

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Appledore Waste Treatment Waterworks
Appledore, Kent, TN26 2AH**

**NGR: TQ 95763 29839
NGR: 595763 129839**

**ASE Project No: 5367
Site Code: APP 06**

**ASE Report No: 2012108
OASIS ID: archaeol6-125574**

By Dylan Hopkinson MA

May 2012

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East were commissioned by 4Delivery Ltd to carry out an archaeological watching brief on land at Appledore Waste Treatment Waterworks, Appledore, Kent during the construction of upgraded waste water treatment facilities including a large reed bed filtration system and associated pipework and inspection chambers. The work was undertaken between 13th March 2012 and 15th March 2012.

No archaeological artefacts or features were identified during the monitoring of these works which involved the stripping of deposits down to natural across the site. No remains of medieval Appledore were found.

The underlying geology is Tunbridge Wells Sand and was identified across the site at a depth of between 0.50m and 0.95m BGL. The site was sealed by made ground and mid brown clayey silt topsoil reflecting apparent truncation of the natural deposits in the southern half of the site. It is likely that earlier groundworks relating to the waste water treatment works are responsible for this.

CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Archaeological Background**
- 3.0 Archaeological Methodology**
- 4.0 Results**
- 5.0 Discussion**

Bibliography
Acknowledgements

HER Summary Form
OASIS Summary Form

TABLES

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site location
Figure 2: Trench location

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) a division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA) at the Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by 4Delivery Ltd (hereafter referred to as the client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land at Appledore Waste Treatment Waterworks, Appledore, Kent (NGR 595763 129839; Figures 1 and 2) during the construction of upgraded waste water treatment facilities including a large reed bed filtration system and associated pipework and inspection chambers.

1.2 Location and Geology

1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey 1:50,000 series map for the area (Sheet 304: Tenterden) the underlying geology at the site is Tunbridge Wells Sand, although a capping of alluvium and peat is recorded nearby.

1.2.2 The site is situated to the north east of Appledore and to the west of a section of the Royal Military Canal. The town of Appledore lies on a slightly raised plateau just above the flood plain, at c. 10m AOD.

1.2.3 The site comprises a field of former pasture land set in an agricultural landscape and on a gently undulating slope from higher ground in the north down to lower levels in the south.

1.3 Scope of the report

1.3.1 This report provides an account of the archaeological watching brief. The work was undertaken between 13th March 2012 and 15th March 2012 by Dylan Hopkinson (Archaeologist).

1.3.2 The fieldwork was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and the post-excavation analysis was managed by Dan Swift (Project Manager).

1.4 Planning Background

- 1.4.1 Planning permission has been granted by Kent County Council (KCC) for the creation of a reed bed and associated pipeworks and inspection chambers as part of the upgrading of the waste water treatment facilities.
- 1.4.2 Due to the potential disturbance of below ground archaeological remains, at the request of the Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council (HCGKCC) a condition was attached to the planning consent as follows:

“No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a watching brief to be undertaken by an archaeologist approved by the Local Planning Authority so that the excavation is observed and items of interest and finds are recorded. The watching brief shall be in accordance with a written programme and specification, which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.”

- 1.4.3 A *Specification for an archaeological watching brief in Kent* was produced by KCC (KCC 2011). This document outlined the methodologies to be used during monitoring at the site, and in the subsequent reporting and archiving of the results.

1.5 Aims and Objectives

- 1.5.1 The general objective of the archaeological work was to record, interpret and report on any archaeological remains exposed during the groundworks to appropriate archaeological standards (*ibid.*).
- 1.4.2 The watching brief was also designed to assess the past impacts on the site and to pay particular attention to the character, height/depth below ground level, condition, date and significance of any encountered deposits.
- 1.4.3 Specifically, the aims of the watching brief were to attempt to identify remains of medieval date that are expected to exist in Appledore but that have so far largely eluded detection.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site lies towards the north east of Appledore. Although Appledore is now a village, it is considered to have been an important medieval market town and possible medieval settlement. It was covered in the Kent Historic Towns survey (KCC/EH 2003). Appledore is typical of many small medieval towns in England, in that as yet there has been no significant archaeological research. Thus, little is known about the extent of surviving sub-surface archaeological deposits. Most study is based on documentary evidence, secondary published sources and analysis of settlement topography.
- 2.2 The Anglo Saxon Chronicle relates that in 892 the Danes sailed with 250 ships into the mouth of the River Limen or Lympe (River Rother). The following year 'the great host which had been encamped at Appledore at the mouth of the Lympe' is mentioned. However, there are no visible remains of an earthwork in or around the town. By the 10th Century there were a manor and a church at Appledore. The Domesday Book indicates that there was also a fairly large secular settlement there by 1086, which probably had its roots in the Saxon period.
- 2.3 The Rhee Wall, a medieval canal linking Appledore with the important medieval port of New Romney, terminates here implying the significance of Appledore as a trading centre.
- 2.4 The site lies to the west of the Royal Military Canal. This is an 18th/early 19th century military structure built specifically in response to the threat of an invasion from Napoleon and constructed in association with other military structures such as the Martello Towers. The Canal actually consists of a water channel, parallel drains, an embankment and military road on the northern side. Due to its strategic location, the canal also supports a number of WWII pill boxes. The Royal Military Canal is a scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM Kent 396).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Methodology

- 3.1.1 The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the specification (KCC 2011).
- 3.1.2 All groundworks were monitored down to the natural geology.
- 3.1.3 These works were recorded by an archaeologist to assess the level of archaeological survival.
- 3.1.4 All archaeological deposits were recorded using ASE standard context sheets, with colours recorded by visual inspection.
- 3.1.5 Section drawings of the excavated profiles were drawn at a scale of 1:10, sample section drawings of the overlying deposits were also drawn at 1:10 scale on plastic drafting film, and a full photographic record was made recording all features and contexts.
- 3.1.6 Six areas of groundwork were monitored including the area of the reed bed, three inspection chambers and two areas of pipe trenching.

3.2 Site archive

- 3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be offered to the local museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Context Sheets	8
Photographic Record Sheets	1
Photographs	27
No. of files/paper record	1

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS (Figure 2)

4.0.1 No archaeological features or artefacts were encountered during the archaeological watching brief.

4.1 Natural

4.1.1 The natural deposits identified were soft pale orangey brown silty sand that was identified 0.50m below the current ground level across the higher ground of the northern part of the site (3/003; 4/003; 6/003; 8/003), and bluish grey silty sand at a depth of 0.95m identified in the lower southern part of the site (5/005; 7/005); these deposits were interpreted as Tunbridge Wells Sand. There was a 1.35m difference between the levels of the natural in these areas.

4.2 Overburden

4.2.1 The site can be broadly divided into two areas; the higher topography to the north where monitored works 3, 4, 6 and 8 were located, and the lower topography to the south of the site where monitored works 5 and 7 were located. There was a difference of roughly 1.00 metre in elevation between these two areas.

4.2.2 The higher topography.

Monitored groundworks in the northern part of the site showed that Tunbridge Wells Sand was sealed by a deposit of soft pale brown clayey silts up to 0.30m thick (3/002; 4/002; 6/002; 8/002) this was interpreted as a sterile subsoil and was in turn sealed by soft mid brown clayey silts with occasional gravels that was up to 0.20m thick and was interpreted as the turf / topsoil (3/001; 4/001; 6/001; 7/001).

4.2.3 The lower topography.

Monitored groundworks in the southern part of the site showed that the natural here had been truncated down to the bluish grey anaerobic deposition levels. The natural was sealed below 0.95m of overburden including three distinct layers of made ground (5/004, 7/004; 5/003, 7/003; and 5/002, 7/002) these deposits were clearly of no archaeological interest as they contained occasional large pieces of building rubble and modern metalwork. The made ground was sealed below up to 0.25m thick deposit of topsoil and turf (5/001; 7/001).

5.0 DISCUSSION

- 5.1 No artefacts or features were recorded at the site and no remains of medieval Appledore were found.
- 5.2 Apparent truncation of the natural deposits in the southern half of the site was indicated by the bluish grey tint of the deposits and the 1.35m difference in elevation of the identified natural horizon. It is likely that earlier groundworks relating to the waste water treatment works are responsible for removing the oxidised upper pale orangey brown levels of the Tunbridge Wells Sand.
- 5.3 The methodology was successful in assessing the nature of archaeological survival on the site.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

KCC 2011. Specification for an archaeological watching brief in Kent

KCC/EH 2003. Kent Historic Towns Survey. Appledore. Archaeological Assessment Document. September 2003.

CARTOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

British Geological Survey 1:50,000 series map, Sheet 304: Tenterden

INTERNET SOURCES

BGS 2012 *Geology of Britain viewer*
http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html. Accessed 4 5 12

Acknowledgements

ASE would like to thank 4Delivery Ltd for commissioning the work and Wendy Rogers of WSCC for her guidance throughout the project.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	APP 06					
Identification Name and Address	Appledore Waste Treatment Waterworks, The Street, Appledore, Kent, TN26 2AH					
County, District &/or Borough	Kent					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 595763 129839					
Geology	Tunbrige Wells Sand					
Arch. South-East Project Number	5367					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	<u>Excav.</u>	Watching brief. ✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field ✓	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	W.B. 13-03-12 to 15-03-12	Other		
Sponsor/Client	4Delivery Ltd					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Dylan Hopkinson					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern	None ✓	
<p>Summary</p> <p>Archaeology South-East were commissioned by 4Delivery Ltd to carry out an archaeological watching brief on land at Appledore Waste Treatment Waterworks, Appledore, Kent during the construction of upgraded waste water treatment facilities including a large reed bed filtration system and associated pipework and inspection chambers. The work was undertaken between 13th March 2012 and 15th March 2012.</p> <p>No archaeological artefacts or features were identified during the monitoring of these works which involved the stripping of deposits down to natural across the site. No remains of medieval Appledore were found.</p> <p>The underlying geology is Tunbridge Wells Sand and was identified across the site at a depth of between 0.50m and 0.95m BGL. The site was sealed by made ground and mid brown clayey silt topsoil reflecting apparent truncation of the natural deposits in the southern half of the site. It is likely that earlier groundworks relating to the waste water treatment works are responsible for this.</p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-125574

Project details

Project name	Watching Brief at Appledore WTW
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East were commissioned by 4Delivery Ltd to carry out an archaeological watching brief on land at Appledore Waste Treatment Waterworks, Appledore, Kent during the construction of upgraded waste water treatment facilities including a large reed bed filtration system and associated pipework and inspection chambers. The work was undertaken between 13th March 2012 and 15th March 2012. No archaeological artefacts or features were identified during the monitoring of these works which involved the stripping of deposits down to natural across the site. No remains of medieval Appledore were found. The underlying geology is Tunbridge Wells Sand and was identified across the site at a depth of between 0.50m and 0.95m BGL. The site was sealed by made ground and mid brown clayey silt topsoil reflecting apparent truncation of the natural deposits in the southern half of the site. It is likely that earlier groundworks relating to the waste water treatment works are responsible for this.
Project dates	Start: 13-03-2012 End: 15-03-2012
Any associated project reference codes	APP 06 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT ASHFORD APPLIEDORE Appledore WTW
Postcode	TN26 2AH
Study area	4000.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 95763 29839 51.0339095952 0.792394668557 51 02 02 N 000 47 32 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 9.05m Max: 9.50m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Kent County Council

Project design originator	Kent County Council
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	Dylan Hopkinson
Type of sponsor/funding body	4D Ltd
Name of sponsor/funding body	4D Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Archive ID	APP 06
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Archive ID	APP 06
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'
Digital Media available	'Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Archive ID	APP 06
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Drawing','Photograph','Plan','Report'

Project bibliography 1

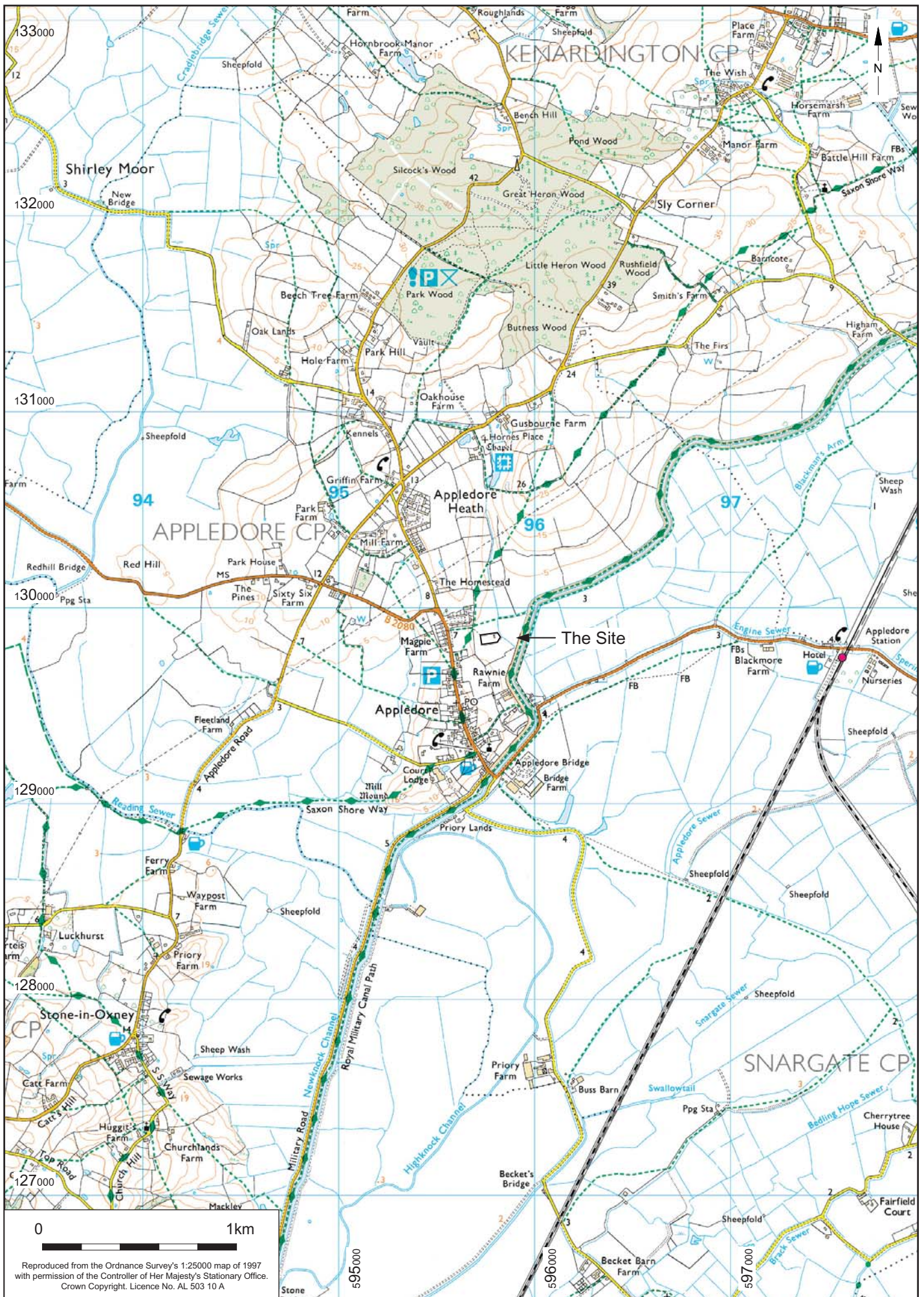
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Watching Brief Report Appledore Waste Treatment Waterworks
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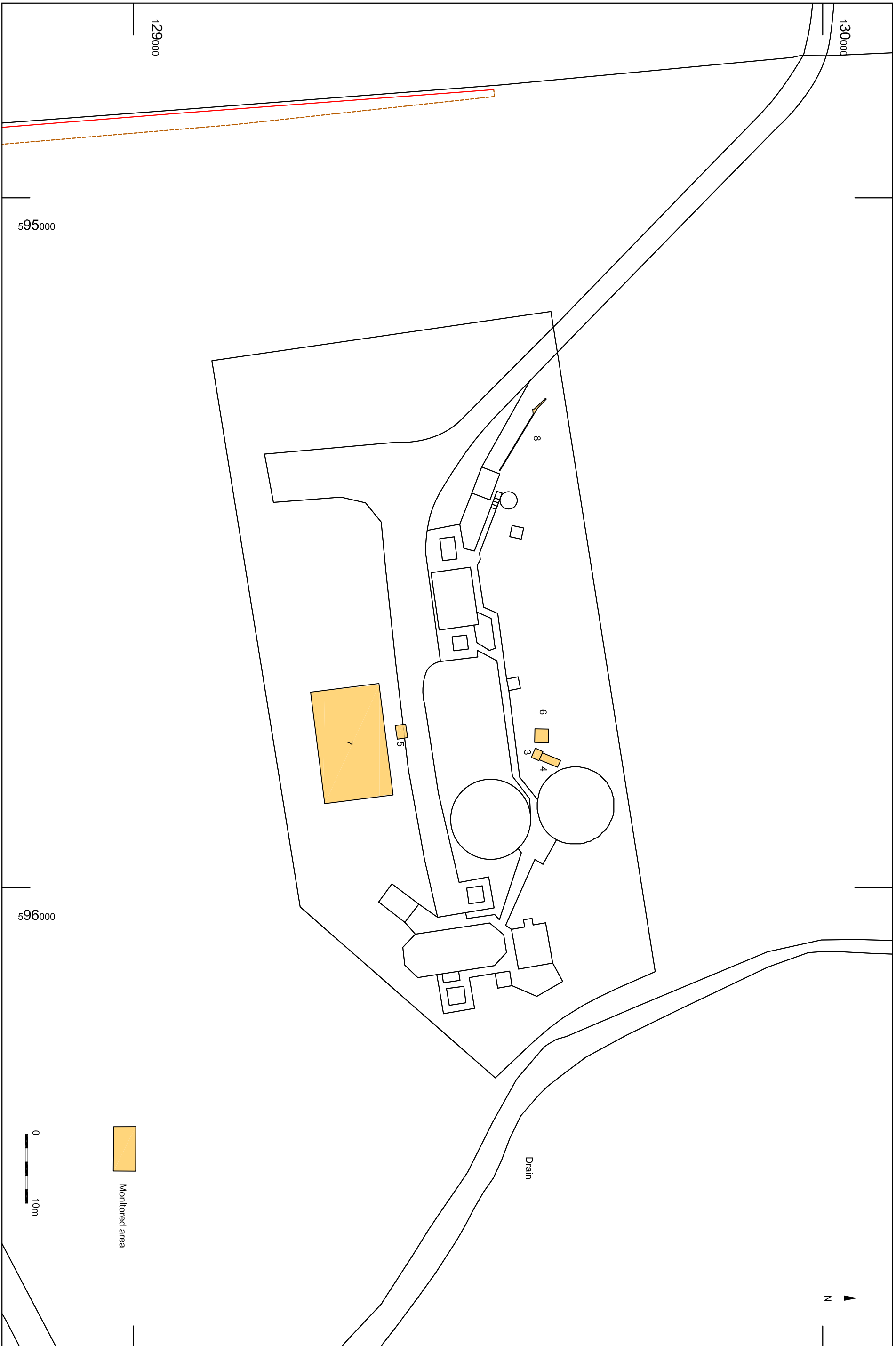
Description grey lit bound rep

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Entered on 10 May 2012



© Archaeology South-East		Appledore WTW, Kent		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 5367	May 2012	Site location		
Report Ref: 2012108	Drawn by: AR			



© Archaeology South-East		Appledore WTW, Kent	
Project Ref: 5367	May 2012	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2012/108	Drawn by: AR		

Fig. 2

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