

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Millbrook Waste Water Treatment Works
Western Avenue, Western Docks
Southampton**

NGR 438860 112430

**ASE Project No: 4868
Site Code: MWS11**

**ASE Report No: 2012092
OASIS ID: archaeol6-123687**

By Simon Stevens BA MIFA

April 2012

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**Archaeology South-East
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex
BN41 1DR**

**Tel: 01273 426830
Fax: 01273 420866
Email: fau@ucl.ac.uk**

Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by 4Delivery Ltd. (4D) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at Millbrook Waste Water Treatment Works. No significant archaeological features, deposits or finds were recorded during monitoring of two areas. Modern made ground was found overlying deposits of marine silts and gravels.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by 4Delivery Ltd. (4D) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the redevelopment of the Millbrook Waste Water Treatment Works, Western Avenue, Western Docks, Southampton (NGR 438860 112430; Fig. 1)

1.2 Topography and Geology

1.2.1 Millbrook Waste Water Treatment Works is located in a low-lying area on the north bank of the River Test, and is almost entirely surrounded by the various dock facilities forming the Prince Charles Container Port. Access to the site is gained via Western Avenue.

1.2.2 According to current data from the British Geological Survey the underlying bedrock consists of the Marsh Farm Formation of clay silt and sand. The superficial geology is shown as Tidal Flat Deposits of silt and clay (BGS 2012).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Although the work falls outside the usual planning regulation framework, following consultation with Stephen Appleby, Southampton City Council's Planning Archaeologist, it was agreed that an archaeological watching brief would be maintained during groundworks at the site. The Southampton City Council site reference is: SOU1588.

1.3.2 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) was duly produced by ASE outlining the techniques to be used in the field, and in the production of a report and an archive (ASE 2012).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The aims stated in the *Written Scheme of Investigation (ibid.)* 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.

The watching brief will 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.

Specific aims include:

- *Is there any evidence for the possible palaeosoil and any features/finds associated with that?*
- *Is there any evidence for the remains of mediieval/post-medieval wrecks/hulks within the alluvial sequence?*
- *Is there any evidence for post-medieval reclamation activity other than dumps (such as revetments)?'*

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 The current report provides results of the archaeological monitoring of the groundworks at the site between November 2011 and March 2012. The on-site work was undertaken by Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist), Nick Garland (Archaeologist) and Gary Webster (Assistant Archaeologist). The project was managed by Andy Leonard (Project Manager) and by Dan Swift (Post-Excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The following information is drawn from a 1km radius search of the Historic Environment Record (HER) held at Southampton City Council centred on NGR SU 3886 1243. The results of the Southampton HER search are summarised below (Table 1) with selected locations plotted on Figure 1.

HER No.	OS Co-ordinates	Description
MSH 88	SU 3890 1311	C2 nd silver coin
MSH 89	SU 3892 1313	C3 rd Cu Alloy coin
MSH 93	SU 3926 1278	Millbrook parish church, first mentioned in C13 th . Superstructure demolished in early C20 th although condition of below ground remains is unknown.
MSH 94	SU 3924 1278	Former churchyard of St Nicholas, Millbrook
MSH 95	SU 3955 1281	Bronze Age Palstave
MSH 97	SU 3922 1221	Bronze Age palstave
MSH 98	SU 3933 1239	Prehistoric gravel river terraces
MSH 99	SU 3933 1239	Peat deposit dating to between 7,500BC – 3,500BC
MSH 101	SU 39 12	Mesolithic flint scraper
MSH 475	SU 3870 1329	7 Palaeolithic flint hand axes
MSH 477	SU 3869 1331	Early Bronze Age tanged arrowhead
MSH 478	SU 3868 1330	Prehistoric flint scraper and flake
MSH 578	SU 3889 1294	Undated linear feature
MSH 579	SU 3873 1248	Substantial number of burnt/calced flints and struck flakes of Neolithic/Bronze Age
MSH 2130	SU 3932 1283	Grade II Listed Building: 369 & 371a Millbrook Road
MSH 2131	SU 3851 1308	Grade II Listed Building: Holy Trinity Church, Millbrook Road
MSH 2274	SU 3873 1248	Borehole survey at the Western Avenue site identified peat overlying prehistoric gravels dating to 18 th century.
MSH 2275	SU 3873 1248	19 th /20 th century land reclamation dumps at the Waste Water Treatment works
MSH 2278	SU 3918 1290	Graveyard extension for St Nicholas' Church, Millbrook. Extended in 1797 and redeveloped in 1991.
MSH 2279	SU 3917 1286	Red granite obelisk, memorial to Robert Pollock (a minor Scottish poet) erected in 1831.
MSH 2280	SU 3918 1290	25 Memorials in the former churchyard of St Nicholas' Church
MSH 2525	SU 3854 1305	Former 557 Millbrook Road (C19 th Grade II Listed Building)
MSH 2630	SU 3947 1344	Three prehistoric features found during a watching brief at St Clements Church
MSH 2712	SU 3935 1239	King George V Dry Dock, Western Docks, Grade II Listed Building
MSH 3025	SU 3961 1297	Medieval Nuremburg token findspot at 35 Blighmont Crescent
MSH 3132	SU 3858 1302	Former village of Millbrook
MSH 3647	SU 3959 1315	Blighmont Country House, built in early C19 th and demolished in 1963
MSH 3724	SU 3842 1323	C19 th barn built at the rear of 591 Millbrook Road

HER No.	OS Co-ordinates	Description
MSH 4081	SU 3836 1294	Roman coin hoard found at the Millbrook Trading Estate.
MSH 4367	SU 3875 1290	Tanner's Bridge pre-C19 th and probably is the site of an earlier, medieval, bridge.
MSH 4373	SU 3934 1242	C. 20 th travelling crane at King George V Dry Dock
MSH 4388	SU 3886 1323	19 th century iron works known as the Vulcan Iron Works
MSH 4389	SU 3876 1294	C19 th tannery and watermill
MSH 4390	SU 3876 1279	Former saw mill, Millbrook
MSH 4391	SU 3884 1323	Former land boundary of Millbrook Stream
MSH 4392	SU 3893 1341	Watermills at Tanners Brook, Millbrook
MSH 4394	SU 3893 1259	Former Millbrook Marsh
MSH 4395	SU 3984 1263	Site of former wharf/quay at the end of Foundry Lane
MSH 4403	SU 3824 1290	Prehistoric evidence found at Former Calor Gas site, First Avenue (probable Late Bronze Age/iron Age date)
MSH 4443	SU 3951 1346	Prehistoric flints found in 'natural' features indicating background archaeological presence at the site of 119 Regents Park Road
MSH 4486	SU 3889 1242	Waste Water Treatment Works, Millbrook: Boreholes established alluvium dating to the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age.

Table 1: Summary of Southampton HER records with 1km of NGR SU 3886 1243

- 2.2 An environmental borehole evaluation was undertaken at the Treatment Works site (MSH 579) in 1997. Basal gravels and sands of the Devensian period were the earliest deposits encountered in the boreholes and included a substantial number of burnt/calced flints along with a small number of struck flakes of Neolithic or Bronze Age date. It was concluded that these finds came from a palaeosoil developed across the gravel promontory.
- 2.3 Overlying the gravels and potential palaeosoil, a deposit of c. 1.3m thick grey alluvium was noted. The small quantity of tree pollen present was concluded to be indicative of a rapid rise in sea level, bringing about a significant pause in deposition between the prehistoric gravels and a peat layer that sealed the alluvium and was radiocarbon-dated to the second half of the 18th century (MSH 2274). The upper sequence in the boreholes was indicative of land reclamation (MSH 2275); mixed overburden containing red brick and other building debris of 19th century date.
- 2.4 Six geotechnical boreholes were extracted in 1996 (MSH 4486), to the east of the above boreholes, and in closer proximity to the proposed development. Two of the boreholes contained made ground of recent origin (c. 19th/20th century) associated with reclamation activity. The remaining four contained alluvial clay deposits overlying the natural sands and gravels at roughly the same depth (c. 1.4m below Ordnance Datum). The alluvium is likely to be the same as that present in the environmental boreholes taken the following year although it was not dated.

- 2.5 A Roman coin hoard was found during an archaeological watching brief at the former Calor Gas and Dimplex Site, Third Avenue (MSH 4081). The hoard comprised 4,837 mid to late 3rd century coins, nearly all low denomination debased silver and copper alloy radiates with a single denarius of Carinus. Along with the coins 22 sherds of Roman pottery were found, mostly from one vessel thought to be a grog-tempered ware jar. The hoard was found by groundworkers on the site and no other archaeological features or finds were found in the vicinity, suggesting that these were either destroyed or that the hoard was imported. It does suggest, however, that there may be an unknown Roman settlement in the area.
- 2.6 The first reference to Millbrook (*Mill Brook*) is in an Anglo-Saxon charter of AD 956 when the boundaries of the Manor were very large (MSH 3132). The Domesday survey doesn't mention a church, although by 1086 Mill Brook had shrunk, Shirley and Redbridge having their own individual entries. In the 17th or 18th century Mill Brook became Tanners Brook, reflecting the growth of the tanning industry in the area.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The mechanical reduction of the ground level for the installation of new machinery in two areas was monitored in an archaeological watching brief (Figure 2). All work was conducted to accepted professional standards following the methodology described in the WSI (ASE 2012) and in line with Institute for Archaeologists guidance documentation (IfA 2009).
- 3.2 All sections were examined for the presence of archaeological features, and all spoil was scanned for the presence of archaeological artefacts. All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded using standard Archaeology South-East context record forms. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.2 A full photographic record of the work was kept and will form part of the site archive. The site archive is currently held by Archaeology South-East at the offices in Portslade, and has been accepted for deposition at Southampton Museum under the accession number SOU1588. The archive consists of the following material:

Number of Contexts	4
No. of files/paper record	1
Photograph	62 digital images
Bulk finds	None

Table 2: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS (Fig. 2)

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Two specific areas of significant ground disturbance at the site were monitored during visits undertaken between November 2011 and March 2012, an area of part of one of the new structures and Final Settlement Tank 7 (FST 7).

4.2 Part of New Structure

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
001	Deposit	Topsoil	310mm
002	Deposit	Made Ground	1.2m
003	Deposit	Alluvial Clay	-

4.2.1 Monitoring of this area of the site revealed a straightforward stratigraphic sequence. The uppermost layer was a mid-brown humic topsoil, context [001], which overlay a deposit of made ground consisting of a mid-greyish brown silty clay with a high content of brick rubble, context [002]. This overlay a deposit of grey alluvial clay, which contained pockets of more orangey clay and patches of flint gravel, context [003]. Mechanical excavation ceased at the surface of this deposit, at a maximum depth of 1.4m below the current land surface. No archaeological features or deposits were observed and no finds were recovered from the overburden.

4.2.2 Following consultation between ASE and Stephen Appleby, Southampton City Council's Planning Archaeologist, it was agreed that no further monitoring was necessary on this area of the site, given the depth of the overburden and the lack of disturbance to the underlying deposits.

4.3 FST 7

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
002	Deposit	Made Ground	800mm
004	Deposit	Alluvial Clay and Gravel	>3.2m

4.3.1 Mechanical excavation for the installation of this facility was archaeologically monitored. Again the stratigraphic sequence was straightforward, and consisted of made ground, context [002] that directly overlay a deposit of clay and gravel, context [004], which extended to the base of the trench. A depth of 4m below the current ground surface. No archaeological features or deposits were observed and no finds were recovered from the overburden.

4.3.2 Again, following consultation between ASE and Stephen Appleby, it was agreed that no further monitoring was necessary on this area of the site, given the depth of the overburden and the apparent archaeological sterility of the underlying clay and gravel.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered. There was no evidence of the presence of the palaeosoil also seen in the vicinity (see Section 2.0 above).
- 5.2 In the limited areas monitored, modern made ground was found overlying deposits of marine silts and gravels.
- 5.2 Previous bore hole results suggest the wider area has been subjected to sustained reclamation work at a relatively recent date and perhaps the paucity of features and finds supports this view.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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HER Summary Form

Site Code	MWS11					
Identification Name and Address	Millbrook Waste Water Treatment Works, Western Avenue					
County, District &/or Borough	Southampton City, Hampshire					
OS Grid Refs.	438860 112430					
Geology	Tidal Flats					
ASE Project Number	4868					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief ✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other <i>Reclaimed Area</i>		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 24.11.2011 – 21.03.2012	Other		
Sponsor/Client	4Delivery Ltd.					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard/Dan Swift					
Project Supervisor	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other		
<p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by 4Delivery Ltd. (4D) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at Millbrook Waste Water Treatment Works. No significant archaeological features, deposits or finds were recorded during monitoring of two areas. Modern made ground was found overlying deposits of marine silts and gravels.</p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-123687

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Millbrook Waste Water Treatment Works, Western Docks, Southampton
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by 4Delivery Ltd. (4D) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at Millbrook Waste Water Treatment Works. No significant archaeological features, deposits or finds were recorded during monitoring of two areas. Modern made ground was found overlying deposits of marine silts and gravels.
Project dates	Start: 24-11-2011 End: 21-03-2012
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	4868 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	MWS11 - Sitecode SOU1588 - Southampton City Council site reference
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 3 - Utilities
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Voluntary/self-interest

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HAMPSHIRE SOUTHAMPTON SOUTHAMPTON Millbrook Waste Water Treatment Works
Postcode	SOP15 0HH
Study area	1.00 Hectares

Site coordinates SU 3886 1243 50.9094769868 -1.447218981310 50 54 34 N
001 26 49 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Archaeology South-East
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard/Dan Swift
Project supervisor	Simon Stevens
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	4D

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	Southampton City Council
Physical Archive ID	SOU1588
Physical Contents	'other'
Digital Archive recipient	Southampton City Council
Digital Archive ID	SOU1588
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Southampton City Council
Paper Archive ID	SOU1588
Paper Contents	'other'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet', 'Miscellaneous Material', 'Report', 'Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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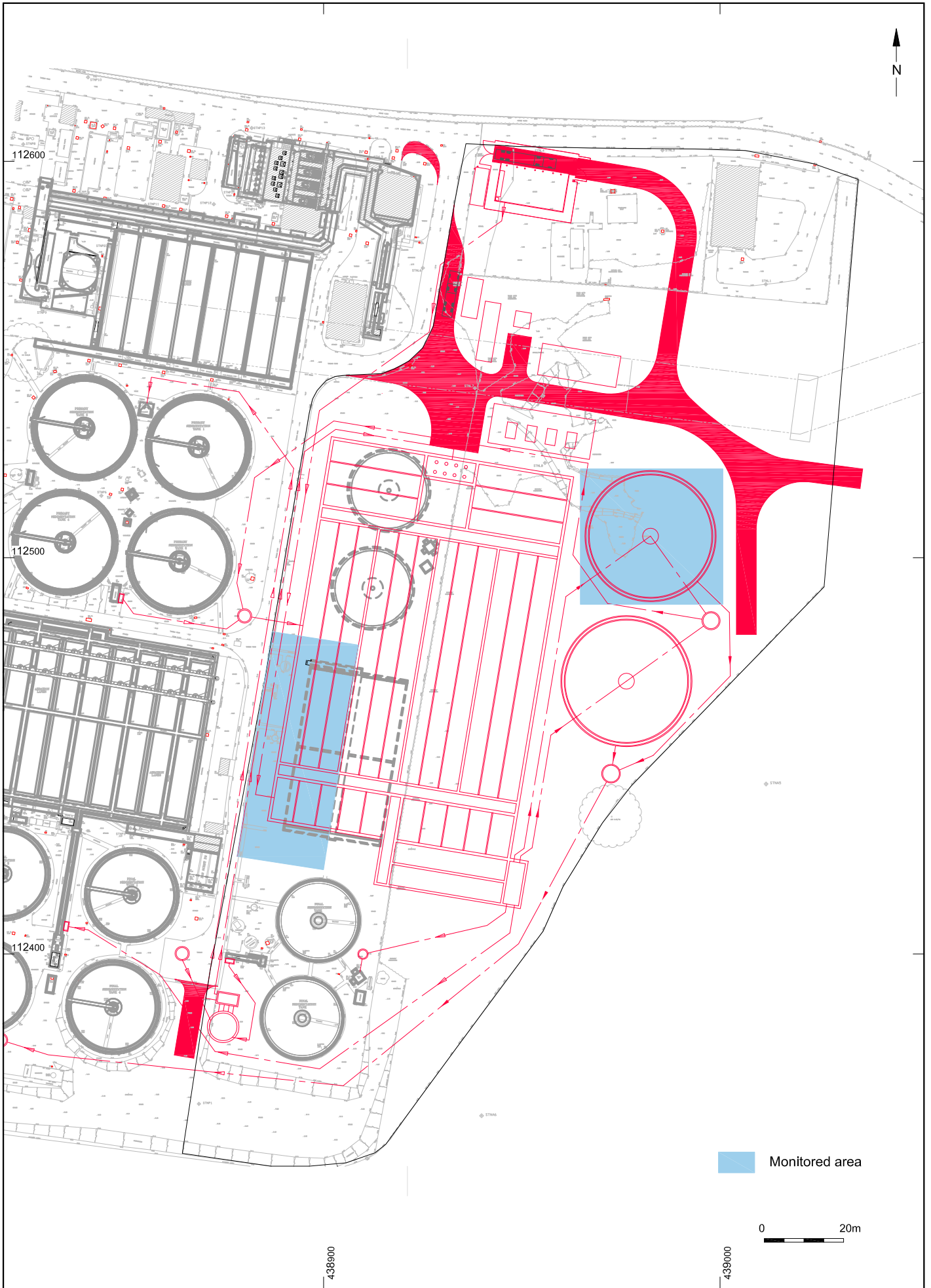
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© Archaeology South-East		Millbrook WWTW, Southampton	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 4868	April 2012	Site plan	
Report Ref: 2012092	Drawn by: JLR		

Head Office
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex BN41 1DR
Tel: +44(0)1273 426830 Fax: +44(0)1273 420866
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
Web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk



London Office
Centre for Applied Archaeology
Institute of Archaeology
University College London
31-34 Gordon Square, London, WC1 0PY
Tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778
Fax: +44(0)20 7383 2572
Web: www.ucl.ac.uk/caa

The contracts division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London 

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