

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Pyecombe Water Treatment Works (East and West)
Pyecombe, West Sussex**

NGR: TQ 2936 1247 & TQ 2828 1293

Planning Ref: Permitted Development

**ASE Project No: 4757
Site Code: PYM 11**

**ASE Report No: 2012001
OASIS id: archaeol6-117210**

By Andrew Margetts

January 2012

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Four Delivery Limited to undertake an archaeological watching brief in during the upgrade of two waste water treatment plants located at Pyecombe, West Sussex.

The existing water treatment works had served to disturb large areas of the site(s) where undisturbed areas were investigated an absence of remains was noted. No archaeological features were encountered during monitoring of the groundworks at either water treatment works. Some 19th to 20th century tile was collected during the work which probably derives from the nearby residential areas of Pyecombe Village.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, Institute of Archaeology, UCL, were commissioned by Four Delivery Limited (hereafter 4D) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the upgrade of two waste water treatment plants located at Pyecombe East and West, West Sussex (NGR: 529360 112747 and 528287 112934 respectively, Figures 1 to 3).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS 2011) the bedrock geology on site consists of chalk; superficial head deposits have been recorded in the area of the site(s).

1.2.2 The site comprises two separate waste water treatment works (designated east and west) which are bordered by roads fields and residential areas.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 The Pyecombe East site lies within a designated archaeologically sensitive area and within 150m of the Wolstonbury Camp and Roman Road Scheduled Ancient Monuments. As a result, Mark Taylor, Principal Archaeologist, West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) recommended that an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the groundworks.

1.3.2 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) for the archaeological watching brief was compiled by ASE (2011) and submitted to Mark Taylor for approval. All work was carried out in accordance with West Sussex Country Council's, *Recommended Standard Archaeological Conditions* (WSSCC 2007) and the relevant *Standards and Guidance* of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The general objective of the archaeological work as set out in the WSI was to monitor the topsoil strip for the contractors' compounds at both sites in order to properly record and report on the location, form, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains exposed during groundworks.

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 This report details the results of the watching brief carried out between the 3rd of October and the 6th of December 2011. The fieldwork was conducted by Andy Margetts, Gary Webster, Chris Russel and Rob Cole and was managed by Neil Griffin and Jim Stevenson (post-excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Overview

- 2.1.1 The water treatment works are located in an archaeologically sensitive area. A 1km search radius of the Historic Environment Record (HER) held at WSCC centred on NGR's 528287 112934 and 529360 112747 returned 55 results (see Appendix) ranging from the Mesolithic through to the modern with several Scheduled Monuments in evidence.
- 2.1.2 Scheduled monuments exist to the north and south of the sites most notably at Wolstonbury Camp on Wolstonbury Hill where there is a Bronze Age enclosure and Iron Age hillfort overlooking a Romano-British farm and field system to the east. Just south of this, slightly closer to the sites, a cross dyke and two barrows have been scheduled, these are probably Bronze Age. To the south-west of the sites a further cross dyke is located at Newtimber Hill. To the north-east of the sites, there is a scheduled length of Roman Road.
- 2.1.3 Beyond this the HER lists numerous other sites and find spots mostly of prehistoric date, but also Roman and including a DMV (deserted medieval village) immediately south of the easternmost WTW.
- 2.1.4 Five listed buildings are also in the area of the sites and include two just to the east of the westernmost WTW (16th century Pycombe Manor and c. 18th century Wayfield Farmhouse which is de-listed) and two just south-east of the easternmost WTW (The parish Church which is 12th-13th century and 19th century The Old School House).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

(Figures 2 and 3)

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The fieldwork followed the general methodology set out in the WSI (ASE 2011).

3.2 Fieldwork Methodology

3.2.1 An archaeologist was in attendance during all intrusive works associated with the upgrade at the two sites unless/until it became clear that no archaeological remains were to be affected during the works. Any machine (i.e. tracked 360 excavator) used during topsoil stripping was fitted with a toothless bucket in order to minimise the potential of damaging below ground archaeological deposits. Ground reduction was undertaken in careful spits of no greater than 200mm depth.

3.2.2 Ground reduction of the following was monitored at Pyecombe West:

- The access road
- The turning 'hammerhead'
- The inlet chamber
- The sludge chamber
- The package plant
- The blower kiosk
- The control kiosk

3.2.3 At Pyecombe East ground reduction of the following was monitored:

- The compound
- The haul road
- The waste treatment works

3.2.4 The archaeologist inspected the surfaces and spoil from the excavations.

3.2.5 The ground works contractor allowed the archaeological contractor reasonable time and resources to undertake any inspection or recording required.

3.3 Recording

3.3.1 All deposits were recorded on Archaeology South-East *pro-forma* context sheets. A digital photographic record of the watching brief was also maintained.

3.4 Site Archive

3.4.1 The site archive is quantified below (Table 1). It is currently held at Archaeology South East offices in Portslade and is awaiting deposition with a suitable local museum (e.g. Ditchling Museum).

Number of Contexts	11
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	
Bulk Samples	
Digital Photographs	60
Bulk finds	8
Registered finds	
Environmental flots/residue	

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Pyecombe West: Summary of Deposits (Figure 2)

4.1.1 In all of the monitored locations at Pyecombe West a similar sequence of deposits, of uniform depth, was recorded (Table 2).

4.1.2 Natural geology, [103], consisted of a mixture of degraded chalk and mid brown orange decalcified head deposits with frequent inclusions of angular flint nodules. This was overlain by mid grey brown silt clay subsoil [102] with frequent inclusions of chalk and finds of 19th to 20th century tile. The overlying topsoil, [101], comprised a firm, mid greyish-brown clay silt.

4.1.3 No archaeological features, were observed at Pyecombe West, however, a small quantity of late post medieval CBM was recovered from the subsoil.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
101	Layer	Topsoil			0.30
102	Layer	Subsoil			0.10-
103	Layer	Natural			NFE

Table 2: Pyecombe West summary of recorded contexts

4.2 Pyecombe East: Summary of Deposits (Figure 3)

4.2.1 The majority of monitored work at Pyecombe East comprised only the removal of topsoil and subsoil deposits ([104] and [105] respectively) onto decalcified head and/or colluvial deposits ([106] and [107]), however, necessarily deep excavations within the bounds of the existing water treatment works allowed a fuller investigation of deposits. These comprised decalcified head deposits [106] overlain by compact mid yellow brown silt clay [107] with no noticeable inclusions. This deposit was overlain by mid orange brown clay silt colluvium [108] with occasional inclusions of angular flint nodules. This was overlain by buried subsoil and topsoil deposits [104] and [105] that were similar to deposits [101] and [102] from Pyecombe West.

4.2.2 The existing ground surface comprised mid grey brown clay silt made ground/topsoil [109] with occasional inclusions of modern building materials. Truncating all deposits (save [109]) on the western side of the excavation area was vertical construction cut [110] for the existing water treatment works. This was filled by variable coloured redeposited chalk and colluvium [111] mixed with frequent modern debris.

4.2.3 No archaeological features or finds were encountered at Pyecombe East.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
104	Layer	Topsoil			0.20
105	Layer	Subsoil			0.10
106	Layer	Natural			NFE
107	Layer	Colluvium?			0.30
108	Layer	Colluvium			1.40
109	Layer	Topsoil/Made grnd			0.35
110	Cut	Construction			NFE
111	Layer/Fill	Made Grnd			NFE

Table 3: Pyecombe East summary of recorded contexts

5.0 FINDS

5.1 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

- 5.1.1 A total of 7 fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) with a combine weight of 2588g were recovered from context [102]. The assemblage was examined with the aid of a X10 binocular microscope and a provisional fabric series was drawn up. The assemblage was recorded on pro-forma record forms for archive and discarded.
- 5.1.2 A fragment of peg tile and a fragment of pantile were both recovered in a similar fabric (T1), an orange fabric with abundant fine quartz inclusions, the tile fragments are of 19th to 20th century date. Two fragments of brick in fabric B1, an orange red sandy fabric with moderate black iron rich inclusions and cream silt inclusions, were recovered and are of probable 18th to 19th century date.
- 5.1.3 The assemblage also contained a large fragment of mortar and flint nodule conglomerate, the mortar was soft pale pinkish cream colour with abundant coarse sand inclusions which was not closely datable.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Summary

- 6.1.1 No archaeological features were encountered during monitoring of the groundworks at either water treatment works. The 19th to 20th century tile collected during the work probably derives from the nearby residential areas of Pyecombe village.
- 6.1.2 The existing water treatment works had served to disturb large areas of the site(s) where undisturbed areas were investigated an absence of remains was noted.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank 4D for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Mark Taylor West Sussex County Council for her guidance and monitoring.

Appendix: WSCC HER Data

Appendix: Summary of WSCC HER records

WSCC HER No.	OS Co-ordinates (TQ)	Description
MWS593	29300 12600	Deserted medieval settlement c 1350-1450
MWS597	28000 13000	Middle Bronze Age palstave found on Wolstonbury Hill
MWS607	28000 12000	Two Late Bronze Age 'Sussex Loops' found west of the Cowdown
MWS608	28000 12000	Iron Age bronze fibula from Pyecombe Hill
MWS609	28000 12000	Neolithic flint implement found on Pyecombe Hill
MWS611	29495 13295	Roman trackway from Pyecombe to the Coldharbour-Clayton-Wickham Roman road
MWS616	18000 12000	Anglo Saxon silver sceatte found in Pyecombe
MWS622	29000 12000	Small Roman imitation Samian ware bowl found during construction of Clayton railway tunnel
MWS625	29550 13078	Clayton Railway Tunnel and associated castellated cottage over northern entrance
MWS748	30300 12600	Early Iron Age to Roma field system (lynchets)
MWS831	28400 13830	Neolithic flint implements found on Wolstonbury Hill
MWS832	28400 13830	Bronze Age pottery fragments found on Wolstonbury Hill
MWS833	28400 13830	Sherds of Roman pottery and coin of Valerian found on Wolstonbury Hill
MWS834	28710 13900	Romano-British field system on Wolstonbury Hill
MWS909	28330 13670	Ploughed out Bronze Age bowl barrow
MWS911	28440 13470	Bronze Age platform barrow with ditch
MWS917	28400 13800	Probable Anglo Saxon cemetery found on Wolstonbury Hill in 1765
MWS1248	28000 13000	Perforate Bronze Age macehead from Wolstonbury Camp
MWS1359	27737 13628	Post-medieval lime kilns shown on Round Hill by the 1873-5 OS
MWS3630	28340 11850	15 sherds of Iron Age pottery found in upper levels of Beaker bowl barrow excavated in 1988
MWS3631	28340 11850	14 sherds of 2 nd -4 th century Roman pottery found in upper fill of Beaker bowl barrow excavated in 1988
MWS3677	28340 11850	Beaker bowl barrow containing crouched inhumation of mature male in oval burial pit at its centre
MWS3998	27900 11950	Early Mesolithic to Late Bronze Age flint working site on West Hill
MWS3999	28050 11900	Plough damaged undated lynchets on West Hill
MWS4000	28550 11850	Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age trackway
MWS4001	28500 12400	WWII firing range on Cow Down
MWS4002	29850 13200	Site of late medieval/post medieval farm
MWS4029	27900 11950	Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age flint working site on West Hill
MWS4201	29268 12875	Remains of Roman road comprising terraceway and accompanying hollows
MWS4517	28400 13830	Hilltop enclosure dating to late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age
MWS5182	28477 13511	Bronze Age platform barrow on Wolstonbury Hill
MWS5183	28583 13388	Bronze Age cross ridge dyke on Wolstonbury Hill
MWS5449	28597 13816	Romano-British farmstead, field system and trackway on north-eastern slope of Wolstonbury Hill
MWS5451	29000 12000	Part of a socketed Bronze Age spearhead found near Pyecombe during construction of the railway
MWS5457	28700 12800	A cross-shaped pendant (horse furniture) found at Pyecombe
MWS5493	30300 13100	Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age lithic working site on Clayton Hill (New Barn Farm)
MWS5779	28579 13426	Univallate cross dyke and bowl barrow to the south east of Wolstonbury Hill
MWS5783	29170 12600	Pyecombe Church, 12 century with later additions and alterations
MWS6473	28400 13830	Wolstonbury Camp enclosure. Late Bronze Age hilltop enclosure.
MWS6474	28390 13850	Location of a barrow marked on plan of 1806 but no longer traceable on the ground

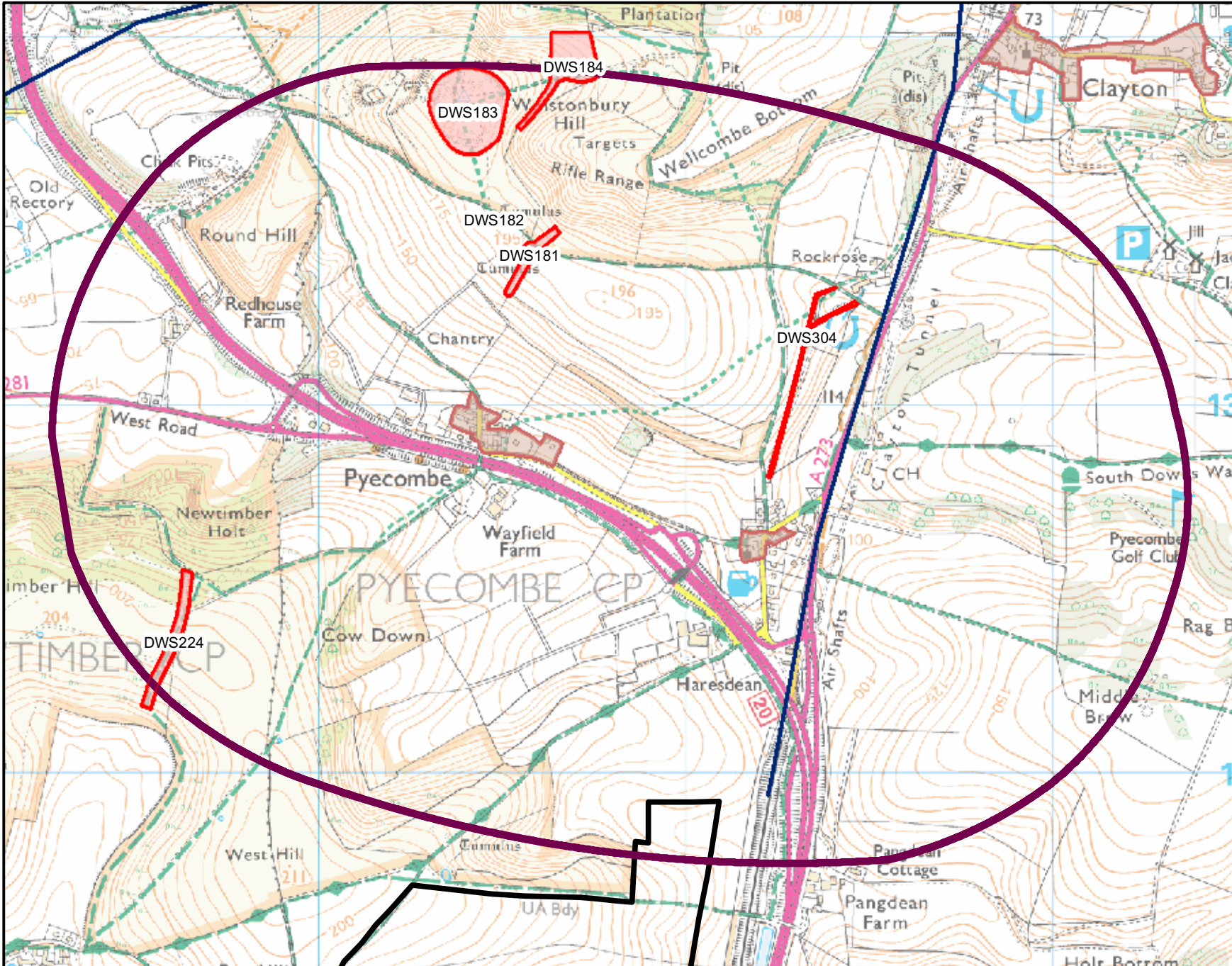
WSSC HER No.	OS Co-ordinates (TQ)	Description
MWS6476	27586 12364	Cross dyke (possibly Bronze Age) on Newtimber Hill
MWS7849	27900 13800	Late Neolithic and early Bronze Age flint scatter found on path
MWS7851	28500 13860	Neolithic and Early Bronze Age flintwork recovered from surface of trackway
DWS6831	29087 12304	Grade II Listed Building: Hobbs Cottage, probably 17 th century
DWS6834	28451 12926	Grade II Listed Building: Pyecombe Manor, 16 th century
DWS7436	27690 13295	Grade II Listed Building: Redhouse Farmhouse, 17 th century
DWS7640	29260 12662	Grade II Listed Building: The Old School House, early 19 th century
DWS6829	29173 12607	Grade I Listed Building: The Parish Church, 12 th & 13 th century
DWS7641	28449 12804	De-listed building: Wayfield Farmhouse, 18 th century or earlier
DWS181	28511330 28651347	Scheduled Monument: Cross dyke and bowl barrow 310m south east of Wolstonbury Camp
DWS224	27531217 27641254	Scheduled Monument: Cross dyke on Newtimber Hill
DWS182	28470 13510	Scheduled Monument: Platform barrow 300m south of Wolstonbury Camp
DWS304	29320 13120	Scheduled Monument: Roman road and 18 th century coaching road north of Pyecombe Church
DWS184	28670 13920	Scheduled Monument: Romano-British farmstead, field system and trackway on Wolstonbury Hill
DWS183	28400 13800	Scheduled Monument: Wolstonbury Camp: a Ram's Hill type enclosure on Wolstonbury Hill and associated later remains

Radial Searches centred on NGRs 528287 112937 and 529360 112747 Pyecombe Water Treatment Works - Scheduled Monuments









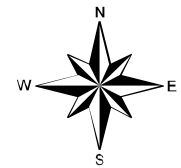
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Legend

-  Radial Search
-  West Sussex County Boundary
-  Scheduled Monuments
-  Roman Roads
-  Conservation Areas
-  Historic Parkscapes

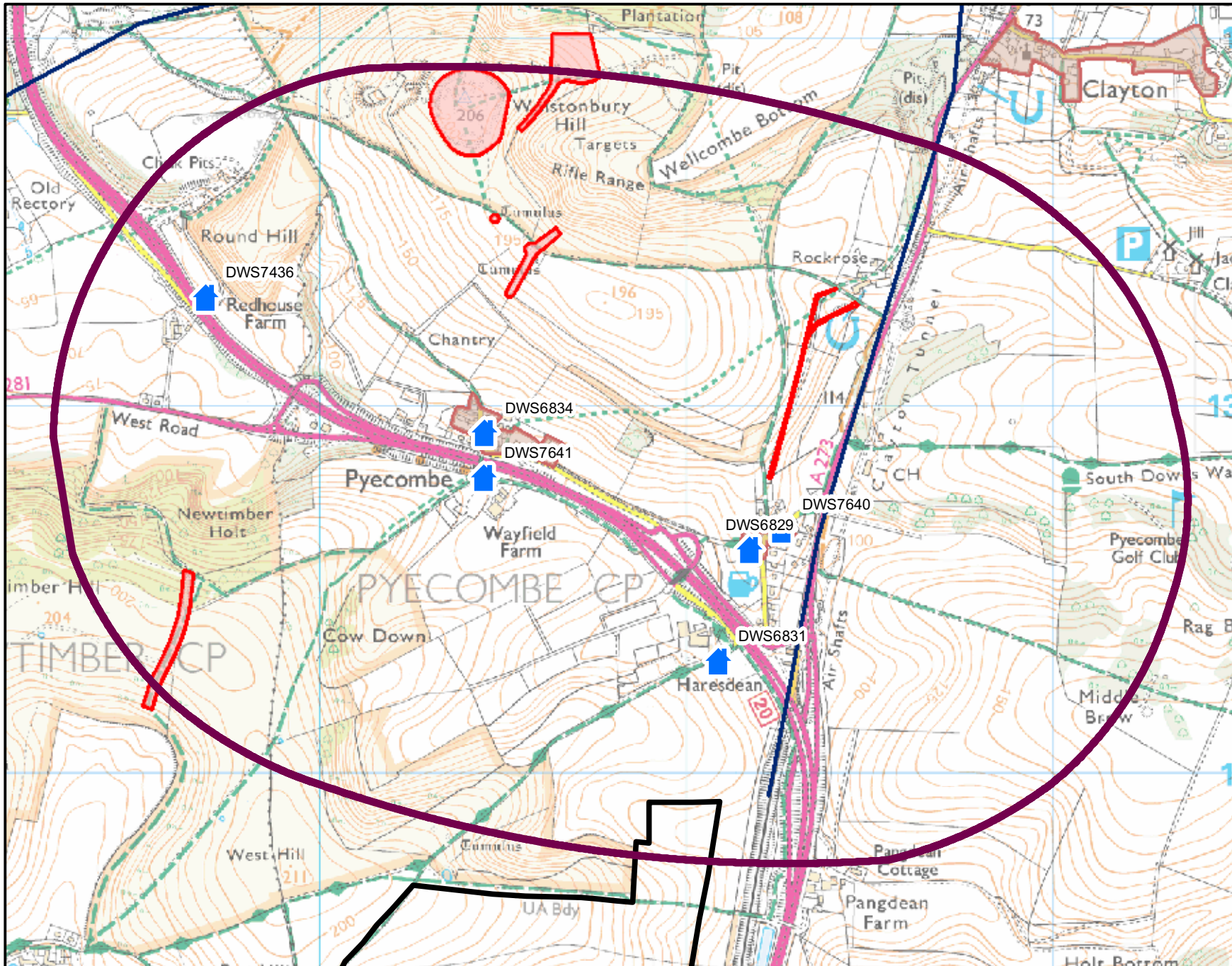


Radial Searches centred on NGRs 528287 112937 and 529360 112747 Pyecombe Water Treatment Works - Listed Buildings



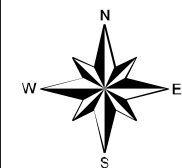
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Legend

- Radial Search
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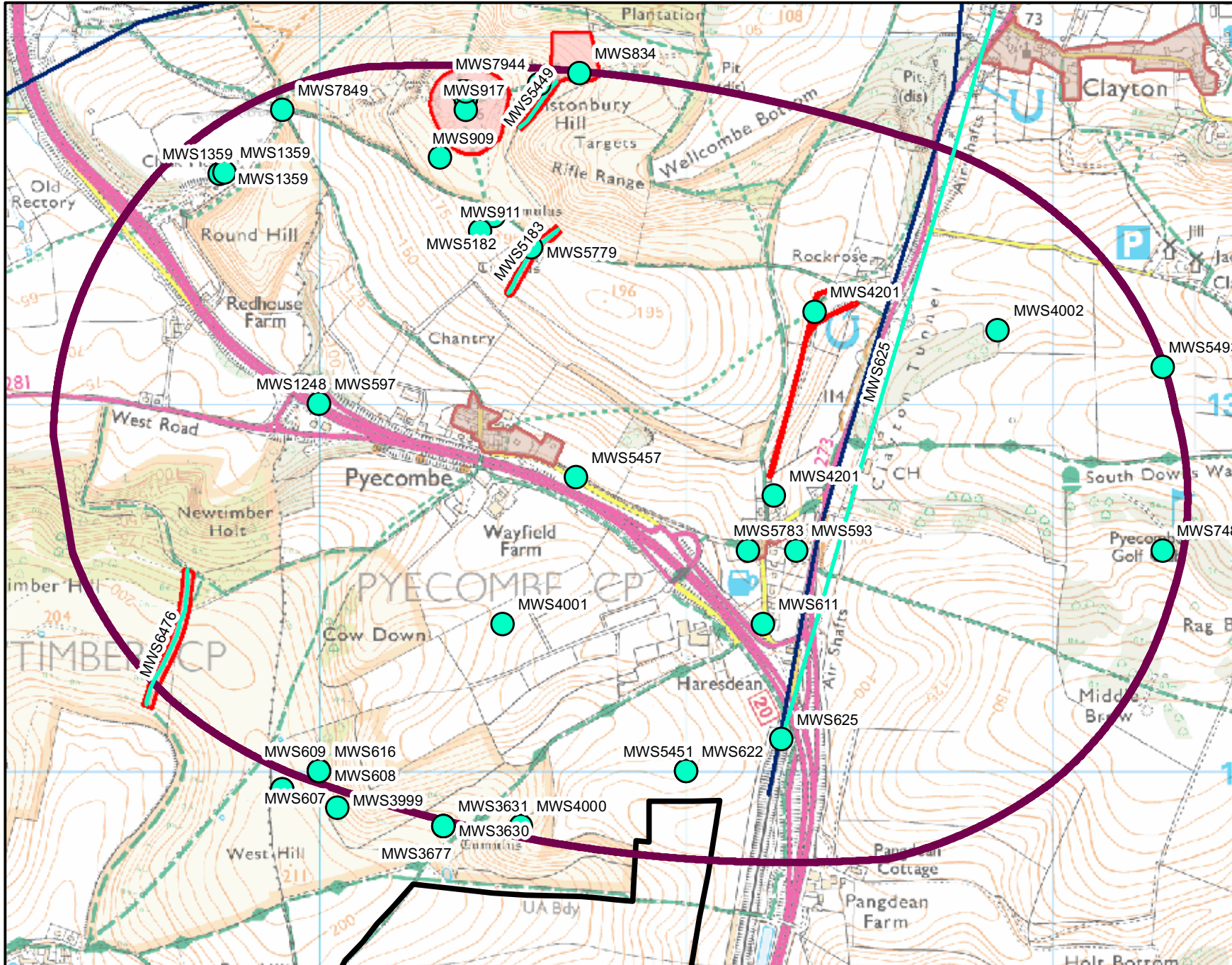


Radial Searches centred on NGRs 528287 112937 and 529360 112747 Pyecombe Water Treatment Works - HER Data



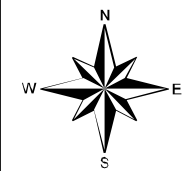
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- Radial Search
- HER Data
- HER Data
- West Sussex County Boundary
- Scheduled Monuments
- Roman Roads
- Conservation Areas
- Historic Parkscales



HER Summary Form

Site Code	PYM 11					
Identification Name and Address	Pyecombe Water Treatment Works East and West					
County, District &/or Borough	West Sussex, Pyecombe					
OS Grid Refs.	529360 112747 and 528287 112934					
Geology	Chalk and Head Deposits					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4757					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WTW		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 3rd oct-6th dec 2011 Other	Other		
Sponsor/Client	4Delivery					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Andy Margetts					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other Modern <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<p>Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Four Delivery Limited to undertake an archaeological watching brief in during the upgrade of two waste water treatment plants located at Pyecombe, West Sussex.</p> <p>The existing water treatment works had served to disturb large areas of the site(s) where undisturbed areas were investigated an absence of remains was noted. No archaeological features were encountered during monitoring of the groundworks at either water treatment works. Some 19th to 20th century tile was collected during the work which probably derives from the nearby residential areas of Pyecombe village.</p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-117210

Project details

Project name	Pyecombe Water Treatment Works East and West
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Four Delivery Limited to undertake an archaeological watching brief in during the upgrade of two waste water treatment plants located at Pyecombe, West Sussex. The existing water treatment works had served to disturb large areas of the site(s) where undisturbed areas were investigated an absence of remains was noted. No archaeological features were encountered during monitoring of the groundworks at either water treatment works. Some 19th to 20th century tile was collected during the work which probably derives from the nearby residential areas of Pyecombe village.
Project dates	Start: 03-10-2011 End: 06-12-2011
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	PYM 11 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 3 - Utilities
Monument type	WTW Modern
Significant Finds	TILE Post Medieval
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX MID SUSSEX PYECOMBE Pyecombe WTW east and west
Study area	100.00 Square metres
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0m Max: 100.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief	west sussex county council

originator

Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	Andrew Margetts
Project supervisor	Chris Russel
Project supervisor	Gary Webster
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	4D

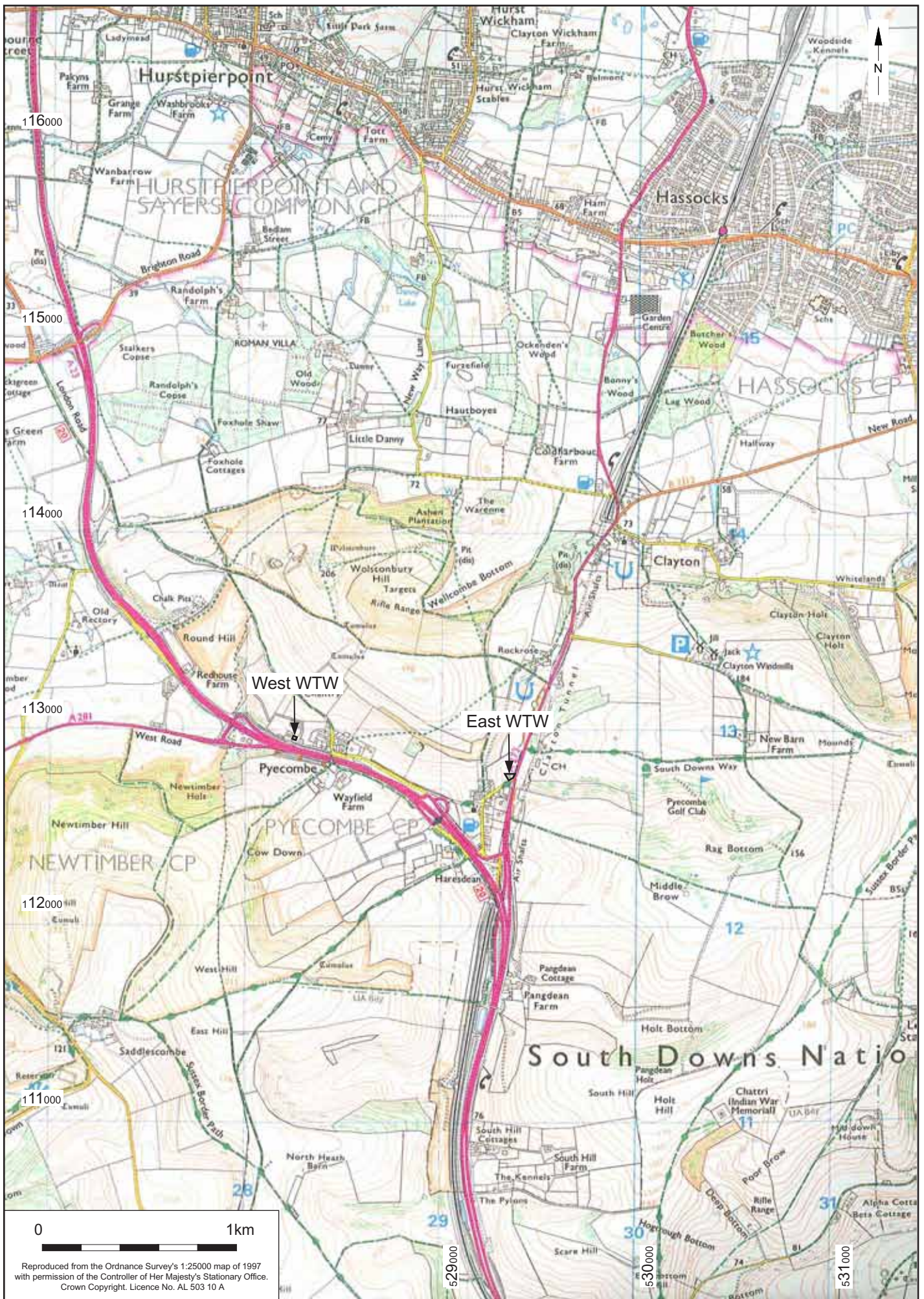
Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive Exists?	No

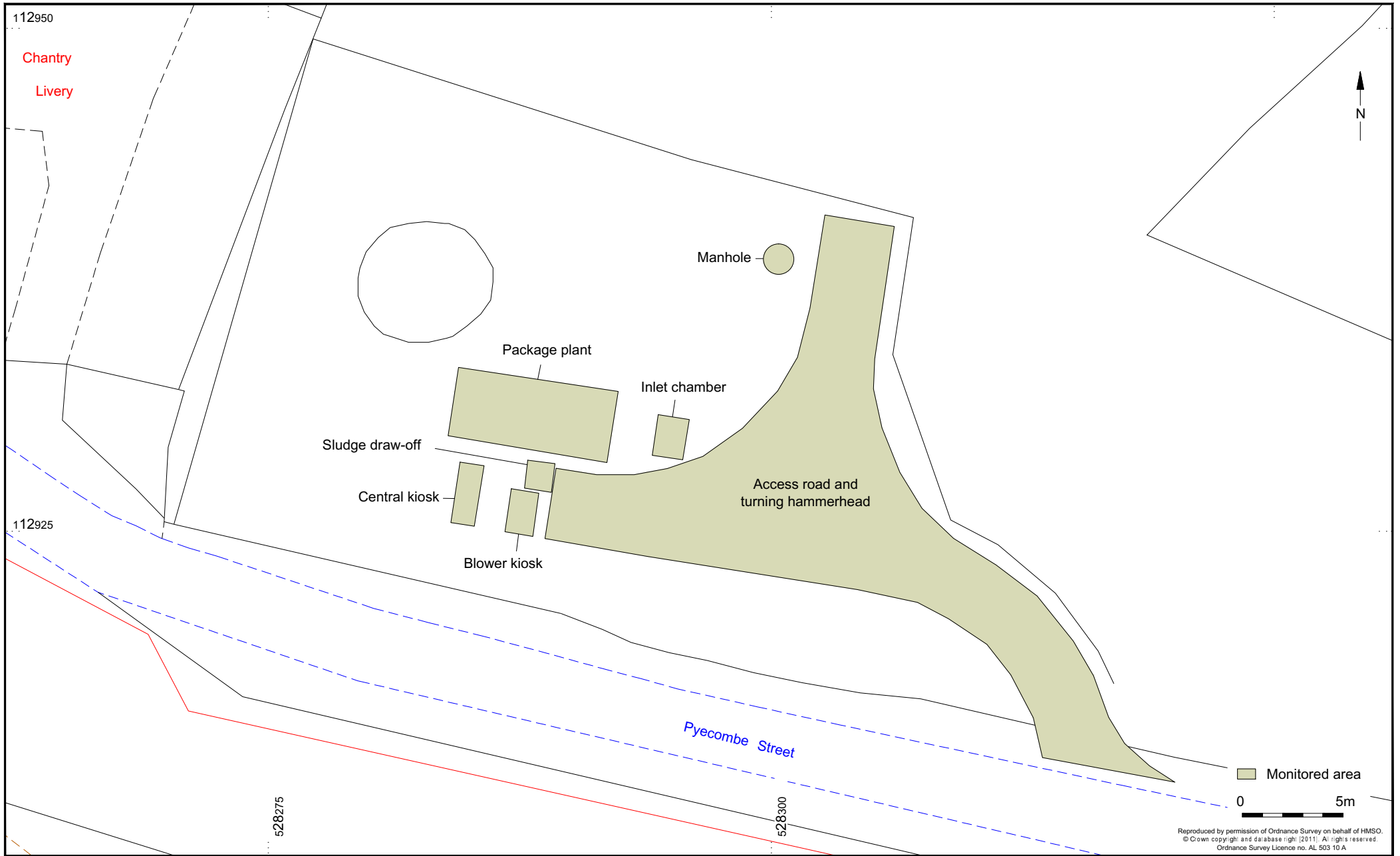
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Jan 2012

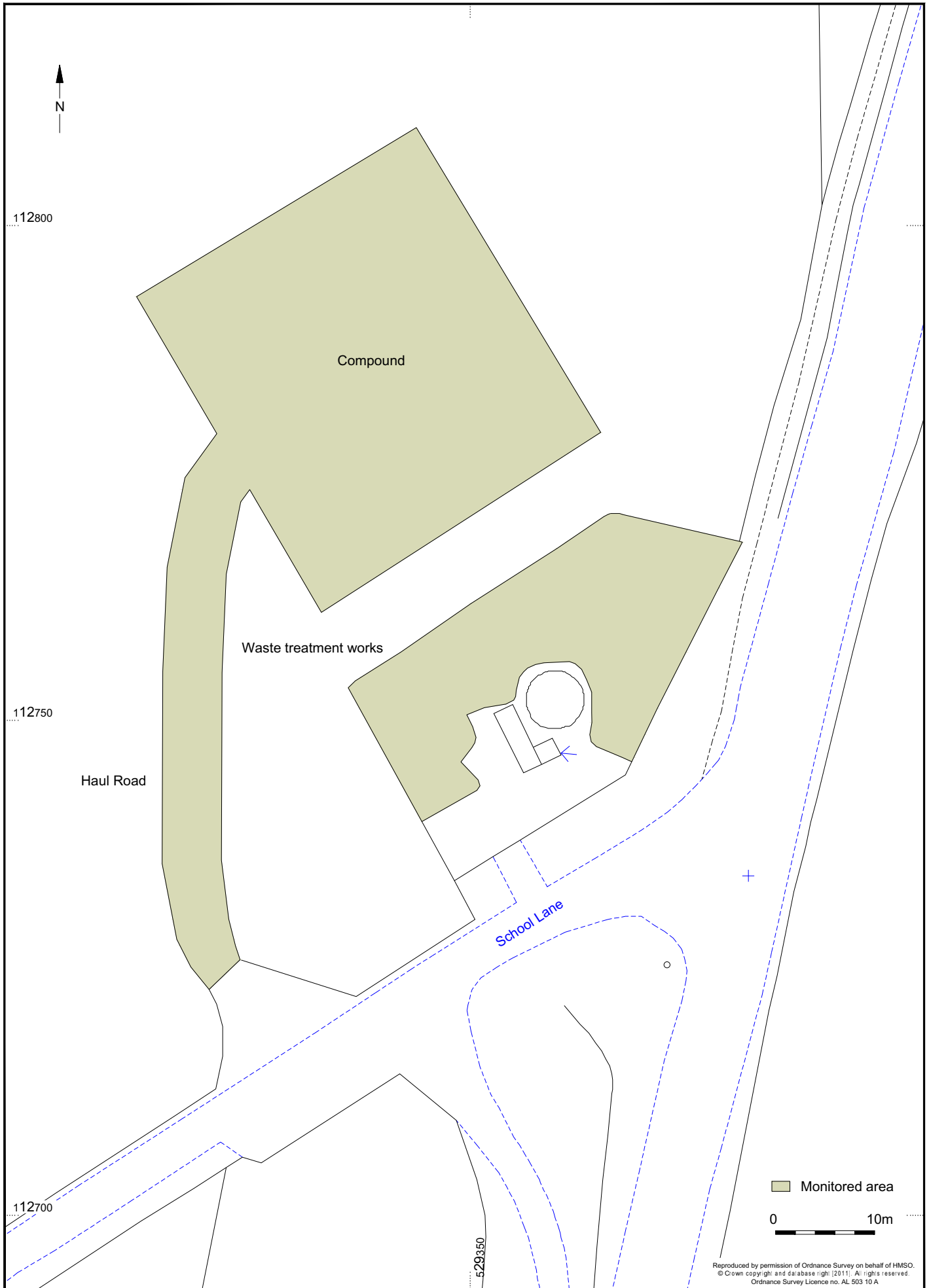
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Pyecombe WTW

Pyecombe West - plan of monitored area

Fig. 2



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Report Ref: 2012001	Drawn by: JLR			

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