

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Land North of Tanyard Lane
Winchelsea, East Sussex
TN36 4JY**

**NGR: TQ 90689 17671
NGR: 590689 117671**

**ASE Project No: 5698
Site Code: TLW 12**

**ASE Report No: 2012209
OASIS ID: archaeol6-139142**



By Dylan Hopkinson MA

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**With contributions by Gemma Ayton, Luke Barber, Trista Clifford, Dawn
Mooney, Susan Pringle and Elke Raemen**

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East were commissioned by Balfour Beatty Mott MacDonald to carry out an archaeological watching brief on land north of Tanyard Lane, Winchelsea, East Sussex (NGR 590689 117671) during the construction of a flood alleviation drainage scheme between Tanyard Lane and the River Brede. The work was undertaken between 10th September 2012 and 11th October 2012.

The underlying geology is Ashdown Formation sandstone, siltstone and mudstone overlain by tidal flat deposits of clay and silt. The site lies at an average 3.9m AOD.

A number of worked timbers were identified within the waterborne riverside deposits that may have related to waterfront structures in the vicinity, however they were not found in situ and it is not clear what their original age or function may have been.

Closer to Tanyard Lane in the driveway of one property a different depositional sequence was observed that may have been the result of dredging. The transition between the waterborne river sequence and these deposits is sudden but not clearly understood as the transitional zone was heavily disturbed by pre-existing services and drains.

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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) at the Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by Balfour Beatty Mott MacDonald (hereafter referred to as the client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land north of Tanyard Lane, Winchelsea, East Sussex, TN36 4JY (NGR 590689 117671; Figures 1 and 2) during the construction of a flood alleviation drainage scheme between Tanyard Lane and the River Brede.

1.2 Location and Geology

1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey 1:50,000 series map for the area (Sheet No. 320/321, Hastings & Dungeness) the underlying geology at the site is Ashdown Formation sandstone, siltstone and mudstone overlain by tidal flat deposits of clay and silt.

1.2.2 The site is situated between the northern side of the A259 Tanyard Lane and the River Brede, close to the 'Wattle Cottage' and 'Rye View' dwellings, at an average elevation of c. 3.9m AOD.

1.2.3 The site comprises a small field of riverside pasture land set in an agricultural landscape and continues southwards towards the A259 along the drive of 'Rye View'. The majority of this area lies on reclaimed land in the floodplain of the River Brede.

1.3 Scope of the report

1.3.1 This report provides an account of the archaeological watching brief. The work was undertaken between 10th September 2012 and 11th October 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 Jim Stevenson (Project Manager).

1.4 Planning Background

- 1.4.1 The proposed flood alleviation works consisted of the open-cut excavation of a drainage pipeline trench 0.6m wide and up to 1.6m deep; construction of an oil interceptor pit; and topsoil strip around the headwall and onto the edge of the River Brede to allow for re-profiling of the river bank.
- 1.4.2 The site is situated within Winchelsea Cinque Port Town Archaeological Notification Area (DES8971), designated by Rother District Council.
- 1.4.3 An *Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation* was produced by Mott MacDonald (2012). 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 site is situated on reclaimed land in the floodplain of the River Brede, possibly in close proximity to the medieval harbour, and as such there was the potential that associated archaeological finds / features may be impacted by the works.
- 1.5.2 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.
- 1.5.3 The recording aimed to characterise the nature, date, complexity and extent of any deposits which were encountered.
- 1.5.4 This preserved the archaeological resource 'by record' and offset the loss of the historic resource caused by the development.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The following information is derived from a 1km radius search of the East Sussex Historic Environment Record (HER) centred on the site. This information first appeared in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Mott MacDonald 2012) and is reproduced here with due acknowledgement. The HER search identified three Scheduled Monuments and 21 Listed Buildings. Use has also been made of www.winchelsea.net and also of historical information drawn largely from the work of Martin and Martin (2004).
- 2.2 There are no World Heritage Sites, Parks and Gardens, Battlefields or Protected Wrecks within 1km of the site.
- 2.3 There are no pre-medieval remains recorded within 1km of the site, however, this may be a reflection of the fact that the area has not been subject to a large number of archaeological investigations.
- 2.4 The original town of Winchelsea was founded on the south coast as a fishing settlement during the Late Saxon period. The town was one of the Cinque Ports, a historic series of coastal towns in Kent and Sussex, originally formed for military and trade purposes. As such the town was granted certain privileges associated with cinque port status: in exchange for providing ships to the king (for warfare or passage) the ports were granted 'freedom from toll, lessage, passage and similar taxes and duties; exemption from the jurisdiction of local courts; the right to levy local taxes, to hold their own courts and punish offenders' and was more influential and powerful than its neighbour Rye.
- 2.5 Increasingly stormy weather of the 12th and 13th centuries ensured that Winchelsea could not maintain its position on the south coast as a series of devastating floods inundated the town during the mid-13th century. In 1281 King Edward I issued instructions to his steward, Ralph of Sandwich, to transfer the town to an alternative site, on Iham Hill, requiring the purchase lands belonging to a pre-existing medieval manor on the site. The new town of Winchelsea was first laid out in 1283 as a planned town. The main economic focus of the town was wine importation.
- 2.6 The majority of the town's area is designated as Scheduled Monument (DES8285) due to the excellent preservation of the 'new town' layout and its structures.
- 2.7 The new town quickly became a significant population centre and one of the most successful trading centres on the south coast. However it was geographically cut off from the mainland to the north by the estuary of the River Brede. Only two roads linked Winchelsea with its south-western hinterland, the most important of which is preserved in the ENE/SSW stretch of the A259 to the south-west of the town. This road may have existed before the foundation of the new town, and clearly influenced the layout of the original late 13th century street grid.

- 2.8 The current development area lies to the north of the historic town in the area of the medieval harbour on the River Brede (Figure 3). The northern part of the pipeline trench may have lain within the medieval course of the river but its southern extent crosses the southern river bank, where the harbour was situated. This area would have lain just beyond the town wall and defences between The Ferry Gate (also known as Pipewell Gate) and The Strand Gate. The former is a Scheduled Monument (DES8256) situated c. 300m from the current site.
- 2.9 At the foundation of the town, the northern waterfront area included a large number of harbour plots with private access to the river. Many of these were abandoned by the mid 14th century, whilst the town as a whole was still prospering. This probably indicates that the narrow tidal nature of the Brede made access at this point increasingly difficult, meaning that there would have been increasing reliance on the town's common quay, located just to the east of the development area (Martin & Martin 2004, 36-37).
- 2.10 The upper reaches of the River Brede, upon which the town was now sited, gradually silted up and the harbour became impossible to use and as a result the influence of the town steadily decreased between 1350 and 1525. Relatively little historical evidence survives regarding the use of the waterfront area in the period after the town's decline. The area of open land known as the Strand appears to have been home to a store house and an area of workshops relating to fishing and shipping in the 16th century (Martin & Martin 2004, 38). There is also reference to waste ground and small lanes in the area.
- 2.11 The Historic Landscape Character data indicates that the southern end of the site is situated on 'expansion' land developed during the early 20th century (HES 37909) and the north-western side is characterised as 'Formal Enclosure (planned/private)' dated to the 17th and 18th centuries (HES38046). The cartographic data indicates that prior to the construction of the residential dwellings at the site, the entire site comprised of formal enclosure.
- 2.11 Little Malt Cottage and the Old Malthouse (DES3124) are Grade II Listed Buildings situated some c75m to the east of the site. The Old Malthouse is 18th century or earlier but contains reused medieval masonry though it is not clear whether it was robbed from the town wall or a nearby building, Little Malt Cottage dates to the 19th century.
- 2.12 The Royal Military Canal is situated to the south-east of the site and comprises a canalised stretch of the Rivers Brede and Rother (MES4112). The canal was constructed between 1804 and 1807 to defend against possible Napoleonic invasion.
- 2.13 Historic maps of Winchelsea have been consulted and information relevant to the site is presented in Table 1 below.

Cartographic source	Date	Description
Winchelsea late 13th century street layout (after Martin & Martin 2004, Fig 4.2)	Late 13th century	The original 39 quarters of the town are shown on this reconstructed map. The site is situated to the north of the town. Tanyard Lane is shown and forms the boundary of the town, however the name of the road is probably included in this map in order to allow the modern viewer to get their bearings rather than actually being called Tanyard Lane – a later map does not have this name and the tanning yard is not present until the post-medieval period. Pipe Well Gate is situated to the south-west of the site. The approximate shoreline of the River Brede is presented and indicates that the site would have been largely submerged at this time. An area identified as 'salts' is marked to the west which likely marks the location of saltworking industry. The Ferry is situated on the north-eastern corner of the salts. A quay is marked at the Strand to the east of the site
Winchelsea (after Martin & Martin 2004, Fig 4.13)	Mid 14 th century	The map indicates that marsh reclamation had begun– small strips of land are marked along the northern side of Tanyard Lane, and though the site is still largely shown as under water, the very southern part is shown as reclaimed land.
Winchelsea (after W.M Homan 2005)	14th century	The area along the south bank of the River Brede is shown as Harbour P _____ and Tanyard Lane is not marked.
Ordnance Survey Sussex	1874	Field boundary running along the current plot boundary. A small roughly square plot is located in the area of the Sunny Side and Wattle Cottage with mature trees and shrubs. No building identified.
Ordnance Survey Sussex	1898	A small structure is now shown in the area of the former square-ish plot (now no longer shown). An irregular and possibly temporary boundary is shown in the southern third of the field to the west of the field boundary.
Ordnance Survey Sussex	1929	Rows of houses (terraced) are now shown on both east and west sides of the field boundary. Rye Cottage, set back from the rows of terraces fronting the road, is also present.
Ordnance Survey Sussex	1938-9	No significant change
Ordnance Survey Sussex	1961-2	No significant change
Ordnance Survey Sussex	1977	No significant change
Ordnance Survey Sussex	1981-2	No significant change

Table 1: Historic maps of Winchelsea

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Methodology

- 3.1.1 The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the specification (Mott MacDonald 2012).
- 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 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 (Figure 2).

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 2).

Number of Context Sheets	12
Photographic Record Sheets	1
Photographs	83
No. of files/paper record	1

Table 2: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS (Figures 4 and 5)

4.1 Summary

4.1.1 No archaeological 'cut' features were encountered during the archaeological watching brief, however, a number of driven stakes and isolated timbers were recorded within the alluvial deposits adjacent to the River Brede.

4.2 Natural and riverine deposits

4.2.1 The natural deposits identified were mid to pale orangey brown sands and river gravels [005]. Overlying these was a layer of mid greyish brown sandy silts containing frequent gravels and river worn stones up to 0.20m in diameter forming the bank of the river [003]. This deposit increased in thickness rapidly at a distance of 20 to 24m perpendicular from the current river bank, and this is interpreted as part of the preserved river-bank. This is not, strictly speaking, a natural stratum deposited by purely geological or environmental processes; however this context is thought to have been largely deposited in a riverine environment rather than by intended or accidental human action. Incorporated within the deposit are small quantities of CBM tentatively dated to c.1400 to 1600, and several timbers that may have been washed into position or in two instances intentionally driven into the deposit at a later date to consolidate it.

4.2.2 A thick deposit of light brown alluvium, [002], overlay the river bank deposits; these became paler and finer with depth. A single fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem was recovered from sample <001> (context [002]) and was dated to the mid 18th to early 19th centuries.

4.2.3 Deposit [001], a firm mid brown silty sand up to 0.20m thick overlay the sequence; this was interpreted as degraded alluvium that was disturbed and rooted by grass.

4.3 Timbers

4.3.1 A number of timbers were identified within the deposits either in the alluvium [002] or river bank deposits, [003]. These are discussed below.

Driven post

4.3.2 A large well preserved wooden timber <T4> (context [004]) with circular section was identified that had been driven into the sequence already described. The timber was 2.88m long and 0.13m in diameter (Figure 10). The lower 0.90m had been sharpened to a gently tapering point with a square section.

4.3.3 The top of this timber was identified in the lower levels of the alluvium (context [002]) and had been driven deep into the river bank deposits (context [003]). This driven post was positioned close to the location where the river bank deposits rapidly increased in depth and is thought to have been either a mooring post or revetment timber to consolidate the riverbank in antiquity. No datable material was recovered in direct association with the timber; however ceramics were recovered from the deposits into which the post was driven. Ceramic Building Material from the underlying river bank deposits [003] was tentatively dated to c.1400 to 1600, while the overlying alluvium contained CBM dated to 1600 to 1800 with 13th to 14th century material.

Horizontal timbers

- 4.3.4 Two horizontally laid timbers were identified within the pipe trench towards the bottom of the river bank deposit (context [003]), and close to the natural river gravels (context [005]). These timbers were given context numbers [006] and [007] in the field. Both timbers crossed the engineering trench at right angles, roughly parallel with the current river bank at this point, however the trench was only 0.80m wide and the true alignment or significance of this could not be discerned.
- 4.3.5 The first timber (context [006]) was given the timber number <T3> in post-excavation. This was 0.20m wide, 0.15m deep and appeared to be a small trunk or branch with its bark still intact and with no signs of reduction or working (Figure 10).
- 4.3.6 The second timber (context [007]) was 0.23m wide and 0.18m deep and could not be recorded in detail due to the poorly supported trench sides.
- 4.3.7 Both of these timbers were thought likely to have been washed into position and deposited by the river water within the river bank deposits rather than being purposefully placed into position as part of a structure.
- 4.3.8 Four oak timbers were recovered within the excavation of the oil interceptor pit from the deposit that made up the former river bank (context [003]). Two of these (timber numbers <T2> and <T5>) were identified in association with each other and were recorded in the field with the context number [008]; the other two timbers were recovered by machine from the bank deposits [003] at a lower depth (timber numbers <T1> and <T6>). All of these timbers are thought to have been borne by the river to their burial location, rather than representing *in situ* structures.
- 4.3.9 Timber <T5> was a large tangentially converted or box halved plank measuring 1.25m x 0.25m x 0.08m. It had been sawn diagonally at one end and may have originally been of a trapezoidal shape. No fixings or joints were observed on this piece.
- 4.3.10 Timber <T2> was a large squared timber with chamfered edges and several peg holes, measuring 2.40m in length by 0.30m in diameter (Figures 6-9). Numerous slots were identified and at one end a tongue joint with a peg hole. Saw marks were also observed across the timber on one surface.
- 4.3.11 Timber <T6> was smaller than the other timbers from context [003] measuring 0.75m x 0.14m x 0.10m. This timber had a notch and slot at one end; the wood specialist suggested it may have been associated with timber <T2> due to the similarity of the slots.
- 4.3.12 David Martin was asked to comment on timber <T2> to aid interpretation in the light of his knowledge of timber framing in Winchelsea, his comments are summarised below

- 4.3.13 Slots 2-6 on Timber <T2> (Figure 6) are mortises formed by drilling two holes and cutting out the intervening wood; this type of minor mortice is usually intended to fix a timber of light scantling into a structure after the fabrication of the frame. Such mortises are not intended to secure structural members within a frame. In the standard method adopted in this area for infilling the frames of buildings, this type of mortice is used to fix the heads staves which in turn support either lath-and-daub or wattle-and-daub infill, and can be dated to any period from AD 1300-1700 onwards.
- 4.3.14 If slots 2-6 were used as minor mortises for frame infilling then, timber <T2> would have been intended as a horizontal beam rather than a post. However if this was the case it would be natural to expect either a wattle groove or rafter birdsmouths to have been cut in the opposing face: that containing slots 7-9. Their absence on timber <T2> is a factor against the timber having ever formed part of a conventional building.
- 4.3.15 The same type of minor mortice was also used for fixing the horizontal rails in rail fences and for other similar uses, and if that was the intended purpose here, then timber <T2> could have been a post.
- 4.3.16 Slots 8-9 are interesting as they are more roughly formed than slots 2-6, this may favour an interpretation that the timber was reused, with these two slots being cut subsequent to slots 2-6. The reuse of timbers is a not an uncommon phenomenon in a quayside context.
- 4.3.17 Slot 1 is a mortice for a brace which would have jointed into the timber that articulated with the tenon on the end of the timber, secured by peg-hole 3. This would suggest either a headbrace (bracing the top of a frame) or a footbrace (bracing the bottom of a frame), and would function in the same way regardless of whether the timber was horizontal or vertical.
- 4.3.18 The evidence in general does not suggest that the timber is part of a quayside retaining wall structure since the timbers fitted into slots 2-6 would not have been strong enough to hold back the weight of soil, nor is the timber consistent with being part of the below-platform element of a jetty-like structure since there would be no need for either rails or wattle/lath infill in such a location.
- 4.3.19 However, an upstanding element to either type of structure, some form of framed superstructure containing a railed division cannot be ruled out.

4.4 Deposits in the driveway

- 4.4.1 The observations made in the driveway of Rye View are significantly different to the river gravels and alluvium identified in the riverside paddock. All the observed works in the driveway revealed a deposit, [010], of firm fine grained dark grey clayey silt with occasional gravels and charcoal. The transition from the alluvium and gravel sequence to the dark silts occurred on the property boundary and appeared to be vertical; however the location of the transition was heavily disturbed by previous services and the existing storm drain. The true relationship of these sequences could not be discerned.
- 4.4.2 Pottery and glass recovered from sample <004> context [010] suggest a mid 19th- to early 20th- century date.

- 4.4.3 No observations were made over the top half of the driveway, closer to the road, as the proposed course of the new pipework was constrained by existing services and the new works were modified to run within the existing storm drain without further disturbance to the stratigraphy.

5.0 FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was collected during the watching brief:

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Bone	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)
002			3	338				
003			4	14				
005			5	154				
010	2	76	14	2708	1	302		
010 from sample <004>	3	262	1	148			3	124
Total	5	338	27	3362	1	302	3	124

Table 3: Quantification of finds

5.2 Pottery by Luke Barber

5.2.1 A small assemblage of fresh sherds was recovered from context [010]. The group is dominated by three pieces (263g) from a large light grey English stoneware bottle with Bristol glaze. The other sherds consist of a partial base from an unglazed earthenware flower pot (69g) and the rim edge from a transfer-printed serving dish with willow pattern design. Taken together, a mid 19th- to very early 20th- century date is suggested.

5.2.2 The assemblage does not hold any potential for further analysis and has been discarded.

5.3 CBM by Susan Pringle

Introduction

5.3.1 Ceramic building materials were examined from four contexts, [002], [003], [005] and [010]. The watching brief produced 45 fragments of brick and tile with a total weight of 6.036 kg. The date range of the building material was medieval to post-medieval: Table 4 summarises the date and content of each context. Samples of the brick and tile fabrics have been retained and the remainder of the material discarded.

Context	Context date (approx.)	Material
002	1600-1800, residual 13th/14th century	Post-medieval roof and floor tile, residual medieval brick
003	c. 1400-1600, but poorly dated	Peg tile, probably late medieval or post-medieval; Flemish-type bricks, some possibly residual
005	1500-1850	Post-medieval peg tile
010	1750-1850, residual 13th/14th century	Post-medieval peg tile and frogged brick, residual Flemish brick

Table 4: Approximate CBM date ranges

Medieval brick

5.3.2 Soft-textured bricks in yellow and light red calcareous fabrics were recorded from contexts [002], [003] and [010]. The light red bricks, all of which were fragmentary, were 70-93mm wide and 38-48 mm thick (MoL fabric 3208). The example from context [002] was very abraded and may have been water-worn. These bricks are likely to have been Flemish imports and are thought to date from c. AD 1270 to 1400. Also probably Flemish was the light yellow brick (MoL fabric 3031) in context [003]. Flemish bricks were present in south-east England from at least the mid 14th century, but the dimensions of this brick, 209 mm x 99 mm x c.50 mm, suggested that it may have dated to the 15th century. In his discussion of the use of Flemish bricks in England from the late thirteenth century on, Drury stated: "These bricks were not normally used in England to form brickwork, to create brick buildings, but as the backing to stone facing, an ingredient of rubble walls, and sometimes for infilling vaulting cells or other specialised purposes such as flues" (Drury 2000, 60). Bricks may also have been used as ships' ballast.

Post-medieval brick

5.3.3 Two fragments of brick with shallow frogs came from context [010]. They had an orange-red, fairly soft fabric with inclusions of fine quartz and silt, coarse white calcium carbonate, possibly shell, and red iron-rich material (fabric B1); one fragment was reduced. One brick was 110 mm wide and 69 mm thick, the other 71 mm thick. They were probably produced in the 18th or early 19th century.

Late medieval/post-medieval roof tile

5.3.4 Peg tile was present in all four contexts although most was not well-dated. None of the roof tile was glazed, which suggests that it was later medieval, post c. AD 1400, or early post-medieval. Small, diagonally set, square nail-holes, usually found on post-medieval tiles, were noted on certain tiles in fabrics T1 and T5 in context [010]. A fragmentary curved tile, either ridge or hip tile, in fabric T4 came from context [010]. Tile fabric descriptions are set out in Table 5.

Fabric	Description	Context	Number	Wt. (g)
T1	Hard orange fabric, fine texture, with fine calcareous speckle, coarse calcareous inclusions and voids. Sparse dark red iron-rich material. Fine moulding sand	002, 005, 010	11	688
T2	Orange fabric; common fine quartz with fine calcareous speckle. Moderate coarse/very coarse red iron-rich inclusions. Fine moulding sand	003	4	48
T3	Orange-red fabric, poorly mixed clean clay with bands containing common medium quartz and calcium carbonate. Medium moulding sand	003	7	7
T4	Similar to fabric T3, but better mixed. Sparse to moderate coarse quartz, no calcium carbonate. Medium moulding sand with black speckle	005, 010	5	316
T5	Orange fabric, cream silty streaks, coarse/very coarse orange and red siltstone inclusions, lacks quartz	010	2	309
Total			29	1368

Table 5: Roof tile fabrics by fragment count, weight and context

Floor tile

- 5.3.5 A corner fragment of unglazed floor tile, 31 mm thick, with knife-cut bevelled sites, not much worn, came from context [010]. The fabric was orange-red with abundant fine quartz and calcareous inclusions and sparse to moderate coarse iron-rich inclusions (fabric FT1). Though not well-dated, the tile is unlikely to pre-date c. AD 1600.

Summary

- 5.3.6 Although the building materials were of mixed date, contexts [002], [003] and [010] contained residual medieval Flemish bricks, possibly dating to the early decades of the re-founded town. The post-medieval tile is not well-dated, but there is nothing, including the frogged bricks in context [10], which necessarily post-dates c. AD 1800.

5.4 Bone by Gemma Ayton

- 5.4.1 Three fragments of animal bone have been recovered from context [010], [002], sample <001> and <002>. Context [010] contains a large fragment of horse metatarsal, and context [002] contains a proximal end of a cattle metatarsal and one, small unidentifiable fragment. There is no evidence of butchery, burning, gnawing or pathology on the bone.
- 5.4.2 Due to the size of the assemblage there is no potential for further analysis and no further work is required.

5.5 Shell by Trista Clifford

- 5.5.1 Marine mollusc was retrieved from environmental samples <001> to <004>. Six different species are represented.
- 5.5.2 Sample <001> [002] contained small fragments of *Ostrea edulis* (common oyster), *Mytilus edulis* (Common mussel), *Cerastoderma edule* (Common cockle) and *Spisula* sp. (Trough shell) as well as an unidentified whorled shell. Sample <002> contained a single juvenile *Mactra stultorum* (Rayed trough shell) valve. Sample <003> [003] contained tiny fragments of *Ostrea edulis* (common oyster) and *Cerastoderma edule* (Common cockle), together with a juvenile *Mactra stultorum* (Rayed trough shell) valve and an unidentified juvenile bivalve valve. A single lower *Ostrea edulis* (Common oyster) valve came from Sample <004> [010]. No parasitic activity is apparent. All identified species are edible.

5.6 Glass by Luke Barber

- 5.6.1 Context [010] produced three fragments from the same octagonal-sectioned panel bottle in green glass. A mid 19th- to early 20th- century date is likely.

5.7 Clay Tobacco Pipe by Elke Raemen

- 5.7.1 A single clay tobacco pipe (CTP) stem fragment was recovered from environmental residue <001> (context [002]). The piece is of mid 18th- to early 19th-century date.

5.8 Geological Material by Luke Barber

- 5.8.1 Contexts [002] and [003] produced a combined total of 29 tiny fragments (26g) of coal.

5.9 Waterlogged Timber by Dawn Mooney (Figures 5 – 10)

Introduction

- 5.9.1 Seven large waterlogged timbers were recovered from the excavation at Tanyard Lane, Winchelsea. Of these seven, one timber originated from a context in which asbestos was found, and for health and safety reasons this timber has not been included in this report. The remaining six timbers were recorded and sampled for wood anatomical analysis. It is likely that the timbers discussed in this report represent posts and revetments relating to a harbour structure on the River Brede.

Methodology

- 5.9.2 Recording of the timbers and microscopic analysis for species identification was conducted by D. E. Mooney. Wood was gently cleaned (where necessary), given a timber number (denoted here by <T__>), these numbers are separate from the context numbers and bulk and column sample number sequences. The timbers were recorded on *pro forma* sheets and rewrapped. Wet/damp wood is stored in a small amount of water and all wood is stored in black plastic.
- 5.9.3 Samples taken from each timber were sectioned along three planes (transverse, radial and tangential) according to standardised procedures (Gale & Cutler 2000), and examined under a transmitted light microscope at 50x to 300x magnification in order to determine the woody taxa used as timber at the site. Identifications were made using modern comparative material and reference atlases (Hather 2000, Schoch *et al.* 2004). Identifications have been given to species where possible, however genera, family or group names are given where anatomical differences between taxa are not significant enough to permit satisfactory identification.

Results

- 5.9.4 Results of the analysis and species identification of the timbers are given in Appendix A.

Context [004], Timber <T4>

- 5.9.5 Timber <T4> is a long post 2.88m in length by 0.13m in diameter. For the most part the post had been stripped of bark but was otherwise unmodified, however the lower 0.8m section was sharpened to a tapering square-sectioned point. The timber was identified as oak (*Quercus* sp.).

Context [006], Timber <T3>

- 5.9.6 Timber <T3> lay perpendicular to the pipe trench at the site, and as such its length beyond the width of the trench (0.8m) could not be established. It was originally 0.2m wide by 0.15m deep. The original timber is described in the

context information as being unprepared, with bark and a rounded surface, however neither of these features were visible on the sample which was taken for analysis. As the timber was left in situ, no further comment can be made regarding its conversion or working. Wood anatomical analysis revealed the timber to be oak (*Quercus* sp.)

Context [003] incorporating context [008], Timbers <T1>, <T2> and <T5> and <T6>

- 5.9.7 Four timbers were recovered from the deposits that made up the majority of the former river bank (context [003]). Two of these (timber numbers <T2> and <T5>) were identified in association with each other and were recorded in the field with the context number [008]; the other two timbers were recovered by machine from the bank deposits [003] at a lower depth (timber numbers <T1> and <T6>).
- 5.9.8 Timber <T2> was the largest timber recovered from the excavation, originally measuring 2.4m long by 0.3m in diameter. This was a large, squared timber with chamfered edges and several peg holes and slots (Figures 6-9) and a tongue with a peg hole at one end, with several saw marks across the timber on one surface. A sample of this timber was taken for species identification.
- 5.9.9 Timber <T1> is a small fragment recovered from the same context, but by comparison with the sample <T2> appears to have originally comprised part of the same timber.
- 5.9.10 Timber <T5> was found in close association with <T2>, and is posited to have once formed part of the same structure. The timber was a large tangentially converted or box halved plank measuring 1.25m x 0.25m x 0.08m, which had been sawn diagonally at one end. It is likely that the same treatment was given to the other end of the plank, resulting in a trapezoidal shape, however the morphology of this part of the timber was obscured by post-depositional damage. No fixings or joints were observed which might link the timber to <T2>.
- 5.9.11 Timber <T6> was smaller than the other timbers from context [003], measuring 0.75m x 0.14m x 0.1m. Like <T2>, this timber was also squared, although it did not display evidence of chamfered edges, and had a tongue with a slot at one end. The other end of the timber had been damaged post-depositionally. All of the timber remains recovered from context [008] were identified as oak (*Quercus* sp.).
- 5.9.12 An additional timber plank was identified midway between Timbers <T3> and timber group <T1>, <T2>, <T5> and <T6>. This plank was 0.23m wide and 0.18m thick, it was observed running across the 0.80m wide pipe trench however it could not be recovered or photographed due to the unstable nature of the trench sides. No further analysis of this timber is possible.

Discussion

- 5.9.13 As the timbers recovered from Tanyard Lane, Winchelsea were found in river sediments, it is likely that they have shifted since their deposition and were not found *in situ*. Nonetheless, the large size of these timbers and their working suggests that they may originally have formed part of harbour structures, related to the medieval harbour on the River Brede which seems likely to have been situated in close proximity to the site. This location for the harbour is supported by the fact that wooden structures were also found c. 200m to the west of the site during excavations in 1990, and by the presence of the Ferry Gate, a medieval town gate 300m to the west of the site.
- 5.9.14 The large timbers with slots and peg fixings from context [003] suggest that the timbers originate from structures joined by mortise and tenon joints. Structures of this type have been found at medieval waterfronts in Hull and London (Taylor 1981, Milne 1991), while the large post found in context [004] is probably a pile for ground stabilisation.
- 5.9.15 The choice of oak for these timbers is not unusual. Due to its strength and durability, oak was commonly used for the construction of waterfront structures and general construction and carpentry across northern Europe throughout history (Taylor 1981). Large timber elements from the medieval waterfront structures at Hartlepool (Daniels 1991) and Poole (Horsey 1991) have been mostly identified as oak. In some cases harbour and waterfront structures were made partially from re-used ship timbers, however these tend to comprise revetment planks rather than the larger timbers found at Winchelsea (Horsey 1991, McGrail 1993). Timber <T3>, which was found with bark intact, may represent part of a cache of timber which was undergoing wet seasoning, as has been found in the medieval harbour at Poole (Horsey 1991). The presence of these timbers therefore seems to indicate waterfront activity and the presence of harbour structures at Tanyard Lane.
- 5.9.16 On the other hand, the nature of these structures remains uncertain. David Martin has noted that Timber <T2> would have formed part of a railed structure which would probably not have been strong enough to form part of a harbour retaining wall. It is also somewhat inconsistent with a jetty-like structure. The timber showed possible evidence of reuse and could originally have come from a structure located away from the harbour.

6.0 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The stratigraphic sequence of deposits adjacent to the river is typical of a floodplain besides a meandering river.
- 6.2 Overlying the natural sandy river gravels (layer [005]) was [003], a deposit of coarser sandy silt with common gravels that is thought to have built up over a period of time on the tidal mud flats of the littoral zone of the River Brede as it fell out of use and stopped being maintained. The dating evidence from this layer, CBM dating to c.AD1400-1600, is broadly in keeping with the model presented by Martin and Martin (2004, 36-37). This suggests that the silting of the river may have become a significant problem by the mid 14th century and continued over the course of the late medieval and post-medieval periods. The inclusion of clearly worked timbers within these deposits, including some of considerable size suggests that a close-by structure collapsed into the water and its timbers were re-deposited within the mud flats. The timbers are consistent with use within a structure that is unlikely to be a conventional framed building or an element of the loadbearing quay structure itself, and there are no conclusive diagnostic features that clearly point to a specific use; however it is possible that some of the timbers had been reused and this may have caused problems in identifying their function.
- 6.3 At least two posts or stakes were identified in relation to these littoral deposits and may have been used to consolidate the ground or as mooring posts for small vessels.
- 6.4 The location of the site is shown in relation to the late 13th century features of Winchelsea (Figure 11; after Martin 2004 Fig. 4.13). The monitored areas can clearly be seen to correspond with the approximate extent of the River Brede. This line represents the tidal extent of the river and more properly represents the tidal mudflats than the river itself. To this extent, the findings of this watching brief support the existing model of the area. The change in deposits between the grazing land and the Rye View driveway may indicate that the supposed extent of the river in fact passes a little way north of the line indicated by Martin and Martin; however the Rye View drive deposits contained finds of 19th- to early 20th- century date, and as such may represent later disturbance of the stratigraphy. They may also have been the result of land reclamation or represent re-deposited dredging material from the river.
- 6.5 By the mid 18th to early 19th centuries it is clear that the area had fully fallen out of regular maritime use and was sealed by a thick deposit of alluvium, probably relating to flood events.
- 6.6 The methodology was successful in assessing the nature of archaeological survival on the site.

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Appendix A: Worked timber analysis and species identification

CONTEXT	TIMBER NUMBER	CONTEXT_TY	WOOD TYPE	CONDITION (POOR, MODERATE, GOOD)	TOOL MARKS	JOINTS & FIXINGS	CONVERSION	LENGTH (m)	BREADTH (m)	THICKNESS (m)	DIAMETER	SPECIES IDENTIFICATION	COMMENTS	COMMENTS FROM CONTEXT INFO	LOCATION
4	4	T	TIM	M	0.8m section at end sharpened to square sectioned tapering point		Whole	2.88			0.3	<i>Quercus</i> sp.	Dimensions given are of original timber, not stored sample	Sample taken, original timber too large to lift	Sample store
6	3	T	TIM	M			Whole?	0.8	0.2	0.15		<i>Quercus</i> sp.	Dimensions given are of original timber, not stored sample	Timber ran across trench, so full length unknown. Bark present in situ.	Sample store
8	1	T	TIM	G	Saw marks to end		Squared	0.12	0.1	0.09		<i>Quercus</i> sp.	Part of a large squared timber of at least 0.2m diameter	Probably originally part of timber <T2>	Sample store
8	2	T	TIM	G	Horizontal saw marks on one face. Edges chamfered.	Several slots and peg holes	Squared	2.4			0.3	<i>Quercus</i> sp.	Dimensions given are of original timber, not stored sample	Sample taken, original timber too large to lift	Sample store
8	5	T	TIM	G	Plank cut to trapezoidal form		Tangentially faced	1.25	0.25	0.08		<i>Quercus</i> sp.		Associated with timber <T2>, possibly as part of structure	Sample store

CONTEXT	TIMBER NUMBER	CONTEXT_TY	WOOD TYPE	CONDITION (POOR, MODERATE, GOOD)	TOOL MARKS	JOINTS & FIXINGS	CONVERSION	LENGTH (m)	BREADTH (m)	THICKNESS (m)	DIAMETER	SPECIES IDENTIFICATION	COMMENTS	COMMENTS FROM CONTEXT INFO	LOCATION
8	6	T	TIM	M	Notch towards end of timber with slot, next to knot in wood	Slot at one end but damaged post depositionally	Squared	0.75	0.14	0.1		<i>Quercus</i> sp.		From same context as <T2> and <T5>, possibly associated as slot similar to those in <T2>	Sample store

HER Form

Site Code	CPR 12					
Identification Name and Address	Land North of Tanyard Lane, Winchelsea, East Sussex, TN36 4JY					
County, District &/or Borough	East Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 590689 117671					
Geology	Ashdown Formation sandstone, siltstone and mudstone overlain by tidal flat deposits of clay and silt					
Arch. South-East Project Number	5698					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav. ✓	Watching brief.	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban ✓	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav. 10-09-12 to 10-10-12	W.B.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Mott MacDonald					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard					
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 Balfour Beatty Mott MacDonald to carry out an archaeological watching brief on land north of Tanyard Lane, Winchelsea, East Sussex (NGR 590689 117671) during the construction of a flood alleviation drainage scheme between Tanyard Lane and the River Brede. The work was undertaken between 10th September 2012 and 11th October 2012.</p> <p>The underlying geology is Ashdown Formation sandstone, siltstone and mudstone overlain by tidal flat deposits of clay and silt. The site lies at an average 3.9m AOD.</p> <p>A number of worked timbers were identified within the waterborne riverside deposits that may have related to waterfront structures in the vicinity, however they were not found in situ and it is not clear what their original age or function may have been.</p> <p>Closer to Tanyard Lane in the driveway of one property a different depositional sequence was observed that may have been the result of dredging. The transition between the waterborne river sequence and these deposits is sudden but not clearly understood as the transitional zone was heavily disturbed by pre-existing services and drains.</p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-139142

Project details

Project name	Archaeological Watching Brief Report: Land North of Tanyard Lane, Winchelsea, East Sussex, TN36 4JY
Project dates	Start: 10-09-2012 End: 11-10-2012
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	TLW 12 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status (other)	Archaeological Notification Area
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	TIMBER Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Visual Inspection"
Development type	Pipelines/cables (e.g. gas, electric, telephone, TV cable, water, sewage, drainage etc.)
Prompt	General structure plan/local plan/minerals plan guidance
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX ROTHER ICKLESHAM Land North of Tanyard Lane, Winchelsea, East Sussex, TN36 4JY
Postcode	TN36 4JY
Study area	400.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	590689 117671 590689 00 00 N 117671 00 00 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	East Sussex County Council
Project design originator	Mott MacDonald
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin/Jim Stevenson

Project supervisor Dylan Hopkinson

Type of sponsor/funding body Civil Engineers

Name of sponsor/funding body Mott MacDonald

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Local Museum

Physical Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Glass","Wood"

Digital Archive recipient Local Museum

Digital Contents "Wood","other"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Text"

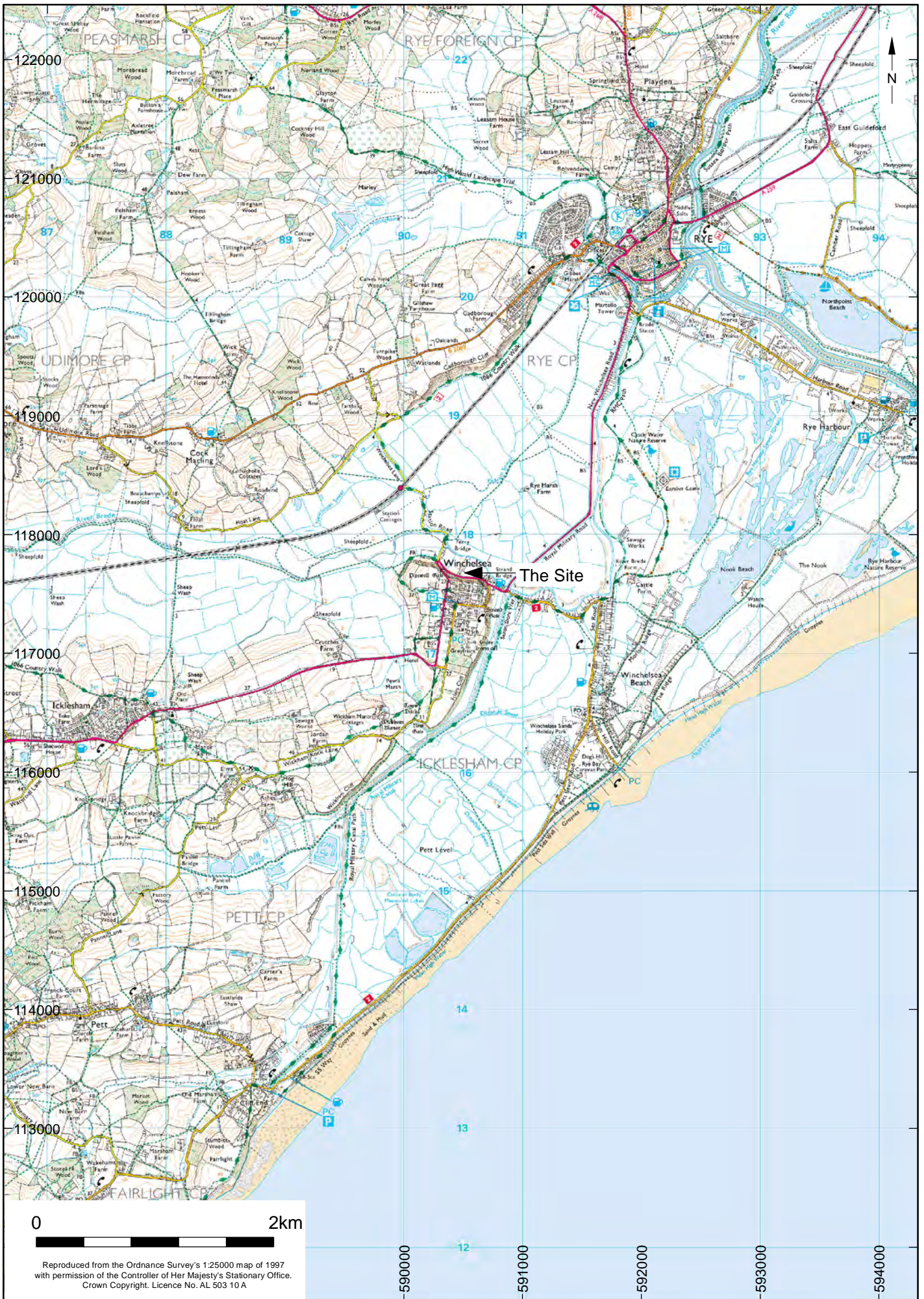
Paper Archive recipient Local Museum

Paper Contents "Survey","Wood"

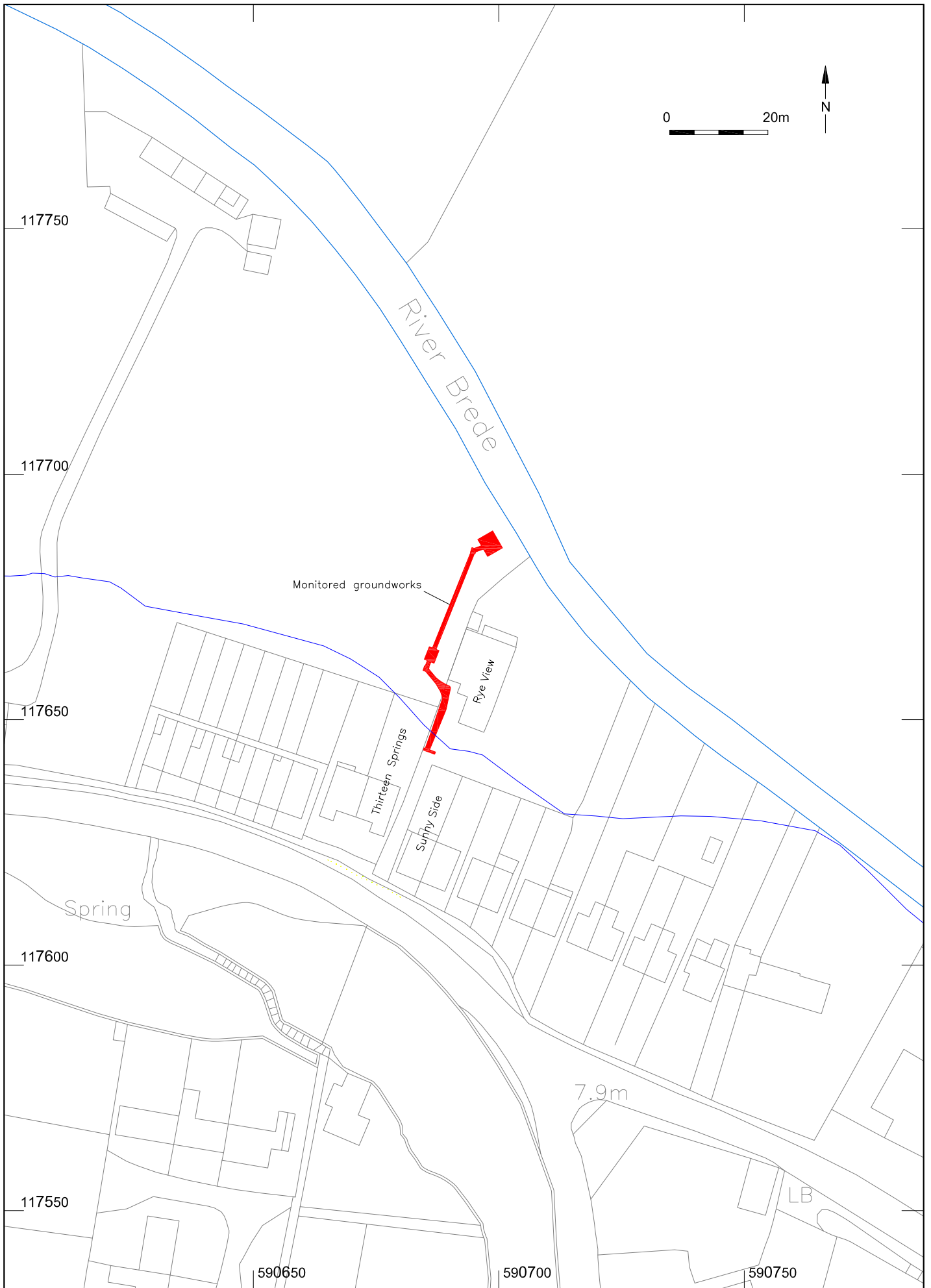
Paper Media available "Context sheet","Drawing"

Entered by Dylan Hopkinson (dylan.hopkinson@ucl.ac.uk)

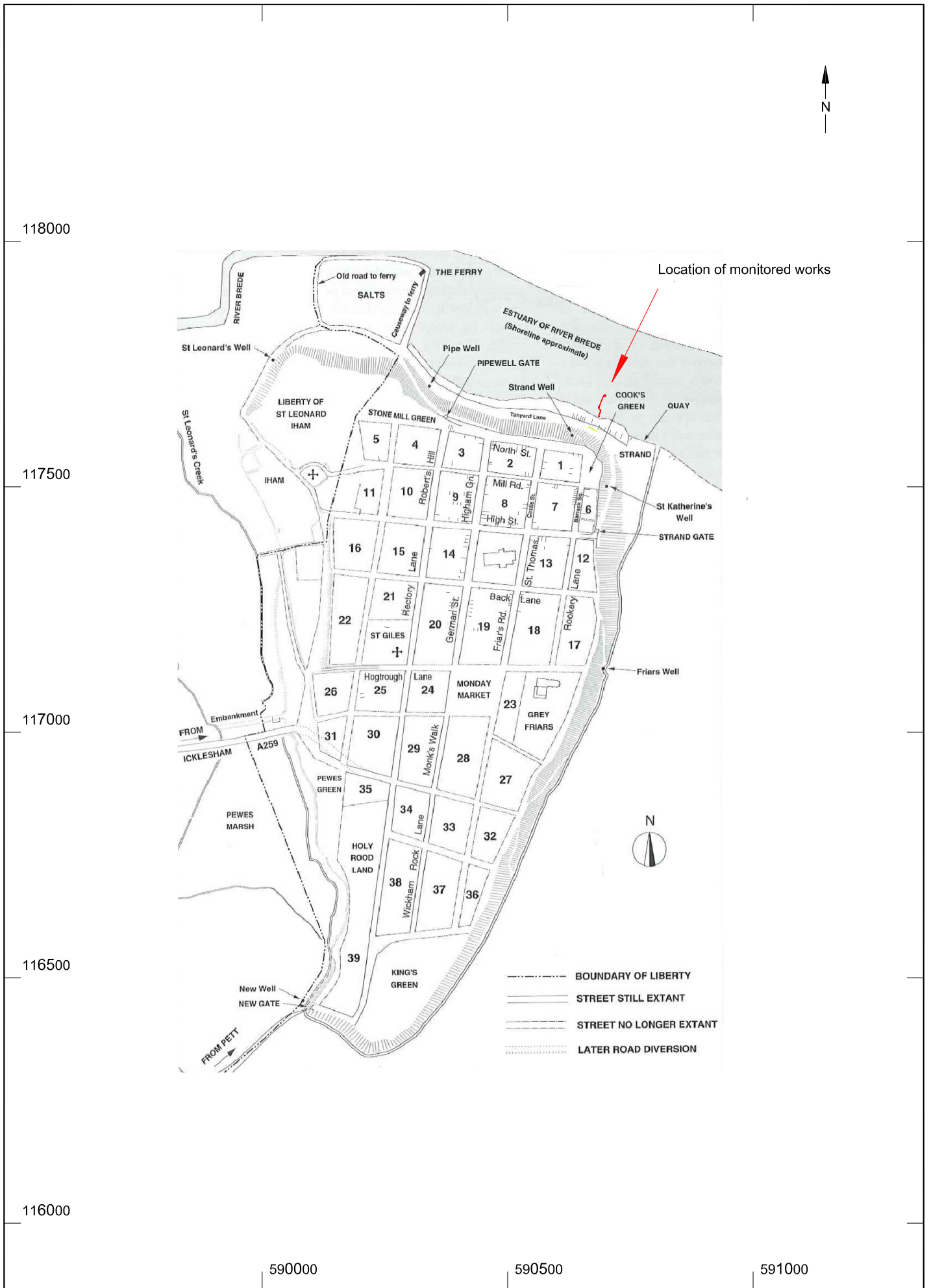
Entered on 12 December 2012



© Archaeology South-East		Tanyard Lane, Winchelsea		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 5698	December 2012	Site location		
Report Ref: 2012209	Drawn by: RHC			

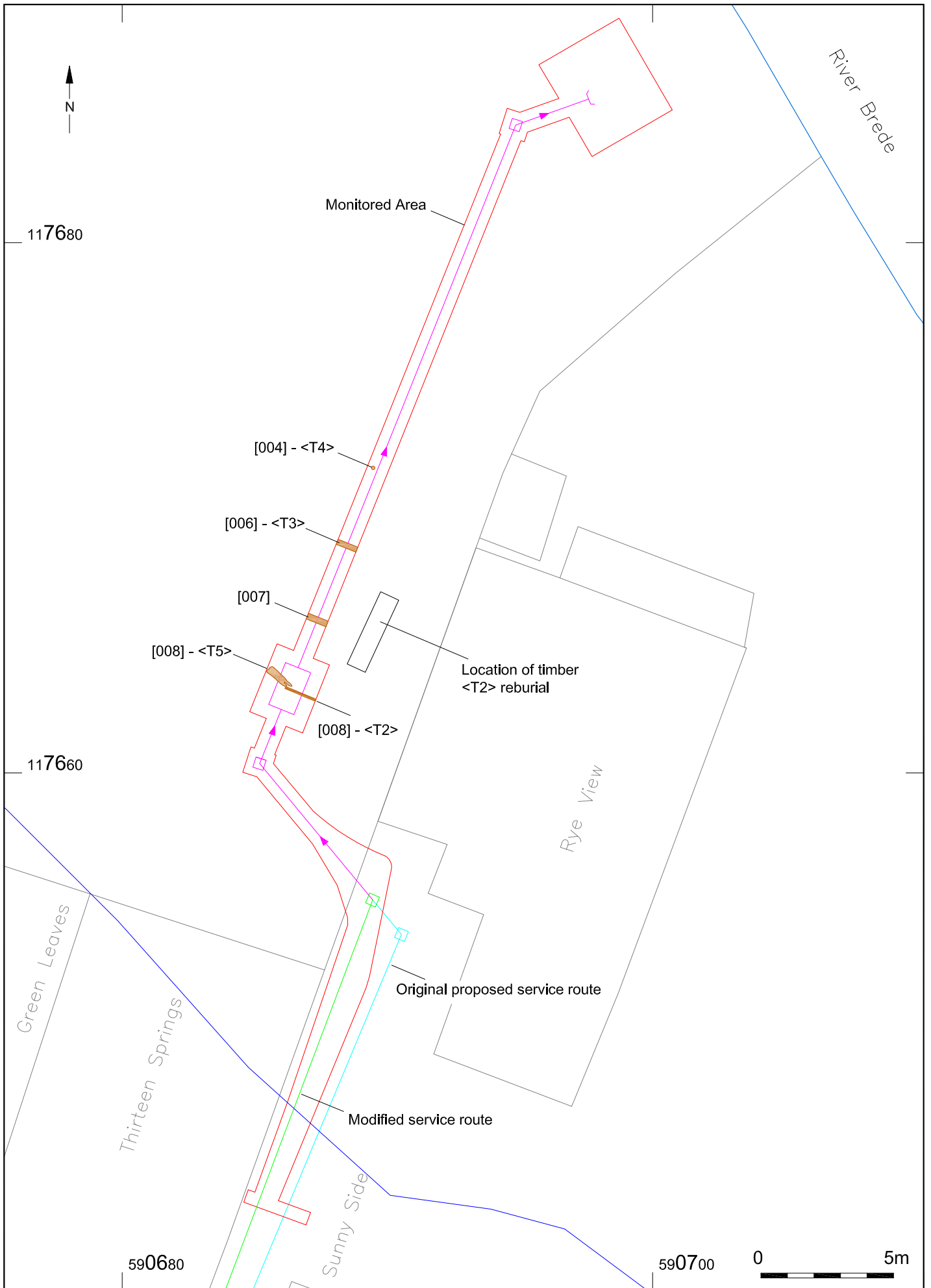


© Archaeology South-East		Tanyard Lane, Winchelsea	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 5698	December 2012	Site plan	
Report Ref: 2012209	Drawn by: DJH		

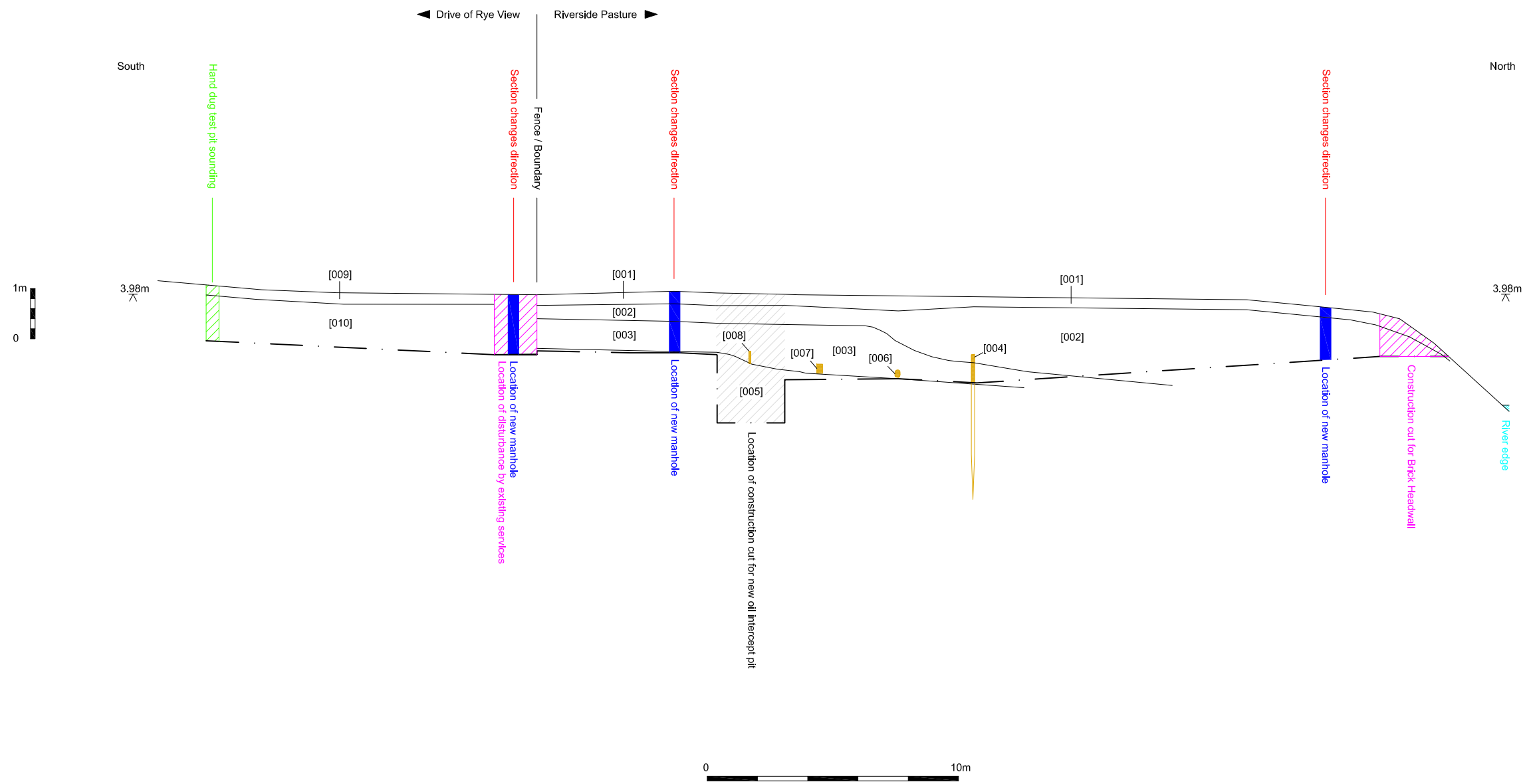


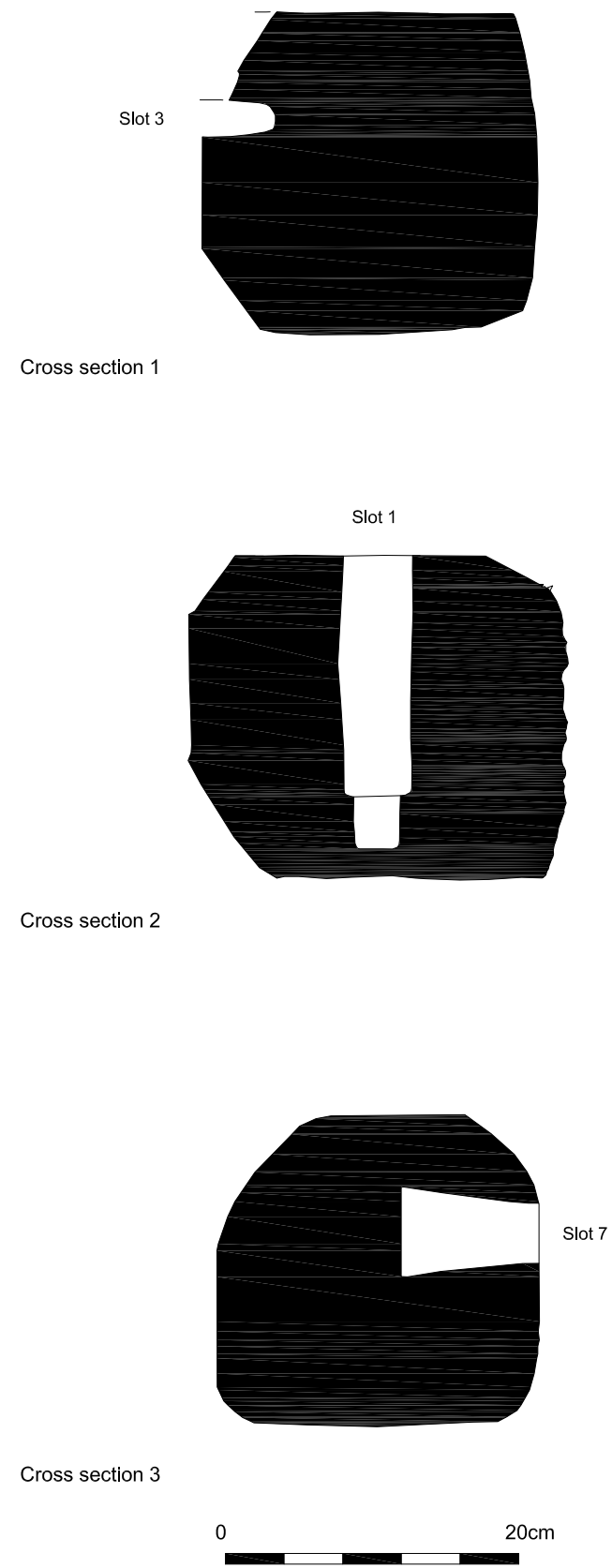
© Archaeology South-East		Tanyard Lane, Winchelsea	
Project Ref: 5698	December 2012	Site in relation to late 13th century Winchelsea (after Martin 2004 Fig. 4.2)	
Report Ref: 2012209	Drawn by: DJH		

Fig. 3

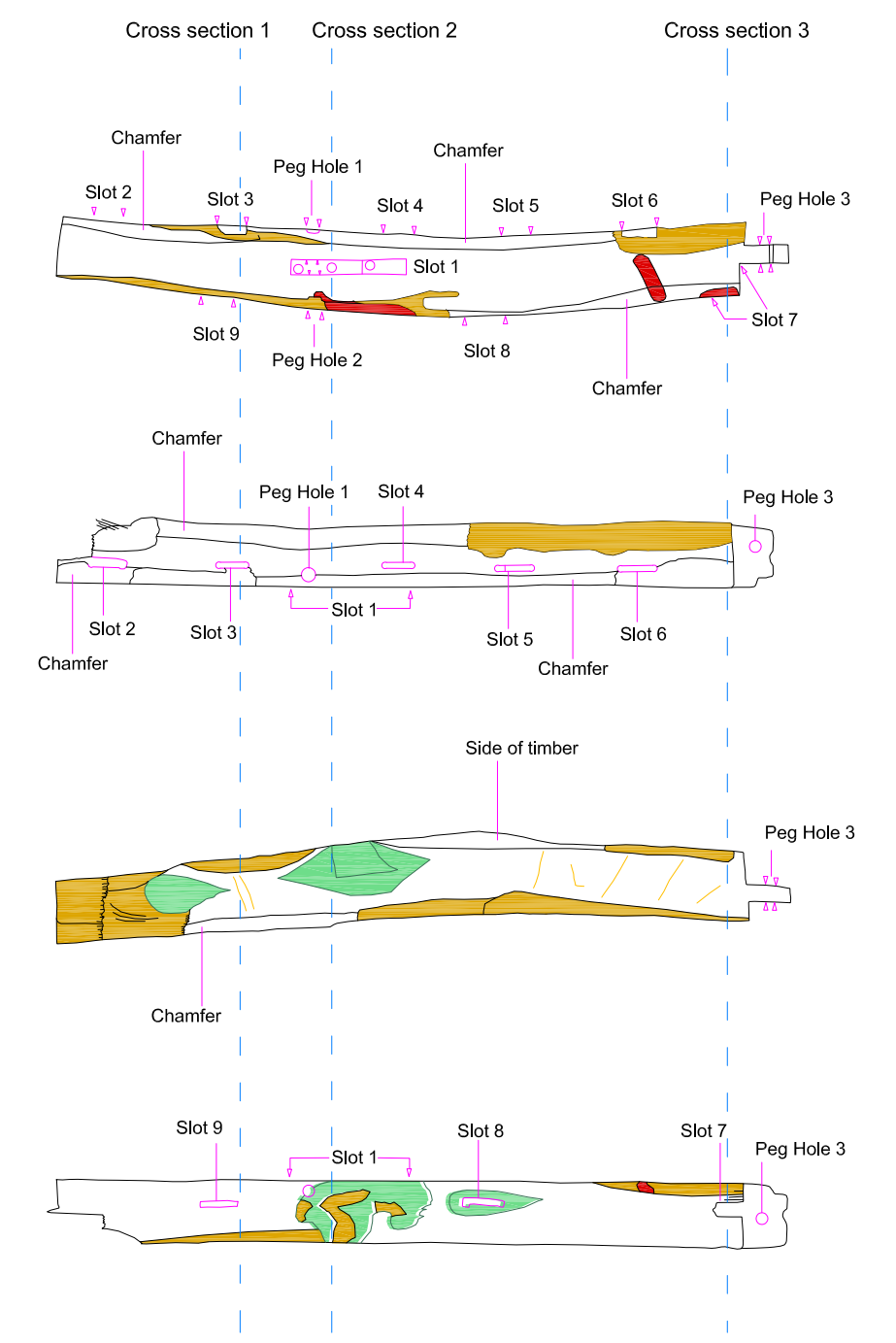


© Archaeology South-East		Tanyard Lane, Winchelsea	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 5698	December 2012	Site plan showing timber locations	
Report Ref: 2012209	Drawn by: DJH		





Cross sections are oriented as if the timber is in the position shown in the lowest drawing on the right



- Wear to surface or damage in antiquity
- Damage possibly during lifting or discovery
- Knotwood
- Possible toolmark (Saw?)
- Identified surface feature





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Tanyard Lane, Winchelsea

Project Ref: 5698

January 2013

Report Ref: 2012209

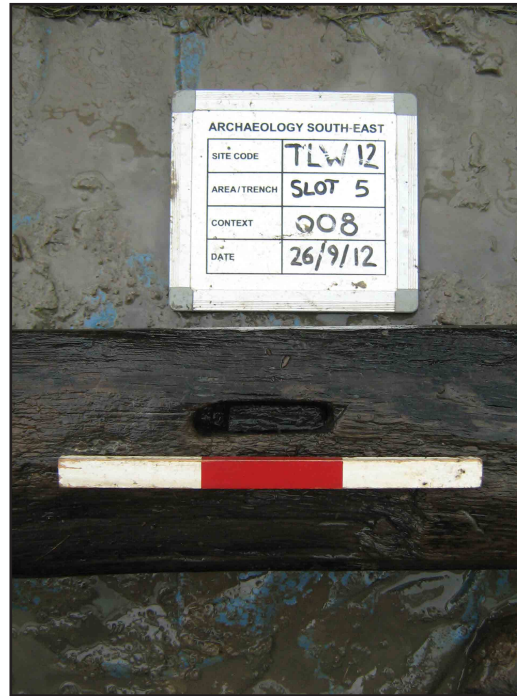
Drawn by: DJH

Photographs of timber <T2> [008]

Fig. 6



Slot 3



Slot 5



Slot 8



Slot 1

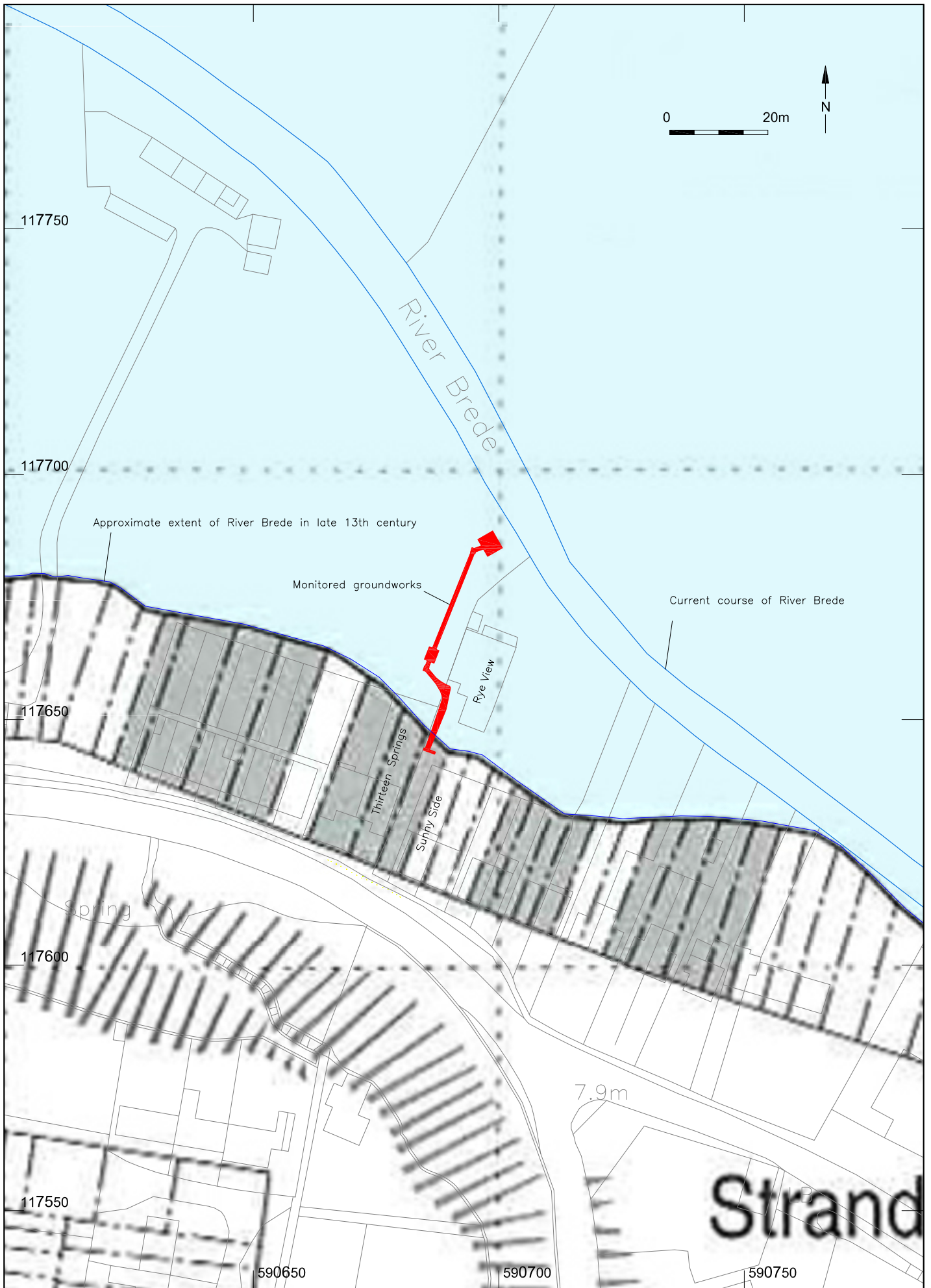




Timber <T4> : Context [004]



Timber <T3> : Context [006]



© Archaeology South-East		Tanyard Lane, Winchelsea	Fig. 11
Project Ref: 5698	December 2012	Site in relation to late 13th century Winchelsea (after Martin 2004 Fig. 4.13)	
Report Ref: 2012209	Drawn by: DJH		

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