

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report  
East Wittering Rising Main Replacement  
West Sussex**

**NGR 479860 097150 to 481030 097360**

**ASE Project No: 6006  
Site Code: CRW 13**

**ASE Report No: 2013321  
OASIS ID: archaeo16-165934**



**by Simon Stevens BA MIFA**

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**by Simon Stevens BA MIFA**

**With contributions by  
Luke Barber, Susan Pringle  
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**January 2014**

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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Clancy Docwra to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the replacement of a rising main at East Wittering, West Sussex*

*The archaeological watching brief revealed no archaeological features or deposits, although a small assemblage of artefacts including prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval material was recovered from the overburden.*

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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 Clancy Docwra to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the replacement of a rising main at East Wittering, West Sussex (Figure 1). The new pipeline runs from NGR 479860 097150 to NGR 481030 097360.

### **1.2 Topography and Geology**

1.2.1 The route of the new pipeline runs broadly west to east across open fields to the north east of the centre of East Wittering, from Church Road to Bracklesham Lane (B2198). The land is typical of the Coastal Plain; flat and low-lying with numerous small watercourse/drainage channels.

1.2.2 According to current data available from the British Geological Survey, the underlying bedrock is the Wittering Formation of sand, silt and clay. There are superficial deposits of River Terrace Gravels (BGS 2013).

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 Although the current scheme did not require formal planning permission (as permitted works) Clancy Docwra consulted James Kenny, Archaeology Officer, Chichester District Council at an early stage in the design process in order to establish whether any form of archaeological work would be required. This consultation established that the route of the pipeline has potential to impact on buried archaeological remains. As a result it was recommended that an archaeological watching brief should be maintained during pipeline construction.

### **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

1.4.1 There were no specific stated aims for the project, but in essence the objective was to ascertain whether archaeological remains were present and to record them before possible destruction during the laying of the new pipeline.

### **1.5 Scope of Report**

1.5.1 The current report provides the results of the archaeological monitoring at the site carried out by Simon Stevens and Giles Dawkes (Senior Archaeologist) and Guy Hopkinson and Kristina Krawiec (Archaeologists) between March and September 2013. The project was managed by Andy Leonard (Project Manager) and by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift (Post-Excavation Project Managers).

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

- 2.1.1 The route of the new pipeline is located on the Manhood Peninsula, part of the Coastal Plain of West Sussex, an area rich in archaeological remains, especially from the prehistoric and Romano-British periods (Hamilton and Manley 1999; Rudling 1999). The suspiciously straight alignment of Bracklesham Lane suggests it has origins as a Roman Road leading southwards from Chichester, a hypothesis perhaps supported by the discovery of a roman coin at East Wittering School in the 1970s. (James Kenny, *pers. comm.*).
- 2.1.2 Recent archaeological work at nearby West Wittering has highlighted the high archaeological potential of the general area. Flintwork of Mesolithic/Neolithic date and Romano-British material associated with a feature thought to relate to local salt working have been uncovered in recent months (ASE 2013).

### 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Groundworks for the scheme, involving the mechanical stripping of topsoil in the compound area, and along the easement for the pipeline, as well as limited trenching for the new pipe were monitored by archaeologists. All available spoil was scanned both visually and with a metal detector for the presence of archaeological finds
- 3.2 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded to accepted professional standards using standard Archaeology South-East context record forms. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.3 A photographic record of the work was kept and forms part of the site archive which is currently held by Archaeology South-East at the offices in Portslade, and will be deposited in Chichester Museum under accession number *CHCDM: 2013.9* in due course. The archive consists of the following material:

Number of Contexts	5
No. of files/paper record	1
Photographs	11 digital images
Bulk finds	Recommended for discard

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

## 4.0 RESULTS (Figure 2)

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Following initial monitoring of trial pits in March 2013, which revealed only deposits of made ground adjacent to the carriageway of Bracklesham Lane, the watching brief was maintained during topsoil stripping for the site compound and easement for the pipeline in July 2013. Monitoring of the groundworks revealed a straightforward sequence of deposits.

### 4.2 The Site Compound

4.2.1 Mechanic stripping in the area of the site compound was only taken down to a maximum of 210mm below the existing surface of the area, part of an arable field. The work was undertaken by a 20 tonne 360° excavator under constant supervision of personnel from ASE.

4.2.2 The only deposit encountered was context [001], an orangey brown silty clay topsoil/ploughsoil. A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered from this deposit. The surface of the underlying 'natural' was not reached.

### 4.3 The Pipeline

4.3.1 The mechanical stripping of topsoil from the pipeline easement in the eastern half of the scheme) was undertaken by the same machine. The easement was c.15m in width and was again a maximum of 210mm in depth and crossed arable fields.

4.3.2 Again the topsoil was an orangey brown silty clay topsoil/ploughsoil (recorded as context [002] in Field A, context [004] in Field B and context [005] in Field C; Figure 2), but there was occasional exposure of the surface of the underlying orangey yellow silty clay, context [003] in Fields A and B.

4.3.3 No archaeological features or deposits were observed, but a small assemblage of artefacts was recovered from the topsoil/ploughsoil in Fields and B, but not from Field C, where the stripping was only taken down to c.80mm below the ground surface.

4.3.4 Limited monitoring of the excavation of the pipe trench in Field A, and of the excavation of a launch pit for tunnelling of the pipe under Bracklesham Lane confirmed the character of the simple stratigraphic sequence.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
001	Deposit	Topsoil/Ploughsoil	>210mm
002	Deposit	Topsoil/Ploughsoil	>210mm
003	Deposit	'Natural'	-
004	Deposit	Topsoil/Ploughsoil	>210mm
005	Deposit	Topsoil/Ploughsoil	>80mm

Table 2: Recorded contexts



## 5.0 THE FINDS

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered from the topsoil/ploughsoil. Finds were all washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were quantified by count and weight and bagged by material and context. Finds were packed and stored according to IFA guidelines (2008). None of the finds require further conservation. Apart from demonstrating late post-medieval manuring activity, they are of no potential. None of the finds are of intrinsic interest and the assemblage is recommended for discard.

Cxt	Pot	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Flint	Wt (g)	FCF	Wt (g)	Stone	Wt (g)	Fe	Wt (g)	CTP	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)
001	6	28	10	238					2	6			3	4		
002	28	238	17	236	9	353	2	24	5	48	1	56			4	60
004	1	<2	4	34	2	18	3	26	2	18						
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>60</b>

Table 3: Quantification of the finds assemblage

### 5.2 The Post-Roman Pottery by Luke Barber

5.2.1 The archaeological work recovered a small assemblage of post-Roman pottery from the site. Although the sherds range from small to medium-sized (i.e. to 50mm across), virtually all show signs of heavy abrasion. As such it would appear the material has been subjected to a relatively high degree of reworking.

5.2.2 The earliest sherds recovered are of the medieval period. Context [001] produced two conjoining pieces from a very worn everted rim belonging to an oxidised medium sand tempered cooking pot of mid 13<sup>th</sup>- to mid 14<sup>th</sup>- century date. Context [002] contained a further two residual medieval sherds (9g). These consist of slightly abraded bodysherds from two separate 14<sup>th</sup>-/early 15<sup>th</sup>- century cooking pots in fine/medium sand tempered ware. Context [004] contained only a single sherd of pottery. Although somewhat small (3g), heavily worn and somewhat undiagnostic its silty oxidised fabric is most likely to be of 15<sup>th</sup>- to mid 16<sup>th</sup>- century date.

5.2.3 A small quantity of residual early post-medieval pottery is also present, all of which was recovered from context [002]. These sherds consist of an abraded sandy glazed red earthenware (9g) of mid 16<sup>th</sup>- to mid 18<sup>th</sup>- century date, a 9g fragment from a mid 16<sup>th</sup>- to 17<sup>th</sup>- century Frechen stoneware bottle and a 4g fragment from an 18<sup>th</sup>- century Staffordshire white salt-glazed stoneware mug.

5.2.4 The remainder of the assemblage is of the late post-medieval period, the majority of which can be placed between 1750 and 1825/50. Context [001] produced a sherd from a creamware plate (2g), two transfer-printed

pearlware sherds (7g) and a 7g fragment of English porcelain. Context [002] produced a much larger assemblage.

5.2.5 Coarsewares from this deposit included four unglazed earthenware flower pot sherds (44g), 10 pieces from local glazed red earthenware bowls/jars (118g), a 21g fragment from a trailed-slip decorated local glazed earthenware dish and an 11g fragment from a Midlands slipware bowl. Finewares consist of a scatter of creamware (2/4g), pearlware (2/6g), English porcelain (1/1g) and refined whiteware (2/5g) though most are not diagnostic of form. The latter sherds, decorated with green stencilled sponging, are perhaps the latest as they are likely to post-date 1830.

5.2.6 The assemblage of post-Roman pottery does not hold any potential for further analysis: it is essentially unstratified/mixed, small in size and abraded. There are far better stratified groups of medieval and early post-medieval material from the area (notably Chichester) and the late post-medieval material is nationally well-known. All sherds are recommended for discard

### 5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Susan Pringle

5.3.1 Ceramic building materials were examined from three contexts, [001], [002] and [004]. The twenty-eight fragments of brick and roof tile weighed 0.45 kg. The material was highly abraded and thus hard to date but was probably medieval and early post-medieval. Table 4 summarises the date and content of each context. None of the material has been retained.

Context	Context date (approx.)	Material
001	Mixed c.1200-1800	Abraded roof tile, probably peg
002	Mixed c.1200-1800	Abraded roof tile, probably peg
004	1450-1700	Early post-medieval brick, and tile flake

Table 4: Approximate date ranges for CBM

5.3.2 Context [001] contained eight small fragments of roof tile weighing 190g. Seven tile fabrics were identified (fabrics T1 to T7), two of which contained flint inclusions; the fabric descriptions are set out in Table 5. One vitrified fragment was noted.

5.3.3 Context [002] contained 16 fragments of roof tile weighing 226g. Fabrics T1, T3, T7 variant and T8.

5.3.4 Context [004] contained three abraded pieces of brick weighing 26g in a fine red fabric with few inclusions apart from some red iron-rich material, and a flake of tile in fabric T3 weighing 8g.

Fabric code	Fabric description	Comments
T1	Orange fabric marbled with white and dark red; no quartz	Fine moulding sand; post-medieval?
T2	Red fabric, fine sandy texture, red Fe inclusions	Fine moulding sand; post-medieval?
T3	Orange fabric, fine quartz and red iron-rich inclusions; sparse calcium carbonate	Fine moulding sand; post-medieval?
T4	Near fabric T3 but cleaner; silt-size quartz	Medium moulding sand
T5	Light brown fabric with abundant medium quartz, sparse medium Fe and calcium carbonate specks and flint	Medieval; pottery?
T6	Orange fabric, common fine quartz, moderate poorly sorted fine to very coarse flint (mode is medium), moderate red Fe spots/streaks	Medieval?
T7	Very fine sandy orange fabric, reduced core; moderate fine to medium quartz and poorly sorted dark red iron-rich inclusions	Medium to coarse moulding sand; medieval?
T8	Light orange; common poorly sorted quartz, moderate coarse to very coarse flint and rounded iron-rich inclusions	flake

Table 5: Roof tile fabric descriptions

#### **5.4 The Glass** by Elke Raemen

5.4.1 Four green glass wine bottle fragments from four different bottles were recovered from topsoil [002]. Three of them are abraded and are of mid 18<sup>th</sup>- to 19<sup>th</sup>-century date. An unabraded neck fragment dates to the late 19<sup>th</sup>- to mid 20<sup>th</sup>-century.

#### **5.5 The Clay Tobacco Pipe** by Elke Raemen

5.5.1 Three plain and unmarked clay tobacco pipe stem fragments were recovered from topsoil [001]. All three date to c.1750-1910.

#### **5.6 The Ironwork** by Elke Raemen

5.6.1 A heavy duty nail (length 130mm) with rectangular head (23mm by 23mm) was recovered from topsoil [002]. The nail is hand-wrought and cannot be closely dated.

**5.7 Flintwork** by Karine Le Hégarat

5.7.1 In total, nine pieces of struck flint weighing 143g and two flint hammerstones weighing 228g were recovered during the watching brief (Table 6). In addition, five fragments (50g) of unworked burnt flint were collected from two contexts. The small assemblage which was hand-collected from topsoil contexts (002) and (004) consists of seven flakes, a blade-like flake, an end scraper and two flint hammerstones. Dark brown and dark grey flint with a thin abraded cortex was selected to manufacture the artefacts. Possible iron mineral staining was noticed on the blade-like flake. Overall the flintwork is in a poor state of preservation. Several pieces display moderate to extensive edge chipping associated with successive re-depositions. Six artefacts are broken.

5.7.2 The assemblage which is largely composed of unretouched pieces of flint débitage contained very few chronologically distinctive types. The blade-like flake from (002) could be Mesolithic - Neolithic in date. Some flakes might be Neolithic or Bronze Age. The crudely made end-scraper from (002) may be Neolithic or Bronze Age. Two hammerstones were present, one of which consists of a re-used multiplatform flake core.

5.7.3 The watching brief has revealed limited evidence for prehistoric activities, period for which numerous finds have been found in the vicinity of the site (ASE 2013).

Context	Flake	Blade-like	End-scraper	Hammerstone
(002)	5	1	1	2
(004)	2			

Table 6: The Flintwork Assemblage

**5.8 The Geological Material** by Luke Barber

5.8.1 The archaeological work recovered nine pieces of stone from three individually numbered deposits. All of the material consists of West Country roofing slate of medieval date. Whether this material relates to waste brought out for manuring from a site some distance away, or relates to a nearby building of some substance is uncertain. The stone is of common type in medieval Sussex. All are recommended for discard.

## **6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1 No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the monitoring of the groundworks. Although a range of finds covering a lengthy timescale was recovered from the overburden, none were indicative of settlement on the actual line of the new pipeline; the prehistoric material represents a 'background' scatter, entirely consistent with other sites on the Coastal Plain, and the later material is probably the result of manuring of arable finds.
- 6.2 In conclusion, it is can be said with confidence that no recognisable archaeological deposits were disturbed during the groundworks for the laying of the new pipeline.

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank Clancy Docwra for commissioning the archaeological work at the site stages of the project. The understanding and hospitality of the on-site contractors is also gratefully acknowledged.

## HER Summary

Site Code	CRW 13					
Identification Name and Address	East Wittering Rising Main Replacement					
County, District &/or Borough	Chichester District, West Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	479860 097150 to 481030 097360					
Geology	Wittering Formation					
ASE Project Number	6006					
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.	WB. March 2013 – Sept. 2013	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Clancy Docwra					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard/Jim Stevenson					
Project Supervisor	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso. ✓	Neo. ✓	BA ✓	IA	RB
	AS	MED ✓	PM ✓	Other		
<p>Summary</p> <p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Clancy Docwra to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the replacement of a rising main at East Wittering, West Sussex</p> <p>The archaeological watching brief revealed no archaeological features or deposits, although a small assemblage of artefacts including prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval material was recovered from the overburden.</p>						

## OASIS Form

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-165934**

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### Project details

Project name	East Wittering Rising Main Replacement
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundworks for the installation of a new water main at East Wittering, West Sussex. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered, although a small assemblage of artefacts including prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval material was recovered from the overburden.
Project dates	Start: 18-03-2013 End: 24-09-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	6006 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	CRW 13 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	FLINTWORK Late Prehistoric
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Water Act 1989 and subsequent code of practice

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### Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX CHICHESTER EAST WITTERING East Wittering Rising Main Replacement
Postcode	PO20 8QT
Study area	1.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 81030 97360 51 0 51 40 07 N 000 49 41 W Line



Site coordinates SU 79860 97150 51 0 51 40 01 N 000 50 42 W Line

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**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/Jim Stevenson
Project supervisor	Simon Stevens
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Clancy Docwra

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**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	Chichester Museum
Physical Archive ID	CHCDM : 2013.9
Digital Archive recipient	Chichester Museum
Digital Archive ID	CHCDM : 2013.9
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Chichester Museum
Paper Archive ID	CHCDM : 2013.9
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Report","Unpublished Text"

**Project bibliography**

**1**

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Description	ASE client report. A4-sized with cover logos.

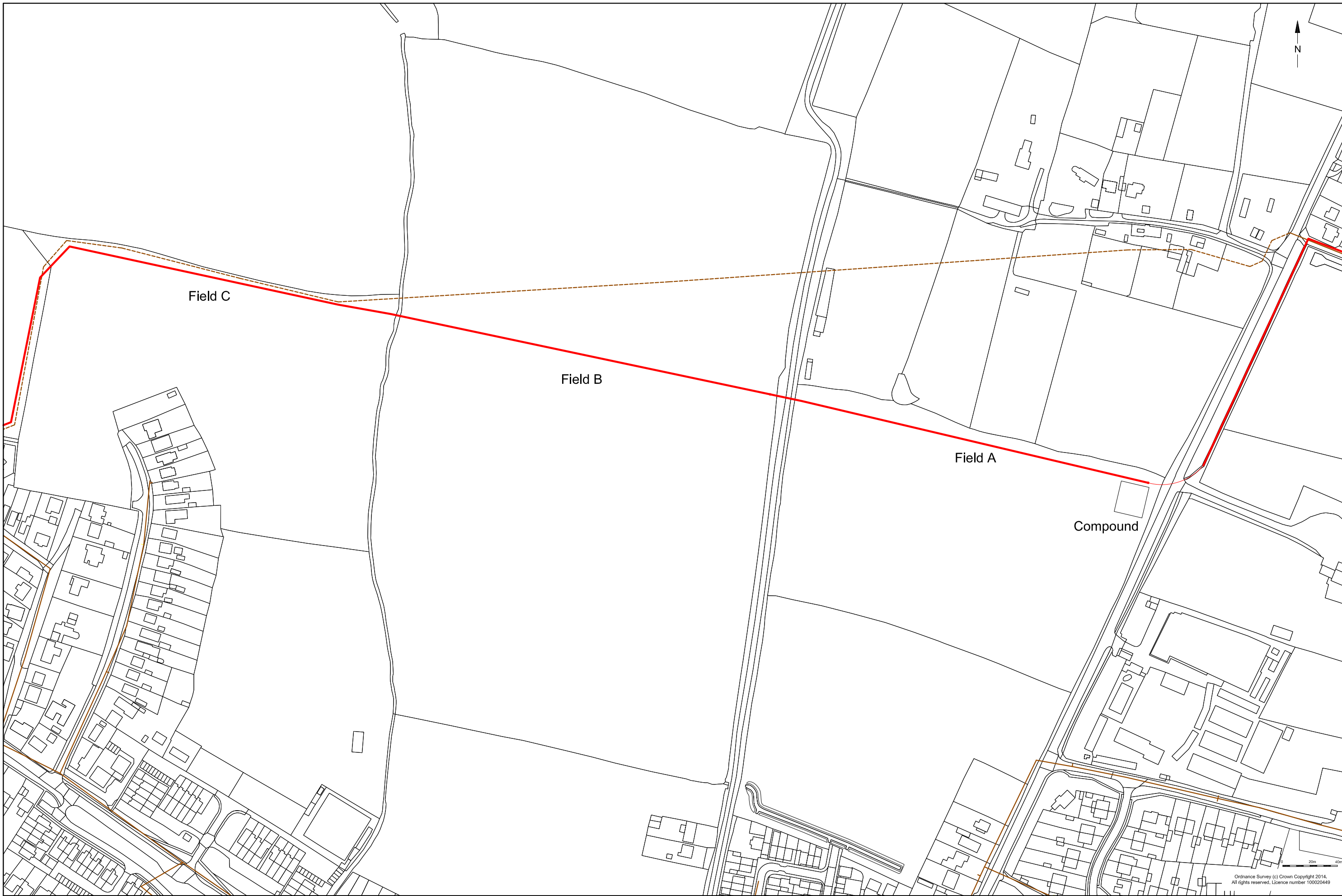
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Entered on	6 January 2014



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© Archaeology South-East		East Wittering Rising Main Replacement	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 6006	January 2014	Site location	
Report Ref: 2013321	Drawn by: RMC		



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© Archaeology South-East		East Wittering Rising Main Replacement	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 6006	Jan 2014	Plan of Monitored Area	
Report Ref: 2013321	Drawn by: RMC		

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