



**ARCH SITE**  
archaeological site  
recording scheme

# Site Record Form

**NZAA SITE NUMBER:** M36/576

**SITE TYPE:** Industrial

**SITE NAME(s):** Railway Footbridge, Lyttelton Port

**DATE RECORDED:**

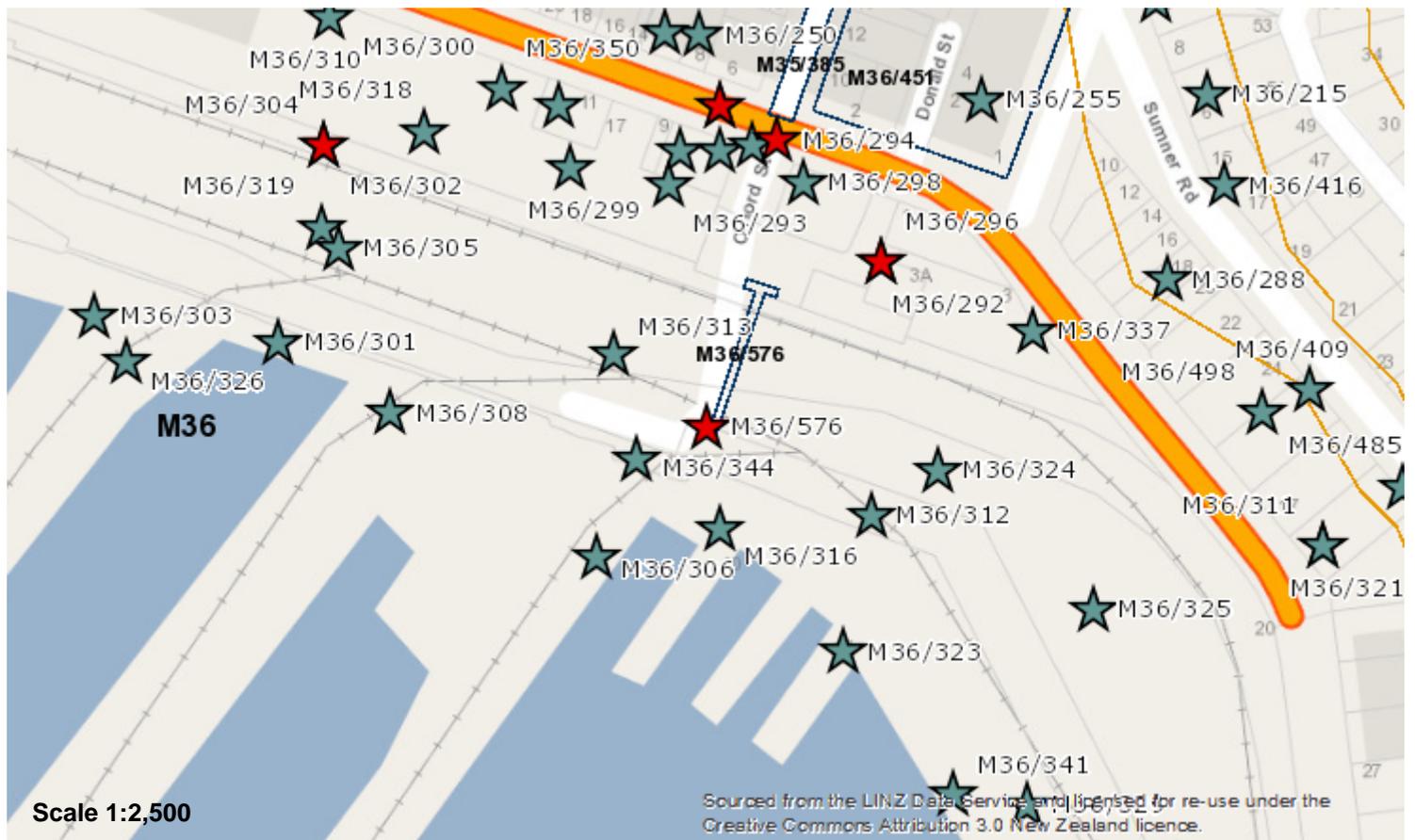
**SITE COORDINATES (NZTM) Easting:** 1577552

**Northing:** 5171967

**Source:** On Screen

**IMPERIAL SITE NUMBER:**

**METRIC SITE NUMBER:** M36/576



**Finding aids to the location of the site**

Located under the corner of the Oxford Street overbridge in the second bay south from the roadway immediately south of the railway tracks.

**Brief description**

**Recorded features**

Building, Building foundations (unspecified), Foot bridge, Foundations

**Other sites associated with this site**

**SITE RECORD HISTORY****NZAA SITE NUMBER:** M36/576**Site description**

Updated 30/08/2016 (Field visit), submitted by luketremlett , visited 07/07/2016 by Tremlett, Luke  
Grid reference (E1577552 / N5171967)

The earthworks carried out here involved one stage of service trenching of an 11kV infrastructure roll-out at Lyttelton Port. This stage, stage 5a, involved excavating a 420 m long trench from the Oxford Street overbridge (to the Ferry Terminal) to the south side of the Sutton Quay gate between May and July 2016 under authority 2015/600. The land in which this trench was excavated was the Railway Reclamation (M36/302) formed in the mid-1860s. Here, works were carried out under on call procedure and routine weekly site visits were carried out by an archaeologist.

A total of seven features were found during the works (Feature 1-6; see M36/302) and one of these has been recorded here as its own archaeological site (Feature 7). As will be argued below, this feature (Feature 7) is believed to be the remains of a 19th century footbridge which extended over the railway between the port and Norwich Quay.

On 13 July 2016 Luke Tremlett (Underground Overground Archaeology) was called to site when potential archaeological material was found in a trench excavated by Fulton Hogan Ltd using a hydrovac. A site plan was prepared showing the extent of the earthworks and the location of this archaeological material (Figure 1).

Feature 7 was a vague layer of fill/reclamation containing stones, timber fragments and early metal services found under the Oxford Street overbridge during hydrovac trenching. It was difficult to investigate these trenches as they were approximately 200 mm wide and 1 m deep (Figure 2). However, at the bottom of these trenches were two pieces of timber that appeared to be in situ – one section of timber was found lying on its side aligned approximately northeast-southwest (Figure 3). This was removed, photographed and sampled. This sample has been retained for future analysis but has not yet been analysed. The other section of timber was a timber pile found at a depth of 1 m (Figure 4). This was to remain in situ and so was not sampled.

Based on historical imagery from 1927 it seems that the remains found here are of a timber footbridge which extended over the train tracks (Figure 5). The south end of this footbridge where people from Lyttelton Harbour would have walked into Lyttelton sits almost exactly where Feature 7 is located. This footbridge was constructed by at least October 1882 when a workman named Thompson who was crossing this bridge on his way to work fell from it after some of the timberwork gave way – he fell 25 ft breaking his arm and leg (Grey River Argus 26/8/1882: 2).

**REFERENCES**

Canterbury Maps [online], Environment Canterbury. Available at <http://canterburymaps.govt.nz/>  
Grey River Argus [online]. Available at <http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz>.

**Condition of the site**

Updated 30/08/2016 (Field visit), submitted by luketremlett , visited 07/07/2016 by Tremlett, Luke

It is highly likely that more of this structure remains in situ in areas that have not already been disrupted by services and by subsequent development.

**Statement of condition****Current land use:****Threats:**

**SITE RECORD INVENTORY**

**NZAA SITE NUMBER: M36/576**

Supporting documentation held in ArchSite

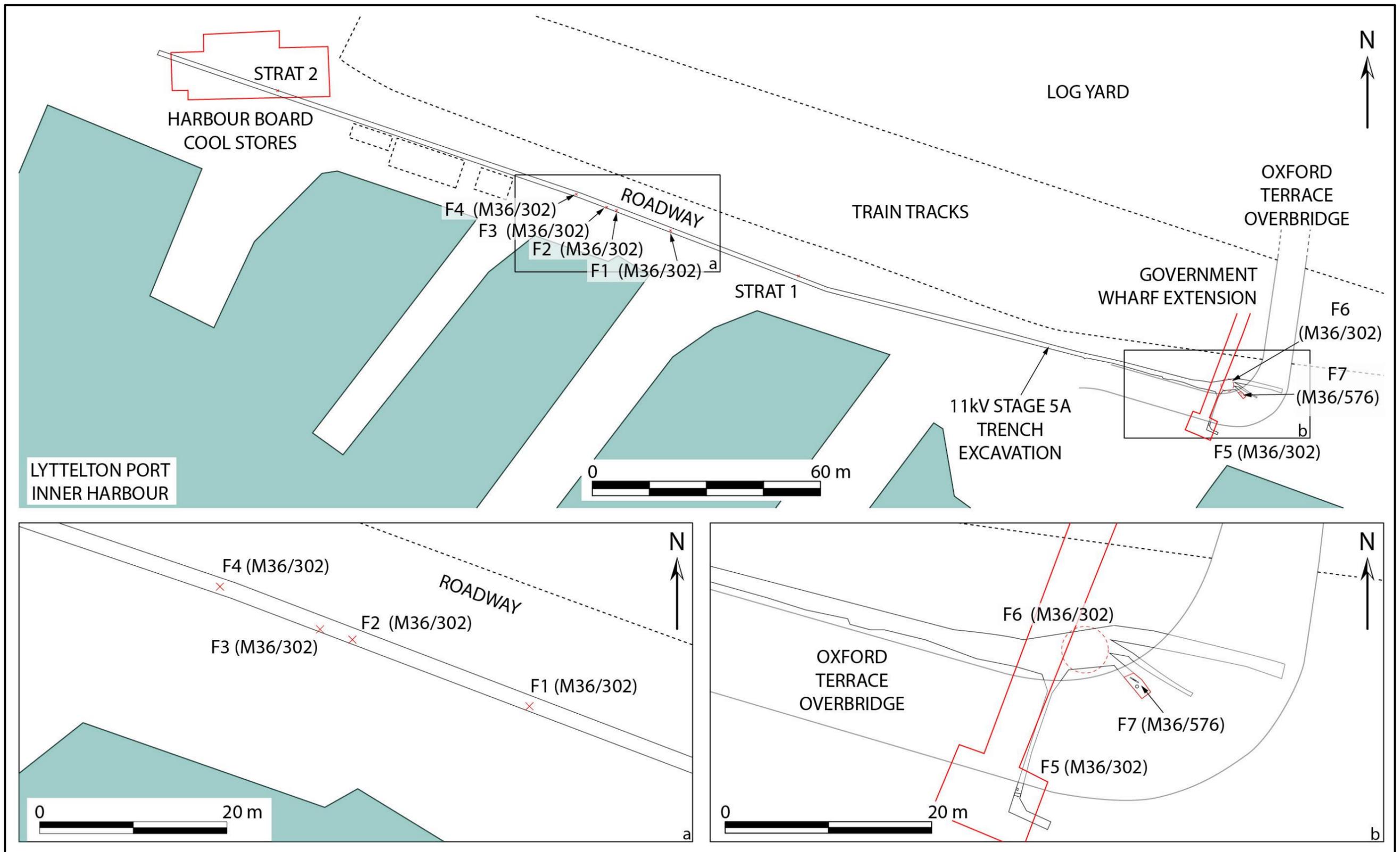


Figure 1. Site plan showing the extend of the earthworks and two archaeological sites that were intersected by the works. This site plan also shows all earthworks that were carried out as part of this project and all archaeological material that was found during the works.



Figure 2. The trenches excavated under the corner of the Oxford Street overbridge.



Figure 3. The timber that appears to have been horizontal within Feature 7. Left: looking south. Right: detail shot. Notice the steel service that runs immediately above this – this is aligned approximately east-west.



Figure 4. The pile recorded as Feature 7, at a depth of 1 m, outlined in red.



Figure 5. The railway footbridge seen in 1927 which is believed to be associated with Feature 7. Image: Canterbury Maps.