

**Five Test pits and an Archaeological Watching Brief
On land west of Lydd Wastewater Treatment works
Jury's Gap Road, Lydd, Kent,
TN29 9JN**

**NGR: 602900 120380
TR 02970 20410**

**Project No: 5340
Site Code: LYW 11**

**ASE Report No. 2013003
OASIS ID: 140652**

Philippa Stephenson, Illustrations by Antonio Reis

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London, was commissioned by 4Delivery Ltd, to undertake five test pits and an archaeological Watching Brief on two soakaway pipeline trenches during construction works at Lydd Wastewater Treatment works (WWTW) at Jury's Gap Road, Lydd, Kent.

No archaeological remains were observed across the areas affected by the groundworks.

The site occupies a shingle ridge and the undisturbed natural shingle was located at an approximate altitude of 2.50m AOD to the south-east, falling to 2.25m AOD in the north-west. A probable undated plough-soil 0.30m deep, predating the modern turf, overlies the undisturbed natural shingle. The land-use in this area may have been arable prior to its contemporary use as sheep pasture.

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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, University College London, was commissioned by 4D Delivery Limited on behalf of their client Southern Water to undertake an archaeological Watching Brief during construction works at Lydd Wastewater Treatment works (WWTW) at Jury's gap Road, Lydd, Kent hereafter referred to as 'the site' (NGR 602900 120380; Figure 1).

1.1.2 4D propose to extend the existing perforated soakaway pipes by installing two new perforated pipes to the north of the existing system. This will involve the mechanical excavation of two c.1.0m wide trenches, two shorter c.1.0m connecting trenches and four manholes (Figure 2).

1.2 Site Location and Geology

1.2.1 The site lies on the southern edge of Walland Marsh, which with Denge Marsh and Romney Marsh makes up the area collectively known as Romney Marsh. The site is situated between Brett's Lydd Quarry and Jury's Gap Road, c. 1.5km to the south-west of Church of All Saints in Lydd town centre, immediately to the west of the main site of the current wastewater treatment works.

1.2.2 The geology of the immediate locality of the site consists of silty clays (alluvium) overlying ridges of Dungeness shingle. In general, where the approximate elevation of local shingle outcrops exceeds 2.5m AOD, the crests of the shingle ridges are exposed on the surface. The Dungeness shingle overlies marine sand and/or Tidal Flat Deposits. The site lies on a principal shingle ridge.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning permission was granted by Shepway District Council for construction works at Lydd Wastewater Treatment Works. The Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council (HCG KCC) put a condition on consent requiring that a programme of archaeological investigation be carried out.

1.3.2 A specification for an archaeological watching brief was prepared by the HCG (KCC 2010).

1.3.3 All work was carried out in accordance with the specification (unless otherwise stated), and the relevant *Standards and Guidance* of the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA 2008).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 Specific aims of the watching brief (subject to constraints of the area under excavation) as listed in the specification (KCC 2010) are to:

- Observe, excavate and record any evidence of human activity and determine its date, nature, extent and character.

- Determine the date and nature of deposits observable in the stratigraphy and thereby gain an understanding of the historic development of deposits in this area and suggest how the area may have been utilised by humans.

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological work on the site. The work was undertaken on 23rd of Jan 2012 by Andy Margetts and 9th Jan 2013 by Philippa Stephenson. Project Management was undertaken by Neil Griffin (fieldwork) and Jim Stevenson (post-excavation management). The illustrations were prepared by Antonio Reis.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The following summary of the archaeological background and potential of the site is based on the archaeological remains recorded in the HER in proximity to the site.
- 2.2 The site lies in an area of considerable archaeological interest relating to multi-period findings at neighbouring quarry sites. Remains from the immediately adjacent Brett Quarry site date from the prehistoric period to the present day. There have been a number of phases of archaeological investigation at the Brett Quarry site and archaeological findings include Bronze Age and Iron Age occupation evidence, an Iron Age possible timber trackway and evidence of whale butchery, a Late Iron Age/Roman salt-working site, areas of Roman occupation and cremation burials and an extensive medieval and post-medieval field system including a farmstead, buildings and activity areas (ASE 2004).
- 2.3 The geology and natural topography of the site is complex and comprises alluvial silts and clays, banks of storm beach gravel (Dungeness shingle), peat deposits and deep channels. The depth and complexity of the deposits provides considerable potential for environmental evidence associated with the development of Romney Marsh and use and occupation on the waterlogged/marshy areas and the shingle ridges. On-going palaeoenvironmental, topographical and archaeological research on Romney Marsh continues to highlight the complexity of this area and the close links between the development of the shingle ridges, channels and saltmarsh, and the human settlement and exploitation of the marsh environment. For instance, any water-logged/peaty deposits can often reveal organic remains, such as seeds, wood, molluscs, which can provide information on the environment from the prehistoric period onwards.
- 2.4 The study of the accumulation of the shingle ridges reveals vital information on the development of Romney Marsh and how it has been used at various stages of its development. There is also the important aspect of reclamation which is considered to have probably commenced during the Romano-British period. The identification of the successive phases of ditch-digging and sea wall construction can provide considerable evidence concerning the process of reclamation of this unique area of Kent.
- 2.5 An archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken at the site in 2011 on land adjacent to the area investigated by the current operation (ASE 2011), but no significant archaeological remains were observed. This result was in part due to modern disturbance but specifically the site's location on a principle shingle ridge. Results from the adjacent investigations demonstrated a tendency for the ditches to avoid the shingle ridges, the initial medieval ditch emplacements, primarily for drainage and land reclamation, being copied by later field systems.
- 2.6 A geomorphological and topographic survey of the site was undertaken in November 2012 (ASE 2012) revealing a thin topsoil (between 0.10m and 0.20m) overlying a mixed gravel and topsoil horizon across the site. The fifteen auger-holes undertaken for the geomorphological survey were abandoned at an average depth of 0.25m when the deposit became too hard to auger. The topographic survey identified a slight slope from the south-east to the north-west of the otherwise fairly level surface. A linear depression oriented E-W was identified along the northern limit of the site, respecting a modern fence-line.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The ground-works (Figs. 2 and 3) comprised the excavation of two parallel, narrow trenches 55.0m x 1.8m, with a trench at either end (8m x 3m and 8m x 5m) for soakaway drainage pipes, and emplacements for four manholes.
- 3.2 The archaeological programme comprised two phases:
- The machine excavation of 5 test pits each measuring 2.0m x 0.70m (Figure 3). Three test pits excavated across the north of the site were excavated to a depth of 0.70m, the two to the south to a maximum of 0.20m.
 - A Watching Brief conducted during the stripping of the topsoil in the areas to be occupied by the pipelines and associated manholes.
- 3.3 All revealed surfaces were inspected, any archaeological structures or features revealed were recorded in plan and section as appropriate according to the specification (KCC 2010). The main contractor allowed reasonable time to undertake any inspection or recording required.
- 3.4 The site archive is currently held at ASE offices in Portslade and will be offered to a suitable museum in due course.

Number of Contexts	7
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	-
Bulk Samples	-
Photographs	22
Bulk finds	-
Registered finds	-
Environmental flots/residue	-

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 A total of seven contexts were recorded during the archaeological work and these are tabulated below.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length (m)	Max. Width (m)	Thickness (m)	Depth Below ground (m)
TP/001	Deposit	Topsoil			0.10	
TP/002	Deposit	Ploughsoil			0.30	0.10
TP/003	Deposit	Natural				0.40
TP/004	Deposit	Made ground			0.20+	
16	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10	-
17	Deposit	Ploughsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	0.10
18	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	0.40

Table 2: Contexts recorded during excavation (in continuous listing with contexts for ASE project 4843)

4.2 The Test Pits

4.2.1 Five test pits were excavated across the area. Three north-east to south-west test pits were located across the north of the site (TP1, TP2, TP 3) and these revealed undisturbed natural shingle approximately 400mm below ground surface [TP/003], beneath a layer of dark grey loam containing matted vegetal material [TP/002] and a 100mm thick layer of topsoil and turf [TP/001]. The two remaining test pits were located on an approximate north-west to south-east alignment (TP4, TP5) to the south of the site. These were excavated to a depth of 200mm and revealed what appeared to be modern made ground. [TP/004].

4.3 The Pipe-Line trenches and Manholes

4.3.1 Prior to commencing the excavation of the trenches, the contractor undertook an initial turf strip to a depth of 100mm over an area 14.50m x 60.00m (Figure 3). The areas to be occupied by the pipelines and manholes were further reduced to a depth of 0.40-0.50m below ground surface, where clean undisturbed natural shingle was located. Two parallel north-east to south-west trenches measuring 55.0m x 1.80m were excavated along the proposed pipeline emplacements. Two north-west to south-east trenches measuring 5.0m and 3.0m wide were then excavated across the eastern and western ends of the pipeline trenches respectively, to ensure that all areas likely to be disturbed were fully observed (Figure 3).

4.3.2 No archaeology was revealed at the depth attained by the turf-stripping across the area affected.

4.3.3 No significant archaeology was observed in the areas occupied by the trenches.

4.2.4 Undisturbed natural shingle [18] was located at an average and fairly constant depth of 0.40m below ground surface. The previous topographical survey (ASE 2012) identified a maximum ground-surface altitude of 2.91m AOD at the south-east of the site falling away to 2.65m AOD. The natural shingle therefore occurs at approximately 2.50m AOD falling to 2.25m AOD in the

north-west.

- 4.2.5 The natural shingle was overlain by a buried topsoil horizon [17]. This comprised dark grey loam with frequent shingle inclusions (approximately 50%) and was approximately 0.30m thick. Frequent linear east-west striations were visible within [17], containing fine, modern matted vegetal material and suggesting a phase of ploughing and crop cultivation across the area prior to modern use as sheep pasture. Buried topsoil [17] was overlain with close-cropped turf and dark grey loamy topsoil approximately 100mm in depth, with moderate to frequent shingle inclusions [16].

5.0 Finds and Environmental samples

- 5.1 No finds were retrieved or samples taken.

6.0 Discussion and Conclusions

- 6.1 This investigation confirms the absence of any significant archaeological remains across the areas to be affected by the installation of the soakaway drainage pipe-lines.
- 6.2 The site occupies a shingle ridge and the undisturbed natural shingle was recorded in all but the two southern most test pits (TP4, TP5) which were located in an area of made ground. The natural shingle was recorded between approximately 2.50m AOD and 2.25m AOD in the north-west.
- 6.3 The results suggest the presence of an earlier undated plough-soil 0.30m deep, overlying the undisturbed natural shingle and predating the modern turf. The land-use in this area may have been arable prior to its contemporary use as sheep pasture.

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ASE 2012, Geomorphological Survey report, land west of Lydd WTW, Jury's gap Road, Lydd, Kent, TN29 9JN unpub ASE report

IfA 2008 *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

KCC 2010 Manual of Specification Part B. Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank 4D Ltd for commissioning the work and Wendy Rogers, Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council for her guidance and monitoring throughout the project.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	LYW 11					
Identification Name and Address	Lydd Wastewater Treatment works (WWTW), Jury's Gap Road, Lydd, Kent, TN29 9JN					
County, District &/or Borough	Kent, Shepway					
OS Grid Refs.	602900 120380					
Geology	Ridge of Dungeness shingle.					
Arch. South-East Project Number	5340					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief ✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field ✓	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other Waste Water Treatment Works		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 23 rd Jan 2012, 9th Jan. 2013	Other		
Sponsor/Client	4 Delivery Ltd					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Philippa Stephenson					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern		
<p>100 Word Summary</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London, was commissioned by 4Delivery Ltd, to undertake five test pits and an archaeological Watching Brief on two soakaway pipeline trenches during construction works at Lydd Wastewater Treatment works (WWTW) at Jury's Gap Road, Lydd, Kent.</i></p> <p><i>No archaeological remains were observed across the areas affected by the groundworks.</i></p> <p><i>The site occupies a shingle ridge, the undisturbed natural shingle was located at an approximate altitude of 2.50m AOD to the south-east, falling to 2.25m AOD in the north-west. A probable undated plough-soil 0.30m deep, predating the modern turf, overlies the undisturbed natural shingle. The land-use in this area may have been arable prior to its contemporary use as sheep pasture.</i></p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-140652

Project details

Project name	Five Test Pits and an Archaeological Watching Brief, Lydd Wastewater treatment Works, Jury's Gap Road, Lydd, Kent
Project dates	Start: 23-01-2012 End: 09-01-2013
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	LYW11 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Site of Special Scientific Importance (SSSI)
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT SHEPWAY LYDD Five test pits and an Archaeological Watching Brief on Land west of Lydd WTW, Jury's Gap Road, Lydd, Kent, TN29 9JN
Postcode	TN29 9JN
Study area	870.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TR 02970 20410 50 0 50 56 48 N 000 53 23 E Polygon
Height OD / Depth	Min: 2.25m Max: 2.50m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Kent County Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	Andrew Margetts
Project supervisor	Philippa Stephenson
Type of sponsor/funding body	client

Name of sponsor/funding body 4Delivery Ltd

Project archives

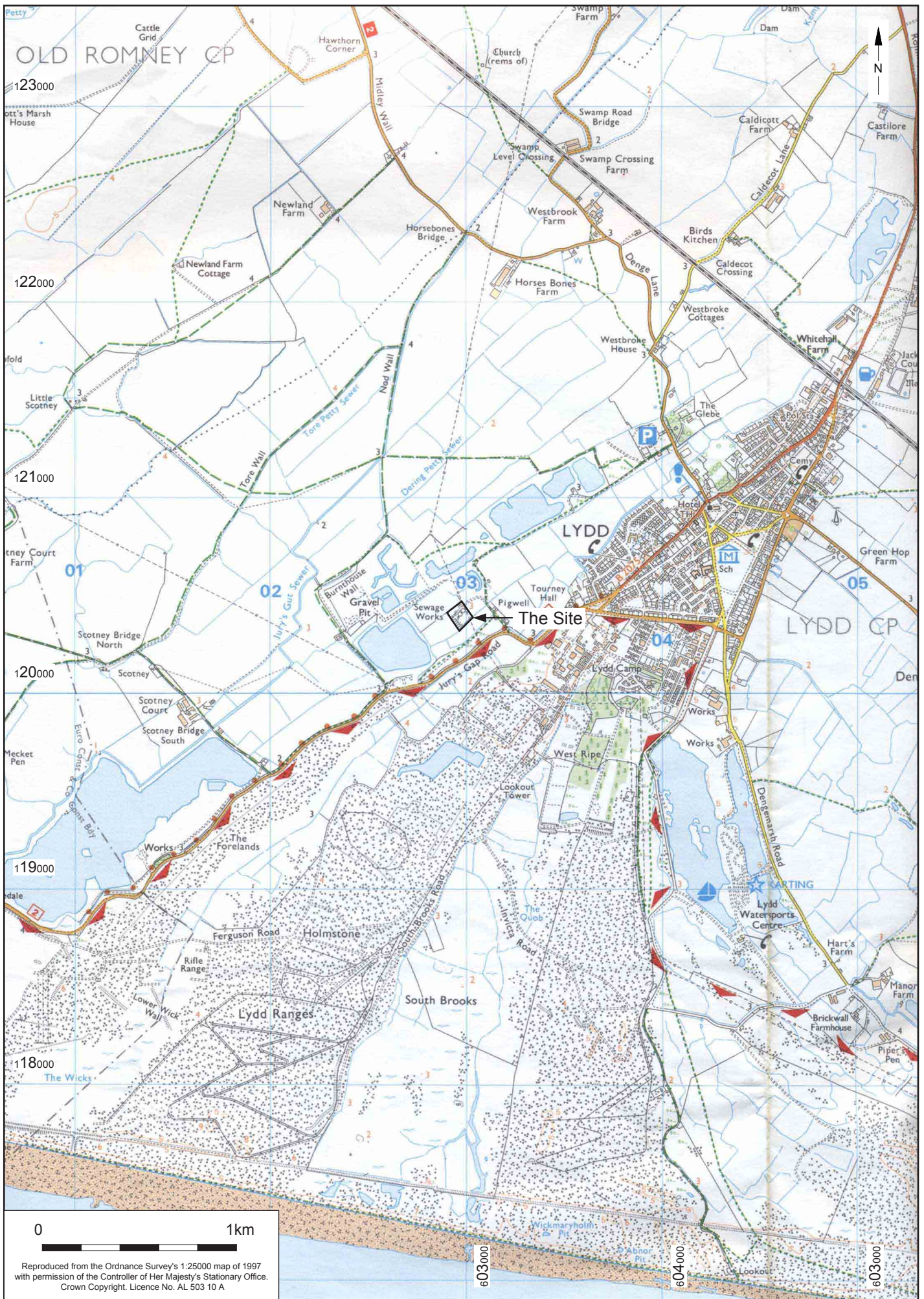
Physical Archive Exists? No

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

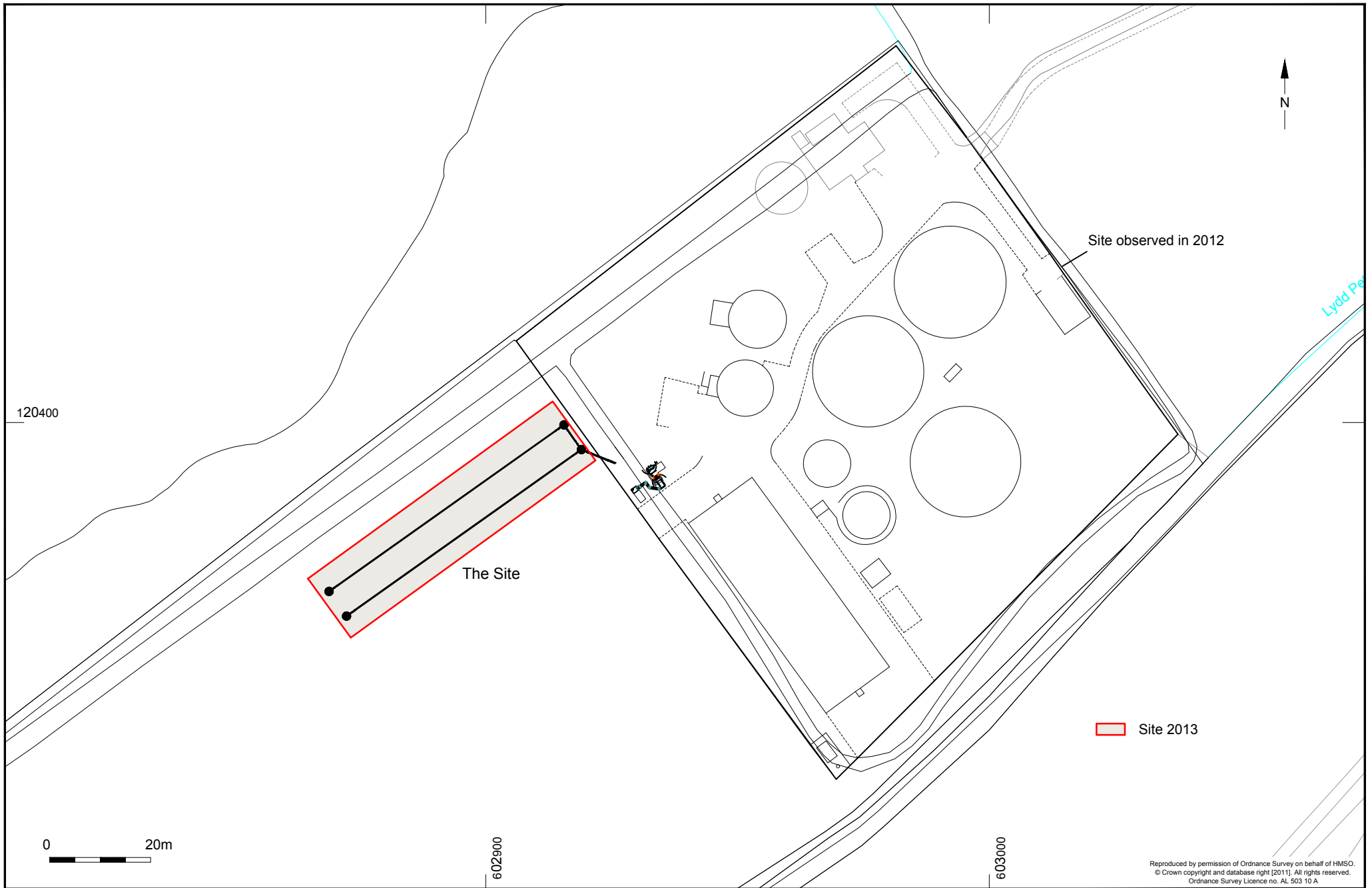
Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Report"

Entered by Philippa Stephenson (pipstep@hotmail.com)

Entered on 10 January 2013



© Archaeology South-East		Lydd WTW	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 5340	Jan 2013	Site location	
Report Ref: 2013003	Drawn by: AR		



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Lydd WTW

Project Ref: 5340

Jan 2013

Location of works

Report Ref: 2013003

Drawn by: AR

Fig. 2

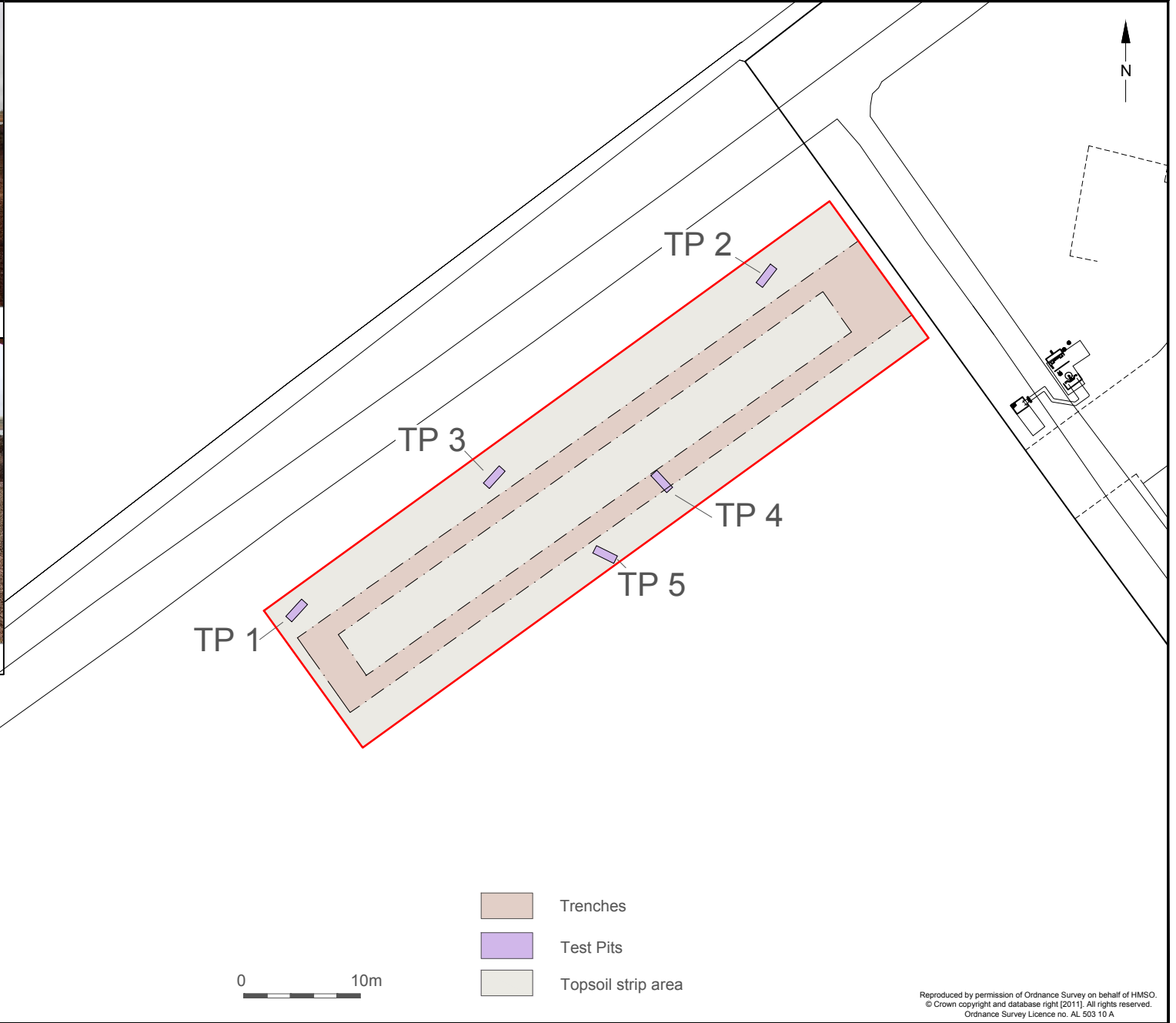
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Topsoil strip, looking north-west



Trenches down to natural, looking north-west



- Trenches
- Test Pits
- Topsoil strip area

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© Archaeology South-East		Lydd WTW		Fig. 3
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