M36/323: NO. 1 WHARF

A short wharf was built to replace the boatmen’s jetty and slip (M36/312) which was lost in the eastern breastwork reclamation of 1878 to 1881 (Press 14/9/1878: 5, Scotter 1968: 135). In 1882 the Lyttelton Harbour Board allocated £1,000 for the erection of another boat landing “at the inner end of the short jetty and to the east of the present boat landings” (Press 29/9/1882: 3). Construction was probably completed by December 1882 (Star 30/12/1882: 2).

Trenching for the 11Kv stage 5b project had potential to encounter remains of the No. 1 Wharf. In accordance with archaeological authority 2015/600, trenching within the vicinity of the site was monitored by an archaeologist. Trenching involved excavation up to 1300 mm wide and to an average depth of 1400 mm.

Earthworks took place within this area from the 29th to 30th of June 2017. No archaeological evidence of the No 1. Wharf was found. The stratigraphy exposed in this area comprised layers relating to modern hard fill infilling activity and the 19th century reclamation (Eastern reclamation - recorded as M36/321), which were recorded along the trench. Two 20th century foundations were exposed during trenching in this area. It is possible that the foundations and associated construction works replaced any remains of the No. 1 Wharf within the vicinity of the works.

Figure 1. 1890 map showing the location and extent of the No. 1 jetty (labelled 'boat wharf'). Image: LHB c. 1890
Figure 2. The location of the 11kV stage 5b trench through Lyttelton Port and the 20th century foundations exposed during the work. Image based on aerial view from Canterbury Maps n.d.
Figure 3. The location of the trench through the recorded archaeological sites, including No 1 Wharf.
Figure 4. The stratigraphy exposed in the northeast baulk of the trench, comprising asphalt, hard fill and reclamation layers, within the vicinity of the No. 1 Wharf. Image: M Hickey 29 June 2017.
Figure 5. Looking southeast at the 20th century concrete foundations exposed during trenching within the vicinity of the No. 1 Wharf. Image: M Hickey 30 August 2017.
Figure 6. A further 20th century concrete foundation exposed during trenching within the vicinity of the No. 1 Wharf. Image: M Hickey 30 August 2017.