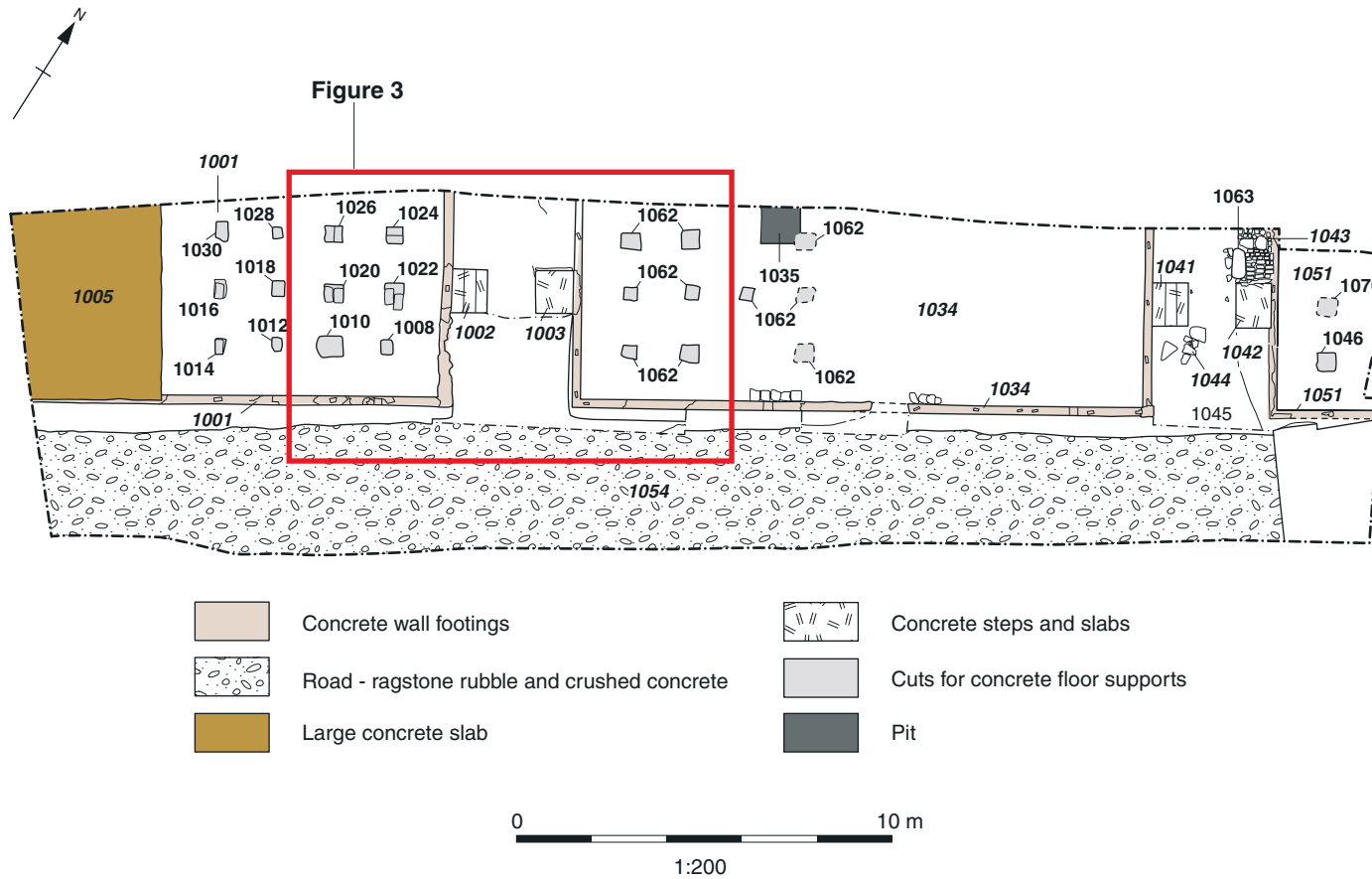


Figure 2: Plan showing main features of the three structures excavated in Area iii

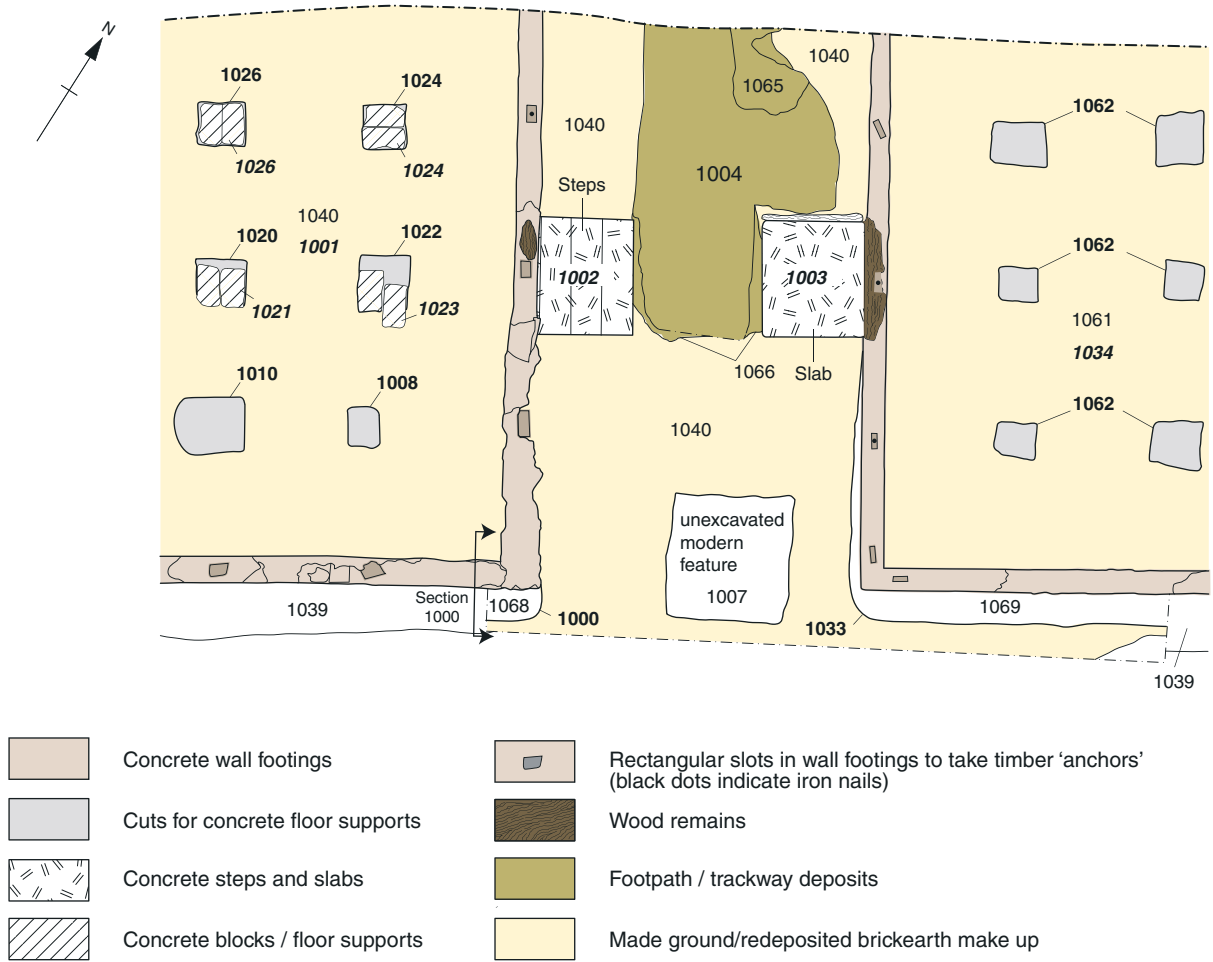


Figure 3: Detailed plan of part of the structures

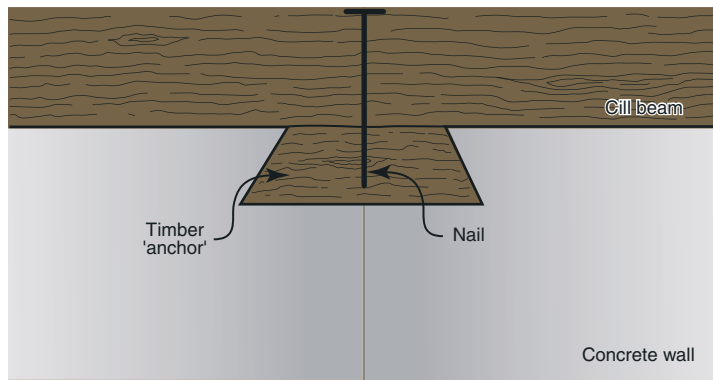


Figure 4: Schematic section showing timber anchor and cill beam

Section 1000

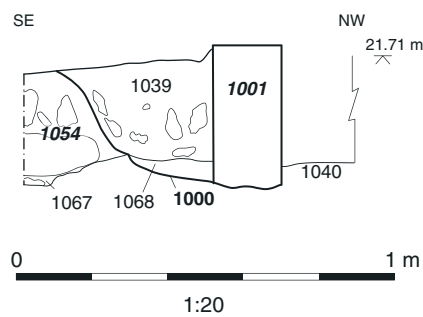


Figure 5: Section through the south-east wall of structure 1001

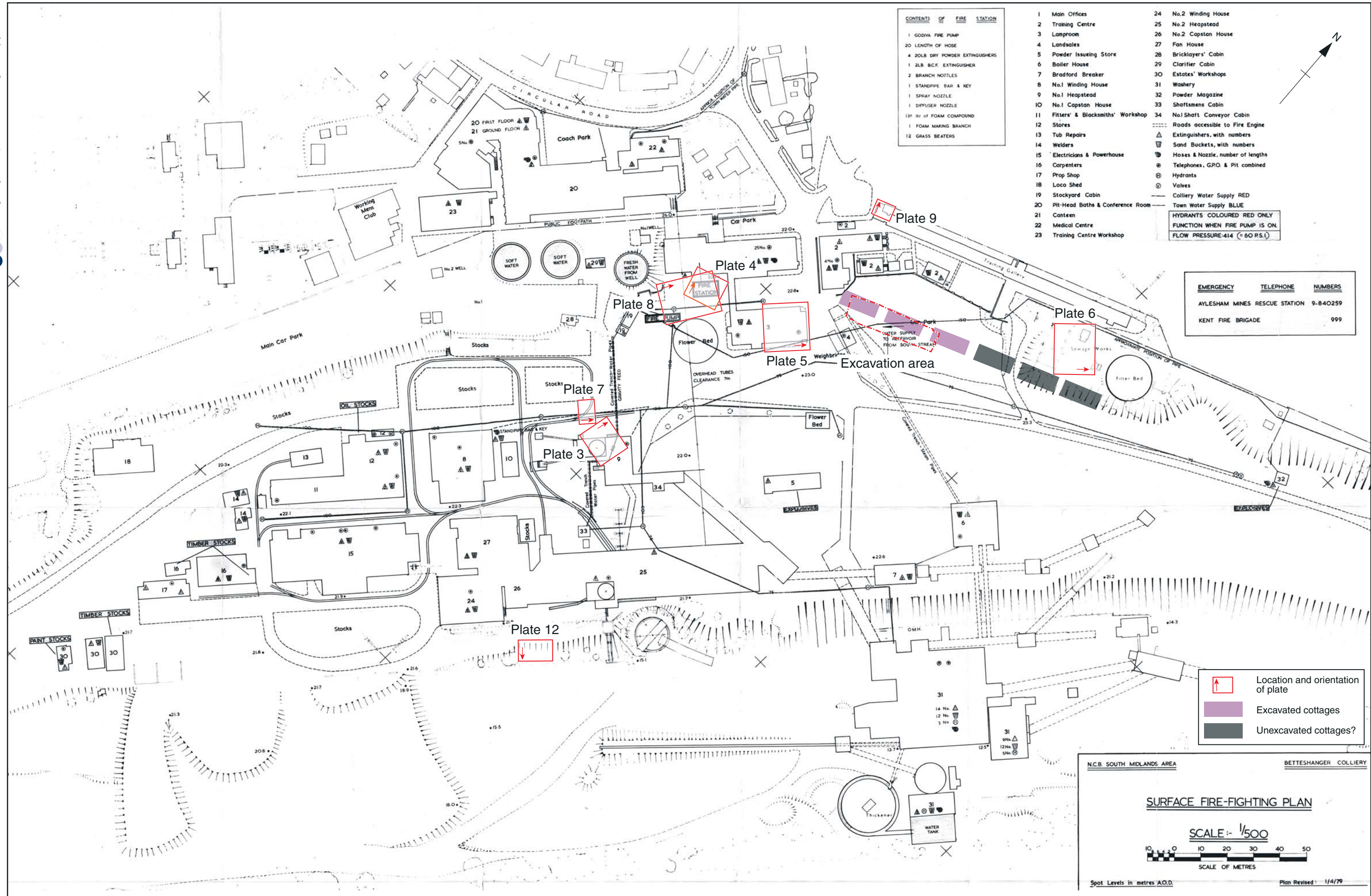


Figure 6: Surface fire-fighting plan



Plate 1: Iron vent 1055 in the south-east wall of structure 1034

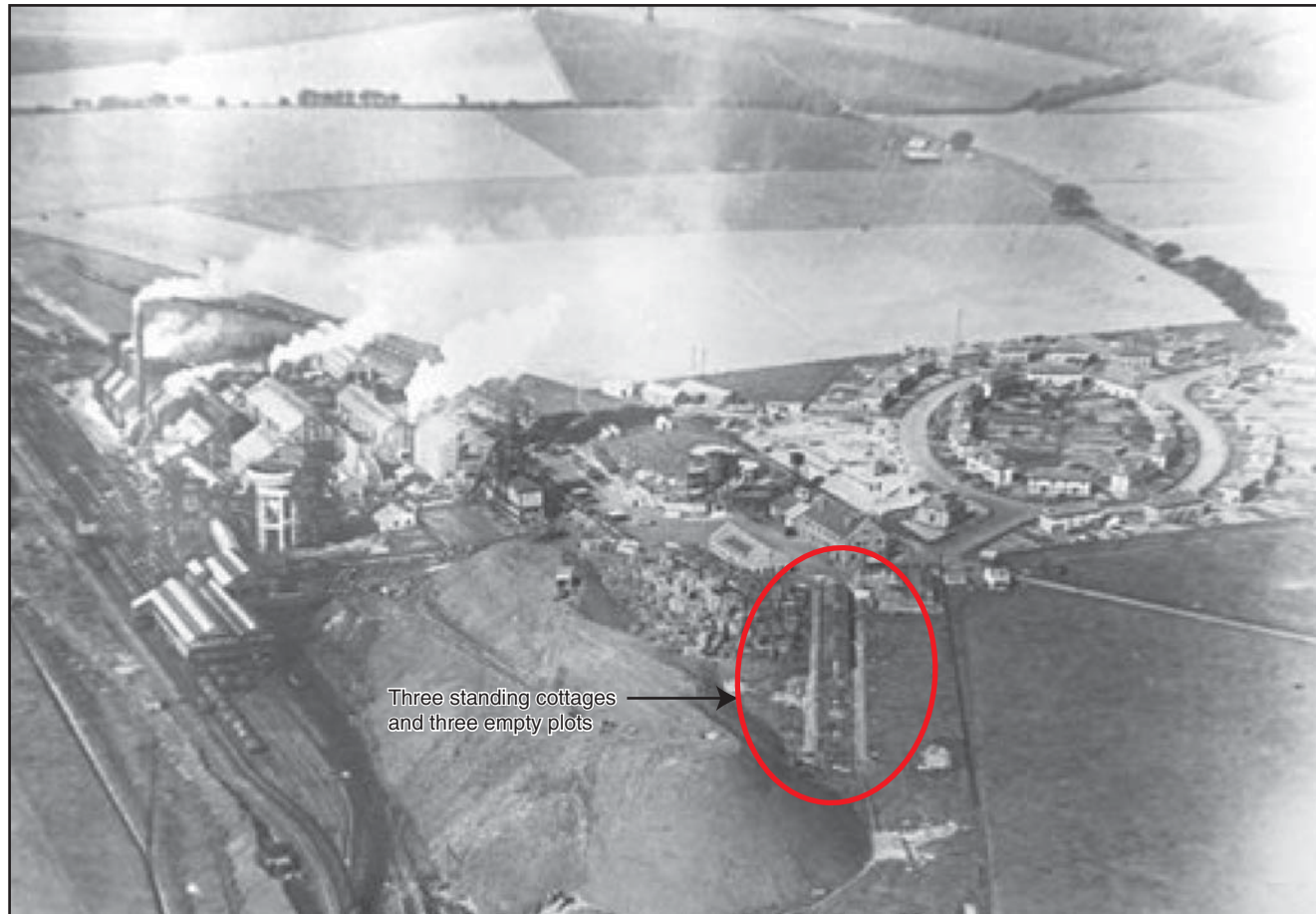


Plate 2: Betteshanger Colliery 1933 looking southwest



Plate 3: General view of the site from the south. Capped shaft in the foreground, main offices to the rear.



Plate 4: Main offices from the south



Plate 5: Tiled floor of the lamp room



Plate 6: Settling tanks in the sewerage works



Plate 7: Two interlinking sets of rail tracks.



Plate 8: Coal wagon.



Plate 9: Engine house at the end of training gallery.



Plate 10: Hut for colliery angling club



Plate 11: Section of pipe



Plate 12: Concrete flower basket



Head Office/Registered Office

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@thehumanjourney.net
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1GF

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: [oanorth@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oanorth@thehumanjourney.net)
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
f: +44 (0) 1223 850599
e: [oaeast@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net)
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net/oaeast>

OA Méditerranée

115 Rue Merlot
ZAC La Louvade
34 130 Maugeio
France

t: +33 (0) 4.67.57.86.92
f: +33 (0) 4.67.42.65.93
e: [oamed@oamed.fr](mailto: oamed@oamed.fr)
w: <http://oamed.fr/>



Director: David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

*Oxford Archaeological Unit is a
Private Limited Company, N°: 1618597
and a Registered Charity, N°: 285627*