

**Archaeological Field-Walking, Metal-Detecting and Watching Brief at East Dean Water
Treatment Works East Dean, East Sussex**

NGR: TV 5576 9630

**Project No: 4774
Site Code: EDE 11**

**ASE Report No. 2011098
OASIS id: archaeol6-100624**

**By Andrew Margetts
With contributions by
by Trista Clifford**

May 2011

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London, have been commissioned by 4Delivery Limited (hereafter 4D) to undertake a programme of archaeological work comprising field-walking, metal-detecting and watching brief prior to, and during, intrusive ground works associated with the modification of the existing water treatment works at East Dean, East Sussex (NGR TV 5576 9630).

No significant archaeological remains were encountered during the archaeological investigations although pieces of metalwork of medieval and post medieval date were recovered from the ploughsoil.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London, were commissioned by 4Delivery Limited (hereafter 4D) to undertake a programme of archaeological work comprising field-walking, metal-detecting and watching brief prior to, and during, intrusive ground works associated with the modification of the existing water treatment works at East Dean, East Sussex (NGR TV 5576 9630; Figures 1 & 2).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The British Geographical Survey Map (Sheet 319/334 Lewes and Eastbourne) shows the site located on head deposits with underlying geology of the Seaford Chalk Formation nearby.

1.2.1 The investigated area is located on a west facing slope of download adjacent to an existing water treatment works.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Although the excavations were not subject to standard planning regulations, 4D and ASE have consulted the County Archaeologist, East Sussex County Council (ESCC), Casper Johnson, regarding the impact of the proposed works. Due to the high potential for archaeological remains to exist upon the site, the intrusive works originally proposed have been modified and reduced to a topsoil strip. Accordingly, it was agreed that a programme of archaeological work should be undertaken, comprising a field-walking and metal-detecting exercise, followed by a watching brief during the topsoil strip. Following the topsoil strip, Type 1 gravel will be laid to protect any underlying archaeology from construction traffic movement.

1.3.2 Subsequent to ESCC approval of a Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2011) for the proposed archaeological works, the field-walking and metal-detecting survey was undertaken on the 11th of March 2011 and all excavations were monitored by an archaeologist on the 6th and 7th of April 2011. Casper Johnson (ESCC) was kept informed of the work.

1.3.3 All work was carried out in accordance with the WSI (*ibid*) and the relevant *Standards and Guidance* of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2007), as well as with reference to East Sussex Country Council's, *Standards For Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording And Post Excavation Work* (ESCC 2008).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

- 1.4.1 In general, the aims of the archaeological work were to record, interpret and report on any archaeological remains exposed during the groundworks (including artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest) to appropriate archaeological standards.
- 1.4.2 The watching brief would also assess the past impacts on the site and pay particular attention to the character, height/depth below ground level, condition, date and significance of the deposits.
- 1.4.3 Specific aims included:
- Is there any evidence for late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age activity related to the barrows to the south of the site?

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological field-walking, metal-detecting and watching brief undertaken during groundworks at the site. The field-walking and metal-detecting was by John Cook (Surveyor) and the watching brief by Andrew Margetts (Senior Archaeologist). The fieldwork was managed by Andy Leonard (Project Manager) and the post-excavation analysis was managed by Jim Stevenson (Project Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 There are 25 event and monuments recorded on the HER within a 500m search radius of the site (centred on NGR: TV 5576 9630). The results of the ESCC HER search are summarised below, with locations plotted on Figure 1.

Table 1: Summary of ESCC HER records with 1.25km of NGR TV 5576 9630.

ESCC HER No.	OS Co-ordinates (TQ)	Description
EES14279	TV 5586 9691	Field-walking and metal detector survey established several new prehistoric and Romano-British settlements, a medieval market and a Bronze Age hoard
EES9360	TV 5585 9576	Excavations through early Bronze Age enclosure
EES9361	TV 5555 9587	Excavations through early Bronze Age enclosure
EES 9374	TV 5586 9584	Excavations through early Bronze Age enclosure
EES 9375	TV 5574 9683	Roman cemetery
MES 731	TV 5606 9648	Mesolithic axe findspot
MES 3045	TV 5574 9683	Roman inhumation cemetery
MES 3056	TV 5555 9681	Iron Age coins findspot
MES 3060	TV 554 958	Early Bronze Age hammerstone findspot
MES 3096	TV 55 96	Prehistoric flint findspot
MES 3100	TV 552 960	Mesolithic flint implement findspot
MES 5474	TV 5521 9593	Shipwreck
MES 6284	TV 5521 9593	Shipwreck, 1744
MES 7404	TV 5569 9624	Late Bronze Age hoard located by metal-detecting
MES 7405	TV 5566 9649	Bronze Age settlement
MES7406	TV 5575 9660	Large quantity of Roman coins, brooches and pottery recorded during a field survey, indicating presence of settlement or fair site
MES 7407	TV 5587 9623	Flint and early IA pottery recovered during field-walking
MES 9858	TV 5620 9610	C1st AD – C7th AD brooch findspot
MES 10251	TV 5570 9620	Mid Neolithic to early Bronze Age flint implement
MES 10692	TV 5550 9610	Post-medieval buckle findspot
MES 11289	TV 5590 9680	Post-medieval spur findspot
MES 14849	TV 5520 9680	Upper Palaeolithic/Early Mesolithic flint flake findspot
MES 14850	TV 5520 9680	Upper Palaeolithic/Early Mesolithic flint flake findspot
MES 14852	TV 5520 9660	Upper Palaeolithic/Early Mesolithic flint flake findspot
MES 14853	TV 5520 9660	Upper Palaeolithic/Early Mesolithic flint flake findspot

2.2 The following information is drawn from a report prepared by Greg Chuter at East Sussex Historic Environment Record on a watching brief undertaken during reparation works at a rabbit-damaged barrow at Belle Tout, Birling Gap (ESHER 2004), approximately 600m to the south of the site (SAM No.: ES109).

2.3 The underlying geology of the area is upper and middle chalk according to the British Geology Survey (Sheet 319).

- 2.4** The site lies just outside an Archaeological Notification Area and approximately 600m to the north of a Scheduled Ancient Monument (ES109).
- 2.5** The Belle Tout spur contains a number of archaeological sites, the outermost of which is a univallate bank and ditch heading due east from just south of the Birling Gap Hotel, before dipping south to enclose the Belle Tout Lighthouse. The earthwork has been sampled in ten locations since 1968 and the bank has been proven to be constructed of a simple dump construction with a u-shaped ditch. The earthwork is thought to date to the Neolithic period.
- 2.6** Two overlapping late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age rectilinear enclosures are located to the southeast of the Birling Gap Hotel, although these have been mostly destroyed by coastal erosion. They enclosed a vertical shaft exposed in 1971 following a cliff fall, thought to be either a well or the result of 'ritual' activity.
- 2.7** A barrow, first recorded in the 1930's as being 10-11 paces in diameter and 3 feet high, is located just to the south of the Birling Gap Hotel. The barrow has subsequently been surveyed several times, each time a hollow in the centre, thought to be a robber trench, has been noted. A second (bowl?) barrow, now lost to coastal erosion, was located to the southwest of the first barrow and measured 36 feet in diameter. This was postulated as being one of a group of barrows recorded in the area although later research has suggested that this group are actually three quarters of a mile to the east of the bowl barrow.
- 2.8** The first barrow, the only one that survives today, was the subject of an archaeological watching brief in 2004 during reparation works required due to damage by a rabbit warren (ESHER 2004). The work established two concentrations of archaeological material; human remains and humanly struck flint. The watching brief concluded that the human bone derived from a primary inhumation burial in the barrow, and probably dates to the late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age. This date would also make it contemporary with the small amount of food vessel presumed to have been found within the barrow.
- 2.9** Although the SAM is some distance to the south, the HER search has demonstrated that archaeological activity is present immediately adjacent to the water treatment works. MES 7404, the site of the discovery of a Bronze Age hoard, is actually attributed to disturbance during the installation of the original water treatment facility. Originally in 1985 two socketed axes, a chisel and three lumps of waste bronze were recovered and given to the landowner, Charles Davies-Gilbert. Subsequent metal-detecting in 2005 produced a small bronze flat axe and is thought to be related to the small Late Bronze Age settlement some 200m to the north (MES 7405).
- 2.10** Just to the southeast of the water treatment works (MES 7407) an archaeological field survey recorded a concentration of fire cracked flint and early Iron Age pottery on the south facing slope of the downland spur. There is also some speculation that hollows also found in the area may form the remnants of hut platforms.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1** Archaeological field-walking and metal-detecting was conducted by sweeping the area (Fig. 3) and visually inspecting the ground for surface artefact collection and with a metal-detector for upper sub-surface metal finds. Finds were then bagged and surveyed using a GPS total station.
- 3.2** Any intrusive ground works associated with the development were monitored by an archaeologist in a watching brief. Machine excavation was undertaken within the topsoil in the first instance using a flat-bladed toothless ditching bucket. A deeper excavation for a service trench was taken down to the surface of the underlying Head Deposits. The area was then sealed by a layer of Type 1 gravel to protect any archaeological remains from construction traffic moving over the area. Any machine used for removal of material above undisturbed natural geology was fitted with a toothless bucket of appropriate width whenever practicable.
- 3.3** Opportunity was made for the careful hand excavation and the collection of samples by the archaeologist in attendance taking site health and safety into account.
- 3.4** The spoil from the excavations was also inspected by the archaeologist to recover artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest and was routinely scanned with a metal detector.
- 3.5** The County Archaeologist, ESCC was kept informed of progress so that he could monitor the archaeological work.
- 3.6** A photographic record of the work was made in both digital, monochrome and colour transparency.

Number of Contexts	3
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	0
Bulk Samples	0
Photographs	3 (digital)
Bulk finds	1 bag
Registered finds	47
Environmental flots/residue	0

Table 2: Quantification of site archive

4.0 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The stripping of the temporary compound, a service trench and access route were subject to archaeological monitoring. The results are described below and shown on Figure 2.

Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
1	Deposit	Ploughsoil	0.40m
2	Deposit	Made Ground	-
3	Deposit	Natural	-

Table 3: List of Recorded Contexts

4.2 Summary

4.2.1 The temporary compound area was stripped of c.0.25m of ploughsoil [1]. This comprised firm light grey brown sandy silt that contained inclusions of frequent angular flint nodules. Underlying this deposit in the immediate vicinity of the Water Treatment works was a deposit of made ground comprising brick hardcore [2]. This deposit remained unexcavated and clearly derives from works associated with the existing WTW. The natural horizon was only reached within the single service trench excavated on site. The deposits encountered within this trench comprised c.0.40m of ploughsoil [1] above natural decalcified Head Deposits [3]. This comprised compact, mid brown orange silt clay with occasional inclusions of angular flint nodules, c.0.10m of this deposit was removed before excavation ceased.

4.2.2 No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the watching brief. A few metal finds were recovered from the spoil heap.

5.0 THE FINDS by Trista Clifford

5.1 A small assemblage of metal finds together with a single piece of ceramic building material was collected during the field-walking and metal-detecting survey. These are plotted on Figure 3 and described below.

5.1.1 The finds are generally in good condition. No active corrosion was noted. The majority were of copper alloy, with a small number of lead objects also recovered.

5.1.2 The finds from the survey are presented in Table 4 below.

RF No	Object	Material	Period	Wt (g)	Notes
101	Bullet	Copper alloy	Modern	14	
102	Weight	Lead	Post medieval		
A1	Waste	Lead	Unknown	2	
A10	Button	Copper alloy	Modern	2	
A11	Lock plate	Copper alloy	Post medieval	<2	
A12	?Handle	Copper alloy	?Medieval	6	
A13	Button	Copper alloy	Post medieval- Modern	<2	
A14	?Vessel rim/repair	Copper alloy	Post medieval	<2	
A15	Buckle	Copper alloy	Medieval	2	Double loop
A2	Buckle	Copper alloy	Post medieval	2	Moulded decoration
A3	Sheet fragment	Copper alloy	Unknown	<2	
A4	Unknown	Lead	Unknown	<2	
A5	?Window came	Lead	Medieval- Post medieval	<2	
A6	?Buckle	Copper alloy	Medieval	<2	Incised decoration
A7a	Button	Copper alloy	Post medieval- Modern	<2	
A7b	Waste	Lead	Unknown	<2	
A8	Bullet	Lead	Modern	4	Lead pellet
A9	?Vessel rim/repair	Copper alloy	Post medieval	<2	
B1	Ordnance fragment	Copper alloy	Modern	<2	
B10	Fishing weight	Lead	Medieval	16	
B11	Button	Copper alloy	Modern	<2	
B12	Sheet fragment	Copper alloy	Unknown	<2	
B13	Coin	Copper alloy	Modern	6	George V halfpenny
B14	Button	Copper alloy	Modern	2	
B15	Strip fragment	Copper alloy	Unknown	24	
B16	Sheet fragment	Copper alloy	Post medieval - modern	2	
B17	Musket ball	Lead	Post medieval	8	
B2	Musket ball	Lead	Post medieval	30	
B4	Sheet fragment	Lead	Post medieval	<2	
B5	Button	Copper alloy	Post medieval	2	
B6	Button	Copper alloy	Modern	<2	
B7	Button	Copper alloy	Post medieval	<2	
B8	Button	Copper alloy	Modern	6	
B9	Sheet fragment	Copper alloy	Unknown	2	
C1	Sheet fragment	Copper alloy	Unknown	<2	
C2	Bullet	Lead	Modern	14	
C3	Coin	Copper alloy	Post medieval	4	William IV Farthing
C4	Button	Copper alloy	Post med- Modern	<2	
D1	CBM	Ceramic	Post medieval- Modern	32	
D2	Unknown	Aluminium	Modern	42	

Table 4: Finds from the metal-detector and field-walking survey and watching brief

- 5.1.3 Table 5 summarises modern unstratified finds recovered from the watching brief, which include a hinge and several undiagnostic sheet fragments. These have been recorded on proforma sheets for archive.

Context	Copper alloy	Wt (g)
u/s	8	266

Table 5: Quantification of finds

- 5.1.4 Metal finds are air dried or cleaned by a conservator as appropriate to the material requirements. Objects have been packed appropriately in line with IFA guidelines (2001). All objects assigned a unique registered find number (RF<00>) are recorded on the basis of material, object type and date both digitally and on pro forma archive sheets.

5.2 Dress accessories

5.2.1 Buckles

Three buckle fragments were recovered, all of copper alloy. RF <A15> is a double looped buckle dating to the 14th-15th century. RF<A6>, with incised decoration, may be of a similar date. RF<A2> is later in date, circa 17th-18th century.

5.2.2 Buttons

Ten buttons were recovered, the majority of which are simple undecorated buttons with an integral loop dating to the late 19th -20th century or more modern machine made pierced buttons. All are copper alloy. RF<B5> is a large flat button, diameter 30mm, with an integral loop of probable 18th-19th century date. RF <B8> is a modern military button.

5.3 Fittings

- 5.3.1 A small copper alloy? handle, RF<A12>, appears to have some antiquity based on the patina of the object, therefore is probably medieval or possibly earlier in date. A short section of lead? window came, <A15>, is of medieval or later date. A small copper alloy lock plate, probably from a casket or small cabinet, <A11>, is probably 19th century in date.

- 5.3.2 Two folded sheet copper alloy fragments, RFs <A9> and <A14> are possibly vessel rims or repair pieces of post medieval date.

5.4 Ammunition

- 5.4.1 Two lead musket balls of 16th century or later date were recovered, RF<B17> and <B2>, the former flattened from impact. Three modern bullets and a bomb fragment were also recovered.

5.5 Weights

- 5.5.1 Weights include a medieval rolled lead netsinker, <B10> and a 19th -20th century pear shaped decorated lead weight, RF<102>.

5.6 Coins

- 5.6.1 A farthing of William IV, RF<C3> and a George V halfpenny, RF<B13> were recovered.

5.7 Other objects

- 5.7.1 A number of sheet and strip fragments were found during the survey to which it has not been possible to ascribe a function, or in many cases, a date range.

6.0 DISCUSSION

- 6.1** No archaeological features were encountered during the course of the groundworks, however, metal finds and a single piece of post medieval – modern CBM were collected during the metal-detecting and fieldwalking survey.
- 6.2** The finds collected seem consistent with the site location and point to both medieval and post medieval activity in the vicinity. Some of the medieval finds may be associated with activity relating to the nearby medieval market (ESCC HER No. EES14279).
- 6.3** Interestingly no pieces of worked flint were recovered during the watching brief, surprising given the proximity of prehistoric sites and the sites downland location.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1** No significant archaeological remains were encountered during the archaeological investigations although pieces of metalwork of medieval and post medieval date were recovered from the ploughsoil.
- 8.2** The site archive and finds will be archived with Eastbourne Museum Service (Accession number 2011.1).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) 2007. *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Fieldwork*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank 4D for commissioning the work as well as Greg Chuter (ESCC) for his help and guidance throughout the project.

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	EDE 11					
Identification Name and Address	East Dean Water Treatment Works East Dean, East Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	East Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	TV 5576 9630					
Geology	Chalk					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4774					
Type of Fieldwork			Watching Brief			
Type of Site				Other Water Treatment Wrks		
Dates of Fieldwork	March - April 2011			Field walking and metal-detector survey		
Sponsor/Client	4D Ltd					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard and Jim Stevenson					
Project Supervisor	Andy Margetts					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern		
100 Word Summary						
<p>Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London, have been commissioned by 4Delivery Limited (hereafter 4D) to undertake a programme of archaeological work comprising field-walking, metal-detecting and watching brief prior to, and during, intrusive ground works associated with the modification of the existing water treatment works at East Dean, East Sussex (NGR TV 5576 9630).</p> <p>No significant archaeological remains were encountered during the archaeological investigations although pieces of metalwork of medieval and post medieval date were recovered from the ploughsoil.</p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-100624

Project details

Project name	East Dean WTW MD FW and WB
Short description of the project	Archaeological Field-Walking, Metal-Detecting and Watching Brief at East Dean Water Treatment Works East Dean, East Sussex Report
Project dates	Start: 11-03-2011 End: 07-04-2011
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	EDE 11 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial
Significant Finds	METALWORK Medieval
Significant Finds	METALWORK Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Fieldwalking','Metal Detectors','Visual Inspection'
Development type	Service infrastructure (e.g. sewage works, reservoir, pumping station, etc.)
Prompt	SMR enhancement
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX WEALDEN EAST DEAN AND FRISTON East Dean WTW
Postcode	BN
Study area	1000.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 555 985 51.6632397902 0.248614700971 51 39 47 N 000 14 55 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	4 Delivery Ltd
Project design originator	East Sussex County Council
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard
Project supervisor	Andrew Margetts
Type of sponsor/funding body	4D Ltd

Name of sponsor/funding body 4D Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Eastbourne Museum Service
Physical Archive ID	EDE 11
Physical Contents	'Metal'
Digital Archive recipient	Eastbourne Museum Service
Digital Archive ID	EDE 11
Digital Contents	'Metal','Stratigraphic','Survey'
Digital Media available	'Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Eastbourne Museum Service
Paper Archive ID	EDE 11
Paper Contents	'Metal','Stratigraphic','Survey'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Diary','Map','Notebook - Excavation','Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Report','Survey '

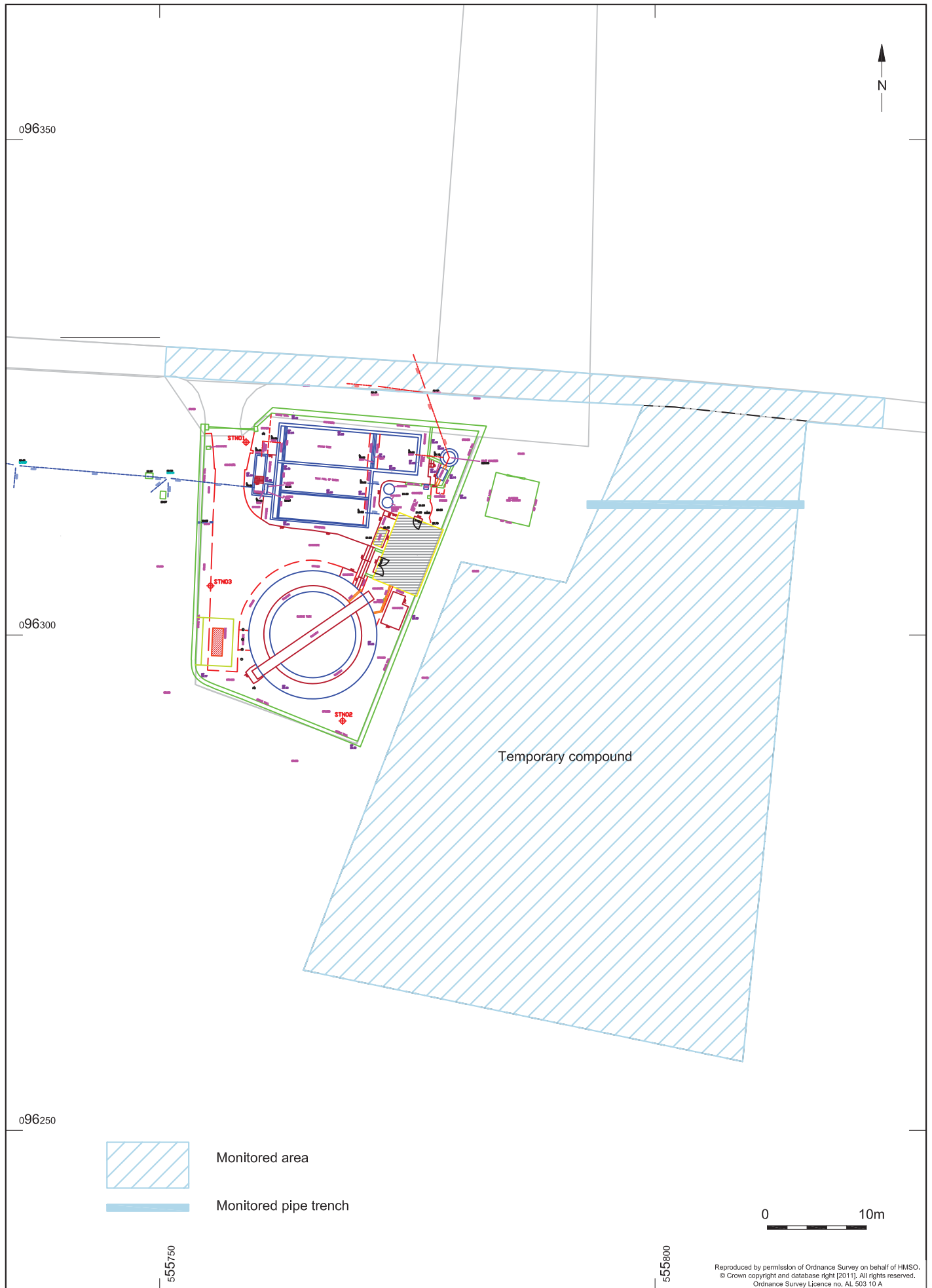
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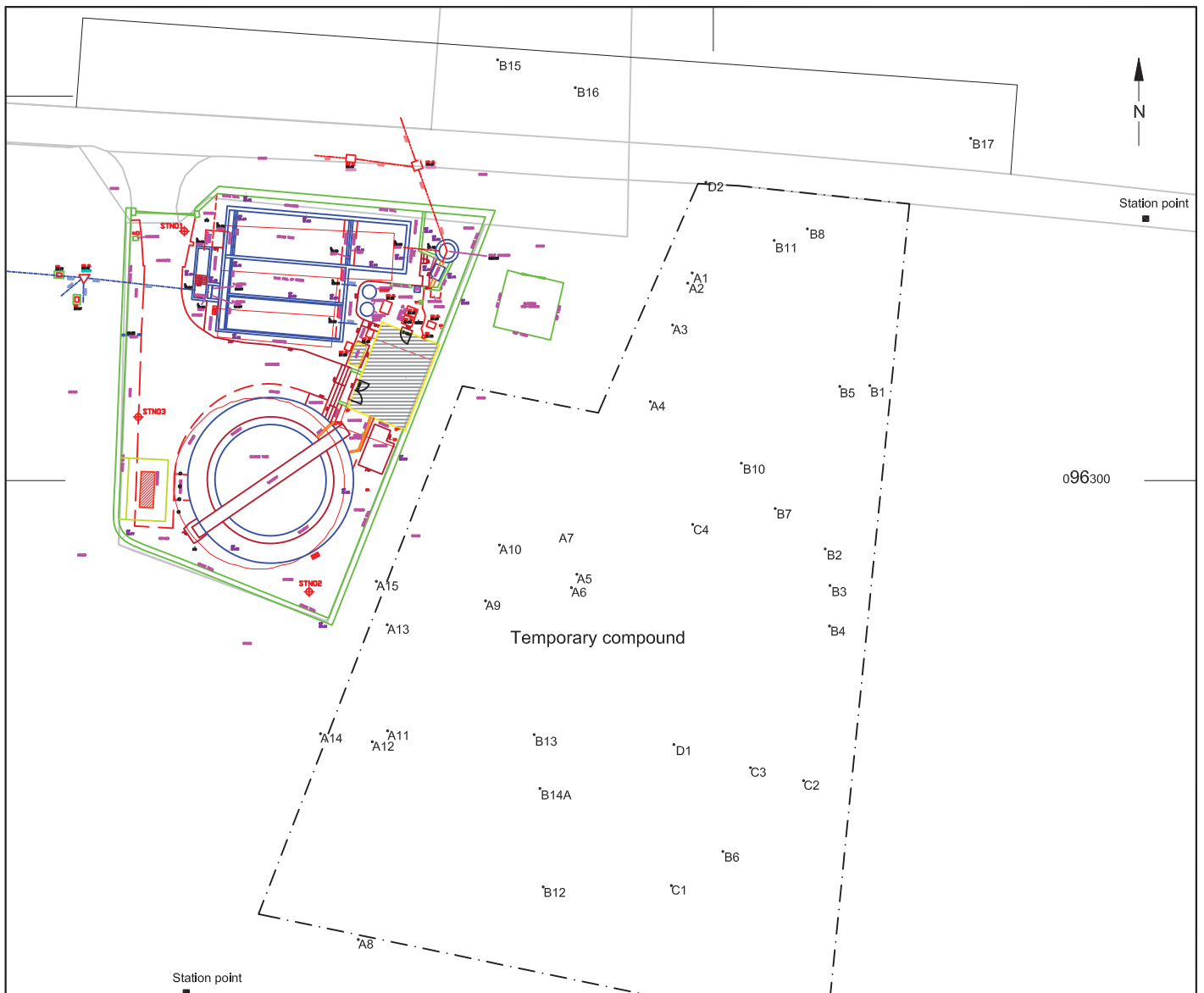
Entered by	Andrew Margetts (a.margetts@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	10 May 2011



© Archaeology South-East		East Dean WTW		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 4774	May 2011	Site location		
Report Ref: 2011098	Drawn by: JLR			



© Archaeology South-East		East Dean WTW		Fig. 2
Project Ref: 4774	May 2011	Plan of monitored works		
Report Ref: 2011098	Drawn by: FEG			



RF No	Object	Material	Period	Weight (g)	Notes
A1	Waste	Lead	Unknown	2	
A10	Button	Copper alloy	Modern	2	
A11	Lock plate	Copper alloy	Post medieval	<2	
A12	?Handle	Copper alloy	?Medieval	6	
A13	Button	Copper alloy	Post medieval- Modern	<2	
A14	?Vessel rim/repair	Copper alloy	Post medieval	<2	
A15	Buckle	Copper alloy	Medieval	2	Double loop
A2	Buckle	Copper alloy	Post medieval	2	Moulded decoration
A3	Sheet fragment	Copper alloy	Unknown	<2	
A4	Unknown	Lead	Unknown	<2	
A5	?Window came	Lead	Medieval- Post medieval	<2	
A6	?Buckle	Copper alloy	Medieval	<2	Incised decoration
A7a	Button	Copper alloy	Post medieval- Modern	<2	
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B4	Sheet fragment	Lead	Post medieval	<2	
B5	Button	Copper alloy	Post medieval	2	
B6	Button	Copper alloy	Modern	<2	
B7	Button	Copper alloy	Post medieval	<2	
B8	Button	Copper alloy	Modern	6	
B9	Sheet fragment	Copper alloy	Unknown	2	
C1	Sheet fragment	Copper alloy	Unknown	<2	
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C4	Button	Copper alloy	Post med- Modern	<2	
D1	CBM	Ceramic	Post medieval- Modern	32	
D2	Unknown	Aluminium	Modern	42	

Station point ■



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